

These support services—including counseling on potential parenting challenges, postadoption mental health services, and peer mentoring—can play a critical role in providing a healthy environment for a child entering an adoptive home.

These initiatives will also foster an ongoing dialogue between the families and adoption service agencies that should last during and beyond the adoption process.

I would like to thank Representative LANGEVIN for his leadership on this issue. We must do all we can to prevent adoptive children from being placed in dangerous situations. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Protecting Adopted Children Act.

□ 1930

A MISSION OF MERCY

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy. The people of Nepal have suffered a tragedy. The bad news is that thousands have lost their lives and many are injured.

There is some good news in that the United States has, currently, disaster assistance teams on the way to Nepal. There is also additional good news. The Nepalese community in Houston, Texas, has organized, and they are working to make sure that they do their part to provide disaster assistance.

I am also proud to say that we are sponsoring legislation, H.R. 2033. H.R. 2033 would provide temporary protected status for those who are in this country, for those in this country on the 25th, the date of this tragedy, for a period of 18 months, so that they can stay here and not have to return home to circumstances that are untenable.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that many have cosponsored this legislation, and we are looking for more cosponsors, Mr. HONDA and I.

I would also add that the United States has sent \$10 million already allocated, and there is more to come. This is a time for us to show our friends where we stand, and we stand with them.

A LEGAL FICTION

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Madam Speaker, today I spoke on the steps of the Supreme Court as it heard arguments on whether more than 50 million Americans who voted to affirm marriage as between one man and one woman should have their voices snuffed out by as few as five unelected judges.

To argue that the Constitution demands the Supreme Court invalidate

centuries of marriage laws is a claim of legal fiction. Let me repeat; it is a legal fiction. There is no constitutional right to so-called same-sex marriage.

Marriage predates government and the nations that make these laws. No judge, no jury, no court nor government can legitimately redefine marriage to suit their personal preferences.

I implore the Supreme Court to do their job and correctly recognize that the people of every State are free to affirm or restore marriage as the union of one woman and one man.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, when the survivors of human trafficking are freed from their captors, they are often victimized again. This time they are abused by a system that does little to help them recover from years of rape and abuse.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would help change that. It would provide support and restitution to survivors, and it would clarify the law, helping to bring the demand side—the pimps, the sex traffickers, and the purchasers of women and girls—to justice.

I have been proud to work with Congressman TED POE on very similar legislation that passed this body overwhelmingly, unanimously, in January; but to become law, the House must now take up the Senate version and pass it here in the House.

I urge the leaders of the House to schedule a vote. Let's send a message: women and girls are not for sale in the United States of America. They cannot afford to wait any longer for this vital legislation.

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Mr. CURBELO of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions of Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, President of Florida Keys Community College in Key West, Florida.

Dr. G, as he is known, recently introduced me to a portal that connects students with jobs and serves as a guidance instrument for them while they are in school. I was particularly impressed with the component that informs students about the return on their educational investments, especially because financing is a fundamental aspect of the higher education debate today. This type of transparency is imperative in helping our students navigate a massive amount of information in an easily accessible way.

I applaud Dr. G's work to ensure that students in the Keys are connected with opportunities that will help them achieve their professional goals, while also educating them about the financial responsibility that is inherent in pursuing higher education.

As we continue our work on higher education here in the House, I look forward to encouraging innovation in the way that we help students achieve success, and also promoting access to funding sources like flexible Pell grants.

Dr. G and his colleagues at Florida Keys Community College have made it their mission to offer the best tools to their students, and I hope that their efforts can serve as an example to be replicated throughout the country.

THERE IS NO POWER LIKE THE POWER OF A MOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, Mother's Day is soon approaching, and as we, our Nation, take time to honor our mothers, I would like to make a special appeal to African American mothers across this country that they begin to use their awesome powers to take back our streets from the daily violence that far too many of our youth, far too many of our families, and far too many of our communities are experiencing each and every day.

It is now time, time right now, for Black mothers to once again rise up to stop the unmitigated and endless violence that is occurring often—far too often—in our Nation's streets.

Madam Speaker, there is no power like the power of a mother. Beside me today is an image that many across the Nation have seen, and it is the subject of conversation all across our country. It is the image of a strong Black mother giving her son what I will call a “love whipping”—a “love whipping,” Madam Speaker—to snatch him back from the grips of senseless violence that is currently plaguing the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

As this picture demonstrates, Madam Speaker, mothers can and mothers must be the mobilizing force to take back our streets. Mothers feel the pain of a loss of a child unlike any other. The primal scream of a mother at the sudden death and departure of her child is unlike any other outcry known to mankind.

As my own history has demonstrated, I am not one to excuse police brutality and police murder and police mayhem and police utter disrespect for the citizens that they are pledged and sworn to serve and to protect. And as a former member of the Black Panther Party, we in the party have always said, and I quote, that “spontaneity is the art of the foolish.”

What the Baltimore rioters and other rioters across this Nation fail to understand, particularly those who are in Baltimore, what they fail to understand and what they fail to consider is how many people in that neighborhood were depending on the CVS drug store, or how many older neighbors of those same young people were looking forward to the day that they could call that burned-down senior citizens home a home for themselves, and they were looking forward to it being completed. “When is the move-in date?” They were looking forward to the comfort of that senior home.

Simply put, Madam Speaker, senseless destruction of your own neighborhood is not protesting; it is pillaging. It is not political; it is pillaging—nothing more, nothing less. It is pillaging your own neighborhood.

That is unintelligent. That makes no sense. That is eating the wrapper and throwing the candy bar away. It makes no sense to pillage your own neighborhood and deny your own people.

Beyond Baltimore, Madam Speaker—yes, and there is a beyond Baltimore. Beyond Baltimore, we must look at the whole picture of violence in our Nation. The violence that has plagued Baltimore didn’t come out of nowhere. It wasn’t just a spark out of nowhere.

Instead, Madam Speaker, it was sparked by the frustration that so many African Americans feel with the reports of the death of yet another young African American man at the hands of our Nation’s police. It was sparked by the flame of frustration that far too many of our Nation’s youth are facing each and every day of their lives: unemployment, disrespect, broken-down homes, broken-down communities, failed education systems.

All these frustrations, frustrations that deny them a sense that there is a future for them in this Nation, these frustrations inflame all the fires in Baltimore or in other places across this Nation.

□ 1945

That said, Madam Speaker, from my friend Fred Hampton, my friend Michael Clark in 1969 to Michael Brown and Eric Garner and Tamir Rice and now Freddie Gray in 2015, we have seen far too many young men of color fall victim to the very same people who were sworn to serve and protect.

This mother is demonstrating the power of a mother’s love and the power of a mother’s courage. She walked into harm’s way straightforward, directly to, located her son. And she is demonstrating a power that is beyond imagination and beyond all selflessness.

To honor her and the important role that all mothers, mamas, our mothers—including my own mother—to honor them and to honor the important role that they play in taking back our streets and ending the violence that plagues our communities all across this Nation, I humbly call on

America’s mothers, those in the African American community and outside of the African American community, those in urban areas and those in rural areas, all American mothers, to wear yellow, to wear yellow, to wear yellow on Mother’s Day in a symbolic show of solidarity and to create a “Mothers in Yellow” movement to end the violence that plagues this Nation’s cities, this Nation’s communities, this Nation’s neighborhoods.

Mothers, rise up now. Use this as an occasion to take back the streets. Your pain, the pain that you feel, your sense of loss of hope for your child, your sense of finality in terms of a future of your child, that pain must stop, and you have the power to stop it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Easter, Pope Francis focused his message on the worldwide persecution of Christians. Around the world, Christians are being imprisoned, tortured, and killed for their faith. According to the Pew Research Center, no religious group is persecuted in more countries around the world than Christians. Christians faced persecution in 102 countries out of about 190-plus that we have in the world. That was in 2013. So tonight I will mention only eight of those countries: Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Kenya. And I will also mention that terrorist group, ISIS.

Christian pastor and American citizen Saeed Abedini has been held in an Iranian jail for the last 2½ years because he is a Christian. Weeks before he turned 7, Pastor Abedini’s son wrote to his imprisoned father, inviting him to come to his birthday party. In reply, Pastor Abedini wrote: “Daddy loves you so much. I long to be there for your birthday and to make this reunion happen, but my chains are keeping me from you.” His son celebrated his 7th birthday last month. It was his third birthday without his dad. His dad is still in the jailhouse because he is a Christian.

According to the 2015 Open Doors World Watch List, North Korea is the worst persecutor of Christians in the whole world. Christians are sent to prison camps for possession of Bibles, which is a crime. Some are even executed because they are Christians. The State Department estimates that 80,000 to 120,000 North Koreans are imprisoned in labor camps, many because of their religious beliefs. In November 2013, 80 North Korean Christians were reportedly executed for possession of Bibles and South Korean religious films.

Now to Pakistan. In Pakistan, two suicide blasts hit the Christ Church and Catholic Church last month, killing 17 Christians. A Pakistan Taliban splinter group claimed responsibility for the attack, which left another 80 people injured. Last week, two Muslims heading to Friday prayers at their mosque in the same city where the churches were bombed came across a 14-year-old Christian boy. They stopped him and asked him his religious affiliation. And the boy proudly said: “I told them that I am Christian. They started beating me,” he said. “When I tried running, both boys started following me through the street.” They caught me and “threw kerosene on me and set me on fire.” This Pakistan boy, this Christian has burns covering more than 55 percent of his body.

In Egypt, over a 3-day period in 2013, Coptic Christians experienced the worst single attack against their churches in 700 years, with 40 Christian churches destroyed and over 100 other sites severely damaged. Thousands and thousands of Coptic Christians are estimated to have fled their homeland of Egypt because of religious persecution.

Most Coptic Christians in Egypt have a tattoo of a cross on their wrist, Madam Speaker. It is a sign of devotion to their Christian faith. When his Arabic language teacher told Ayman Nabil Labib to cover that tattoo in the classroom, Ayman pulled out the cross that was hanging around his neck for all in the classroom to see. The teacher was enraged. He choked Ayman and asked his Muslim classmates, “What are you going to do with him?” His classmates then beat Ayman to death. He was murdered in an Egyptian classroom because he was a Christian.

In Libya, ISIS captured and beheaded 21 people because they were Christians from nearby Egypt. When the victims’ families wanted to build a church in their honor, they were attacked by another Muslim mob and beaten.

In Syria, the situation is even worse for Christians. In June 2013, a cluster of Christian villages were totally destroyed. The head of all Franciscans in the Middle East reported that “of the 4,000 inhabitants of the church village of Ghassanieh, no more than 10 people remain.” In a village of 4,000 Christians, 10 are left.

In Syria, it is not just Assad’s thugs killing Christians. Two Syrian bishops have been kidnapped by rebel groups. Militants expelled 90 percent of the Christians in the city of Homs. Patriarch Gregorios III of Antioch says that, out of a population of 1.75 million, 450,000 Syrian Christians have fled Syria in fear.

Then to Iraq. In Iraq, the story is just as bleak. The number of Christian churches in Iraq has declined from 300 in 2003 to 57 today. A place that Christians have called their home since the time of Jesus, Iraq’s Christian population has almost entirely disappeared. The population has dropped 90 percent since the first gulf war.