

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2232

To establish standards and guidelines for providing overseas assistance to refugees and displaced persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1993

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish standards and guidelines for providing overseas assistance to refugees and displaced persons.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Refugee Women and
5 Children Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY CONCERNING OVERSEAS**
7 **ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED**
8 **PERSONS.**

9 (a) STANDARDS FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHIL-
10 DREN.—The United States Government, in providing for

1 overseas assistance and protection of refugees and dis-
2 placed persons, shall seek to address the protection and
3 provision of basic needs of refugee women and children
4 who represent 80 percent of the world's refugee popu-
5 lation. As called for in the 1991 United Nations High
6 Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) "Guidelines on the
7 Protection of Refugee Women," whether directly, or
8 through international organizations and nongovernmental
9 voluntary organizations, the Secretary of State shall en-
10 sure—

11 (1) specific attention on the part of the United
12 Nations and relief organizations to recruit and em-
13 ploy female protection officers;

14 (2) implementation of gender awareness train-
15 ing for field staff including, but not limited to, secu-
16 rity personnel;

17 (3) the protection of refugee women and chil-
18 dren from violence and other abuses on the part of
19 governments or insurgent groups;

20 (4) full involvement of women refugees in the
21 planning and implementation of (A) the delivery of
22 services and assistance, and (B) the repatriation
23 process;

24 (5) incorporation of maternal and child health
25 needs into refugee health services and education,

1 specifically to include education on and access to
2 services in reproductive health and birth spacing;

3 (6) the availability of counseling and other serv-
4 ices, grievance processes, and protective services to
5 victims of violence and abuse, including but not lim-
6 ited to rape and domestic violence;

7 (7) the provision of educational programs, par-
8 ticularly literacy and numeracy, vocational and in-
9 come-generation training, and other training efforts
10 promoting self-sufficiency for refugee women, with
11 special emphasis on women heads of household;

12 (8) education for all refugee children, ensuring
13 equal access for girls, and special services and family
14 tracing for unaccompanied refugee minors;

15 (9) the collection of data that clearly enumerate
16 age and gender so that appropriate health, edu-
17 cation, and assistance programs can be planned;

18 (10) the recruitment, hiring, and training of
19 more women program professionals in the inter-
20 national humanitarian field; and

21 (11) gender-specific training for program staff
22 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-
23 gees (UNHCR) and nongovernmental voluntary or-
24 ganizations on implementation of the 1991 UNHCR
25 “Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women”.

1 (b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of State shall
2 adopt specific procedures to ensure that all recipients of
3 United States Government refugee and migration assist-
4 ance funds implement the standards outlined in subsection
5 (a).

6 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR REFUGEE AND MIGRATION
7 ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, in providing mi-
8 gration and refugee assistance, should support the protec-
9 tion efforts set forth under this Act by raising at the high-
10 est levels of government the issue of abuses against refu-
11 gee women and children by governments or insurgent
12 groups that engage in, permit, or condone—

13 (1) a pattern of gross violations of internation-
14 ally recognized human rights, such as torture or
15 cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punish-
16 ment, prolonged detention without charges, or other
17 flagrant denial to life, liberty, and the security of
18 person;

19 (2) the blockage of humanitarian relief assist-
20 ance;

21 (3) gender-specific persecution such as system-
22 atic individual or mass rape, forced pregnancy,
23 forced abortion, enforced prostitution, any form of
24 indecent assault or act of violence against refugee
25 women, girls, and children; or

1 (4) continuing violations of the integrity of the
2 person against refugee women and children on the
3 part of armed insurgents, local security forces, or
4 camp guards.

5 (d) INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS.—Upon receipt of
6 credible reports of abuses under subsection (c), the Sec-
7 retary of State should immediately investigate such re-
8 ports through emergency fact-finding missions or other
9 means of investigating such reports and help identify ap-
10 propriate remedial measures.

11 (e) MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The United
12 States Government shall use its voice and vote in the Unit-
13 ed Nations and its participation in other multilateral orga-
14 nizations, to promote policies which seek to protect and
15 address basic human rights and needs of refugee women
16 and children. The Secretary of State shall work to ensure
17 that multilateral organizations fully incorporate the needs
18 of refugee women and children into all elements of refugee
19 assistance programs.

20 (f) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MULTILATERAL IMPLE-
21 MENTATION OF THE 1991 UNHCR “GUIDELINES ON THE
22 PROTECTION OF REFUGEE WOMEN”.—It is the sense of
23 the Congress that the President should enter into bilateral
24 and multilateral negotiations to encourage other govern-
25 ments that provide refugee assistance to adopt refugee as-

- 1 assistance policies designed to encourage full implementation
- 2 of the UNHCR's 1991 "Guidelines on the Protection of
- 3 Refugee Women".

