

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 223

Designating March 8, 2002, as “International Women’s Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2002

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BAYH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating March 8, 2002, as “International Women’s Day”.

Whereas all over the world women are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women’s basic human rights;

Whereas worldwide the lives and health of women and girls continue to be endangered by violence that is directed at them simply because they are women;

Whereas worldwide violence against women includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, honor killings, sexual trafficking in women, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex selection abortion, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization and forced abortion;

Whereas worldwide at least 1 in 3 females has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas 1 in 6 women in the United States has experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault;

Whereas somewhere in the United States, a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds;

Whereas somewhere in the United States, a woman is raped every 90 seconds;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas only 17 countries consider marital rape to be a criminal offense;

Whereas worldwide, women account for almost half of all cases of HIV/AIDS, approximately 32,400,000, and in countries with high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas worldwide sexual violence, including marital rape, has been denounced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's 876,000,000 individuals who are illiterate are women;

Whereas of the 125,000,000 school-aged children not in school all over the world, $\frac{2}{3}$ are girls;

Whereas worldwide girls are less likely to complete school than boys;

Whereas in the United States, in the 3 decades since 1971, the educational attainment rates of females has increased faster than those of males, and by the year 2000, not only did females have higher rates of completing high school and some college, but there were no differences in the percentages of males and females with a bachelor's degree or higher;

Whereas it is estimated that women and their children make up more than 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 poorest people in the world;

Whereas worldwide, women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting for less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, on average (except for East Asia where the figure is approximately 18 to 19 percent), and in no developing region do women hold more than 8 percent of the ministerial positions;

Whereas illegal trafficking worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported to the United States;

Whereas worldwide women still earn less, own less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than do men;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which peo-

ple, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women’s equality, justice, and peace;

Whereas the dedication and successes of those working all over the world to end violence against women and girls and fighting for equality should be recognized; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women’s Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 8, 2002, as International
3 Women’s Day;

4 (2) reaffirms its commitment—

5 (A) to ending discrimination and violence
6 against women;

7 (B) to ensuring the safety and welfare of
8 women; and

9 (C) to pursuing policies that guarantee the
10 basic rights of women both in the United States
11 and in the world; and

12 (3) requests that the President issue a procla-
13 mation calling upon the people of the United States
14 to observe “International Women’s Day” with ap-
15 propriate programs and activities.

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