

Whereas according to the 2012 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled the "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons"—

(1) adult women account for between 55 and 60 percent of all known trafficking victims worldwide; and

(2) adult women and girls account for approximately 75 percent of all known trafficking victims worldwide;

Whereas women in conflict zones are subjected to physical or sexual violence, including rape, other forms of sexual violence, and human trafficking;

Whereas 603,000,000 women live in countries in which domestic violence is not criminalized;

Whereas, on August 10, 2012, the President announced the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, the first interagency strategy to address gender-based violence around the world;

Whereas, in December 2015, the Department of State released a report on the implementation of the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally that states, "Addressing GBV is intimately tied to a range of global efforts that address gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, whether in peacetime or in the midst of conflict. This includes addressing GBV as part of efforts to raise the status of adolescent girls and through women's economic empowerment activities.";

Whereas the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve—

- (1) strong and lasting economic growth; and
- (2) political and social stability;

Whereas according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 2/3 of the 775,000,000 illiterate individuals in the world are female;

Whereas according to the World Bank Group, 150,000,000 children currently enrolled in school will drop out before completing primary school, not less than 100,000,000 of whom are girls;

Whereas according to the United States Agency for International Development, in comparison with uneducated women, educated women are—

- (1) less likely to marry as children; and
- (2) more likely to have healthier families;

Whereas the goal of the United Nations Millennium Project to eliminate gender disparity in primary education was reached in most countries by 2015, but more work remains to achieve gender equality in primary education worldwide;

Whereas in September 2015 world leaders rededicated themselves to ending discrimination against women and girls and advancing equality for women worldwide;

Whereas according to the United Nations, women have access to fewer income earning opportunities and are more likely to manage the household or engage in agricultural work than men, making women more vulnerable to economic insecurity caused by—

- (1) natural disasters; or
- (2) long term changes in weather patterns;

Whereas according to the World Bank Group, women own or partially own more than 1/3 of small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, and 40 percent of the global workforce is female, but female entrepreneurs and employers have disproportionately less access to capital and other financial services than men;

Whereas according to the United Nations, women earn less than men globally;

Whereas despite the achievements of individual female leaders—

(1) women around the world remain vastly underrepresented in—

- (A) high-level positions; and
- (B) national and local legislatures and governments; and

(2) according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 22 percent of

national parliamentarians and 17.7 percent of government ministers;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, during the period beginning in 1990 and ending in 2015, global maternal mortality decreased by approximately 44 percent, but approximately 830 women die from preventable causes relating to pregnancy or childbirth each day, and 99 percent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization—

(1) suicide is the leading cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19; and

(2) complications from pregnancy or childbirth is the second-leading cause of death for those girls;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that approximately 1/2 of—

(1) refugees and internally displaced or stateless individuals are women; and

(2) the 59,500,000 displaced individuals in the world are women;

Whereas it is imperative—

(1) to alleviate violence and discrimination against women; and

(2) to afford women every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities;

Whereas, on October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai became the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate for her work promoting the access of girls to education; and

Whereas March 8, 2016, is recognized as International Women's Day, a global day—

(1) to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future; and

(2) to recognize the obstacles that women face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of a country to generate—

- (A) economic growth;
- (B) sustainable democracy; and
- (C) inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women human rights defenders and civil society leaders, that have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) reaffirms the commitment—

(A) to end discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(B) to ensure the safety and welfare of women and girls;

(C) to pursue policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(D) to promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community;

(5) supports sustainable, measurable, and global development that seeks to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 388), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 419, S. Res. 420, S. Res. 421, S. Res. 422, S. Res. 423, and S. Res. 424.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 419) congratulating the University of North Dakota men's hockey team for winning the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association division I men's hockey championship.

A resolution (S. Res. 420) congratulating the 2016 national champion Augustana Vikings for their win in the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball Tournament.

A resolution (S. Res. 421) congratulating the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team for winning the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I title.

A resolution (S. Res. 422) supporting the mission and goals of 2016 "National Crime Victims' Rights Week," which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, concerns of, and services available to assist victims and survivors of crime in the United States.

A resolution (S. Res. 423) congratulating the University of Minnesota Women's Ice Hockey Team on winning the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

A resolution (S. Res. 424) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS AT THE DESK

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following House concurrent resolutions, which are at the desk: H. Con. Res. 115, H. Con. Res. 117, and H. Con. Res. 120.