

the law to women and includes special provisions to encourage women's access to education and government. Restoring human rights, and, in particular, women's rights, is key to Afghanistan's successful reconstruction and transition to democracy.

Women of all cultures are being recognized on an international stage for their contributions. Notably, Shiri Edadi won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote democracy and human rights in Iran, particularly for women and children.

The U.S. Senate can work toward protecting women's rights and improving the status of women domestically and internationally by acting upon the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. CEDAW is a comprehensive treaty on women's human rights addressing almost all forms of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage and family, health care, politics and law. It has been over two decades since the United States signed this treaty, and it still awaits consideration before the Senate. Once again, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations to take up this treaty and allow the Senate the opportunity to offer its advice and consent on this important convention.

International Women's Day celebrates the progress women have made in the face of adversity and pays tribute to women fighting against discrimination and other injustices. This year, Congress recognized Dorothy Height for her tremendous work for women's rights. Ms. Height, who fought against racism and violence toward African Americans, also battled for women's full and equal employment, increased educational opportunities, and institutions for women in the United States. This year, she was awarded a congressional gold medal for her contributions to our nation.

Women have made tremendous strides in the last century. In the United States, more and more women are attending college and earning postgraduate degrees. Worldwide, women are becoming increasingly active in the political process—more women are being elected to office and appointed to positions of power than ever before. In the year 2000, 11 countries were led by women.

While I recognize that women in the U.S. continue to make great advances, work remains to narrow the wage disparity between men and women. Although some progress has been made in narrowing the gender wage-gap since Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act in 1963, unfair wage disparities continue. I am proud to support legislative efforts to correct his discrepancy. In addition, I encourage the Senate to consider legislation to reauthorize the TANF program. I believe that any welfare reauthorization bill that passes the Senate should help to ensure that we are not just reducing the welfare rolls, but are also helping current and former TANF recipients break the cycle of poverty.

Unfortunately, violence against women is still all too prevalent in our country. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of child-bearing age. One out of every six American women have been victims of a rape or an attempted rape. Many rapes go unreported, and more than half of the women attacked know their assailant. We must continue to adequately fund state and local programs, including support shelters for women suffering from violent abuse in their homes. These safe havens deserve strong support and funding for the invaluable work they provide for women and communities around the country.

As we honor women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions, we must recognize that there is still much more to be done in the struggle for gender equity. Discrimination and violence against women continue to exist at home and abroad. The United States and the rest of the international community must reaffirm their commitment to promote gender equality and human rights around the world.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In Stafford, VA, Thomas Rivers heard that another boy thought he was cute. Rivers responded by shouldering the classmate in hallways at school, shouting slurs and spitting on him. The next year, 18-year-old Rivers attacked the boy by bashing him in the back of the head with a metal pole, nearly killing him.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND MICROSOFT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to address the European Commission's antitrust action against Microsoft. It is my understanding that antitrust authorities for the European Union member nations have given European Competition Commissioner Mario Monti their unanimous backing for a formal commission finding that Microsoft abused its market share of its Windows operating system for personal computers to leverage its way into related markets for networking and multimedia software. It is expected that the

European Commission will hand down a formal decision finding that Microsoft is in violation of European Union antitrust laws.

By imposing harsh, unprecedented penalties upon Microsoft, the Commission has extended its view of competition and regulation beyond Europe and onto the United States—to the detriment of U.S. laws, industry and consumers.

For many years, the European Union and its member states have criticized the United States for adopting laws and regulations that, in the view of European policymakers, have had an extraterritorial reach. The European Commission in particular has consistently urged the United States to ensure that its legal determinations do not intrude into European affairs. We now have a clear example of the European Union not practicing what they preach.

If the Commission rules that Microsoft is in violation of European Union antitrust laws, it will undercut the settlement that was so carefully and painstakingly crafted with Microsoft by the U.S. Department of Justice and several state antitrust authorities. There can be no question that the U.S. Government was entitled to take the lead in this matter—Microsoft is a U.S. company, many if not all of the complaining companies in the EU case are American, and all of the relevant design decisions took place here. I would hope that if the Commission were cognizant of America's legitimate interests in this matter, it would act in a manner that complemented the U.S. settlement. I fear the Commission has selected a path that places its resolution of this case in direct conflict with ours.

This is not the only example of the Commission's overreaching in this case. In recent negotiations with Microsoft, the European Commission demanded that Microsoft agree to ensure that computer manufacturers who sell pre-installed versions of Windows also install three competing media players—an obligation that the Commission insisted on imposing not just within the EU, but globally. In spite of its objections to these requirements, Microsoft agreed to the Commission's approach in order to reach a settlement. I understand the Commission proposes to impose a fine of over \$610 million on Microsoft—higher than any fine in the Commission's history. It has been suggested that the amount of this fine was based not only on Microsoft's conduct in the EU, but in the United States and elsewhere as well. One can only conclude that the Commission was not satisfied with how U.S. antitrust authorities and courts resolved the case against Microsoft, and therefore decided to act as a kind of supranational competition authority by fining Microsoft for its conduct worldwide.

The Commission's proposed ruling, as well as its negotiation tactics, is unprecedented in its scope. By proposing