

Radio talkers to fight domestic violence

15-hour discussion to air in English and in Spanish

By Jill Lawrence
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Think talk radio and you think Rush Limbaugh, Oliver North, G. Gordon Liddy, Don Imus or Howard Stern.

But about 25 million listeners will experience another side of talk radio Monday when more than a dozen hosts broadcast from a domestic violence conference here and devote their shows to the subject.

From 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., in English and Spanish, on hundreds of stations from New York to Sacramento to Mexico City and overseas on Voice of America, the talk will be of victims and batterers, of economics and emotions, of how to escape seemingly hopeless cycles of abuse.

"It's going to be a very serious day of discussion," says Michael Harrison, editor of *Talkers* magazine and an organizer

of the radio event.

The shows will originate at the Washington headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank, which is co-sponsoring a conference Monday and

Tuesday on violence in the home. Speakers include first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; former congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, chairman of the Boston-based Institute for Civil Society; and experts on domestic violence in the United States and Latin America.

While radio talkers often congregate at political conventions, this is believed to be the first issue-oriented conclave and the first to bring together English and Spanish-speaking stars of the radio waves.

The hosts range from liberal to conservative and include both men and women. They were invited because they dis-



USA TODAY
Schroeder: Heads anti-violence group



Agence France-Presse
Clinton: Conference participant

played particular interest in the issue and particular empathy for the problem on the air, says Harrison.

The conference and talkathon are part of a cluster of events connected with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A march on the National Mall on Saturday will feature 1,500 life-size wooden figures of women murdered by domestic abusers. The U.S. Public Health Service holds a meeting on Monday to discuss how nurses can help stop and prevent abuse.

About 243,000 people were victims of domestic violence in 1994, the Justice Department

said in a study of hospital emergency rooms released last August. The figure, four times higher than earlier, less precise estimates, suggests the problem is "seriously under-reported," the department said.

The top draw among Monday's radio talkers is clinical psychologist Joy Browne, heard on 300 stations by 8.5 million people.

To women who say they stay with abusive men for love, she asks, "If you won the lottery tomorrow, would you stay or go? They say 'I'd go.' It's not love. It's economic dependency."

Alan Stock, a psychotherapist before he became a morning drive-time host at Sacramento's KSTE radio, describes himself as "a conservative disgusted by the level of domestic violence in this area."

By moving the show to Washington, he said, "we're hoping to be able to bring a lot more awareness to our audience." His 70,000 listeners are a politically balanced mix of whites, blacks and Hispanics.

Spanish-language participants include Malin Falu of

New York's WADO and WIND's Luisa Torres, known in Chicago as the "Hispanic Oprah." Torres, who says she was abused by a former husband, receives a huge number of calls from battered Hispanic women, according to her producer, Elisa Alfonso.

"Many women don't speak English, many are unemployed, they're housewives. Many are here illegally and their husbands say if they tell anyone they'll be deported," says Alfonso. Some are told that "the fact that your husband smacks you around a little is part of the marriage."

Torres, whose *Chicago Al Dia* is heard by 56,000 people in four states, is among the participants seeking an interview with Hillary Clinton, who is speaking at the conference. "It certainly would be wonderful for her to join in on the conversation with any of us," says Blanquita Cullum, a conservative host whose *BQ View* is carried on 100 stations. "We'd always have an open mike for her — an unbiased open mike."

2:05

2:15

USA TODAY • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1997

Michael
Omari

Where fund-raising flap falls flat

In Missouri, 1,000 miles from the nation's capital, the clamor over political fund-raising generally is drawing little interest or concern.

By Richard Benedetto
USA TODAY

DES PERES, Mo. — Washington is abuzz about political fund-raising but in this heartland community 1,000 miles away, the latest developments are more like irritating background noise.

Many people here surely don't care for the way politicians collect money for campaigns. And many feel uneasy about how President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the White House to woo donors.

But most residents interviewed are paying limited day-to-day attention to the news from Washington about congressional hearings, newly surfaced videotapes of White House coffees for contributors, the prospect of independent counsels, money-laundering through Buddhist nuns and Senate votes to block a campaign-finance-reform bill.

"I just don't have the time to follow it," says Peggy Baumann, 37, a St. Louis stay-at-home mother of two children.

"I never even heard about the videotapes," acknowledges Aaron Head, 23, who works in direct-mail advertising in Brentwood.

Nearly two dozen interviews in the western suburbs of St. Louis this week found that most people are too busy working, raising families and worrying about local issues to get too worked up about something as remote from their lives as political fund-raising.

As Sue Riggio, 57, a Maryland Heights stock clerk, bluntly puts it, "I don't give any money to politicians so it doesn't matter that much to me."

That does not mean people here lack political savvy. Missouri has long been a bellwether state in presidential elections. And although the "Show-Me State" tends to lean Republican, it has a Democratic governor and five of its nine congressmen are Democrats.

"People here are quite independent and knowledgeable. They know how to figure things out and vote rationally in their own interests," says Rep. Jim Talent, the Republican in whose district the interviews were conducted.

Talent, elected to a third term last year after outspending his Democratic rival by 3-1, says he agrees that the campaign-finance system needs reform. But he worries that a quick-fix might make matters worse.

"Nobody who has to live within the current system likes it," he says, adding he'd support a requirement that contributions come only from the candidate's home district or region.

Both of Missouri's Republican senators, Christopher Bond and John Ashcroft, voted last week to block legislation, known as the McCain-Feingold bill, that would overhaul the campaign finance system. But few of their constituents interviewed here knew it.

Karen Brown, 31, a business planning manager from Fenton, says politicians will be forced to act only when people become outraged about fund-raising abuses.

Of the latest revelations about White House fund-raising, she says, "I've always thought Clinton was kind of shady. This is icing on the cake."

But prosperous economic times in this area have tempered discontent with Clinton. The unemployment rate is just 3.7% in Missouri and 3.8% in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The economy here is anchored by manufacturing jobs at Chrysler, Ford

and McDonnell Douglas-Boeing plants. Sprawling suburban growth along I-170 and I-270 has been stimulated by modern office parks for high-tech and financial companies.

Those interviewed didn't mention economic problems when asked to list issues that concerned them most. Education, crime, health care and traffic seemed far bigger worries, along with just finding time to balance work and family demands.

As for the financing of political campaigns, most tend to dismiss the investigations in Washington as so much Republican sniping.

"It's a big flap over nothing," says Art Amoroso, 78, a retired St. Ann insurance man who usually votes Republican.

The interviews here are consistent with polls showing the public paying little attention to campaign-finance probes in the House and Senate. An ABC survey this week showed only 10% of respondents were following the investigations very closely and 30% hadn't heard about the White House videotapes of Clinton greeting contributors.

As interviews got more in-depth, however, four themes emerged:

► Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are thought to be interested in making drastic changes to the current fund-raising system.

► Even if they do change it, the old problem of big money influencing politics will continue.

► There is little citizen agreement on what can be done to fix the complex system.

► Whether a candidate supports campaign-finance reform will not be the deciding factor in next year's vote.

Gus Bloebaum, 48, a corporate employee assistance director from St. Charles, knows that Bond voted in the Senate to block the McCain-Feingold bill. Yet, Bloebaum says he doesn't think it will make much difference in Bond's quest next year for another term.

"That's the trouble with the finance system. Once a politician is in office he can collect enough money to make it hard to get him out. We need term limits," Bloebaum says.

The feeling that everybody does it makes it difficult for voters to blame one party or politician for the campaign-finance situation.

"All of the candidates, Republican and Democrat, collect money for their campaigns. President Clinton is for reform, but he's still out raising money," says Al Sesay, a 50-year-old computer repairman from Ferguson. "Who do you punish?"



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Violence Against Women Office

Washington, D.C. 20531

March 27, 1997

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing to ask you to use your considerable talents, skills, experience and presence to address a problem reaching epidemic proportions around the world. The problem is one that I know is of great concern to you: domestic violence.

On October 20-21, 1997, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) is sponsoring a two-day conference in Washington, D.C., on domestic violence in the Americas. The conference will document the magnitude of domestic violence against women, estimate its social and economic costs, and highlight some of the most innovative programs that prevent or treat domestic violence. The second day the conference will focus on ways in which the media can help change social attitudes about domestic violence.

Certainly there have been other conferences on the topic of domestic violence. However, this conference is truly unique because of the quality of the participants and the unfathomable extent of their reach. This conference will be attended by representatives of the leading international development organizations, ministers or vice-ministers from the member countries of the hemisphere, representatives of non-governmental organizations that work in the prevention or treatment of domestic violence against women, experts in the area of domestic violence, and representatives of important media firms in the hemisphere. In other words, the people who "know" will be with the people who can make it happen -- all over the Americas.

I am asking you to consider participating in this event. I am asking this because I believe that you have a special message as well as a commitment to this issue and that you can deliver that message in a way that no one else can. I also believe that when you deliver that message, in your own special, inimitable style, it will send ripples of change throughout the Americas, helping countless women and their daughters and daughters-to-be.

Patti

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Please consider attending the first day of this conference and presenting a 20-minute speech on the issue of domestic violence against women, focusing on the costs of these devastating acts to society. Your presence and participation would mean a legacy of safety and hope for many struggling women.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie J. Campbell

Bonnie J. Campbell, Director



DEVELOPMENT BANK
MEMORANDUM

FILE CLASSIFICATION:

DATE:

TO : Melanne Vermeer, Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady

FROM : L. Ronald Scheman, US Executive Director

SUBJECT : Conference on Domestic Violence in the Americas.

Melanne:

When Mrs. Clinton was at the Bank on February 27, Enrique Iglesias and I talked to her about the "Conference on Domestic Violence in the Americas" scheduled to take place on October 20-21, 1997 here at the IADB in Washington, D.C. We invited her to be the keynote speaker and she asked for more details.

The two-day conference will attempt to document the economic and social costs of domestic violence and explore lessons from "best practices" to develop a better program to combat domestic violence throughout the hemisphere. The results will be a resource to governments and NGOs of the region and help the design of Bank projects to combat domestic violence. We expect the meeting to be attended by major U.S. and Latin American political figures in order to place a spotlight on domestic violence in the Americas and discuss policy options on how best to address the problem.

A second part of the conference will be for the print and broadcast media from the Americas to discuss how they can contribute to the solution of the problem of domestic violence.

Let me know if it will be possible for Mrs. Clinton to participate. We understand that, at this stage it is only our expression of interest and a "penciling in" on the calendar.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COSTS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

OCTOBER 20-21, 1997
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
— WASHINGTON, D.C.

Tentative Agenda

Moderator: *Muni Figueres. External Relations Advisor, Inter-American Development Bank*

OCTOBER 20, 1997

- 7:30-8:30 **Conference Registration/ Coffee**
- 8:30-9:00 **Greetings and introduction of co-sponsors**
Enrique Iglesias. President, Inter-American Development Bank
- co-sponsors:
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
 - Inter-American Commission of Women (ICM-OAS)
 - Institute for Civil Society (ICS)
 - ISIS Internacional
- 9:00-9:20 **Speech**
International Political Figure
- 9:20- 9:45 **Presentation of IDB video on domestic violence: "Battered Lives, Broken Trust: When Men Abuse Women"**
- 9:45-10:00 **General Framework of the Conference**
Mayra Buvinic. Chief, Women in Development Unit, IDB
- 10:00- 10:15 **Coffee**
- 10:15-10:45 **Prevalence, Causes and Consequences of Domestic Violence: A Focus on Women and Children**
- Domestic Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean: A General Vision of Prevalence and Existing Programs in the Region
Soledad Larrain. Coordinator, Domestic Violence Post Graduate Degree, University of Chile
 - Relations Between Poverty and Domestic Violence Against Women in Metropolitan Lima
Efraim González de Olarte. Principal Economist, Institute for Peruvian Studies
 - Pilar Gavilano Llosa. Clinical Psychologist, Peru*

0:45-11:00 Discussion and questions

1:00-11:30 Costs of Domestic Violence Against Women

- The Impact of Domestic Violence Against Women on Health: The Mexican Case

Rafael Lozano. Coordinator, Health Needs Analysis for the Center of Economy and Health, Mexican Health Foundation

-Economic Cost of Domestic Violence for Women, Children and Society: The Cases of Nicaragua and Chile
Andrew Morrison. Economist, Women in Development Unit, IDB

11:30-11:45 Policy Lessons in Health and Labor Markets

Tarsicio Castañeda. International Social Policy Consultant, Colombia

11:45- 12:00 Discussion and questions

12:00 -1:30 Lunch

Speaker: *Esmeralda Santiago. Novelist*

1:30 -2:25 Best Practice #1: Domestic Violence Treatment

-Domestic Violence Networks

Dora Caballero. Program Coordinator, "Networks for the Prevention and Treatment of Domestic Violence", PAHO

Marcela Granados. Director, Research of the Inter-institutional Working Group Against Domestic Violence, State Population Council, Nueva León, México

-Crisis Intervention: The Experience of Telephone Interventions

Enrique Valdez. Chief, Violence Treatment Division, Salvadorian Institute for Women Development

-Treatment of Battering

Francisca Cervante. Coordinator, Men for Egalitarian Relations (CORIAC), México

2:25-2:40 Policy Lessons in Domestic Violence Treatment

Lori Heise. Director, Health and Development Policy Project, Washington DC

2:40- 3:00 Discussion and questions

3:00-3:15 Coffee

3:15 -3:45 Best Practices #2: Judicial Systems and Law Enforcement

Martha Mesquita da Rocha. Coordinator, Women Police Stations, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Zarela Villanueva. Supreme Court, Costa Rica

3:45-4:00 Policy Lessons in Judicial Systems and Law Enforcement

Susana Chiarotti. Coordinator, Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean for Women's Human Rights (CLADEM), Argentina

4:00-4:15 Coffee

1:00-11:15

Coffec

1:15-1:00

Interactive Panel: Problems and Possibilities of Media Actions on Domestic Violence.¹

Moderator: Jorge Gestoso. CNN in Spanish

Rossana Fuentes. Diario la Reforma, México

Dorrit Harzim. Veja Magazine, São Paulo

Claudia Cano. Diario El Espectador, Colombia

Maria Laura Santillá. Programa causa común, TV Canal 13 ARTEAR, Argentina

Silvia Rojas. Diario La República, Perú

Patricia Verdugo. TV Nacional Canal 7, Chile

Jorge Valverde. Programa En la mira, Canal 4 MULTIVISION, Costa Rica

Hercilia Garnica. Diario Universal, Venezuela

1:00- 1:15

Closing Remarks

invited to participate



White House Press Release

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 1, 1997

NATIONAL DOMESTIC **VIOLENCE** AWARENESS MONTH, 1997

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In observing the month of October as National Domestic **Violence** Awareness Month, the American people reaffirm our commitment to prevent and eliminate **violence** against **women**. Domestic **violence** is not simply a private family matter -- it is a matter affecting the entire community.

Too many of America's homes have become places where **women**, children, and seniors suffer physical abuse and emotional trauma. Domestic **violence** is a leading cause of injury to **women** in our country, and it occurs among all racial, ethnic, religious, and economic groups. It is a particularly devastating form of abuse because it wears a familiar face: the face of a spouse, parent, or partner. This **violence** too often extends beyond the home and into the workplace.

My Administration is committed to ending this **violence** and to protecting **women** in all aspects of their lives, whether in the home, in the community, or in the workplace. In 1994, I fought for passage of the **Violence Against Women Act**, which combined tough new penalties for offenders with funding for much-needed shelters, counseling services, public education, and research to help the victims of **violence**. The Federal penalties and prevention efforts included in this legislation have improved our ability to deter crimes of domestic **violence**.

Early in my Administration, as outlined in the landmark Crime Bill, I

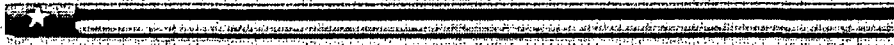


NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1997 as National Domestic **Violence** Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, law enforcement agencies, health professionals, educators, community leaders, and the American people to join together to end the domestic **violence** that threatens so many of our people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov



White House Press Release
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 3, 1996

NATIONAL DOMESTIC **VIOLENCE** AWARENESS MONTH, 1996

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Domestic **violence** threatens the very core of what we hold dear. Millions of **women** and children throughout our nation are plagued by the terror of family **violence** each year, and approximately 20 percent of all hospital emergency room visits by **women** result from such **violence**. Family **violence** is a crime that transcends race, religion, ethnicity, and economic stature, and one of its greatest tragedies is its effect on our young people: as many as 3 million children witness **violence** in their homes each year.

We must never give up in our efforts to transform despair into hope for the **women** and families across this country who suffer **violence** at home. We must encourage all Americans to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic abuse as well as the needs of its victims. My Administration is fully engaged in this struggle, coordinating our efforts through the **Violence Against Women** Office at the Department of Justice and through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Legislation enacted during the past several years is also helping to overcome the scourge of domestic **violence**. The **Violence Against Women** Act that I signed into law has given law enforcement critical new tools with which to prosecute and punish criminals who intentionally prey upon **women** and children. The Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996, enacted just last month, makes it a Federal crime for any stalker to cross State lines to pursue a victim, whether or not there is a protection order in effect, whether or not an actual act of **violence** has been committed, and whether or not the

stalker is the victim's spouse. And I am pleased that the Congress has just taken action to keep guns out of the hands of people with a history of domestic **violence**.

My Administration has also worked to increase the support available for battered **women** and other victims of domestic **violence**, including the elderly. In February, I announced the creation of a 24-hour, toll-free National Domestic **Violence** Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE. The response to this service has been overwhelming, and the hotline has already received over 50,000 calls -- the majority from **women** and men who have never before reached out for assistance. This year, we will also provide increased and unprecedented resources for battered **women's** shelters, domestic **violence** prevention efforts, and children's counseling services.

There is still much more to do, however. The welfare reform legislation that I recently signed recognizes the special needs of domestic **violence** victims, and I urge all States to accept the option of implementing the new law's Family **Violence** provisions. I have also directed the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice to develop guidance for States and assist them in implementing the provisions. As we help families move from welfare to work, we must ensure that they remain safe from **violence** in their homes and are given the support they need to achieve independence.

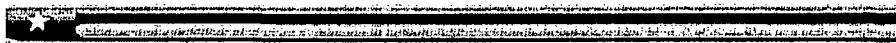
As a result of these and other efforts at the national, State, and local levels, we are one step closer to eliminating domestic **violence** and building in its place a brighter, more secure future for our families and loved ones. I salute all those whose efforts are helping us in this endeavor and pay special tribute to the survivors of domestic **violence** whose courage is an inspiration to us all. I urge all Americans to join me in working toward the day when no person raises a hand in **violence** against a family member.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1996 as National Domestic **Violence** Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by demonstrating their respect and gratitude for all those individuals who unselfishly share their experiences, skills, and talents with those affected by domestic **violence**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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White House Press Release

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE EVENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT DOMESTIC **VIOLENCE** HOTLINE EVENT

The Roosevelt Room

12:38 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Candice. Thank you, Secretary Shalala. Thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Leahy, Representative Conyers. I want to thank Bonnie Campbell for doing such a great job as the Director of the **Violence** Against **Women** Office at the Justice Department. And I thank the Attorney General and Associate Attorney General John Schmidt and the others at Justice who have supported this endeavor for the first time. I want to thank you, Ellen Fisher, and your entire team for your hard work and your leadership. We are counting on you.

I want to thank all the brave **women** in this audience who have survived the horrors and the fears of domestic **violence** and who have gone on to work, like Candice, as advocates. And I want to thank the men and the **women** who are here today, some in law enforcement, some in other walks of life, who are here because they believe in this effort and they want to support it.

I was just sitting here thinking how many of you had the same reaction to Candice that I did. You sort of stepped up here and started talking, sounding like another ordinary speech -- I've done thousands of these now in the last 22 years -- and it was almost hypnotic, just a calm, even-voice narrative that seemed almost unbelievable except for those of you who have lived through it so often.

When I gave the State of the Union address and asked the American people to look beyond the present battle over the budget to the real challenges facing our country -- not just our government,

but our country -- I pointed out that our first and foremost challenge now and perhaps forever will be to have good, strong families and to give childhood back to all the children in this country. Most of us have known the joys of -- some of the joys of family life. And anybody who's been in a family knows that none of them are perfect. But there's a world of difference between a family with its joys and its problems and a family terrorized by **violence** and abuse.

For all the economic problems facing poor children in America, I would rather them be poor and home with loving parents than have their childhood robbed by **violence** in their homes. So I say again to all of you, this is not a **women's** issue, this is an issue for families and for children and for men as well. And it is an American challenge that we have to face.

This issue has been swept under the rug for too long. We have tried to take it out into the daylight, to let people talk about it, to give people a chance to find courage in the efforts of other and to know where they can find help. That's what the **Violence Against Women Act** in the 1994 Crime Bill was all about. And again, I thank Bonnie Campbell and all those at Justice who have supported those endeavors.

It's also what our efforts in the Crime Bill to train people locally to be more sensitive to this are all about. We're making progress now. We're actually getting a core group of police officers and prosecutors and judges who really understand this problem and how it should be dealt with. This past September, federal prosecutors used the **Violence Against Women Act** to help ensure that a man convicted of severe **violence** against his wife was actually sentenced to life in prison. So I think that we need to continue this effort.

The second thing we need to do is to make sure that **women** who are struggling to take control of their own lives know how to do it. And for all the reasons that Secretary Shalala said, this number -- this hotline will make a difference to **women** everywhere, whether they're isolated in rural areas, whether they're in big cities without enough money for a quarter for a telephone call -- everywhere that people can see this number they will be able to use it.

So I guess what I'd like to do now is to wrap up my remarks and say that we're really, all of us here, for people who aren't here. And my greatest hope about this press conference is that people out there across America will see it tonight or hear about it, and if they are victims of domestic abuse or if they suspect that someone they know and care about is a victim of domestic abuse, they will pick up the phone and call this number -- 1-800-799-CARE.

SECRETARY SHALALA: SAFE.

THE PRESIDENT: SAFE, I mean. (Laughter.) I can't read. Maybe it will get overused and we'll have to have two. (Laughter.)

If this hotline -- if one person does this and it saves their lives, if one person winds up safe, it will have been worth the effort. But all of you in this room know that it's not one person,

that there are thousands and thousands and thousands of people out there.

I'm going to be very interested to see what the report is after one month and two months and three months. And I'm going to ask to get a report -- how many calls, how many people out there, feeling alone and lonely and bereft and abandoned will dial that; how many people will commit to memory 799-SAFE and dial it. Because I believe that all of us, even those of you who are advocates, may well be surprised by the sheer numbers, the volume of calls.

So I ask you as you leave today to reaffirm our common commitment to an end to domestic **violence**; to reaffirm our common commitment to saying to people, you must not raise your hand in **violence** against members of your family in your home; and to reaffirm our commitment to get this number everywhere. I want school children to know that there is a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every police officer to know there's a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every mayor to know it. I want every church leader to know it. I want it to be emblazoned in the synagogues and all the houses of worship in America. I want people to know this number. This is a way that we can bring the marvels of modern technology to solve a very old problem in a profoundly human way.

So, again, I say, I thank all of you for your efforts. As you know, it means a lot to me personally. But it will only count if everyone in America who needs to know this number, knows it; and if everybody who needs to know it, knows it and feels that they can use it; and then that the people on the other end of the line do their job. I'm convinced that people on the other end of the line will do their job. (Laughter.) And I'm convinced those of you who are out there in the fields will continue to do your job.

So I ask you to celebrate today, but remember, there's a lot of doctors and teachers and police officers and others that we need to gather into this great American family committed to doing away with this problem. I think -- I will say again, if we can do this, and then we can make some progress on the real issue, which is getting every man in America to make a personal pledge never to raise a hand in **violence** in the home, this is a problem that America has that can actually be solved. And I think all of you are going to hasten the day when we do it.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Q -- a question on this topic, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

Q Following up on what the speaker said, could you or your family or your mother have benefitted from a service like this when you were growing up, considering the problems that were in your household?

THE PRESIDENT: The honest answer is, I don't know. I think that -- I think yes because at that time in our country's history, most **women** were too embarrassed to talk about it. They didn't know that anybody else -- they didn't know if anybody else had the problem, and, if they did, they had no way of finding out who they were. And I think that the sense of shame, the ambivalence that maybe somehow this must be partly my fault, or this is my burden to bear, that this is not anything that I can get out of -- I think that's how it would have been most helpful.

I had a -- my mother was one of the most remarkably

resilient and self-reliant people I knew, but I think she came of age at a time when **women** in America simply didn't know that there was any way out of this. And I bet you there's still a lot of **women** out there who just don't know that there's any way out of this. So I would think that would have been the most important thing that would have helped us.

Thank you.

Q I wonder if you could just take a moment and speak to the fact that with the billions of **women** who are battered, those that are the least addressed are those that are deaf, and that there is also a TTD line --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I'm sorry.

Q -- and maybe a special thank-you to Senator Kennedy for seeing that that happened. (Laughter and applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Would you like to say something about it?

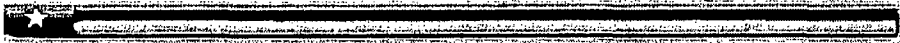
That's the TTD line, and for the last couple of years we've done some things to point out what telephone technology is doing to bring communication to the deaf. And this TTD line is 1-800-787-3224.

I thank you for mentioning that. Thank you.

Thank you all. (Applause.)

END

12:49 P.M. EST



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White House Press Release

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 2, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL DOMESTIC **VIOLENCE** AWARENESS MONTH

East Room

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sergeant Wynn, for your remarks, and for dedicating your life to this important work. Thank you, Bonnie Campbell, for doing a great job as head of the **Violence** Against **Women** Program in the Justice Department. Thank you, Attorney General Reno, for believing in this and for driving it. Thank you, Secretary Shalala, for reminding us this is a human tragedy.

Thank you, Jerry Rossi. You stood up here and you tried to convince us that you were really worried about the bottom line, and everybody who saw you knew that what you were really worried about was all those people out there, right and wrong. And every American who can see you would be proud of you and would wish that every person in business in this country would have those values and that kind of passion. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

And thank you, Tana Sherman, for being brave enough to tell us your story. Before we came over here, Tana and the five people who are on the back row with Bonnie Campbell all told me their stories. One of them had to have her back broken before she actually asked for help. Another waited until her oldest child was assaulted with a meat cleaver.

This is not just a woman's problem. I was glad to hear

that. This is a children's problem and it's a man's problem. And we're not doing anybody any favors, least of all the abusers, by ignoring it any longer. And I thank all these brave **women** for the power of their example. And there are others in this audience who have been severely abused in domestic situations -- I thank them all for having the courage to be here and for the fight they are fighting.

I'd also like to thank the Congress for the support that they gave this program a year ago, and to say a special word of appreciation to the United States Senate for restoring funding for the **Violence Against Women** Program just last week. Thank you, Senator Leahy; thank you, Congresswoman Morella; thank you, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. And I have to thank my good friend, Senator Joe Biden, in his absence for all of their work on behalf of this program.

Last week we had a great week in Washington. We celebrated progress in peace in the Middle East. We celebrated the beginnings of peaceful agreements in Bosnia. I spend a whole lot of my time trying to make or keep peace -- Northern Ireland, Southern Africa, Haiti; trying to get rid of the nuclear weapons that have threatened to disturb our peace profoundly and permanently. But we don't need just peace with other countries. We need peace on our streets, in our schools, and perhaps most of all, in our homes. All of us should want a peaceful world, but we know a peaceful world has to start with each of us -- in our homes, and at work, and in our lives.

This problem has been swept under the rug for quite a long while now. It's really always existed at some level or another. It is time to recognize that domestic **violence** can quickly and easily become criminal violent activity that affects us all -- regardless of our race or our income or our age, regardless of where we live or what we do.

You've heard about how it increases health costs and absenteeism and reduces the productivity of businesses. You know the most important thing is that it undermines the most important things in life -- it undermines the most important institution in the world.

Most of us have been privileged to know, in greater or lesser degree, the joys of family life. And everyone who has ever been part of any family knows there's no such thing as a perfect family, and they all have their problems. But there's a whole lot of difference between a family with joys and problems and a family dominated by **violence** and abuse.

If there is anything I could say to you today that would leave a lasting impression, I would hope it would be to echo what the fine man who introduced me said -- and that is that we don't have to put up with this. We do not have to put up with this. We can do something about it. It can be changed; it can be better.

And everybody, not just the battered **women**, but their children who suffer psychological wounds that can only be imagined and can never be fully predicted. And the abusers themselves will be better off if we determine that we are going to put a quick, firm, rapid, unambiguous stop to every single case we find about, as soon as we find out about it. That is what we should all leave here determined to do. (Applause.)

I wish the First Lady could be here today, but Hillary has to -- she's going to New York, and she couldn't be here. But when we lived in Little Rock, we spent a lot of time at the shelter for battered and abused **women** and children. It was run by some saintly people we knew and respected. We enjoyed, if you can use that word, the time we spent there. We learned a lot. And it sort of stiffened my resolve to see this as a problem of society, not just an unfortunate thing that

happens to some families on occasion, including mine.

And when we were debating the crime bill a year ago, I was so moved by the commitment that the Attorney General had and that many in the Congress had to make a bipartisan departure from national policy and say that we were actually going to single this out -- that we were going to pass a crime bill that was comprehensive and meaningful, that carried the real potential of lowering the crime rate; changing the conditions in which crime would occur. And it really was a brilliant piece of legislation. It had the assault weapons ban. It had stronger penalties for serious offenders.

You see now people are beginning to be put away for good under the three-strikes-and-you're-out law, and the two cases that I've seen, I'd say the law has been properly implemented. It had money for prevention, for community strategies. It had money for 100,000 police officers. We see all over the country now community policing lowering the crime rate. We do not have to put up with this; we can make this better. We can bring the crime rate down, and we can certainly reduce the rate of domestic **violence**.

But The **Violence Against Women Act** is really a peculiar part of the genius of the crime bill because of its commitment to raise to national prominence an issue that had never, ever been there before; and because it combines tough sanctions against abusers with assistance to police and to prosecutors and to shelters. And I don't know -- several of the people who talked to me before I came out here were emphasizing how important it is to educate and train not only the police officers, but also the prosecutors and the judges. All the police can do is to bring the case to the criminal justice system. Prosecutors and the courts have to do the rest.

To make sure this act had a good chance to work, we created the Office of **Violence Against Women** in the Justice Department, and we named Bonnie Campbell, the former Attorney General of Iowa, to head it. And we hope that we can say -- we hope that we can say now that as a matter of national policy, with the support of people all across America in uniform, in **women's** groups, in support groups -- the days of men using physical **violence** to control the lives of their wives, their girlfriends and their children are over. And it is not a **women's** issue, it's an American issue, it's a values issue, and it is now an issue around the world.

A lot of kind things have been said about the speech that Hillary made at the **Women's** Conference in Beijing, speaking out against abuses against **women** and little girls in other parts of the world. But I would remind you, she also spoke out against the problem of family **violence**. And the Beijing conference made that an international goal for improving the condition of **women** the world over. And since we had so much to do with that, we ought to say, we've got a lot of work to do right here in the United States, and we want to lead the way to guarantee **women** and their children a safe life and a chance at a good, constructive family.

Again, let me say, I'm grateful to all the corporations who have worked on this. Jerry Rossi made an eloquent statement. There are many others -- the GAP, Liz Claiborne, Aetna, Polaroid are among the great companies in this country who have made a difference in the way their employees are treated and the way they think about themselves and their options and their possibilities. I thank them for that.

I want to thank the Congress again -- I mean, the Senate, for restoring the funding. I want to say again, we will not be able to do this right unless there are police officers like Sergeant Wynn who will give themselves to this work. And I often say this in Washington

-- very often a national movement like this starts with someone like him, who had to live with the reality of domestic abuse. But we can't bring it all the way home with only police officers who grew up in families where there was abuse. We now have to have a systematic commitment to sensitize people who, thank God, did not to live through it, to be a part of this movement; to sensitize prosecutors; to sensitize judges; to sensitize all of us in decision-making capacities, whether or not we had domestic abuse in our homes.

And let me finally say that as a kickoff to the National Domestic **Violence** Awareness Month, I signed today an executive memorandum to ensure that our federal government continues to be a leader in this national effort. I've asked the heads of all the executive departments to conduct employee awareness campaigns modeled after the one that the Attorney General has put in place at the Department of Justice, to provide information and the resources to deal with domestic **violence**. After all, we know there must be federal employees at work, even as we speak, who themselves are the victims of domestic **violence** and who are sitting there at their desks staring blankly at a piece of paper while we here proclaim victory in this fight and they haven't even taken the first step. So we want to set a good example.

Let me lastly say that, to all the **women** here and all across America who are abused or who have been abused, you are not invisible. The people who have stood with you today can now say that you are being heard, you are being seen, you are being understood.

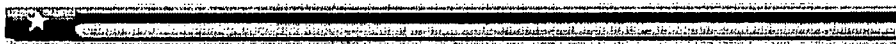
The following quote is from one of Hillary's favorite books, and I asked if I could use it today. It's called "In the Spirit," by Susan Taylor, the editor of Essence Magazine. And it talks about your courage, your strength and your hope. She writes -- quote -- "While we cannot change the past, with the wisdom of spirit, we can change what it means to us and to our future. With understanding and compassion, we can break a cycle of despair, rise above our sorrows and find a new emotional home from which to create a brighter tomorrow. Each breath we take offers us a chance to create a better life."

Now, I hope because of all these efforts, we will all, with each breath we take, resolve that a part of that better life will be less and less and less domestic **violence** and abuse, until we have taken it out of the spirit and the soul and the life of the United States of America.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

2:20 P.M. EDT



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White House Press Release

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT EVENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 21, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT **VIOLENCE** AGAINST **WOMEN** ACT EVENT

The East Room

1:11 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sarah, for your wonderful remarks and for the powerful example of your life. I was watching you speak today, thinking of your story, wondering how many other stories like yours there might have been if our society had responded more properly, and how many more there will be now because we are going to do the right things.

I thank Attorney General Reno and Secretary Shalala, and of course, Senator Biden and Senator Hatch and Senator Boxer, Senator Harkin, Senator Kerry, Senator Moseley-Braun, Senator Wellstone -- we've nearly got a quorum. (Laughter.) Congresswoman DeLauro, Congresswoman Mink, Congresswoman Morella, Congresswoman Blanche Lambert-Lincoln. I thank you all for being here.

This is an important day for me. This is an issue with which I have dealt as President, as a governor, as an attorney general, as a citizen, going for years with my wife to the shelters in our state for battered **women** and their children, and as a human being. And I have looked forward to this day for a very long time.

We spend a lot of time in Washington, and we are now having a great and fascinating debate about what the role of this government ought to be and how we're going to get into the next century, and how we're going to create opportunity for all the American people. This is a good thing that we're doing. It's exciting. And I'm having a good time. But, you know, let's be honest with each other. If children

aren't safe in their homes, if college **women** aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American Dream will never be real for them, no matter what we do in economic policy, no matter how strong we are in standing against the forces that would seek to undermine our values beyond our borders. This is key to everything else we want to do.

So I applaud the members of the Congress, and especially those who have been recognized already -- especially Senator Biden and Senator Hatch -- for recognizing that we had to take responsibility for trying to come to grips with issues that we ordinarily would think of as issues that belong to local law enforcement or local social agencies, or even to the privacy of the home.

When we were fighting so hard last year to pass the crime bill, with the emphasis on more police and more punishment and more prisons and more prevention, one of the things that almost got lost was the **Violence Against Women Act**. I think it almost got lost for a very regrettable reason in this day and time -- the Republicans and the Democrats weren't fighting about it. We really had a national consensus that we had to do something. And because we knew we had to do something and it passed, it was almost unnoticed.

But, you know, domestic **violence** is now the number one health risk for **women** between the ages of 15 and 44 in our country. If you think about it, it's a bigger threat than cancer or car accidents. The incidents of rape is rising at three times the rate of the crime rate. The FBI estimates that a woman is beaten in this country once every 12 seconds. And we know, too, that often when a spouse is beaten, the children as beaten as well.

For too long, domestic **violence** has been considered purely a private matter. From now on, it is a problem we all share. (Applause.) What are we going to do about it? The first thing we have to do is do what we can to prevent **violence**. One part of the crime bill I am proudest of will help in our efforts to stop repeat offenses against **women**. It will prohibit individuals with a restraining order against them from purchasing or possessing a gun. No ifs, ands or buts. (Applause.)

When crimes do occur, we must restore the rights of victims to their proper place. That means giving them the right to speak at sentencing hearings. And above all, it means helping victims rebuild their lives. We'll require sexual offenders to pay restitution to their victims. We must help people who suffer **violence** put their lives back on track and put the burdens on the criminals where they belong.

To help in prevention and in assisting victims, the crime bill establishes a **Violence Against Women Office** at the Department of Justice. Today I am pleased to announce that Bonnie Campbell of Iowa will be the first director of that office. As Iowa's first female attorney general, Bonnie Campbell helped to enact strong domestic **violence** and anti-stalking laws in that state. She worked with counties and college campuses to raise awareness about domestic **violence**. And she endorsed a victims rights amendment to the state constitution. A big part of her new job will be helping states and communities to deal with domestic **violence**.

Today we are making available \$26 million to help the states open rape crisis centers, to staff domestic **violence** hotlines, to provides victims advocates, to pay for more officers and more training. This is the first down payment on a six-year commitment of \$800 million for this purpose. (Applause.)

This is part of a report I should make at least to these

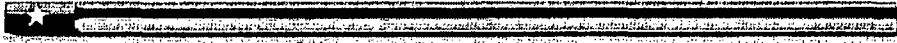
members of Congress who are here about the crime bill. The work has already begun. In just four months we have awarded more than 16,000 police officers to half the police departments in America. We're taking guns and criminals off the streets. The three-strikes-and- you're-out law is being enforced in Iowa and in many other states throughout the country. In short, we are under budget and ahead of schedule. And I want more of that from our government.

We passed this crime bill with bipartisan support. And I'd be the last person to say that it's the end-all and be-all, the ultimate answer to all the problems of crime in America. But I will not permit the crime bill to be undercut. It is just starting to make a difference in the lives of America. We have to keep going. We have to make a difference in the lives of everyone, but especially the **women** and the children we are called here today to pledge our allegiance to protect.

Let me begin this introduction of Bonnie Campbell and end it with a simple thank you. It's hard to get anybody with good sense to leave Iowa to come to Washington. (Laughter.) And I thank her for doing it and for the shining example she has set in public service and for the excellent work I am confident she will do in this important position.

Bonnie. (Applause.)

END1:20 P.M. EST



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White House Press Release

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 10, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT

The Roosevelt Room

11:45 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: This may be one of those cases where the introduction was better than the speech. (Laughter.) Thank you, Julie and thank all of you for being here. I'm honored to be with this distinguished group on Human Rights Day. I want to thank all of you in attendance. I think Congresswoman Connie Morella is here. Where are you, Connie? There you are, right in front of me. (Laughter.) Our AID Administrator, Brian Atwood; Assistant Secretary John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary Phyllis Oakley and all of you who represent organizations who have done so much to advance the cause of freedom around the world. I want to say a special word of welcome to my good friend, Gerry Ferraro. Thank you for being here.

Before I begin what I want to say about human rights, I think it is appropriate on Human Rights Day that I have just gotten a report from the Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is meeting with our NATO foreign ministers in Brussels, that, together, they agreed to hold an historic NATO summit in July in Madrid to carry forward our goal of building a Europe that is undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history -- one in which we will work to forge a partnership with Russia, adapt NATO to the demands of a new era, and invite the first aspiring members from among Europe's new democracies into NATO. My goal is to see them become full members of the Alliance for NATO's 50th birthday in 1999.

It's fitting that this step comes on Human Rights Day



White House Press Release

EXCERPTS FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S ADDRESS TO U.N. CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the First Lady

For Immediate Release

March 14, 1995

EXCERPTS FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S ADDRESS TO
U.N. CONFERENCE ON **WOMEN** AND THE UNITED NATIONS

New York City

"There is no panacea, no magic bullet that will suddenly empower **women** or free people from the bondage of inhuman living conditions. Progress depends on our working together, in partnership, to create conditions around the world that enable **women**, men, and children to reach their God-given potential and flourish within their families and societies.

"But today, perhaps even more than in Mrs. Roosevelt's time, there is a special urgency to helping **women** around the world assume their rightful places in society. That is because the fortunes of **women** are inextricably tied to the fortunes of our global community. If **women** don't thrive, the world won't thrive.

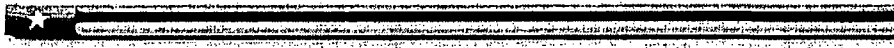
"At least in words, we tend to agree that **women** should be active participants in helping their societies meet the great challenges of this and the next century. But that can only be achieved through real, concrete actions, actions that empower **women** through education, legal rights and protection from **violence**. And actions that assure **women** access to adequate social services, employment opportunities, political institutions, and decision making.

"Investing in the health and education of **women** and girls is essential to improving global prosperity. In parts of Asia and South America, we have seen education of girls help lift whole populations out of poverty. We have seen the education of **women** enhance their roles as mothers and increase their participation in civic life. So we must do more to ensure equal rights for **women**, along with equal pay and equal

access to health care, education, and political power.

"The United Nations must play a leadership role. Every program, policy, and decision that emanates from this building directly or indirectly affects **women** as they care for children, manage households, and work at their jobs. **Women** must be a part of the process within the United Nations as we search for answers, and **women** must continue to demand that their rights and opportunities be respected in nations around the world.

"In paying tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt as part of this conference, we would do well to consider her great vision, her compassion, and her common sense approach to solving very difficult human problems. For her, no political obstacle was too large. No cultural gap was too wide. No difference of opinion was too serious to overcome. 'The important thing is to go on working and growing in understanding.' she said. If we follow that one piece of advice, our world will be better for it."



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and on Bill of Rights Day and in Human Rights Week. The prospect of NATO membership and integration into the West has been a very strong incentive for Europe's new democracies to expand their political freedoms and to promote universal human rights.

Working together with our allies and our partners, we're building a world where, as Judge Learned Hand once said, rights know no boundaries and justice no frontiers.

For the first time in history, more than half the world's people now live under governments of their own choosing. Today we dedicate ourselves to the unfinished task of extending freedom's reach. Promoting democracy and human rights reflects our ideals and reinforces our interests. It's a fundamental pillar of our foreign policy.

History shows that nations where rights are respected and governments are freely chosen are more likely to be partners in peace and prosperity. That is why we've worked hard over the last four years to help equality and freedom take root in South Africa, to stop the reign of terror in Haiti, to promote reform in Bosnia and Russia, to bring freedom back to Bosnia, and peace, and to enable millions of suffering people all around the world to reclaim their simple human dignity. That is why we must continue to support the world's newest democracies and to keep the pressure on its remaining repressive regimes.

The First Lady and I have just had a remarkable meeting with these six **women**. They are courageous in promoting human rights in different ways. They are courageous in promoting democracy and empowerment by helping **women** to live up to their potential. You can just look at them and see that they've put the lie to the notion that human rights is some Western cultural idea that has no place in other societies.

Julie Su, who spoke so eloquently, has played a crucial role in stopping the exploitation of Thai **women** immigrants in sweat shops. And I am proud of the work that Secretary Reich and the Labor Department has done in that regard, and we intend to continue to do that for the next four years.

For the last 20 years, Dawn Calabria has fought to protect **women** refugees and children.

Nahid Toubia is a doctor from Sudan whose organization has played a pioneering role in **women's** health issues.

Barbara Fry has promoted corporate responsibility for human rights around the world and has also promoted education of children in her native Minnesota in human rights.

Wanjiru Muigai from Kenya has helped **women** in her country to secure their legal rights and she made a passionate appeal to me to focus on targeted United States aid in a way that will promote the empowerment of **women** in nation after nation.

And since coming here from El Salvador, Lillian Perdomo has worked to protect **women** from domestic **violence** right here in the District of Columbia.

Each of these **women** tells a story for many others. Together their experiences underscore a shared truth. As the First

Lady said in Beijing and as Julie repeated, human rights are **women's** rights and **women's** rights are human rights.

I want to tell you that I am very proud of the role that Hillary, Ambassador Albright, and all the members of the United States delegation -- and thank you, Marge Mezvinsky, back there -- who played in issuing Beijing's call to action. That was a great moment for the United States and a great moment for **women** around the world.

Beijing's message was as clear as it was compelling. We cannot advance our ideals and interests unless we focus more attention on the fundamental human rights and basic needs of **women** and girls. We must recognize that it is a violation of human rights when girls and **women** are sold into prostitution, when rape becomes a weapon of war, when **women** are denied the right to plan their own families, including through forced abortions, when young girls are brutalized by genital mutilation, when **women** around the world are unsafe even in their own homes. If **women** are free from **violence**, if they're healthy and educated, if they can live and work as full and equal partners in any society, then families will flourish. And when they do, communities and nations will thrive.

We are putting our efforts to protect and advance **women's** rights where they belong -- in the mainstream of American foreign policy. During the last four years, we have worked to steer more of our assistance to **women** and girls, to help protect their legal rights and to give them a greater voice in their political and economic futures. These programs are making a real difference -- whether by raising female voter turnout in Bangladesh, promoting equality for **women** in Nepal, enabling **women** in Bosnia to participate fully in the rebuilding of their country. But we must do more.

Today, I call upon the Senate, again, to ratify the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against **women**. (Applause.) As you know, many, many, many other nations have done this. In our country where we have worked so hard against domestic **violence**, where we have worked so hard to empower **women**, it is, to say the least, an embarrassment that the United States has not done this, and there is no excuse for this situation to continue.

I'm also pleased to announce several initiatives totalling \$4 million to protect and advance **women's** rights, including new efforts to help Rwandan **women** who have been torn from their homes and to provide **women** refugees around the world with access to reproductive health services. They've built on the commitment I made at last year's G-7 summit to help **women** in Bosnia start new businesses and will help **women** across Africa to do the same. They strengthen our commitment to stop the trafficking of **women** and children for prostitution and child labor. And they will help **women's** groups in Asia fight **violence** and discrimination.

In short, these efforts will reinforce America's global leadership on behalf of human rights and democracy in perhaps the most fundamental areas at which they are at risk. They reflect our nation's enduring commitment to the freedoms of our Bill of Rights that safeguard our own citizens. They support the values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that promote freedom, justice, and peace all around the world.

We live at a time when our most deeply-held ideals are

ascendant, but this hopeful trend toward freedom and democracy is neither inevitable, nor irreversible, nor has it extended to the real lives of hundreds of millions of people all across the globe. While we seek to engage all nations on terms of goodwill, we must continue to stand up for the proposition that all people, without regard to their gender, their nationality, their race, their ethnic group or their religion, should have a chance to live up to their potential.

I want to say again how gratified I am that there are people like these six **women** alive and well and at work in the world -- people like so many of you. It is a constant source of inspiration to me. I want to say again how grateful I am to the First Lady for going across the world to raise our concerns about this and bringing back to me the knowledge of the work that has been done and what still can be done on behalf of **women** and girls.

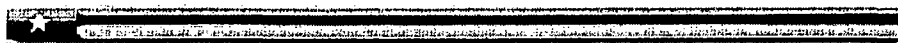
As I sign this proclamation marking International Human Rights Day, I ask you all to remember not just that **women's** rights or human rights, but that the defense and the promotion of human rights are the responsibilities of all of us. Thank you. (Applause.)

(The proclamation is signed.) (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

11:50 A.M. EST



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White House Press Release

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 12, 1997

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S** DAY

Dean Acheson Auditorium
The State Department

MRS. CLINTON: We are gathered today to celebrate International **Women's** Day in the heart of the State Department. And we do, as Americans, have much to celebrate, starting with a Secretary of State who, yes, broke a barrier by virtue of her own gender, but who much more importantly is committed to defending the rights not just of Americans but of citizens around the world regardless of gender.

Not only has Madeleine Albright broken many a glass ceiling, she has brokered many a peace. Not only has she opened many doors, she has opened many minds. And since she mentioned it, I would say that in my last conversation with Mrs. Roosevelt -- (laughter) -- she told me how pleased she was that her husband had appointed the first woman to the Cabinet in United States history, and how pleased she was that my husband had appointed the first woman Secretary of State. (Applause.)

I thank Secretary Albright for her leadership, her courage and, on a personal note, her friendship. And I am delighted that she has agreed to serve as the new chair for the President's Interagency Council on **Women**, ably assisted on the issues by Teresa Loar and Tim Wirth and others of you here.

We all know that countless responsibilities face our new Secretary of State and all of us. Our foreign policy does not lack for challenges. We must continue to reduce weapons of mass destruction. We must realize the century's dream of a wholly united, democratic and peaceful Europe. We must work to capture new opportunities in Asia, to seize opportunities for peace in the Middle East and other areas that are strategic not only to the United States but to the entire globe. We must

work with our partners in Latin America, Africa, and elsewhere to build an inclusive and expanding global economy. We must safeguard our people from the threats of terrorism, extremism, international crime, drugs, and environmental degradation.

While all of these require our attention and commitment, today I have come to advance a simple idea. That is the seamless inclusion of girls' and **women's** needs in American foreign policy. Despite the work they do, the families they raise, the communities they hold together, too many of the world's **women**, particularly in developing nations, live on the outskirts of opportunity and equality. But let me be clear: This challenge is not confined to the developing world. We still have plenty of work to do here in the United States and in other advanced economies of the world to ensure that **women** have a full stake in democracy. One goal in every country should be to see that all citizens, regardless of race or gender or ethnicity or religion, have a full place at their society's table.

If you'll forgive just a slight diversion -- yesterday I was in Arkansas. I visited people who had been hit by a terrible tornado in the morning. Even before that disaster struck, these were people already working overtime to build good lives, to reach their aspirations. The full benefits of American society were still a long way away for them. After this tornado, all that they had worked for, all they had hoped for seems lost.

Later that day I spoke at an event that helps raise funds to send single parents, primarily **women**, to college or vocational school. I heard stories from five **women** who told us what it had meant that their society, in the form of those who had raised these funds, reached out and told them that they could make something of their own lives, they could go to college, they could support themselves and their children. They had heard the message that is even still too often conveyed in America: that they weren't worth very much, that nobody really cared too much about them.

As one young woman said, five years ago I was in a battered **women's** shelter in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I had nothing. I not only didn't have a car, I didn't have a driver's license, and my face looked as though it had been run over by a truck. All of a sudden there were people there who convinced me that I could make something of myself and care for my nine-month-old son. I thought to myself, how can these people believe in me, that I could go to college, that I could support myself? How could these people care about me when my own husband didn't care about me?

Those stories, as I heard them, reminded me of stories that I have heard around the world. As **women** in Bangladesh or India or Nicaragua or Chile stood up and told me what it meant to them to have someone believe that they, too, could make a living for their family; that the skills they had would be valued in the marketplace; that their children, especially their daughters, could have a better life. The **women** last night were helped to return to school. And today they are citizens of the United States in the fullest sense of that word.

Whatever disparities of wealth exist in our country and around the world means that people are left by the side of the road, detoured off the Information Highway, unable to take advantage of democracy's opportunities. What America must do for its own sake, as well as for the sake of its leadership in the world we are in today and that we are entering tomorrow, is to promote democracy and civil society in every nation, so that all citizens -- every man, woman, and child -- can live up to their God-given potential.

But one may ask, well, it's fine for me to care about the **women** of Arkansas, but why should I or any American care about **women** in developing countries and around the world? Why should **women**, as Secretary Albright just eloquently explained, be a concern of ours and our foreign policy here in the United States? Well, what the Secretary said and what this administration believes is that if half of the world's citizens are undervalued, underpaid, undereducated, underrepresented, fed less, fed worse, not heard, put down, we cannot sustain the democratic values and the way of life we have come to cherish.

If as a nation Americans care about opening foreign markets for American goods and services, if we care about making our country secure in the face of new threats, if we care about widening the circle of peace and prosperity, then we must address the conditions and circumstances of the world's **women**.

You in this room know better than anyone else that our world is in a time of great transformation, heralding ever more democracies, leading, we hope, to ever more peace. But the great promise of this time is not without its challenges. Global competition, the information revolution, the rapid pace of change all create pressures on every society, from governments down to families. And these pressures pose unavoidable questions for us as we approach the 21st century. How do we figure out ways to balance individual and community rights and responsibilities? How do parents raise children in the face of the influences of the mass media and consumer culture? What do we make of what seems to be a conflict in many instances between personal identity and the work available in an age of globalization and high technology? What about the roles of **women** in society? How will people preserve their ethnic pride and value their national citizenship? And how will nations protect their sovereignty while cooperating regionally and globally with others?

Thinking about these questions and how a free nation like ours will respond to them, we may need to be reminded that democracy is not just about legally protected rights, elections, or free market economies. It is about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts and minds. It is about how, in the absence of either hot or cold wars, democracy is rooted in people's everyday lives.

Given the changes that are going on around us, we can no longer gauge our interests around the world solely through power blocs and vast arsenals. Across the globe, here at home, at the end of the Cold War, we have been free to focus on issues that edge right up to our own front doors. How do we educate our children? How do we ensure that families have proper health care? How do we ensure that democracies and free markets produce citizens, not just consumers?

I have said before that at this time of challenge around the globe, we know we will continue to cope with what is often thought of as the traditional balance of power among countries. But I would also argue that we must now add to that balance of power equation, often called realpolitik, the idea that real-life politik may be just as intimately connected with whether or not democracies survive and flourish.

These issues that we speak of today should not be considered **women's** issues. But certainly it is fair to say that **women** often, by necessity, become the world's experts on the hazards and vicissitudes of life. And they, therefore, often understand and appreciate more clearly

that they have a vested interest in ensuring that their societies and governments address these real-life challenges.

I have seen for myself on continent after continent the solutions that **women** are forging -- new mothers in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, who gather every week to learn about family planning and better nutrition for their children; doctors and nurses in Belarus and Ukraine who are caring for the children of Chernobyl; **women** from Santiago to San Diego who are working on issues as diverse as education, crime, and the environment. These issues are central to our global democratic interests. For what distinguishes democracy is fair and genuine participation in every aspect of life.

It should be too obvious to point out, but unfortunately it isn't, that giving **women** a stronger voice and fuller say over their futures is intimately related to the health of democracies because **women** are the majority in most countries and the world over.

America's credo should ring clearly: A democracy without the full participation of **women** is a contradiction in terms. To reach its full potential, it must include all of its citizens. Clearly, whether we succeed in strengthening democratic values around the world is of special consequence to **women**, who in our country and elsewhere are still striving to attain, and even define their rightful place in government, the economy, and civil society, and to claim their rightful share of personal, political, economic and civic power.

Raising the status of **women** and girls and investing in their potential means insuring that they have the tools of opportunity available to them. Education, health care, credit and jobs, legal protections and the right to participate fully in the political life of their countries. And that is why the United States must continue its bipartisan tradition of supporting initiatives that move our world closer to these goals.

Today, more than 600 million **women** worldwide are denied the opportunity of an education. **Women** make up two-thirds of those who can neither read nor write. Yet the single most important investment any developing nation can make is in the education of girls and **women**. We are discovering that in country after country the benefits of educating **women** go far beyond the classroom and the schoolhouse. They go to stronger families, better health, nutrition, wages, and levels of political participation.

I have seen how the support of the United States for the education of **women** and girls worldwide is paying off. I have seen how similar social investments, also many supported by the United States, can make a difference in countries as diverse as Brazil, the Philippines, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Certainly, as I travel around the world and as many of you do likewise, we have seen with our own eyes that investing in girls and **women** helps to transform communities which in turn can transform societies. **Women** will not flourish and neither will democracy if they continue to be undervalued inside and outside the home.

I have had many experts in economic development around the world say to me that **women's** work is not part of the economies of countries, that **women** do not participate in the economic markets of countries. And yet I have seen with my own eyes as I've traveled through urban areas and remote rural ones that **women** are bearing often the bulk of the load of the work that must be done -- to plant crops, to harvest

them, to make it possible for small enterprises to flourish in market stalls. So I know that **women** are working. Their contributions may not be counted in the gross domestic product of their societies, but they are of value. If all the **women** in the world tomorrow said they would not work outside the home, the economies of every country would collapse. And it is time -- (applause) -- it is time that we honored and counted the contributions that **women** make, both in the home and outside.

Investing in **women** also means investing in their health and, in turn, in the health of their families. I am especially pleased that the United States has provided assistance through the United States Agency for International Development to assure that **women**, children, and families have access to a full spectrum of low-cost, high-yield health care services -- from safe birthing kits for expectant mothers, to basic immunizations for infants, to oral rehydration therapy to treat children suffering from diarrhea.

I want to say a special word about family planning and its importance in this larger effort. Family planning is fundamental to letting **women** take responsibility for themselves and their children. Right now, however, roughly 100 million **women** worldwide cannot get or are not using family planning services because they are poor, uneducated, or do not have access to care. Some 20 million **women** will seek unsafe abortions. Of these **women**, some may become disabled for life, some will have other health problems, but fundamentally, the rate of unsafe abortions is in itself a tragedy. High abortion rates do not represent **women's** equality; they represent a failure on all our parts to help **women** prevent unwanted pregnancies in the first place. If we really care about reducing abortions and fostering strong families, we must not back away from America's commitment to family planning efforts overseas. (Applause.)

If we really care about making **women** equal partners in societies the world over, we must do everything in our power to fight **violence** against **women**, whether it is a hidden crime of domestic abuse or a blatant tactic of war.

No single social investment is a panacea for **women** or for developing countries. Nor should every just cause of the world be America's to embrace.

But I do believe that as long as discrimination and inequities persist in a broad-scale way against **women**, a stable, prosperous world will be far from a reality.

Taken together, our investments in social development are vital to strengthening free market interests, spreading our democratic ideal and enhancing our security.

Over time, America has learned that our ideals and interests cannot be divorced from the political, economic and social cross-currents swirling around us. I hope we have also learned that engagement with the world represents opportunities at home as well as obligations abroad.

Let me just give you one modest example. I spoke recently at a conference sponsored by USAID called Lessons Without Borders. At the conference, Baltimore's Mayor, Kurt Schmoke, told how government leaders from his city had gone to Africa to learn about simple, low-cost strategies used on that continent to encourage parents to immunize their children. Now similar programs are in place in Baltimore, with community clinics, a vaccination van, door-to-door visits and the resulting higher immunizations rates for children under three.

We can learn from our neighbors around the world. And many of the lesson we can learn, we will find, are lessons that have been

helped to be taught by our own foreign policy engagement -- less than one percent of our budget, yet countless lives can be improved and we can improve lives here at home.

Before I close, I want to say a word about my forthcoming trip to Africa. I was very honored to be asked to make this trip because I think that America's engagement in the world must include an engagement with sub-Saharan Africa. Contemporary history is a story that citizens and countries are writing. And there is a new story that must be told. Every region is contributing its own chapter.

Africa has a remarkable story if we will only pay attention to it. It is moving toward democracy. In the last six years, the number of democracies have jumped from five to 23. Africa is growing economically, moving from suffocating state-controlled economies to open markets that can give full life and scope to human endeavor.

Last year, 30 countries reported positive economic growth. Africa is beginning to forge a new relationship with the United States -- one based not just on aid but on shared ideals, mutual responsibilities, integration into the world economy, and partnerships designed to resolve conflicts and to meet common challenges. To be sure, many of the African democracies are new and therefore fragile. Hope remains tenuous. Too much of the continent continues to be riven by disease, malnutrition, poverty, injustice, corruption, perilous conflicts and their terrible aftermath, refugee crises that trap **women** and children especially in lives that go from bad to worse.

And yet -- and yet, in spite of these challenges, for the first time, we can say that, at this moment in history, there are in Africa grounds for far more hope than despair. And with the support of the United States, we can solidify that hope.

I will be privileged to visit Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda and Eritrea. And I am pleased that so many of the ambassadors from those countries and other countries in Africa are with us today.

I hope to witness first hand and to highlight each country's efforts to build democracy and a strong civil society. I will focus particularly on grassroots initiatives and on efforts that affect **women** and children.

I hope this trip will give the American people a renewed sense of the importance of our commitment to Africa. I hope it will lay out exactly why we must do our utmost to support democracy and social investment in Africa and to strengthen Africa's place in the community of nations.

And I hope it will show that American engagement must be measured not just in aid dollars or humanitarian efforts in the wake of tragedy and crisis, but in the democratic values we reinforce, in the human rights we defend, and in the conflicts we help resolve preventively.

There are, to be sure, issues of America's national security at stake. Instability in Africa, whether it is rooted in war, in terrorism, in organized crime, in disease, in environmental degradation or poverty, it touches us too.

There are also economic issues at stake. Right now, the United States holds only 7 percent of the African market of 600 million people. By forging stronger economic ties with Africa, we will do much to secure the prosperity of our own people as well.

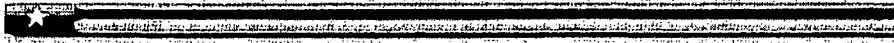
But finally, our greatest reasons for engagement with Africa are built on a positive foundation. Africa is on the move, with a new generation of leaders, the fresh air of political reform, and thriving multi-ethnic societies.

As we look at the future for America's engagement around the world, we can see that wherever we help to seed the ground for democracy, wherever we reach out to people out of mutual respect to help them help themselves, wherever we understand clearly that in this time of interdependence and interconnection that we all have a stake in the success of the other, we will make progress together. Whether it comes to assisting and working with our friends in the new democracies in Africa, or understanding the importance of our commitment to **women** and girls, America's interests are at stake.

But far more importantly, America's values are at stake. If we act upon those values, we will help to lead the world into the kind of new future we envision as possible for our children and all the children around the globe.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END



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S*T*O*P Violence Against Women

In Kentucky, battered women travelling outside their local communities had little protection against their abusers. Protective orders in one county were often not enforced in other counties because records of such orders were not readily available.

To respond to this problem, Public Safety Commissioner Mike Troop's office enabled protective orders to be recorded on the Law Informational Network of Kentucky (LINK), a system which was designed to enable law enforcement officers throughout Kentucky to have instant access to arrest records and other criminal justice-related information. Now these officers also have instant access to protection orders issued throughout the state. As a result, enforcement of these orders has increased dramatically.

The Provision

The Department of Justice S*T*O*P Violence Against Women Grant Program provided \$26 million in 1995 directly to states and Indian tribes through the discretionary grant program, as a first step in helping restructure the criminal justice system's response to crimes of violence against women. States, territories, and tribes can use Violence Against Women Act funding to:

- develop and enhance victim services programs (including domestic violence shelters);
- train law enforcement officers;
- expand the number of personnel in law enforcement and prosecution agencies to target violence against women;
- develop more effective policies, protocols, orders and services to prevent violent crime against women; and
- apply advanced technology to improve communications and data collection systems to identify and track arrests, protection, and prosecution.

The Impact

The S*T*O*P grant program requires and encourages collaboration between victim advocates, prosecutors, and police -- those who encounter victims of domestic and sexual violence. Each state and territory has developed a comprehensive strategy for combating domestic violence and sexual assault in consultation with representatives from law enforcement, prosecution and victim service programs.

As a condition to receiving grants, states must certify that they will incur full out-of-pocket costs of forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault. They must also certify that within two years, victims of sexual assault will bear no costs associated with the filing of criminal charges or protection orders.

Because of the condition for receiving grants, several states have passed laws or changed their administrative procedures to fund all forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault, thereby ensuring that criminal investigations in sexual assault cases are funded like all other criminal investigations — by the state and not by the victim.

S*T*O*P funding could provide such improvements as:

- Crisis centers and battered women's shelters serving tens of thousands of victims a year;
- Hundreds of new prosecutors for specialized domestic violence or sexual assault units; or
- Hundreds of volunteer coordinators to help run domestic violence hot-lines.

The Success

By the end of July 1995, the Department of Justice awarded \$426,364 to each state and major territory. Following these awards, more than 350 delegates from all of the states and territories participated in the Violence Against Women Conference on July 27-29, 1995. Representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and state government shared information about the best practices and strategies to enhance collaboration and develop a coordinated response to violent crimes against women.

The Department also has awarded approximately \$1 million to tribal governments through the S*T*O*P Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program, with the goal of strengthening the response of tribal court systems to violent crimes against women.

The Future

Over the next five years, a total of \$800 million in S*T*O*P grant funds is authorized. The formula grants to states will be allocated according to population, with each state guaranteed a base amount.

Federal Offense of Interstate Domestic Violence

In November of 1994, Christopher Bailey of St. Albans, West Virginia beat his wife Sonya until she collapsed. Then he put her in the trunk of their compact car and drove for five days through West Virginia and Kentucky before taking her to an emergency room. Along the way he withdrew over \$2400 in cash from their bank accounts, and purchased various supplies, including sweat pants and adult diapers for Sonya. Sonya Bailey suffered irreversible brain damage and remains in a permanent vegetative state.

The Provisions

The Violence Against Women Act establishes new federal offenses in cases like this one where an abuser crosses state lines to violate a protection order or injure, harass or intimidate a spouse or intimate partner. These new federal remedies are important tools in cases where movement across state lines makes state prosecution difficult and where state law penalties may not be tough enough. They also offer important benefits for victims, including strengthened restitution provisions and an opportunity to address the court concerning the danger posed by a defendant prior to any pre-trial release.

The Impact

Victims of domestic violence often seek safety and shelter with friends and relatives living elsewhere. The Violence Against Women Act insures that the law follows an abuser who crosses state lines and will provide victims with protection throughout the United States.

The Success

On May 23, 1995 the United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia won the nation's first conviction under the Violence Against Women Act. And on September 1, Christopher Bailey was sentenced to life in prison for the abuse and kidnapping of his wife Sonya.

This case illustrates the value of federal action against interstate domestic violence. Bailey was arrested in Kentucky, but local police dropped the charges because they were unable to document what had occurred in their jurisdiction. Under West Virginia law, he might have received less than a two-year sentence for his brutal assault.

The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California won the nation's second conviction under the Violence Against Women Act in December 1995. Ricky Steele beat his domestic partner in Oregon, and then forced her to drive with him to California. On December 11, 1995 Steele was sentenced to 87 months in prison and was ordered to pay restitution of \$1,018 for interstate domestic violence.

The Future

Federal prosecutors have initiated other cases under the Violence Against Women Act. In the third reported case brought under the interstate domestic violence provision, on November 8, 1995, prosecutors in the Southern District of Ohio charged Derek Page with beating his girlfriend in Ohio and then kidnapping and transporting her to Pennsylvania.

Most recently, on December 19, 1995, Wayne Hayes was indicted in the Eastern District of New York on charges of traveling interstate with the intention of violating court orders that prohibited repeated harassment of his ex-wife, and repeatedly mailing threatening communications to her. The indictment marks the first use of the Violence Against Women Act provision that prohibits traveling across a state line in order to violate certain protection orders.

The Department of Justice continues to work with state and local law enforcement to combat interstate domestic violence and identify cases where use of these new federal remedies is the most appropriate response.

Similar Crimes Evidence in Sex Offense Cases

Joey Sanza raped and murdered Theresa Cha when she came to meet her husband in the building where Sanza worked. There was extensive physical and circumstantial evidence of Sanza's commission of the crime, and the jury was informed about three other rapes that he had committed in another state. Sanza's other offenses were relevant to help confirm his identity as Theresa Cha's attacker by showing his propensity and capacity to commit sexually violent crimes. Nevertheless, Sanza's conviction for raping and murdering Theresa Cha was reversed on appeal because the jury was told of his other crimes. People v. Sanza, 509 N.Y.S.2d 311 (App. Div. 1986).

The Provision

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 enacted general rules of admissibility in federal sexual assault and child molestation cases for evidence that the defendant has committed other similar offenses. These evidence rules facilitate the effective prosecution of habitual sex offenders. They provide the basis for informed decisions by juries regarding questions of propensity to commit future crimes in light of the defendant's past conduct.

The Impact

This reform has broader import as a model for law reforms by the states, which prosecute the vast majority of sexual offenses. California has recently enacted an evidence provision for its sexual offense cases that is modeled on the Federal Rules. The Department of Justice facilitated this reform through provision of technical assistance and participation in California legislative hearings.

The Success

Rules for federal sexual offense cases went into effect on July 10, 1995. Federal prosecutors have begun to seek the admission of evidence under these new rules in appropriate cases.

The Future

The Department of Justice will (1) seek to ensure judicial interpretations and applications of the new federal evidence rules that are faithful to Congress's intent in enacting this reform, and (2) continue to assist and encourage additional states to adopt comparable reforms.

Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification

On July 29, 1994, a seven-year-old New Jersey girl, Megan Kunka, was sexually assaulted and murdered by a twice-convicted sex offender who moved in across the street from her family. Promising to show her his new puppy, the defendant lured Megan to his home and subsequently raped and killed her. Her body was later found nearby. At the time, there were no state law provisions for notifying local law enforcement or the community concerning a sex offender's criminal history or presence in the neighborhood.

The Provision

The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act provides states with a financial incentive to adopt effective registration systems for convicted child molesters and other persons convicted of sexually violent crimes. Community notification concerning the location of registered offenders is permitted where necessary for public safety.

The Impact

Most states have some form of sex offender registration but few regularly verify an offender's address. The Jacob Wetterling guidelines will provide minimum national standards and will help state law enforcement agencies communicate with each other regarding sex offenders who cross state lines.

In general, registration systems help the investigation of sex crimes by informing the authorities of the identities and whereabouts of convicted sex offenders. These systems may also inhibit offenders -- who know that the authorities know who they are and where they are -- from committing additional crimes. Community notification enables communities to take common sense measures to protect themselves and their families, such as ensuring that their children do not associate or visit with known child molesters.

The Success

The Department of Justice published proposed guidelines for state registration systems in April 1995. Following one extension of time, the comment period closed on October 30, 1995. The final guidelines are under expedited review by the Department and will be issued in the very near future.

The Department of Justice has also participated in state and federal litigation defending the validity of "Megan's Law," the New Jersey sex offender registration and notification system. The Department has participated in several legal challenges to Megan's Law, seeking to protect the federal interest in promoting state sex offender registration laws.

On July 25, 1995, the New Jersey Supreme Court upheld Megan's Law, adopting the position advocated by the state and the federal government that Megan's Law is constitutional. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Court heard oral arguments on Megan's Law in October, and the Department of Justice is awaiting the court's decision.

The Department also has participated in litigation defending the validating of sex offender registration and notification systems in New York and Connecticut.

The Future

The Department of Justice will work to encourage and assist the states to adopt effective sex offender registration systems. The Department will also continue to participate in litigation defending the constitutionality of state registration systems.

Background Checks for Child Care Providers

In 1972, Eric James Long was convicted of molesting a child. In 1980, he was convicted of molesting a second child he coached in soccer for a county recreation department. In 1985, he pleaded guilty to child abuse and sex offense charges related to allegations that he had abused numerous children at the school where he worked as a gymnastics instructor and in his neighborhood. The school, which had hired Long in 1978, had no knowledge of his offenses, and no means existed for obtaining criminal history information on employees or prospective employees. Washington Post, Feb. 5, at A1, Sept. 6, at C7 (1985).

The Provision

The National Child Protection Act, enacted in 1993, establishes a national background check system that enables child care providers to determine whether employees and prospective employees have criminal records involving child abuse offenses. As a result of amendments adopted by the Violent Crime and Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the National Child Protection Act system also covers background checks for elder care and providers of care to persons with disabilities.

The Success

The FBI issued guidelines in July that implement the National Child Protection Act. Currently, 38 states have approved statutes that will enable them to access national criminal history records information in child care background checks. Eight states have approved statutes of this type relating to care of the elderly, and 13 states have approved statutes relating to providers of care to persons with disabilities.

One hundred million dollars has been appropriated in fiscal year 1995 for the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP). NCHIP assists states in improving the accessibility and completeness of records that may be relevant in background checks under the National Child Protection Act and other laws. The funding includes \$88 million for direct awards to states to automate and improve their criminal history records. The Department of Justice has awarded grants totaling more than \$69 million to 47 states as part of NCHIP, and it is expected that every state will receive an NCHIP award this fiscal year.

The Future

The Department of Justice will continue to encourage and assist states to adopt and obtain approval of statutes enabling them to participate fully in the background check system under the National Child Protection Act, and to provide funding assistance as appropriated to states to automate and upgrade criminal records relevant to such background checks.

Federal Remedies for Battered Immigrant Women and Their Children

Cecilia, from South America, has been married to Jose, a lawful permanent resident, for 18 years. Together they have eight children born in the United States, ranging in age from one to 18. While Jose once began the process of obtaining lawful permanent resident status for Cecilia, he later withdrew the petition. Throughout their relationship, Jose has been physically violent to Cecilia. His abuse of her was both physical and mental. He hit her in the abdomen when she was pregnant, and at other times bruised and beat her. Jose also restrained her physical freedom and access to financial assets. He threatened to kill her if she ever left him. Jose was physically abusive to the children also, and is believed to have sexually abused at least two of them. Nevertheless, Cecilia was afraid to leave because of her dependence on her husband to obtain lawful permanent resident status for her.

Cecilia and the children did finally leave Jose. She currently lives in fear of both her husband and the INS. She is having a difficult time finding housing and a means of supporting herself.

The Provision

The Violence Against Women Act establishes new federal remedies for abused immigrant spouses and children. Specifically, battered women are now eligible to apply for permanent resident status for themselves and their children and are no longer forced to rely on their abusive husbands to apply for such status.

The Impact

Immigrant women and children who are battered face unique obstacles. In addition to the physical violence, the threat of deportation or release of information about legal status has been used as a control mechanism to instill fear and dependency and to lock the abused person into the relationship. Prior to the new federal statute, immigrant spouses were dependent on their citizen or permanent resident spouses to petition on their behalf for permanent resident status. Spouses could withdraw the request at any time.

The Success

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has finalized regulations to implement the new federal statute, thus establishing the procedures for self-petitioning by the abused spouse.

The Future

Under the new law, women like Cecilia will be able to file their own petitions for lawful permanent resident status for themselves and for their children.

Confidential Communications for Rape Victims

In June 1994, the state supreme court ordered the YWCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, which administers a rape crisis counseling program, to provide confidential files to defense counsel in a rape case. Although the YWCA sought to protect the victim's privacy and initially defied the court order, the center eventually turned over the records as contempt penalties mounted. The center's attorney said that while legal advocates have been seeking and winning legal protections for rape counselors, only a few states grant rape counselors a testimonial privilege comparable to that of a doctor or priest. She said "Rape crisis centers can't function without confidentiality. [Victims must choose between prosecution and healing. If they choose prosecution, they must suffer in silence" as defendants gain access to information they have confided to their counselors. (Washington Post, June 24, 1994)

The Provision

The Violence Against Women Act requires the Department of Justice to study and evaluate the manner in which states have taken steps to protect the confidentiality of communications between sexual assault and/or domestic violence victims and their counselors.

The Impact

Often when a woman who has been victimized by sexual assault or domestic violence seeks help from a counselor to deal with the crime's shattering effect on her life, she finds herself victimized again when a defense attorney issues subpoenas for her counseling records. Because many sexual assault and domestic violence counselors are not psychologists or psychotherapists, they cannot claim testimonial privileges found in most state statutes.

Victims must be able to communicate freely with their counselors, secure in the knowledge that the private thoughts they reveal during counseling will remain confidential. Without assurances of confidentiality, sexual assault and domestic violence victims will continue to be reluctant to contact rape crisis centers or battered women's shelters, and to report crime and otherwise aid in the prosecution of their attackers. Establishing statutory testimonial privileges for sexual assault and domestic violence counselors will help ensure that these important communications will remain confidential.

To date, 27 states and District of Columbia have enacted statutes that protect these confidential communications. These statutes differ in the degree to which confidential communications are protected from disclosure and in whether they address both sexual assault counselors and domestic violence counselors.

The Success

The Department has completed its report which includes a state-by-state survey and will soon release the results. The Department has also developed model statutes that provide the maximum protection possible for the confidentiality of such communications.

The Future

The Department of Justice will disseminate model legislation and report, to governors, attorneys general and legislators in states where these communications are not protected, encourage those states to adopt legislation. The Department plans to engage in efforts to raise the awareness of victims, advocates, counselors and attorneys, and evaluate the necessity for judicial training on this issue. The Department will also review the Judicial Conference of the United States's report, if any, on the need for amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence to guarantee that the confidentiality of communications between sexual assault victims and their counselors will be adequately protected in federal court proceedings.

Full Faith and Credit

In February 1993, a woman living in Metropolis, Illinois went to court to obtain a protection order against her abusive live-in boyfriend. Upon her return home from court, police searched the woman's home to check that her boyfriend was not on the premises and that her safety was assured. After the police departed, the boyfriend left his hiding place in the ceiling of the woman's home and threatened her. The boyfriend was not arrested because the police had not witnessed the violation of the protection order. A few months later, he severely beat her.

Officials at the Metropolis Domestic Violence Center immediately and covertly relocated the woman to Paducah, Kentucky, a larger town just over the Ohio River from Metropolis. Shortly thereafter, the woman was beaten and her Paducah apartment was destroyed by arson. The woman's boyfriend was convicted and sent to jail for the beating.

After a few months in jail in April 1995, he was released and followed the woman to a Paducah gas station. He then kidnapped, beat and sexually assaulted her. When the woman was found in Kentucky, local police declined to arrest the boyfriend because they deemed the Illinois protection order to be invalid within the Kentucky borders. The woman's boyfriend was never arrested for the assault and the woman was told her only relief would be to seek an emergency protection order in a Kentucky court.

When the Metropolis Domestic Violence Center questioned the Paducah Police as to why the woman's Illinois protection order had not been upheld under the Full Faith and Credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act, they responded that they had never heard of such a provision. As a result, the Illinois Attorney General issued a two page fact sheet describing the major provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, including Full Faith and Credit. The sheet has since been posted on the bulletin boards of local police stations. The woman has relocated again but continues to live in fear for her safety although the police are aware of her situation.

The Provision

The Violence Against Women Act provides that a civil protection order issued by the court of one state or tribe shall be accorded full faith and credit by the court of another state or Indian Tribe, and shall be enforced as if it were the order of the court of the second state or tribe. Failure by the issuing state to satisfy due process requirements will not entitle a protection order to full faith and credit. Mutual protection orders are not entitled to full faith and credit if a cross or counter petition, complaint or other written pleading has not been filed seeking such a protection order or if a cross or counter petition has been filed and the order was issued upon a showing of mutual abuse. The issuing court must have had both personal and subject matter jurisdiction and the respondent must have received reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard for the provision to be in effect.

The Impact

Prior to the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act, a victim with a protection order often could not use that order as the basis for protection if the victim went to work, traveled or moved to most other states. Under this provision, the second state must afford full faith and credit to an order issued by another jurisdiction, even if the victim otherwise would be ineligible for protection in the new state. A victim does not have to wait for abuse to occur in the new state nor does a victim need to be concerned if he or she cannot meet its jurisdictional requirements. Furthermore, a victim does not have to register a protection order in the new state — the protection order of the issuing state should provide continuous protection to the victim.

The Success

The Department has made the implementation of full faith and credit a top priority. An internal working group has been established and guidance on the full faith and credit provision of Violence Against Women Act has been distributed to all U.S. Attorneys' offices.

The Department has awarded funding to the Battered Women's Justice Project for a cooperative agreement to support the development of models, tools, technical assistance, training, and a resource clearinghouse to facilitate the implementation of the full faith and credit provision of Violence Against Women Act.

The Department has awarded funding to the state of Kentucky for a regional pilot project to test interstate and intrastate verification systems for facilitating the street level enforcement of protection orders.

The Future

The Department of Justice has adopted an aggressive multi-faceted implementation campaign involving federal leadership through outreach, research and the provision of training, technical assistance and opportunities for collaboration at the national and state or district levels.

In addition, the National Crime Information Center Protection Order File, which the FBI is working to have states linked to by 1998, will provide information on protection orders for use in domestic abuse cases and interface with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to support the identification of persons who are prohibited from purchasing a firearm. This system will further facilitate the implementation of full faith and credit for protection orders.

Firearms Disability Provision

On October 18, 1994, Robert M. Goben, of South Dakota, became subject to a court order restraining him from harassing or threatening his estranged wife. Consequently, a new federal law applied that prohibited Mr. Goben from possessing a firearm while the restraining order remained in effect. Approximately five months later, while still subject to the restraining order, local police discovered that Mr. Goben possessed a loaded .22-caliber magnum revolver. Mr. Goben was arrested and on September 11, 1995, pled guilty to illegally possessing a firearm in violation of federal law.

The Provision

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 makes it unlawful for any person subject to a court order restraining that person from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner or the child of an intimate partner, to possess firearms or ammunition. Intimate partners include spouses or former spouses but not girl friends or boy friends with whom the defendant has not cohabited. This, like other federal firearms disabilities, exempts on-duty, federal or state law enforcement officers and members of the military.

The Impact

The firearms disability provision provides security to victims who can now rest assured that their abusers can be arrested if they attempt to purchase or possess firearms during the period of the restraining order.

The Success

On January 22, 1995, Mr. Goben was sentenced to twelve months in prison followed by two years of supervised release during which time he is to have no contact with his now former wife. Following the Goben case, federal prosecutors in the Northern District of Iowa brought another case under the new federal law. On October 24, 1995, Shawn A. Hungate, 25, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, was charged with illegally possessing a firearm while subject to a restraining order. According to the complaint, while subject to a "no contact order," Hungate purchased a firearm at a Wal-Mart in Fort Dodge. When purchasing the firearm, Hungate allegedly answered "No" to a question on a government form regarding whether he was subject to a restraining order. The complaint also alleges that Hungate shot himself in the shoulder with the firearm and proceeded to his wife's place of employment and began yelling for her. If convicted on the firearms charge, Mr. Hungate faces up to ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine or both.

The Future

The Department of Justice is working with state and local law enforcement groups to implement the spirit as well as the letter of the firearms disability provision without hampering law enforcement. In that regard, the Department of Justice is developing guidelines for application of the provision to Department of Justice law enforcement officers, which might serve as a model to local law enforcement.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies

Police officers traditionally have been reluctant to become involved in domestic violence disputes, largely because such calls for police assistance are among the most complex and sensitive — and potentially dangerous — situations police must respond to. Law enforcement officers may not take affirmative steps on behalf of the victim because they have not been trained to identify patterns of abuse or to provide immediate support and protections a victim requires (e.g., short and long-term medical care, safe shelter, counseling, safety planning, legal advocacy, and long-term treatment for the batterer).

Additionally, officers who are the "first responders" are often without the benefit of the clarity and authority that a departmental protocol for responding to such incidents offers. A clear policy on arrest can mitigate this problem, which often puts police officers in difficult situations.

However, the arrest of a perpetrator at the scene will not necessarily stop the violence, nor guarantee the safety of the victim. A strong pro or mandatory arrest policy must be accompanied by a community and criminal justice system which also takes a strong stand against domestic violence and makes every attempt to provide safety for the victim.

The Provision

The Department's Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies, a new program funded in Fiscal Year 1996, helps states, localities and tribal governments treat domestic violence as a serious criminal offense. This program recognizes that for mandatory arrest to be a fully effective intervention, it must be part of a coordinated, integrated criminal justice response to domestic violence with consistent follow-through by victim service providers, prosecutors, and judges.

The Impact

Mandatory arrest and pro arrest policies are critical elements of an overall community strategy to address domestic violence. A mandatory arrest policy requires that police must arrest a domestic assault offender whenever the officer determines that a crime has been committed and probable cause for arrest exists. The primary goal of these policies and the immediate and primary responsibility of the arresting officer must be to ensure the safety of the victim.

Currently, 27 states and the District of Columbia have adopted laws requiring the arrest of a person when there is probable cause that he or she has assaulted a family member or has violated a domestic violence protection order. Pro arrest or mandatory arrest policies convey a message to the victim, the family, and the community that domestic violence is a serious crime that will not be tolerated.

The Future

The Department of Justice is currently developing proposed program regulations which will be published in the Federal Register if FY96 funding is provided for this program. Final regulations and an application kit will be published shortly after the comment period is closed.

Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement

If a domestic violence victim in rural areas of Western Massachusetts decides she wants to obtain assistance, she may face many obstacles. With very few patrol police officers in small rural communities, it may be too late once a call for assistance is answered. And if a victim were to report domestic violence, she would live with the fear that an entire tight-knit community will know about the abuse. Lastly, staff at the local domestic violence shelter and sexual assault program, New England Learning Center for Women in Transition, in Greenfield, Massachusetts, speaks of problems maintaining the confidentiality of their shelter within this small community.

The Provision

This Fiscal Year 1996 grant program addresses the issues of domestic violence and child abuse in rural states. These grants will encourage development of collaborative efforts, creation of training programs for "front-line" agencies and personnel (such as law enforcement, shelter workers, health care providers, and clergy), creation of public awareness and community education campaigns, and expansion of direct services for rural and Native American victims and their children. A variety of entities, including states, tribal and local governments, and public and private organizations in rural states, are eligible to receive funding.

The Impact

Few statistics exist on the extent of domestic violence and child abuse in rural communities. The limited statistics available reflect only the women and children who have succeeded in accessing services, but there is no reason to assume that these problems are less common in rural areas. Instead, it is more likely that the isolation and culture of rural communities discourage victims from reporting abuse.

Geographic isolation, culturally close communities, and lack of domestic violence information and services (including availability of civil and criminal remedies) are among the problems unique to rural areas. Victims in rural areas also may not trust an "outside" system to protect them from their abusers and may continue to live in emotional isolation rather than seeking help. Rural areas in the United States also are experiencing growth in immigrant communities, which may be further isolated as a result of language and cultural barriers.

The Future

The Department is developing an application kit which will be disseminated once FY96 funding for the program is approved.

Community Oriented Policing Services to Combat Domestic Violence

When Jackie, a 39-year-old assistant in an Alexandria, Virginia consulting firm, went to the hospital with a black eye and cuts needing stitches in 1992, she told the nurse that her husband had caused her injuries. Jackie asked the nurse not to call the police because she feared retaliation from her husband. But once the police came, she said, they made it easy for her to get help. They charged her husband with abuse and later escorted her back home and to the city's shelter for battered women. With counseling from the shelter, Jackie was able to get a protective order from the court and return to her apartment without her husband being there. The court ordered him into an anger management program, and she and her three children continued to receive free counseling from the shelter. "Had I not known about the shelter, I would probably be in a violent relationship today," Jackie said. Washington Post, Sept. 9, at B4 (1995).

The Provision

To fulfill part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Office works to place an additional 100,000 law enforcement officers on the street and promote community policing. The Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence Program, initiated as part of the COPS Office, provides law enforcement agencies with a unique opportunity to execute well-planned, innovative strategies employing community policing to combat domestic violence. To be eligible for this funding, police departments and sheriffs offices must partner with non-profit, non-governmental victim service programs, domestic violence shelters, or community service groups to coordinate efforts to fight domestic abuse. Twenty million dollars is available through this grant program to all state, local, Indian Tribal, and other public and private law enforcement agencies which are committed to using community policing to address domestic violence.

The Impact

Domestic violence was the second highest reported crime for COPS FAST grant applicants, second only to property crimes. As a few jurisdictions have already learned, community policing, a strategy which emphasizes problem solving and community partnership, can be an effective weapon in the fight against domestic violence.

The Success

Less than 12 months after its inception, the COPS office authorized funds to add more than 25,000 community law enforcement officers on the street - a quarter of the goal after just one year of the six-year program. As of March of 1996, funds for more than 33,000 officers had been authorized. Flexible and innovative COPS grants have helped fiscally-strained departments pay for new technology and equipment, as well as administrative staff and officer overtime to free up more rank and file officers to walk the beat. The COPS program customer response center has cut red tape, simplified procedures, and delivered funds directly to police departments with no middleman.

The latest innovative COPS initiative, the Community Oriented Policing to Combat Domestic Violence Program, has generated tremendous interest. In response to thousands of inquiries from law enforcement agencies nationwide, the Department doubled the amount of funds available under this COPS program from \$10 million to \$20 million.



Washington, D.C. 20530

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Almost 5 million American women ages 12 years and older annually were raped, robbed or assaulted or were the victim of a threatened or attempted violent crime in 1992 and 1993. Almost three-quarters of these attacks were committed by someone the victim knew.

Source: Department of Justice
National Crime Victimization Survey, August 1995

The Violence Against Women Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1994, was landmark legislation -- combining tough new penalties with programs to prosecute offenders and help women victims of violence. The Department of Justice has made effective implementation of the Act a top priority.

FIGHTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), passed as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, takes a comprehensive approach to domestic violence and sexual assault, combining a broad array of legal and practical reforms.
- The Violence Against Women Act will improve the responses of police, prosecutors and judges to these crimes, force sex offenders to pay restitution to their victims and increase funding for battered women's shelters. And, under the Act, the authority of a "stay away" order obtained against an abuser will no longer stop at the state line.

THE LAW WORKS FOR VICTIMS

- The Violence Against Women Act protects battered women who move across state lines. The Act establishes the nationwide enforcement of protection of abuse orders entered in any court and provides penalties for crossing state lines to abuse a spouse or violate a protection order. Now, when it is appropriate, federal, state and local prosecutors can work together to determine who can bring the most effective prosecutions. As of July, 1996, 14 federal cases have been brought under this provision of the Act.

- The Violence Against Women Act includes a ban on firearm possession for domestic abusers. It prohibits anyone facing a restraining order for domestic abuse from possessing a firearm. As of July, 1996, four federal cases have been brought under this provision of the Act.
- The Violence Against Women Act established a federal cause of action for gender-motivated violence. Victims of a felony crime of violence motivated at least in part by gender may bring a civil suit for damages or equitable relief in federal or state court.
- The Violence Against Women Act enhances and protects the rights of crime victims. Among other provisions, the new law strengthens restitution orders and extends the "rape shield law" to protect victims from abusive inquiries regarding their private sexual conduct.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) is one solution that promises to reach every community in the nation. A critical component of the Violence Against Women Act, this nationwide, 24-hour, toll-free hotline will serve as a lifeline to victims of domestic violence across the country, providing local referral information to victims in need. It was announced by President Clinton on February 21, 1996.
- From its opening through May 31, 1996, NDVH advocates answered 24,170 calls for help from residents of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. An analysis of first quarter activity reveals that 89% of calls place to the Hotline's toll-free numbers -- 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD) -- were made by women. Men place 11% of the calls. Additionally, 64% of the callers identified themselves as victims of domestic violence; 19% family and friends of victims; 3% batterers; and, the remaining 14% made up of professional service providers and members of the press and public.

FUNDING TO THE STATES

- In FY 95, the Department of Justice S*1*O*P Violence Against Women Grant Program (Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors) provided approximately \$26 million directly to states and Indian tribes as a first step in helping restructure the criminal justice system's response to crimes of violence against women. Through a streamlined application kit, \$426,346 was awarded to all 50 states and six territories in an expedited process.
- In FY 96, Congress appropriated \$170 million to continue the S.T.O.P. program. States are encouraged to build on their current efforts and to focus on projects that will strengthen intra- and interstate enforcement of protection orders; to develop innovative programs related to sexual assault and stalking; and to increase their emphasis on judicial education and court-related projects. Awards are planned by the end of August.

- In FY 96, Congress appropriated \$28 million for grants to Encourage Arrest Policies. This discretionary grant programs encourages States and localities to treat domestic violence as a serious violation of criminal law. This program is intended to promote the implementation of mandatory or pro-arrest policies relating to domestic violence cases. Grants are to be awarded to the states by September 30. No money was appropriated for this grant program in FY 95.
- In FY 96, Congress appropriated \$7 million for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement grant program. This discretionary grant program is intended to support the establishment and expansion of cooperative efforts among law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, and other criminal justice practitioners and service providers involved in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases in rural jurisdictions. Grants are to be awarded to the states by September 30. No money was appropriated for this grant program in FY 95.
- In addition to the VAWA grants, the Department has announced \$46 million under the Community Oriented Policing to Combat Domestic Violence grant program. These grants were developed in response to the real needs expressed by law enforcement officers, many of whom report that domestic violence incidents are the most dangerous and difficult encounters they experience on the job. The response to this program by police departments has been overwhelming -- over 700 agencies applied for assistance. 336 police departments, working in partnership with victim advocates and others in their community, will receive funding to develop domestic violence programs that utilize the proven techniques of community policing.

STEPS ALONG THE WAY..

- On March 21, 1995, the President named Bonnie Campbell as Director of the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice.
- Also on March 21, 1995, the President announced the \$26 million in S*T*O*P Grants to states to bolster their law enforcement, prosecution and victims services, to better address violence against women.
- On April 7, 1995, Attorney General Janet Reno signed federal guidelines that should lead to laws in all 50 states requiring sexual offenders and child molesters to register with authorities. This will help state law enforcement agencies communicate with each other regarding sex offenders who cross state lines.
- On July 13, 1995, the Attorney General and Secretary Shalala announced the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women and held the first meeting of this group of 46 experts on the issue of violence against women.

- On July 27 - 29, 1995, the Department of Justice held the first ever Violence Against Women Grantee's Conference. Representative from all 50 states and the territories attended the conference where they exchanged successes and considered challenges in dealing with domestic violence in their communities and across state lines.
- On August 18, 1995, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala awarded \$1 million to the Texas Council on Family Violence to set up a hotline for victims of domestic violence. The hotline will operate through the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
- The Violence Against Women Act punishes domestic abusers who cross state lines. The first conviction under this new federal law took place on May 23, 1995 in West Virginia. On September 1, 1995, the defendant was sentenced to life in prison for interstate domestic violence and kidnapping.
- Bonnie Campbell attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, CHINA as a U.S. Delegate from September 1-15, 1995.
- On September 8, 1995, the Attorney General announced the Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence Grant Program. This \$20 million grant program is the first of its kind. It is open to all state, local, Indian Tribal and other public and private law enforcement agencies committed to using community policing to address domestic violence. Police departments must partner with non-profit, non-governmental victim service programs, domestic violence shelters, or community service groups to apply for funding under this solicitation.
- On September 28, 1995, Bonnie Campbell convened the first meeting of the Interagency Working Group on Violence Against Women to examine what other components of the federal government are doing and what they can do to fight violence against women.
- On October 2, 1995 President Clinton signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and sent an Executive Memorandum to the heads of all executive departments and agencies to implement a Federal Employee Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign.
- On October 14, 1995 President Clinton used his weekly radio address as an opportunity to discuss the problem of domestic violence, noting that as a child he witnessed domestic violence firsthand.
- On October 30, 1995 the Department of Justice held a Violence Against Women Information Fair for its employees as part the Federal Employee Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign. The Fair included a self-defense demonstration, information booths by national and local organizations dealing with domestic violence and violence against women, artwork by survivors of domestic violence, and video presentations.

- ◆ On January 25, 1996 the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women held its second meeting. At that meeting the following subgroups made recommendations of initiatives to amplify messages about violence against women and to encourage a greater public awareness around the issue: *Media & Entertainment, Educational Institutions, the Religious Community, the Workplace, the Sports Industry, the Health Profession and Law Enforcement*. An eighth subgroup, *Primary and Secondary Education*, was added at the recommendation of the Advisory Council because of the impact domestic violence has on children.
- ◆ Also on January 25, 1996, the Attorney General announced that the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women state plans of all 56 states and eligible territories have been approved signifying that all have received \$426,364 to improve prosecution, training and services to victims of violent crimes.
- ◆ On February 21, 1996, President Clinton announced the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD). The Hotline is a nationwide, 24-hour, toll-free number. The hotline provides immediate crisis intervention assistance to those in need.
- ◆ On May 15, 1996, the Attorney General testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the first year of the Violence Against Women Act and the Violence Against Women Office.
- ◆ In May, Congress took several steps to strengthen the Jacob Wetterling Act in passing the community notification requirement of Megan's Law, and on May 17, 1996, the President, who has always been supportive of Megan's Law, signed it into law.
- ◆ On May 24, 1996, the Department of Justice announced the availability of \$130 million in grant funding for the states to assist police, prosecutors, and victim service providers in combating domestic violence and sexual assault. The S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women formula grants were authorized by the Violence Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.
- ◆ On May 28, 1996, the Department of Justice began distribution of a resource book, *Domestic Violence Awareness: What You Can Do*, to all of its 96,000 employees. This resource book is one of the steps in the Department's Violence Against Women Employee Awareness Campaign.
- ◆ On June 20, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced \$16 million to be awarded to 336 police departments, working in partnership with victim advocates and others in their community, will receive funding to develop domestic violence programs that utilize the proven techniques of community policing.
- ◆ On July 18, 1996, the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women met for the third time. The purpose of this meeting was review efforts made since the January meeting as well as to draft a *Community Checklist: Important Steps Communities Can Take to End Violence Against Women*. Each of the subgroups of the Advisory Council developed a list specific to the field represented. The checklist will be published in October, 1996.

**U.S. Department of Justice****Office of Justice Programs*****Violence Against Women Office***

Washington, D.C. 20531

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael O'Meara

FROM: Bonnie J. Campbell, Director

DATE: 16 October 1997

RE: **TALKING POINTS FOR THE FIRST LADY**
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
October 20-21, 1997
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C.

PREPARED BY: Janna Sidley, Deputy Director
Diane Rosenfeld, Senior Counsel (202) 616-2845

***UNIVERSAL PROBLEM**

THEMES OF THIS CONFERENCE ARE UNIVERSAL--WE STRUGGLE WITH THEM EVERY DAY. THE PERVASIVE QUESTION OF HOW TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVES HOW TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF IT; HOW TO STOP ITS

TRANSFER FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION; AND HOW TO ENVISION A SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN ARE EQUAL PARTICIPANTS, UNFETTERED BY VIOLENCE IN THEIR HOMES.

*THE COMPOSITION OF THIS CONFERENCE SHOWS HOW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS WOMEN EVERYWHERE--ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AMONG US, THERE IS NO CULTURE IN WHICH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS ACCEPTABLE. IT IS OUR JOB TO COLLABORATE ON WAYS TO STOP THIS VIOLENCE.

***DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS**

*IN OUR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, THE VARYING LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN PUTS US AT DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS. WE HAVE WORKED VERY HARD IN THE UNITED STATES TO PASS STRONG LAWS AND TO CHANGE AGE-OLD ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ACCEPTABILITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

***THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

IN 1994, PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNED INTO LAW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT WHICH CREATES FEDERAL CRIMES FOR CERTAIN ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN, AND PROVIDES FEDERAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

* ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THIS ACT IS THE RECOGNITION THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS DIFFERENT THAN OTHER TYPES OF VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY--IT HAS DIFFERENT CAUSES AND EFFECTS--AND THUS CALLS FOR DIFFERENT LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES AND INITIATIVES.

*THE PRESIDENT CREATED THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO HELP IMPLEMENT THIS NEW LEGISLATION.

*THROUGH THIS ACT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN OVER \$300 MILLION TO STATES, TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND TERRITORIES TO BUILD A CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

*THIS WILL ENABLE OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO HOLD OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR VIOLENT ACTS, AND TO SAFEGUARD THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL BEING OF ALL WOMEN.

*MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT SHOWS THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND THAT OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN AND SHOULD PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA.

***IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION (or, it takes a committed community!)**

THE KEY TO SUCCESS OF THIS EFFORT IS COLLABORATION AND EDUCATION. THE BEST CHANGES WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE RESULTED WHEN COMMUNITIES HAVE COME TOGETHER TO WORK ON ENDING VIOLENCE. THESE EFFORTS INVOLVE PROSECUTORS, JUDGES, ADVOCATES, LEGISLATORS, VICTIM/SURVIVORS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, CLERGY AND EDUCATORS.

*THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN-- RATHER, IT REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF WORK. SURVIVORS AND OTHER WOMEN JOINED TOGETHER AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL, AND WORKED TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD-- HEARD BY LAW MAKERS AND OTHERS WHO COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

***HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT THAT OLD. ENORMOUS CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE HERE IN JUST THE PAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS. AND THESE CHANGES WERE MADE BY WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP EACH OTHER ESCAPE VIOLENT AND ABUSIVE SITUATIONS. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTERS WERE CREATED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN, AND IT WAS THE PROCESS OF WOMEN TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

THAT MADE LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNMENTS TO RESPOND TO WOMEN'S UNIQUE YET VITAL NEEDS.

* THE SHELTER MOVEMENT STARTED A CHAIN REACTION OF OTHER ACTIVITIES--POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND INVOLVEMENT BY WOMEN THAT HAS RESULTED IN INCREASED REPRESENTATION, NEW AND STRONGER STATE LAWS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, BETTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, THE FIRST PIECE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON THIS ISSUE, AND AN OVERALL POSITIVE CHANGE IN WOMEN'S ROLES IN SOCIETY.

***COLLABORATION AMONG COUNTRIES--INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES**

*THE SAME NEED FOR COLLABORATION AMONG THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM PROVIDES A MODEL FOR COLLABORATION AMONG OUR COUNTRIES. THIS CONFERENCE PRESENTS A UNIQUE AND INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO WORK COLLECTIVELY, SHARING EXPERIENCES, AND FORMULATING STRATEGIES TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IT IS TIME FOR US TO BUILD INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES TO PURSUE A GLOBAL VISION OF NON-VIOLENCE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. AFTER ALL, PEACE STARTS IN THE HOME.

...in "reclaiming" a day,

Should be mentioned in

PROCLAIM A DAY!

...November 25th, an International day for an end to violence against women

The speech

Women worldwide are beginning to celebrate November 25th as the International Day for an End to Violence Against Women. The date was selected to commemorate the death of the Miraval sisters, well-known political activists in the Dominican Republic who were assassinated on November 25, 1960, by the security forces of the then dictator Trujillo. The designation of such a day was first proposed by women attending the First Feminist Encuentro for Latin America and the Caribbean in Bogota, Colombia, in July 1981.

Events commemorating the day have included the following:

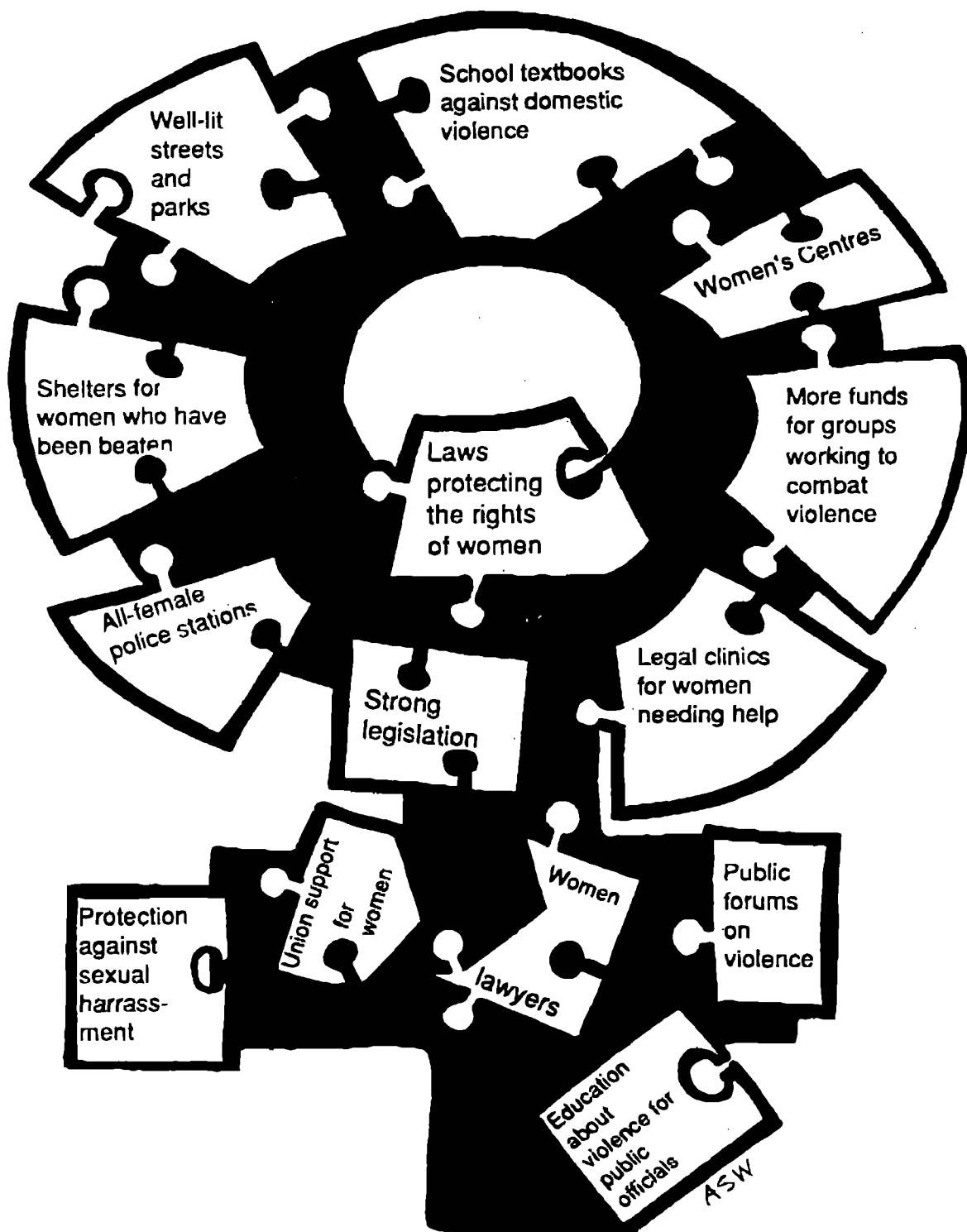
In Chile in 1989, 35 women's organizations banded together to sponsor various initiatives, including the sale of buttons with the slogan "Women don't cry, speak out" and the distribution of badges and leaflets in market places and squares. In addition to marching with banners and slogans in a demonstration of more than 200, women signed a petition supporting the Campaign for an End to Violence Against Women. To ensure widespread coverage of these events, the collective, Journalists Against Violence Against Women, distributed information packets to the communications media on the subject.

In Bolivia, a three-day seminar was organized in 1989 to discuss the socio-cultural context of violence, its causes and legal proceedings in cases of domestic violence. A women's group, Women's Coordinator, discussed with the La Paz police the possibility of setting up an office specifically for providing special attention and follow-up for cases of physical abuse of women.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Women Working for Social Progress (Workingwomen), a pressure group for women's issues, organized and participated in public demonstrations such as candle-light vigils and a march to commemorate the International Day Against Violence Against Women.



● Puzzle



...Putting Together Our Community

SCENE ONE...

Development agency meeting...



Adapted from *Mujer/Fempres*, *La mujer y el humor*, 1987

SCENE ONE (continued) The Reality...



It is a serious development issue when women do not attend training courses to upgrade their skills because they fear beatings from their husbands, when children suffer from malnutrition because their mothers cannot earn additional income from increased productivity, when women are forced to remain in back-breaking, exhausting occupations because of lack of skills.



It is a serious development issue when women die from constant beatings.



Violence is not a "personal matter". Everyone in the community needs to get involved so that people no longer need to live in fear of their lives. In particular, development agencies need to be aware of the ways violence affects a community's development.



Assailants use "stress" as an excuse for violence just as they use "drinking" as an excuse. Many people who are under extreme stress do not assault their partners. Assailants who are stressed at work do not attack their co-workers or bosses.

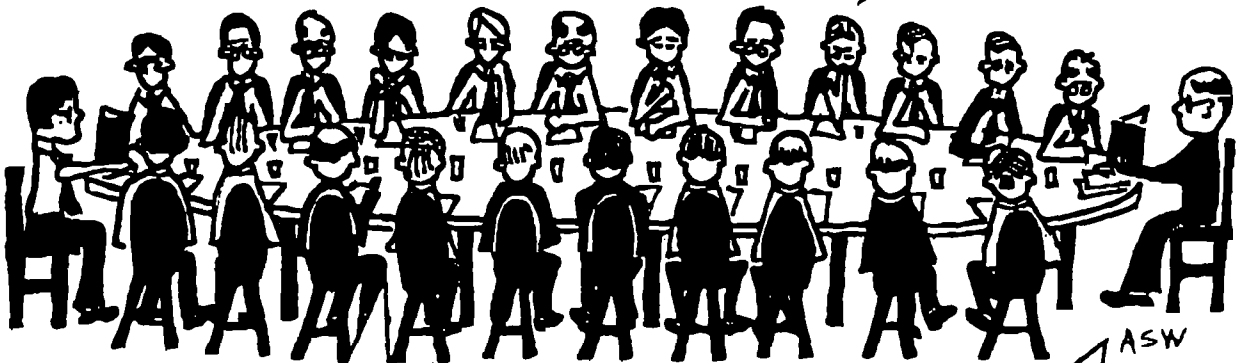


Women do not "ask" to be beaten. In an equal relationship, both partners should be able to speak and act freely, without fear of being abused physically.

SCENE TWO... Government Ministry meeting...

Violence against women isn't a problem for people like us to worry about. It only occurs in poorly educated, "dysfunctional" families who live in the slums. It could never happen to anyone I know.

People from Western countries should not get involved in traditional matters like this. In this country, men have always been in charge, especially in the home!



It's just a bunch of Western feminists that are causing trouble over this violence thing in our country. Before these outsiders came around making trouble, violence was never a problem!

You know, there's nothing you can do about a violent person's behaviour! It's all in the genes! This sort of behaviour is passed on from father to son. The government has more important things to worry about than something we can't change anyway.

SCENE TWO (continued)

The Reality...



Battering is extremely common, and happens in all types of situations. The family can be rich or poor, educated or non-educated, employed or unemployed, large or small in number. It happens in rural areas and in urban areas, in small towns and large. Violence against women occurs everywhere and at any time of the day or night.



It is not traditional in any country for women to be violently assaulted, and even if it were, there is no reason for it to continue. Women in every country of the world are organizing against violence in their own societies. On occasion, women gather at international, regional or national meetings to discuss and share strategies for action. This strengthens the movement against violence and builds solidarity.



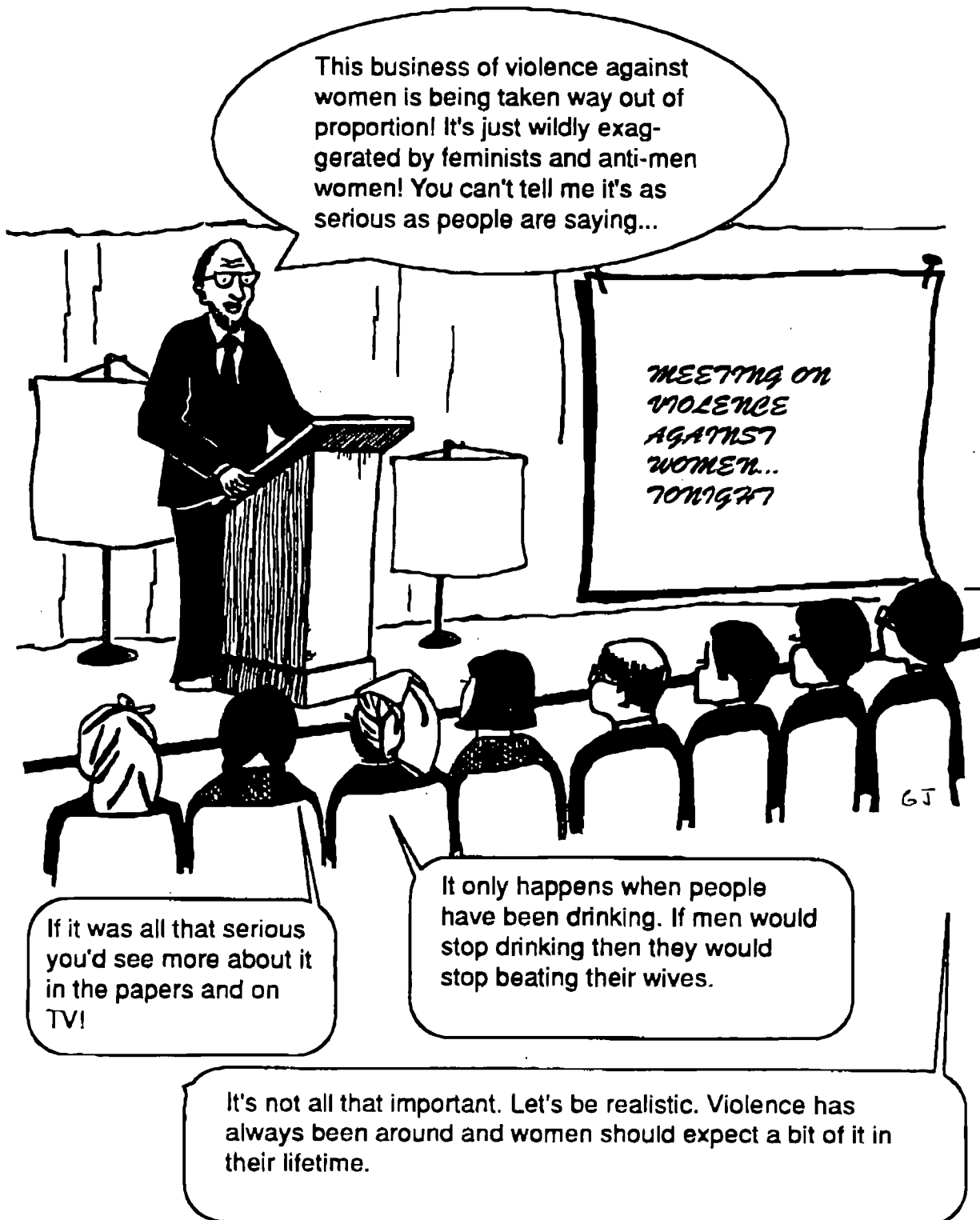
Violence against women is a problem in every country of the world - no region is exempt. Women activists have struggled against the issue in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and the Middle East, joining their sisters in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and every other corner of the globe in a concerted effort to get governments, communities, organizations and individuals everywhere to become involved.



There is no proof whatsoever that violence is "all in the genes". Some studies do show that children from violent homes are more likely to be violent in their own homes as adults, though this has never been proven conclusively.

SCENE THREE...

Town Hall meeting...



SCENE THREE (continued)

The Reality...



Battering is a pattern, a reign of force and terror. Once violence begins in a relationship, it gets worse and more frequent over time.



Violence against women has been one of the world's best kept secrets. But increasingly, women from all over are beginning to talk, and to tell their stories of physical and mental intimidation to a world that is becoming more aware of the problem. Gradually these stories are finding their way into the media.



Assailants use drinking as one of many excuses for violence, and as a way of putting responsibility for their violence elsewhere. There is a 50% correlation between substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, etc.) and domestic violence, but no causal relationship. In other words, stopping the assailant's drinking will not end his violence. Both problems must be addressed individually.



No-one should "expect" to be beaten at any time in their life. For anyone to say that violence "has always been around" and is therefore excusable, is for that person to implicitly support the destruction of a person's most basic human right, the right to live. To allow such a reign of force and terror in the lives of countless numbers of women is unconscionable.

SCENE FOUR...

Women's committee meeting...



SCENE FOUR (continued)

The Reality...



Battering is not just one physical attack. It is a number of tactics (intimidation, threats, economic deprivation, psychological and sexual abuse) used repeatedly. Physical violence is one of those tactics.



Men who batter are usually not violent towards anyone but their wives/partners or their children. They can control themselves sufficiently to pick a "safe" target. And they can be doctors, ministers, psychologists, lawyers, teachers or any other kind of professional.



In over 95% of domestic assaults, the man is the assailant. This fact makes many of us uncomfortable, but is no less true because of that discomfort. There are rare cases where a woman batters a man. And women have been known to kill their attacker after prolonged years of battering. But violence in the home is overwhelmingly by men against women.



Many battered women leave their abusers permanently, and despite many obstacles, succeed in building a life free of violence. Almost all battered women leave at least once. The batterer dramatically escalates his violence when a woman leaves (or tries to), because it is necessary for him to reassert control and ownership.

SCENE FIVE...

Foundation meeting...



SCENE FIVE (continued)

The Reality...



Violence against women affects every part of our lives. The well-being of women, their full participation in their country's plans, policies and programmes are essential if development is to take place that will really benefit the whole of the population. There will be no peace, no stable environment, no educational progress if women are afraid to take leadership positions, and are suffering physical and emotional abuse.



Battered women are often very active (and far from helpless) on their own behalf. Their efforts often fail however, because the batterer continues to assault, and institutions, including the police and courts, continue to refuse protection. Many battered women's shelters are run by women who have suffered from physical violence themselves, and have fought their way out of seemingly hopeless situations to offer support and protection to other women who need temporary help in finding their own way out. Funders need to know these facts when they sit down to consider requests for money to support shelters.

SCENE FOUR...

Women's committee meeting...



SCENE FOUR (continued) The Reality...



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SCENE FIVE...
Foundation meeting...

Honestly, when one considers the really important issues facing us today, like saving the environment, working for peace, putting food on the table, improving the educational system..., don't you think that violence against women is a bit trivial?

Yet I can't get it
out of my mind
that women are
pretty essential
to all those
issues
somehow...





United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 17, 1997

Office of the Senior
Coordinator for
International Women's
Issues**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Violence against women remains a widespread problem in Latin America and the Caribbean region. The United States government recognizes the effect this has on women and their ability to participate in a meaningful way in society and applauds the efforts made in many of the countries in the region to combat this problem. To this end, we have initiated projects to assist a number of these countries address this issue.

- United States Embassies in Latin America have assisted a number of organizations in domestic violence related projects.
- USAID has funded many projects in Latin America that focus on this issue. Its Partners of the Americas program provides technical assistance, training exchanges and project assistance grants to 60 "partnerships" linking a state or region of the U.S. with an area in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- USIA has a number of projects focusing on domestic violence in Latin America.

Brazil: Partners of the Americas has provided training for health care professionals, lawyers and police officers in violence prevention techniques for women and children. Participants formed a multi-disciplinary task force to develop a crisis line and establish a training center at the Sexual Abuse Center for professionals working with abused women and children. The group is now documenting cases of domestic abuse and providing referral services to victims.

In addition, after participating in a USIA sponsored professional visit to the U.S., a public defender for the State of Sao Paulo has convinced the Secretariat of Justice to create a Center for the Victims of Violence. The Center will provide legal and psychological services to the community, as well as conduct a public affairs campaign to sensitize the people of Sao Paulo to the problems of violence in their community. Victims of domestic violence will also have access to services to help them cope with their experiences from this Center.

Costa Rica: The Citizen Participation Project (part of Partners of the Americas) in Costa Rica has held a series of workshops to

address the physical, psychological, social and legal consequences of domestic violence. In October at the Conference of Wives of Heads of State in Panama, the First Lady announced an additional USAID grant of US\$ 4.8 million to the Inter American Institute for Human Rights. The Institute includes programs on the human rights of women of which violence against women is an important part.

Dominica: Under Partners of the Americas, the Dominica National Council of Women will expand its domestic violence counseling services to rural areas.

Guatemala: The U.S. Embassy has assisted with the training of personnel for a centralized office to handle crime 24 hours a day. Established and run by the government of Guatemala, "Atencion de la Victima" is a victim services center that also operates as a rape crisis center for women.

Honduras: The U.S. Embassy has provided technical assistance and training to the Special Prosecutor's Office for Women's Rights. All prosecutors, judges and police agents have received specific training on how to treat abused women who have been victims of domestic violence and are seeking legal services and protection. USIA has produced a series of programs on domestic violence which helped to create a favorable climate for passage of new legislation this past August to protect women suffering domestic violence.

Mexico: USAID is funding a project addressing violence against women with the Instituto Mexicano de Investigacion de Familia y Poblacion (IMIFAP). The results of this project will be distributed to influential members of the Mexican Ministries of Health and Education and will be incorporated into the Institutes family life and sex education programs.

Peru: USAID's ReproSalud project works with community-based organizations to help women act on their reproductive health needs. Domestic violence was cited as one of women's important health problems. It appears such violence can be a deterrent to use of contraception. Many men oppose use of contraceptives by their wives.

Another USAID project in Peru will help prepare advocates, judges and scholars to address gender-related violence. Our Embassy has also supported those NGOs that worked with the government to draft recent revisions of the domestic violence law. These revisions eliminated a provision in the law that allowed men to escape prosecution for the crime of rape if the woman he raped agreed to marry him. It also eliminated provisions that absolved all members involved in a gang rape if the woman agreed to marry one of the men.