

OFFICE OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Remarks to the Press
Hillary Rodham Clinton
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All set. Good afternoon. I want to thank the United Nations for hosting today's events and putting the challenge of gender equality front and center on the international agenda.

I'm especially pleased to have so many leaders here from the private sector, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with advocates who've worked tirelessly for equality for decades. Twenty years ago, this was a lonelier struggle.

Today, we marked the progress that has been made in the two decades since the international community gathered in Beijing and declared with one voice that, "Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights."

And because of advances in health, education, and legal protections, we can say that there has never been a better time in history to be born female.

Yet as the comprehensive new report published by the Clinton Foundation and the Gates Foundation this week makes clear, despite all this progress, when it comes to the full participation of women and girls, we're just not there yet.

As I said today, this remains the great unfinished business of the 21st century. And my passion for this fight burns as brightly today as it did twenty years ago.

I want to comment on a matter in the news today regarding Iran. The President and his team are in the midst of intense negotiations. Their goal is a diplomatic solution that would close off Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb and give us unprecedented access and insight into Iran's nuclear program.

Now reasonable people can disagree about what exactly it will take to accomplish this objective, and we all must judge any final agreement on its merits.

But, the recent letter from Republican senators was out of step with the best traditions of American leadership. And one has to ask: what was the purpose of this letter?

There appear to be two logical answers -- either these Senators were trying to be helpful to the Iranians, or harmful to the commander-in-chief in the midst of high-stakes international diplomacy. Either answer does discredit to the letter's signatories.

Now, I would be pleased to talk more about this important matter, but I know there have been questions about my emails, so I want to address that directly and then I will take a few questions from you.

There are four things I want the public to know.

First, when I got to work as Secretary of State, I opted for convenience to use my personal email account – which was allowed by the state department – because I thought it would be easier to carry just one device for my work and for my personal emails, instead of two.

Looking back, it would have been better if I had simply used a second email account and carried a second phone, but at the time, this didn't seem like an issue.

Second, the vast majority of my work emails went to government employees at their government addresses, which meant they were captured and preserved immediately on the system at the State Department.

Third, after I left office the State Department asked former secretaries of state for our assistance in providing copies of work-related emails from our personal accounts.

I responded right away and provided all my emails that could possibly be work-related, which totaled roughly 55,000 printed pages. Even though I knew the state department had the vast majority of them.

We went through a thorough process to identify all of my work-related emails and deliver them to the State Department. At the end, I chose not to keep my private, personal emails. Emails about planning Chelsea's wedding or my mother's funeral arrangements. Condolence notes to friends, as well as yoga routines, family vacations: the other things you typically find in in-boxes. No one wants their personal emails made public. And I think most people understand that and respect that privacy.

Fourth, I took the unprecedented step of asking that the State Department make all my work-related emails public for everyone to see.

I am very proud of the work that I, my colleagues, and our public servants at the Department did during my four years as Secretary of State. And I look forward to people being able to see that for themselves.

Again, looking back, it would have been better for me to use two separate phones and two email accounts. I thought using one device would be simpler, and obviously, it hasn't worked out that way.

And Now, I am happy to take a few questions.

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