

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1340

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LANCE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. COLLINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “International Violence Against Women Act of 2015”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.

TITLE I—STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. United States strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

Sec. 102. Implementation of the United States strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

Sec. 103. Monitoring the United States strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

TITLE II—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 201. Office of Global Women's Issues.

Sec. 202. Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Sec. 203. Briefing.

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) An estimated 1 out of every 3 women
4 throughout the world will be beaten, coerced into
5 sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

6 (2) Up to 70 percent of women in some countries report experiencing gender based violence at
7 some point in their lives.

9 (3) Intimate partner violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women, preventing
10 women from playing more active roles in the social,
11 economic, and political development of their communities.

14 (4) Sexual violence among adolescents and pre-
15 adolescents is alarmingly high. National surveys in
16 Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Haiti
17 have found that 28 to 38 percent of girls and 9 to
18 18 percent of boys report experiencing sexual violence before the age of 18.

1 (5) Adult male respondents in 6 countries who
2 had experienced violence as children were signifi-
3 cantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate
4 partner violence themselves, according to the Inter-
5 national Men and Gender Equality Survey dataset.

6 (6) Gender-based violence harms economies and
7 the workers that fuel them. Despite underreporting,
8 striking statistics document prevalent forms of gen-
9 der-based violence globally that affect the world of
10 work. Worldwide, women are concentrated in low-
11 wage, insecure jobs in workplaces where they lack
12 bargaining power, protections against gender-based
13 violence, safe and confidential reporting systems, re-
14 course to justice, or access to legal, medical, and
15 psychosocial services. Conservative estimates of lost
16 productivity as a result of gender-based violence
17 range from 1.2 percent of GDP in Brazil and Tan-
18 zania to 2 percent of GDP in Brazil and Ban-
19 gladesh.

20 (7) Women living in poverty are particularly
21 vulnerable to gender-based violence. Lack of eco-
22 nomic opportunities often compels women to use
23 desperate and dangerous means to provide for them-
24 selves and their families, risking significant exposure

1 to sexual exploitation and abuse. These women often
2 cannot afford critical social and medical services.

3 (8) Research conducted in India, Colombia,
4 South Africa, and Uganda indicates that when
5 women have greater control of assets, they are less
6 likely to experience intimate partner violence. Addi-
7 tionally, when women participate in the economy
8 they are able to develop a wider support network,
9 which allows them to more easily escape intimate
10 partner violence.

11 (9) Gender-based violence impacts livelihoods
12 and food security by reducing work capacity and
13 productivity, including the ability to grow food for
14 consumption. Studies have shown that women af-
15 fected by gender-based violence are exposed to ill-
16 nesses and injuries that hamper their ability to work
17 productively and care for their families. Diminished
18 food production consequently increases hunger and
19 women's vulnerability to further violence.

20 (10) Country studies indicate that the risk of
21 HIV among women who have experienced violence
22 may be up to 3 times higher than among those who
23 have not. The World Health Organization found that
24 women who experience intimate partner violence are
25 at over 50 percent greater risk of HIV infection, and

1 in some instances their risk increases four-fold.
2 Women living with HIV are more likely to experience
3 violence than other women, and fear of violence
4 can prevent women from accessing HIV/AIDS information
5 and receiving treatment and counseling.

6 (11) Addressing gender norms and inequities is
7 essential to reducing HIV risk and increasing access
8 to HIV prevention, care and treatment services for
9 women and men. The President's Emergency Plan
10 for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) supports significant
11 work in the field to incorporate efforts to prevent
12 and respond to gender-based violence into existing
13 HIV treatment and prevention programs. In fiscal
14 year 2012, PEPFAR investments reached 720,000
15 people in 11 countries with services or interventions
16 that explicitly addressed gender-based violence and
17 coercion.

18 (12) Prevalence of sexual violence is higher
19 among persons with disabilities, particularly for adolescents and intimate partners with disabilities, and
20 for men and women with intellectual impairments
21 living in institutions. The World Health Organization reports that rates of gender-based violence are
22 4–10 times greater among persons with disabilities
23 than non-disabled persons.

(13) Displaced, refugee, and stateless women and girls in humanitarian emergencies, conflict settings, and natural disasters face extreme violence and threats, including—

(A) being forced to exchange sex for food
and humanitarian supplies; and

(B) being at increased risk of rape, sexual exploitation and abuse.

(14) Rape and sexual assault against women and girls are used to torture, intimidate, and terrorize communities. Rape and sexual assault are used as tools of war in conflict zones including Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia, and South Sudan. A 2011 study found that 48 women were raped every hour in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

17 (15) Early and forced marriage of girls—

18 (A) is a harmful practice that deprives
19 girls of their dignity and rights and creates bar-
20 riers to development for communities and coun-
21 tries;

(B) is projected to affect more than 140 million girls who will become brides between 2011 and 2020;

(C) can prematurely end girls' education, increase vulnerability to gender-based violence, and significantly raise the risk of maternal and infant morbidity or mortality, including the risk of obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(D) is perpetuated by poverty, a lack of educational or employment opportunities for girls, and religious, cultural and social factors related to girls' perceived lack of value. These factors become particularly acute in conflict and disaster settings where fears of sexual violence often drive early, child and forced marriage.

21 (17) World Bank data shows that gender in-
22 equality directly corresponds to increased levels of
23 political and economic instability within countries.
24 Gender-based violence impedes women's meaningful
25 participation in social, political, and economic

1 spheres, which is essential to the stability and de-
2 mocratization of a country. Since women disproportio-
3 nately experience gender-based violence during
4 conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, they can
5 play a pivotal role in preventing, mitigating, resolv-
6 ing conflict, and countering extremism, evidenced in
7 contexts including Northern Ireland and Liberia.

8 (18) Gender-based violence is a contributing
9 factor to human trafficking. Experts in the field
10 have reported that women and girls who have experi-
11 enced gender-based violence and live in societies that
12 tolerate severe gender discrimination appear to be
13 more vulnerable to being trafficked. Comprehensive
14 efforts to reduce human trafficking must include ef-
15 forts to prevent and respond to gender-based vio-
16 lence due to the intertwined relationship of the two
17 crimes.

18 (19) Faith-based organizations and faith lead-
19 ers have an important role to play in the ongoing ef-
20 forts to prevent and respond to gender-based vio-
21 lence. Where engaged as genuine partners and
22 equipped with knowledge and resources, they can
23 yield great gains. In countries that lack effective
24 legal frameworks to address gender-based violence,

1 they have the standing and authority to address
2 harmful practices such as acid throwing.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to take effective action to prevent and re-
6 spond to violence against women and girls around
7 the world, as a matter of basic human rights as well
8 as to promote gender equality, economic growth, and
9 improved public health;

10 (2) to systematically integrate and coordinate
11 efforts to prevent and respond to violence against
12 women and girls internationally into United States
13 foreign policy and foreign assistance programs, in-
14 cluding peace-building efforts and humanitarian re-
15 lief and recovery;

16 (3) to support and build local capacity in devel-
17 oping countries, including of governments at all lev-
18 els and nongovernmental organizations, especially
19 women-led organizations, to prevent and respond to
20 violence against women and girls;

21 (4) to consult, cooperate, coordinate, and col-
22 laborate with a wide variety of nongovernmental
23 partners with demonstrated experience in preventing
24 and responding to violence against women and girls,

1 including faith-based organizations and women-led
2 organizations;

3 (5) to employ a multisectoral approach to pre-
4 venting and responding to violence against women
5 and girls internationally, including activities in the
6 economic, education, health, nutrition, legal, and ju-
7 dicial sectors;

8 (6) to work at all levels, from the individual to
9 the family, community, local, national and inter-
10 national levels, to prevent and respond to violence
11 against women and girls around the globe;

12 (7) to enhance training by United States per-
13 sonnel of professional foreign military and police
14 forces and judicial officials to include specific and
15 through instruction on preventing and responding to
16 violence against women and girls around the world;

17 (8) to engage men and boys as partners, as an
18 essential element of making sustained reductions in
19 violence against women and girls;

20 (9) to include the prevention of early and forced
21 marriage as an important part of United States
22 Government efforts to prevent violence against girls
23 and promote gender equality and global health;

24 (10) to require that all United States contrac-
25 tors and grantees establish appropriate policies and

1 take effective measures to prevent violence against
2 women and girls and sexual exploitation and abuse
3 within their workforce;

4 (11) to exert sustained international leadership
5 to prevent and respond to violence against women
6 and girls, including in bilateral and multilateral fora;

7 (12) to implement the United States Strategy
8 to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence
9 Globally; and

10 (13) to implement the United States National
11 Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

12 **TITLE I—STRATEGY, POLICY, 13 AND PROGRAMS**

14 **SEC. 101. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RE-** 15 **SPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOB-** 16 **ALLY.**

17 (a) GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later
18 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
19 and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Ambassador-at-
20 Large for Global Women’s Issues at the Department of
21 State (as described in section 201), in consultation with
22 the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s
23 Empowerment at the United States Agency for Inter-
24 national Development (as described in section 202), shall
25 develop or update a United States global strategy to pre-

1 vent and respond to violence against women and girls.
2 Such strategy shall be transmitted to the appropriate con-
3 gressional committees and made publicly available on the
4 Internet.

5 (b) INITIAL STRATEGY.—For the purposes of this
6 section, the “United States Strategy to Prevent and Re-
7 spond to Gender-Based Violence Globally”, issued in Au-
8 gust 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial require-
9 ment of subsection (a).

10 (c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 60
11 days after submission of the strategy under subsection (a),
12 the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the Senior
13 Coordinator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
14 committees an implementation plan detailing how the
15 strategy will be implemented in the upcoming 5 fiscal
16 years, including the budget resources requested, and the
17 specific activities to be supported, by each Executive agen-
18 cy under the strategy.

19 (d) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In devel-
20 oping the strategy under subsection (a), the Ambassador-
21 at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall consult with—

22 (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;
23 (2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Traf-
24 ficking in Persons; and

5 (e) CONTENT.—The implementation plan required
6 under subsection (c) shall—

(1) identify eligible low-income and lower-middle income countries with significant levels of violence against women and girls, including within displaced communities, that have the governmental or nongovernmental organizational capacity to manage and implement gender-based violence prevention and response program activities and should, when possible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one another;

1 (4) identify coordination mechanisms with Fed-
2 eral agencies that—

3 (A) have existing programs relevant to the
4 strategy;

5 (B) will be involved in new program activi-
6 ties; and

7 (C) are engaged in broader United States
8 strategies around development;

9 (5) describe the monitoring and evaluation
10 mechanisms established for each eligible country,
11 and their intended use in assessing overall progress
12 in prevention and response;

13 (6) project general levels of resources needed to
14 achieve the stated objectives in each eligible country,
15 including an accounting of—

16 (A) activities and funding already ex-
17 pended by the Department of State, the United
18 States Agency for International Development,
19 and other Federal agencies, donor country gov-
20 ernments, and multilateral institutions; and

21 (B) leveraged private sector resources;

22 (7) integrate gender analysis into the strategy
23 for each country; and

24 (8) include, as appropriate, strategies designed
25 to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, in-

1 ternally displaced refugees and religious or ethnic
2 minority women and girls.

3 **SEC. 102. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES**
4 **STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO**
5 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
7 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development are authorized to provide assistance
9 to prevent and respond to violence against women and
10 girls internationally.

11 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance
12 provided to each country selected under subsection
13 101(e)(2) should include at least two of the following ac-
14 tivities:

15 (1) Development and implementation of pro-
16 grams that work to change social norms and atti-
17 tudes so that violence against women and girls is
18 neither condoned nor tolerated.

19 (2) Promotion of accessible quality educational,
20 learning, and literacy opportunities for women and
21 girls.

22 (3) Promotion of access to economic opportuni-
23 ties, including by increasing distribution, credit,
24 property, and inheritance rights for women and
25 girls.

1 (4) Development and enforcement of civil and
2 criminal legal and judicial sanctions, protections,
3 trainings, and capacity.

4 (5) Enhancement of the health sector capacity
5 to detect, prevent, and respond to violence against
6 women and girls.

7 (c) BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY.—Not less than 10
8 percent of the amount of assistance provided to an eligible
9 country under this section should be provided to commu-
10 nity-based nongovernmental or faith-based organizations,
11 with priority given to nongovernmental organizations led
12 by women.

13 **SEC. 103. MONITORING THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO**
14 **PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED**
15 **VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—In each strategy submitted under
17 section 101(a), the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Co-
18 ordinator shall include an analysis of best practices for
19 preventing and addressing violence against women and
20 girls internationally, which shall include—

21 (1) a description of successful efforts by foreign
22 governments, multilateral institutions, nongovern-
23 mental organizations, educational organizations, and
24 faith-based organizations in preventing and respond-
25 ing to violence against women and girls;

1 (2) recommendations related to best practices,
2 effective strategies, and improvements to enhance
3 the impact of prevention and response efforts; and
4 (3) the impact of activities funded by the strat-
5 egy in preventing and reducing violence against
6 women and girls internationally.

7 (b) AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Assistance Act of
8 1961 is amended—

9 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—
10 (A) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (B) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking
13 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
14 and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(13) wherever applicable, the nature and ex-
18 tent of violence against women and girls.”; and

19 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

20 (A) by redesignating the second subsection
21 designated as subsection (i) as subsection (j);
22 and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following new
24 subsection:

1 “(k) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VI-
2 OLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.—The report re-
3 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,
4 the nature and extent of violence against women and
5 girls.”.

6 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—In coordination
7 with relevant officials, and consistent with the monitoring
8 and evaluation policies of their respective agencies, the
9 Ambassador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall
10 develop a plan for monitoring and independent evaluation
11 of programs, projects, and activities carried out under this
12 Act. The plan shall—

13 (1) apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation
14 methodologies to focus on learning, accountability,
15 and policymaking, choosing from among a wide vari-
16 ety of qualitative, quantitative, summative, and
17 formative methods common in the field of social sci-
18 entific inquiry, including impact evaluations; and

19 (2) be included in the implementation plan re-
20 quired under section 101(c).

21 (d) RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-
22 retary of State and the Administrator of the United States
23 Agency for International Development shall—

1 (1) produce original research or analysis of ef-
2 fective interventions to prevent or respond to vio-
3 lence against women and girls internationally;

4 (2) collect and analyze new or existing data on
5 the scope and extent of all forms of violence against
6 women and girls internationally, including under-
7 documented forms of violence and violence against
8 marginalized groups;

9 (3) conduct research on effective interventions
10 to respond to violence against women and girls inter-
11 nationally, including efforts to scale up effective pro-
12 gramming; and

13 (4) support systemic data collection using inter-
14 nationally comparable indicators, norms, and meth-
15 odologies for measuring the scope, prevalence, and
16 incidence of violence against women and girls inter-
17 nationally.

18 **TITLE II—OVERSIGHT AND
19 ACCOUNTABILITY**

20 **SEC. 201. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall
22 establish in the Office of the Secretary in the Department
23 of State an Office of Global Women's Issues (in this sec-
24 tion referred to as the “Office”). The Office shall be head-
25 ed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues,

1 who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the
2 advice and consent of the Senate. The Ambassador-at-
3 Large shall report directly to the Secretary and shall have
4 the rank and status of Ambassador-at-Large.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—In addition to the duties described in
6 subsection (c) and those duties determined by the Sec-
7 retary of State, the Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate
8 efforts of the United States Government as directed by
9 the Secretary regarding gender integration and advancing
10 the status of women and girls in United States foreign
11 policy.

12 (c) DUTIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador-at-Large—
14 (A) shall direct activities, policies, pro-
15 grams, and funding relating to gender equality
16 and the advancement of women and girls inter-
17 nationally, including those intended to prevent
18 and respond to violence against women and
19 girls, for all bureaus and offices of the Depart-
20 ment of State and in the international pro-
21 grams of all other Federal agencies;

22 (B) shall actively promote and advance the
23 full integration of gender analysis into the pro-
24 grams, structures, processes, and capacities of
25 all bureaus and offices of the Department of

1 State and in the international programs of
2 other Federal agencies;

3 (C) shall direct, as appropriate, United
4 States Government resources to respond to
5 needs for gender integration and empowerment
6 of women in United States Government foreign
7 policies and international programs, including
8 to prevent and respond to violence against
9 women and girls internationally;

10 (D) may design, support, and implement
11 activities regarding empowerment of women
12 internationally, including for the prevention of
13 and response to violence against women and
14 girls internationally;

15 (E) shall conduct regular consultation with
16 civil society organizations working to prevent
17 and respond to violence against women and
18 girls internationally;

19 (F) shall ensure that programs, projects,
20 and activities designed to prevent and respond
21 to violence against women and girls internation-
22 ally are subject to rigorous monitoring and eval-
23 uation, and that there is a uniform set of indi-
24 cators and standards for such monitoring and

1 evaluation that is used across all Federal agen-
2 cies;

3 (G) shall serve as the principal advisor to
4 the Secretary of State regarding gender equality,
5 women's empowerment, and violence
6 against women and girls as a foreign policy
7 matter; and

8 (H) is authorized to represent the United
9 States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on
10 matters relevant to the status of women and
11 girls, including violence against women and
12 girls internationally.

13 (2) INFORMATION SHARING AND TRAN-
14 PARENCY.—The Office shall be the central reposi-
15 tory of data on all United States programs, projects,
16 and activities that relate to prevention and response
17 to violence against women and girls, and shall
18 produce a full accounting of United States Govern-
19 ment spending on such programs, projects, and ac-
20 tivities.

21 **SEC. 202. SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY**
22 **AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
24 United States Agency for International Development a
25 Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's

1 Empowerment, who shall report to the Administrator of
2 the United States Agency for International Development
3 and who shall conduct the activities of the Administrator
4 under this Act.

5 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Senior Coordinator for Gen-
6 der Equality and Women’s Empowerment—

7 (1) shall direct activities, policies, programs,
8 and funding of the United States Agency for Inter-
9 national Development relating to gender equality
10 and women’s empowerment, including those intended
11 to prevent and respond to violence against women
12 and girls;

13 (2) shall actively promote and advance the full
14 integration of gender analysis into the programs,
15 structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus
16 and offices of the Agency as dictated by the United
17 States Agency for International Development Gender
18 Equality and Female Empowerment Policy;

19 (3) shall direct Agency resources for gender
20 equality and women’s empowerment, including to
21 prevent and respond to violence against women and
22 girls internationally;

23 (4) may design, support, and implement activi-
24 ties led by the Agency regarding gender equality and

1 women's empowerment, including for the prevention
2 and internationally;

3 (5) shall conduct regular consultation with civil
4 society organizations working to prevent and re-
5 spond to violence against women and girls inter-
6 nationally;

7 (6) shall serve as the principal advisor to the
8 Administrator regarding gender equality, women's
9 empowerment, and violence against women and girls;
10 and

11 (7) shall track and analyze monitoring and eval-
12 uation data and findings on international prevention
13 and response programs of the Agency, consistent
14 with Agency-wide monitoring and evaluation activi-
15 ties, and in order to assist in the preparation of the
16 comprehensive strategy developed under section 101.

17 **SEC. 203. BRIEFING.**

18 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Ambas-
20 sador-at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall brief the ap-
21 propriate congressional committees on international vio-
22 lence against women and girls prevention and response
23 strategies, programming, and associated outcomes, and
24 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees

- 1 an assessment of human and financial resources necessary
- 2 to fulfill 15 the purposes and duties of this Act.

○