

Section-by-Section Summary of I-VAWA, The International Violence Against Women Act of 2007 (S. 2279, H.R. 5927)

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

Sec. 3. Findings – This section details the magnitude of the problem of violence against women and girls in families, communities, and countries around the world.

Sec. 4. Statement of Policy – This section states that it is U.S. policy to promote women’s political, economic, educational, social, cultural, civil, and human rights and opportunities throughout the world and to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

Sec. 5. Definitions – This section defines “violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence against women or girls committed because of their gender that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.” (Identical to the widely-used, internationally-accepted definition.)

Title I: Coordination and Policy Planning

Sec. 101. Official Positions and Institutional Changes – This section amends chapter 2, part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2166 et seq) by adding the following new title: “Title XIII – International Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls”.

Sec. 300A. Violence Against Women and Girls Defined – “Violence against women” is defined in section 5 of the International Violence Against Women Act of 2007.

Subtitle A – Official Positions and Institutional Changes

Sec. 300B. Office of Women’s Global Initiatives – This section establishes an “Office of Women’s Global Initiatives” in the immediate office of the Secretary of State. The Coordinator of the Office of Women’s Global Initiatives (the “Coordinator”) will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate and with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large. The Coordinator will design, oversee, and coordinate activities of the U.S. Government related to international women’s issues, including violence against women and girls, and will develop the comprehensive international strategy as provided in this bill. The Coordinator will integrate efforts to reduce violence against women into existing U.S. Government assistance programs; allocate new funding to new programs; design, integrate, and implement new programs; and monitor and evaluate all programs. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008-2012 to perform these office functions.

Sec. 300C. Women’s Global Development Office – This section establishes the Office of Women’s Global Development within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The head of the office will be the Director of Women’s Global Development (the “Director”), who will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate and will report directly to the Administrator. The Director will consult regularly with the Coordinator of the Office of Women’s Global Initiatives. The Director will integrate gender into USAID programs and activities and will ensure that efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls are integrated into U.S. Government assistance programs. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008-2012 to perform these office functions.

Sec. 300D. Advisory Commission on International Violence Against Women and Girls – This section establishes an Advisory Commission on International Violence Against Women in the Department of State. The Advisory Commission will be composed of the Coordinator of Women’s Global Initiatives, the Director of the Women’s Global Development Office, eight members appointed by the President, three members appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members will have expertise in the issue of violence against women and girls internationally and will include representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and academics. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$300,000 for each of fiscal years 2008-2012 to carry out the Commission’s activities.

Sec. 102. Policy and Programs – This section adds the new subtitle: “Subtitle B – Policy and Programs”.

Sec. 300G. Comprehensive International Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls – This section mandates the President, with the assistance of the Coordinator of Women’s Global Initiatives and the Director of the Women’s Global Development Office, within one year of the enactment of the Act, to submit to Congress a 5-year, comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women internationally.

The strategy will identify 10-20 low to middle income countries that have severe levels of gender-based violence. The strategy will describe the violence problems in each country and how the domestic and/or sexual violence is preventing sustainable progress in meeting humanitarian and/or development goals. The strategy will assess each country’s capacity for change and the necessary collaboration. For each country, the strategy will describe two or more new programs that will be implemented to address the gender-based violence. The strategy will explain the coordination with existing country programs, experts and organizations and will identify what U.S. government agencies will be involved for each country initiative. Finally, the strategy mandates monitoring, assessment and accountability mechanisms for each country’s programs.

As mentioned, the strategy will designate two or more programs to be implemented in each of the selected countries. This section sets forth a menu of possible, new gender-based violence program activities within five different sectors - legal reform and judicial protection, health care initiatives, public awareness campaigns, economic improvements and increasing educational opportunities,

Sec. 300H. Assistance to Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls Internationally – This section authorizes the Coordinator to incorporate measures combating violence against women into existing acts and government legislation. It gives the Coordinator authority to provide annually \$175 million of new funding to federal agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, foreign governments, and multilateral institutions seeking to prevent and to reduce violence against women through the activities described in the international strategy.

Sec. 300I. Annual Report on International Violence Against Women and Girls – This section determines that, not more than one year after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, with the assistance of the Coordinator and the Director, will submit an annual report to Congress on the U.S. progress to end international violence against women and girls. The report will incorporate the comprehensive international strategy and detail the progress of the grant programs, the collaboration with multinational organizations, the training administered to humanitarian and military forces on gender-based violence, and the status of best practices developed to address the violence. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the year 2008 and \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2009-2012 to generate the report.

Sec. 300J. Data Collection, Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation – This section states that the Coordinator, with the assistance of the Administrator of USAID and the Director of the Women’s Global Development Office, is responsible for researching, collecting, monitoring, and evaluating data on the effectiveness of programs designed as part of the global strategy to address violence against women and girls. Funds will be used to conduct national surveys and original research, and to monitor the effectiveness of new and existing programs. This section authorizes the appropriation of \$20,000,000 to carry out the activities listed.

Sec. 300K. Enhancing United States Training of Foreign Military and Police Forces on Violence Against Women and Girls – This section mandates that the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense report to Congress on efforts to incorporate instruction on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in all basic training curricula of foreign military and police forces and judicial officials, and that such training shall be a component of all U.S. assistance to regional or multilateral peacekeeping units. Under this section, \$8,000,000 is authorized for each of fiscal years 2008-2012 to carry out such training activities.

Sec. 300L. Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Humanitarian Relief, Peacekeeping, Conflict, and Post-Conflict Operations– This section increases the ability of the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State and the Department of Defense to prevent and address violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict and post-conflict operations.

Programs and grantee training. --Under this section, the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID shall include programs to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in all humanitarian relief, conflict, and post-conflict operations under their authority. There is authorized to be appropriated \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008-2012 to carry out such activities.

The Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID shall also require that all grantees that are deployed in such operations comply with the 6 Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and

Abuse, and train all humanitarian workers in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. Such training shall include the use of mechanisms to report violence against women and girls. Grantees shall be required to conduct public outreach campaigns to make known to the host community the mechanisms to report incidents of violence against women and girls, promptly respond to reports of such violence, and treat survivors confidentially.

Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTS). -- This section also mandates that the Administrator of USAID deploy, as appropriate, protection officers as part of Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) to implement programs to prevent and address violence against women and girls.

State Department Report on Private Military Contractors and DDR efforts. -- Under this section, the Secretary of State is required to submit a report outlining the Department's efforts to require that all private military contracting firms hired for humanitarian relief, conflict, and post-conflict operations demonstrate a commitment to expanding the number and role of women, and train all contractors in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including in the use of mechanisms to report such violence.

The report shall also include information on the Department's efforts to establish programs to assist women and girls as part of any multilateral or bilateral Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration [DDRR] programs.

Emergency Measures to respond to violence in Armed Conflict. -- This section requires the Secretary of State to take emergency measures to identify and respond to "critical outbreaks" of violence against women and girls being used as a weapon of intimidation and abuse in situations of conflict and war, and shall notify Congress with a description, including bilateral and multilateral efforts with the government in which the violence is occurring, and governments of the surrounding region.

Department of Defense Training. -- This section requires the Secretary of Defense to provide training in preventing and responding to violence against civilian women and girls to all United States military personnel and contractors who will be deployed to humanitarian relief, conflict, and post-conflict operations. The training must include mechanisms for reporting incidences of violence, as well as public outreach to make known to the civilian population the mechanisms.

Sense of the Senate Concerning U.N. Peacekeepers. -- This section expresses the Sense of the Senate that the UN Secretary General should strengthen the United Nations' capability to prevent and respond to violence against civilian women and girls by United Nations Peacekeepers.

Sec.104. Inclusion of Information on Violence Against Women and Girls in Human Rights Reports – This section amends Section 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n) to include a description of the nature and extent of violence against women in the Department of State's annual Human Rights Report.

Title II – Other Provisions

Sec. 201. Amendments to Foreign Service Act of 1980 – This section amends Section 405 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3965) to provide that service in the promotion of human rights, including the rights of women and girls, will serve as a basis for performance pay.

Sec. 212. Training for Foreign Service Officers. – This section amends Chapter 2 of title 1 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to provide for training for foreign service officers on international violence against women.

Sec. 202. Support For Multilateral Efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls – This section authorizes the appropriation of \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008-2012 to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women.