

International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) S.2279

Sample Blog Post

Speaking Up urges readers to become active consumers of newspaper and broadcast media stories. Nearly all media outlets have websites on which they post stories, and often there is a place to comment at the end of those stories. The next time you see a story that addresses what is happening in the Sudan or the Democratic Republic of Congo, or violence against women elsewhere in the world, consider going online and posting a comment. Following is some text you can use. Then check back to see what others are saying, and stay involved in the conversation if there is a chance to do so.

[Begin with a sentence on what the story is about, for example: The news from Darfur is so grim, and it's hard to find ways to help – but there is something we can do.] U.S. Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) recently introduced groundbreaking legislation to combat the global crisis of violence against women and girls. The [*International Violence Against Women Act*](#) (www.womensedge.org/images/ivawafullbill.pdf) (*I-VAWA*) would, for the first time, integrate efforts to end gender-based violence into foreign assistance programs, applying the force of U.S. diplomacy and foreign aid totaling \$1 billion over five years to prevent the abuse and exploitation that affects up to one in three women worldwide.

In 2005, the [Family Violence Prevention Fund](http://www.endabuse.org) (www.endabuse.org) (FVPF), [Women Thrive Worldwide](http://www.womenthrive.org) (www.womenthrive.org) and [Amnesty International USA](http://www.amnestyusa.org) (www.amnestyusa.org) convened meetings to develop the legislation, recognizing the need for a comprehensive worldwide approach that looks at separate challenges depending on the form the violence takes in different countries. More than 150 U.S.-based experts and 40 women's groups overseas gave advice on the bill. It would authorize more than \$200 million annually in foreign assistance for international programs that prevent violence, support health programs and survivor services, encourage legal accountability, change public attitudes, promote access to economic opportunity projects and education, and address violence against women in humanitarian situations. It aims to prevent domestic and sexual violence, including "honor" killings, bride burnings, genital cutting, mass rapes in war, and more.

More information on *I-VAWA* is available [here](#). (<http://endabuse.org/newsflash/index.php3?Search=Article&NewsFlashID=931>) We should all urge Congress to pass it right away.