



IVAWA Action Sheet

Did You Know?

- **1 in 3 women** throughout the world will be a **victim of abuse** in her lifetime, usually at the hands of an intimate partner.
- In some countries, **1/3 of adolescent girls** report that their first sexual experience was **forced**.
- **60% of the women** whose first sexual experience was forced will be **victims of sexual violence again** later in their lives.
- Women and girls who lose their homes due to conflict or natural disaster often have **no money or resources**, and can be forced to submit to sex in return for food, shelter, and protection to **survive**.
- During conflict, **mass rape** is often used as a **weapon of war**. In the Congo, armed groups have systematically raped **tens of thousands** of women and girls.
- **Less than half** of all countries in the world have legislation on domestic violence.

If passed, the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) would . . .

- Make ending violence against women and girls a **priority in U.S. foreign policy**.
- Provide funding and support for **prevention services**, such as economic opportunity programs, and **intervention services**, such as health care for women who have contracted HIV/AIDS as a result of rape.
- Support efforts in countries around the world **to change laws** so that women are better protected against abuse.
- **Train U.S. and foreign military and police** so that they take violence against women seriously.
- **Support local NGOs all over the world**, especially women's NGOs, who are already fighting violence against women in their communities.
- **I-VAWA is designed to give survivors of violence more support, hold perpetrators accountable, empower women so that they never become victims and have more options in the face of abuse.**

What Can YOU Do to End Violence Against Women Worldwide?

Get Informed:

Visit www.WomenThrive.org/Violence

Check out the Women Thrive Worldwide website at www.WomenThrive.org/Violence where you can find more information about violence against women, sign the petition in support of I-VAWA, and spread the word to your friends.

Write a Letter to the Editor of Your Local Newspaper

By increasing coverage of IAWA you will **raise awareness** in your community and **put pressure** on your Congresspersons to support the bill. You can find a sample letter to the editor at the link below.

Blog!

Add a **post to your blog**, or a friend's, dedicated to supporting I-VAWA. You can find a sample blog post at the link below.

Contact Congress

Write a **letter to your Congressperson** urging them to support IAWA. Feel free to make use of the sample letter found at the link below, but don't forget to add a few lines of your own so that your letter reflects your personal reasons for caring about violence against women.

Sign the Petition

To help pass IAWA and let your voice be heard at www.WomenThrive.org/IAWA

Read and Discuss: Bring the Issue to Your Book Club

Add **The God of Small Things** by Arundhati Roy to your book club list and discuss how violence against women can have profound effects on an entire family.

Host a Movie Night

Get your friends together to watch **Bordertown**, starring Jennifer Lopez and Antonio Banderas, a true story about the hundreds of Mexican female factory workers murdered without anyone being held responsible that highlights the need for IAWA.

For all this and more visit:

www.WomenThrive.org/Violence