

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 392

Designating March 8, 2006, as “International Women’s Day”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2006

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Designating March 8, 2006, as “International Women’s  
Day”.

Whereas there continues to be discrimination against women  
and women are still denied full political and economic  
equality;

Whereas discrimination is often the basis for violating the  
basic human rights of women;

Whereas, worldwide, the lives and health of women and girls  
are endangered by violence that is directed at women and  
girls simply because they are female;

Whereas women bear a disproportionate burden of the pov-  
erty in the world and constitute an estimated 75 percent  
of the world’s poor;

Whereas, of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people traf-  
ficked across international borders each year for forced

labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation, 80 percent of the victims are women and girls;

Whereas violence against women is one of the most widespread violations of human rights and it is estimated that 1 in 3 women will suffer some form of violence;

Whereas the majority of the estimated 121,000,000 children in the world who are denied a primary education are girls;

Whereas two-thirds of the estimated 875,000,000 illiterate adults in the world are women;

Whereas, worldwide, women now account for half of all HIV and AIDS cases, and in sub-Saharan Africa, young girls ages 15 to 24 are 3 times more likely to be infected with HIV than young men;

Whereas gender inequality and sexual violence are significant factors causing the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls;

Whereas HIV/AIDS is having a devastating effect on women in the United States, and it is the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25 to 34;

Whereas two-thirds of the estimated 19,200,000 refugees in the world are women and children;

Whereas, in armed conflict, women are targets of rape when it is used as a tactic of war to humiliate the enemy and terrorize the population;

Whereas it is estimated that 515,000 women die every year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, and more than 99 percent of these deaths occur in the developing world;

Whereas countries should take steps to ensure the full participation and representation of women in political processes, conflict prevention, and peacekeeping efforts;

Whereas, over the last century, March 8 has become known as “International Women’s Day”, a day on which people come together to recognize the accomplishments of women and to reaffirm their commitment to continue the struggle for equality, justice, and peace; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women’s Day: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2            (1) designates March 8, 2006, as “International  
3        Women’s Day”;

4            (2) reaffirms its commitment to—

5            (A) end discrimination and increase the  
6            participation of women in decision-making posi-  
7            tions in government and in the private sector;

8            (B) end and prevent violence against  
9            women;

10          (C) pursue policies that guarantee the  
11          basic rights of women both in the United States  
12          and around the world;

13          (D) improve access to quality health care  
14          for women;

15          (E) protect the human rights of women  
16          and girls during and after conflict and to sup-

1 port the integration of gender perspectives in  
2 peacekeeping missions and post conflict pro-  
3 cesses; and

4 (F) end the trafficking of women and girls;  
5 and

6 (3) encourages the people of the United States  
7 to observe International Women's Day with appro-  
8 priate programs and activities.

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