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The Role of Advocacy in Global Issues

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What is Advocacy?

- **Act of influencing public policy or resource allocation**
- **Can include lobbying**
- **Usually involves a specific ask**

Why Do We Advocate?

- **Increase US and Global resources for women and girls**
- **Advance sound US policy related to women and girls**
- **Promote UN Women**
- **Increase focus on women and girls in international development**

112th Congress- Legislative & Executive Updates



- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Obama Administration

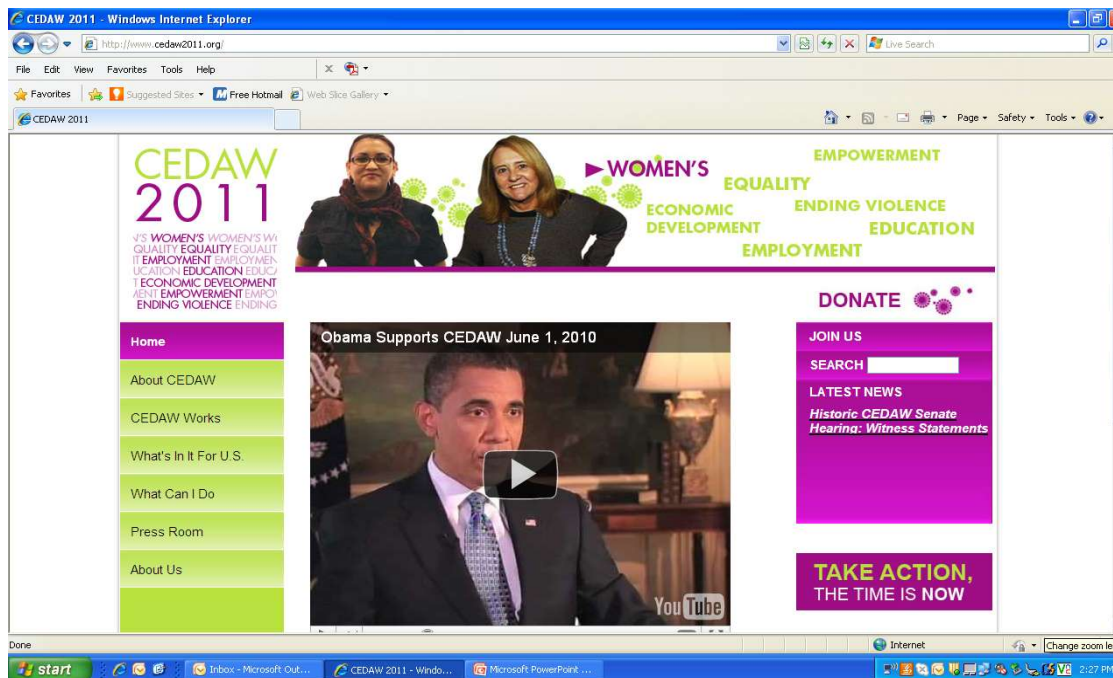
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)



- UN-adopted international agreement (1979)
- Affirms equality for women worldwide
- Ratified by 186 of 193 countries

Countries that have not adopted:

- United States
- Sudan
- Iran
- Somalia
- Palau
- Nauru
- Tonga



International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act



- Reintroduced in Feb 2011
- Child marriage refers to the marriage of a girl or boy under age 18

Addressing child marriage would improve outcomes for existing foreign assistance priorities:

- Maternal and infant mortality
- HIV/AIDS
- Domestic violence

➤ Information courtesy of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)



International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)

- Introduced in February 2010
- Would establish a comprehensive strategy to address violence against women and girls worldwide
- Would integrate gender based violence prevention and response efforts across US foreign assistance programs



Information courtesy of CARE International and Women Thrive Worldwide

Updates:

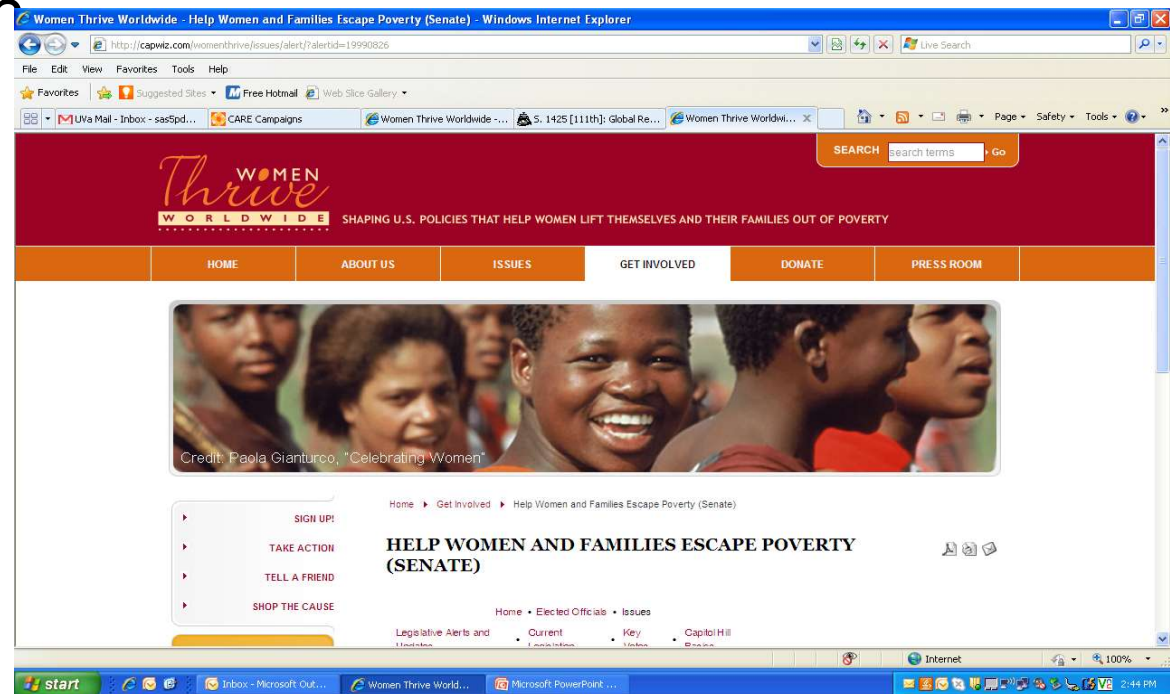
- Passed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in December 2010
- Has not been introduced in the 112th congress

Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive Act (GROWTH)

- Introduced in July 2009
- Would improve working and living conditions for women
- Would encourage U.S. agencies to recognize women and to collaborate with
- local women's organizations

Update:

➤ Has not been reintroduced in the 112th congress



Information courtesy of Women Thrive Worldwide

Funding for UN Women



●2011

- Operating budget is \$300 million (\$1 billion requested)
- ~ \$6 million for UN Women

•2012

- President Obama requested \$8 million as US contribution
- Congress has not voted on the budget yet