International Violence Women Act (IVAWA)

What is IVAWA?

The International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) will help the United States better tackle the global crisis of violence against women.

IVAWA streamlines the government’s pre-existing efforts to create a more efficient and effective plan to combat gender based violence and ensures ending violence against women and girls globally is a U/S/ foreign policy priority.

Why do we need IVAWA?

Violence against women is a human rights violation, a public health issue, and a barrier to solving many global challenges. IVAWA ensures that ending international violence against women is a diplomatic and developmental priority for the United States.

- One in three women globally will be beaten, forced or pressured into sex, or abused in during her lifetime
- Up to 70 percent of women in some countries have reported experiencing violence
- Women who are victims of violence are more likely to contract HIV
- Violence prevents women from fully participating in social, economic, and political development
- Women who have experienced violence often have to take time away from work or other activities, hurting the livelihood of themselves, their families, and their communities

What does IVAWA do?

IVAWA takes a multifaceted approach to violence against women, and it employs many strategies that are already in place. This bill streamlines the US’s current work and will not require any extra funding.

- Establishes a clear Global Strategy on how to combat violence and calls for collaboration with other agencies, governments, and organizations
- Makes the Office of Global Women’s Issues a permanent fixture in the State Department, with the purpose of directing the US’s foreign policy approach in relation to gender
- Develops Country Plans which will be comprehensive, individualized accounts that explain what violence women face and how that violence will be addressed in each country
- Regularly reports and briefs Congress on violence against women and the US’s efforts to prevent it