



H.Res. 32 - A resolution denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, ‘honor’ killings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and equality of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and peaceful society

Floor Situation

H.Res. 32 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 5, 2007, and was reported as amended by unanimous consent from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.Res. 32 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 9, 2007.

Background

In many parts of the world, women are victims of human rights violations. These violations include genital mutilation, “honor” killings, acid burning, and dowry deaths.

Amnesty International estimates that 135 million women in at least 46 countries have undergone female genital mutilation. In addition, they estimate that more than 15,000 women will be sold as sexual slaves in China this year.

According to the World Bank, one in five women and girls around the world are beaten or abused in their lifetime.

The theme for the 2007 United Nations International Women’s Day held on March 8, 2007, was “Ending Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls.”

Summary

H.Res. 32 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Denounces the barbaric practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, “honor” killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and crimes;
- Asserts that women are not chattel, should not be trafficked, exploited, or sold for services, and should not be denied the right to education, to ownership of property, or to participate in full, economic, social and political life;

- Demands the cessation of these barbaric practices and the dismantling of social and institutional mechanisms which perpetuate systematic discrimination against women and girls;
- Calls on all governments to pass enforceable laws banning these practices, prosecute any individuals who persecute or violate women and girls with these acts, and pass measures to empower women and girls and afford them equal access to educational, social, and economic opportunities; and calls on the President and fellow donor countries to promote the rights, health, and empowerment of women in every aspect of their foreign assistance to developing countries, and discourage continued acts of violence against women and the impunity that often accompanies these acts; and

It is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- Participation, protection, recognition, health, and equality of women and girls are crucial to achieving a just, moral, and peaceful society; and
- Regardless of religion, geography, or form of government, women should not be denied their human rights, and those rights must be defended and enforced when they are abridged, challenged, or violated.

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