



ISSUE IN FOCUS

LINCOLN RESOURCE CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CELEBRATING WOMEN

March 2013

Happy International Women's Day! The United States has dedicated the month of March to honor and celebrate women via *Women's History Month*. The United States is committed to global partnerships that enhance the important role women play in society across all fronts, including in economic and political fields. This edition of the *Issue In Focus (IIF)* includes a special invitation to youth to enter a photography contest that celebrates and demonstrates women's achievements. Please feel free to share this IIF with youth you know and others interested in the achievements of women.



[President Obama's Proclamation on Women's History Month 2013](#)



President Barack Obama: "Women's History Month is a time to remember those who fought to make that freedom as real for our daughters as for our sons. Written out of the promise of the franchise, they were women who reached up to close the gap between what America was and what it could be. They were driven by a faith that our Union could extend true equality to every citizen willing to claim it. Year after year, visionary women met and marched and mobilized to prove what should have been self-evident. They grew a meeting at Seneca Falls into a movement that touched every community and took on our highest institutions." [Full text.](#)



[Secretary Kerry's Press Statement on International Women's Day](#)

Secretary Kerry: "It is a great and too often untold global success story that so much of the political, economic, and social progress of the last few decades could never have been imaginable without the leadership and courage of strong women. Over the past year alone, we've celebrated

the landmark ascendance of women to the presidencies of Malawi and South Korea—and here in the United States, we saw the unprecedented election of 20 women to the U.S. Senate. That milestone was particularly meaningful to me, as someone who was sworn in to serve in the United States Senate in 1985, joined by my two teenage daughters and struck by the fact that I had twice as many daughters as there were women in the Senate." [Full text.](#)

[Women Central to U.S. Foreign Policy-](#) Op Ed-Secretary of State John Kerry **March 8, 2013**

Today, International Women's Day, is a day of celebration. It is also a day when each of us must recommit to ending the inequality that prevents progress in every corner of the globe. We can and we must commit to this so that each of our daughters can ride the bus to school without fear, all of our sisters can fulfill their tremendous potential, and every woman and girl can live up to her full potential.

[Lincoln Resource Celebrating Women's](#)

Give us your best WOMEN'S HISTORY
Lincoln Resource Center between the ages of 16 photography contest. moment, or a piece of honors the achievements or lives of women who inspire you. **Deadline: March 21, 2013.**



[Center Photo Contest: Achievements](#)

shot! In conjunction with MONTH in March, the invites Malaysian students and 23 to participate in a Capture an event, a artistic expression that

[Presidential Memorandum Coordination of Policies and Programs to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and Girls Globally](#)

Promoting gender equality and advancing the status of all women and girls around the world remains one of the greatest unmet challenges of our time, and one that is vital to achieving our overall foreign policy objectives. Ensuring that women and girls, including those most marginalized, are able to participate fully in public life, are free from violence, and have equal access to education, economic opportunity, and health care increases broader economic prosperity, as well as political stability and security.

[Full Text.](#)

[U.S. Laws Targeting Gender-Based Violence Empower Women](#) **IIP Digital. March 2013.**

The Obama administration is working to protect women inside and outside the United States and improve their ability to seek justice and empower themselves in their

societies. Speaking February 28 in Geneva at a U.N. Human Rights Council event on "Women's Access to Justice," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Paula Schriefer said U.S. domestic efforts to reduce violence against women have had "a proven impact," and the United States is expanding its efforts globally through the 2011 U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. [Full text](#).

[Department of State Implementation of the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security](#)

Department of State. August 15, 2012.

On August 14, 2012, the Department of State released the *U.S. Department of State [Implementation Plan](#) of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security*. The plan provides guidance for how the Department, both in Washington and at U.S. embassies and consulates, can advance efforts under the U.S. National Action [Plan](#) on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP). The NAP, which was issued in December 2011 together with [Executive Order 13595](#), seeks to ensure that women participate equally in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity. The Department's implementation of the NAP demonstrates its commitment to furthering the promotion of gender equality in service of U.S. foreign policy and national security.

[Chair's Statement on G8 Experts Consultation on the Role of Women in International Peace and Security](#)

December 2012.

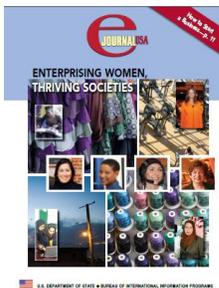
G8 experts on Women, Peace, and Security met with the United Nations (UN) and representatives of interested civil society organizations in Washington, D.C., on December 3-4, 2012, to draw together work already undertaken by G8 member states, collectively and individually, and explore options for how the G8 can work together and with others to enhance the role of women in international peace and security.

FACT SHEET

[U.S. Commitment to Women's Political, Economic Participation](#)

OTHER ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

[Global Women's Issues: Women in the World Today](#)



[Educating Women and Girls](#)

[Enterprising Women, Thriving Societies](#)

[Making Their Mark: Black Women Leaders](#)

[Women of Influence](#)

[Rachel Carson: Pen Against Poison](#)

RELATED WEB RESOURCES

[White House Council on Women and Girls](#)

[2012 National Women's History Month](#)

[Office of Global Women's Issues](#)

[USAID: Office of Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment](#)

[USAID: Women & Health](#)

[USAID Impact Blog: Women](#)

[Library of Congress: Women's History Month](#)

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