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Issue Evaluation Final

### **Women's Incessant Fight**

The most important of all women's human right, is the right to live a life free of abuse and violence. The question here is how can these rights be exercised so they can actually make a difference in the reality of women's lives nowadays.

The abuse that women and girls all over the world face on a daily basis has become a social problem which should be dealt with great urgency and action should be taken to stop all the violence they are subject to.

We know that violence against women and girls is a clear violation of their human rights which requires immediate intervention. The violation of privacy and threats to physical harm are a constant and invasive terror against the human nature. This injustice on a global scale have become more apparent especially with women and girls being victims of all kind of abuse such as:

- Female genital mutilation
- Rape
- Enslavement
- Forced prostitution
- Domestic violence
- Trafficking

Generally speaking, much of the violence is linked to ethnic and religious conflicts throughout the world. Long-standing differences among the local populations lead to a brutal conflict. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, once part of Yugoslavia, where Bosnian Serbs systematically raped and impregnated Muslim women as part of their program “ethnic cleansing” to drive Muslims out of the country during 1992-95 Bosnian war. Rape, mutilation and enslavement of women and girls are also common instruments of war used in ongoing conflicts in Rwanda and other regions in Africa.

Many cases of women’s human rights violations can also be seen in certain countries which have adopted Islamic law as the basis of their judicial systems. The most atrocious violations of women’s right and cases of domestic abuse are to be found under Islamic law. In Afghanistan under the control of the Taliban movement the minimum age for marriage was reduced from 18 to 8 ½ years of age. Afghani women are held as virtual prisoners in their homes and are subjected to severe punishment and in some cases even death for such minor offenses as appearing outside unescorted by a close male relative. Women are held to a strict dress code, barred from driving and often murdered by male relatives for committing adultery, while at the same time men are granted the unilateral right of divorce.

Even where laws offer official protection from abuse, women face violence at home, from wife-burning in India to “honor killings” of rape victims in the Middle East to the trafficking in girls and women in Asia, Europe and America.

Pursuing this further is Rita Chi-Ying, one of the most influential Women’s Human Rights activists. Rita, a well-known international feminist and professor of psychology at George Mason University tries to educate the public and make it aware of the global social

problem against women's human rights, identifying women as victims of social injustices that have become more pronounced. Chi-Ying, tries to get the attention to solve and alleviate the problems by explaining "as the world becomes more accessible, increased forces of social injustice have risen toward women and children and cannot be ignored any longer. Instead, the help must be proactive in addressing social injustices, both on a national an international level".

My conclusion after analyzing the 3 points of view from the issue summary is that as long as we recognize that the violation of women's human rights is a physical and emotional brutality that challenges ethnicity, religion and race in our society, we must continue the efforts to make a difference for a fair and human world. The right to live a life free of abuse, violence and enslavement is a basic human right, which should apply equally to everyone regardless of nationality, race, color, ethnicity, religion or gender. Understanding the complexities which surround the status of many women across the world, educating the public, bringing those responsible for violating women's human rights to justice are all important steps towards eradicating this social problem. The United Nations has to apply political pressure on governments to pass legislatures ensuring the protection of women's human rights.

Governments for their part need to ensure that the laws protecting women's rights are followed and that any violators be brought to justice. But most importantly we all need to recognize the fact that women are not second-class citizens and they shouldn't be treated as such. We all have a responsibility to fight for women's human rights across the world and should adopt a Zero Tolerance policy against the abuse of these rights.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and other global organizations should generate enough coverage in the media about these issues and should build the political power needed to make change happen on this incessant fight in favor of women throughout the world.

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