

International violence against women: US response and policy issues.

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International Violence Against Women: Response and Policy Issues

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Abstract

[Excerpt] In recent years, the international community has increased attention to international violence against women (VAW) as a significant public health issue. VAW, which can include both random acts of violence and ongoing patterns of abuse over time, can be physical, psychological, or sexual in nature. Research shows that VAW occurs in all geographic regions, countries, and cultures, with some research showing that women in developing countries experience higher rates of violence than those in developed countries. Many experts view VAW as a result of the historically unequal power relationship between men and women.

over time this imbalance has led to pervasive cultural stereotypes that perpetuate a cycle of violence.

This report addresses causes, prevalence, and consequences of violence against women. It provides examples of completed and ongoing U.S. activities that do or include anti-VAW components, and it outlines possible policy options for Congress, including

- the scope and effectiveness of U.S. programs in addressing international violence against women;
- further integrating anti-VAW programs into U.S. assistance and development mechanisms;
- U.S. funding for anti-VAW activities worldwide, particularly in light of the 2008 financial crisis, economic recession, and subsequent calls to reduce the federal deficit; and
- strengthening U.S. government coordination of anti-VAW activities.

Comments

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