

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 349

Calling for an end to the sexual exploitation of refugees.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD submitted the following concurrent resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for an end to the sexual exploitation of refugees.

Whereas the United Nations has received reports of widespread sexual exploitation of refugees in exchange for humanitarian assistance;

Whereas a report commissioned by the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees and the British organization Save the Children accuses dozens of aid workers in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea of refusing to give food and medicine to young girls unless they perform sexual favors;

Whereas the Secretary General of the United Nations has denounced this sexual exploitation and called for a full investigation of the humanitarian staff from the agencies involved;

Whereas international nongovernmental organizations, government agencies responsible for humanitarian response, and peacekeeping forces have all been implicated in various reports of sexual exploitation of refugees;

Whereas the exchange of sex for money or gifts appears to be widespread and many refugee children feel that there are no other options for securing their basic necessities;

Whereas the majority of the victims of this exploitation are girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years old, many of whom are orphaned;

Whereas insufficient food rations was cited as a primary factor contributing to sexual exploitation; and

Whereas refugees are often highly illiterate and susceptible to exchanging sex for food to help their families survive:  
Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3            (1) supports the Secretary General of the  
4        United Nations in condemning the sexual exploi-  
5        tation of children by humanitarian aid workers;

6            (2) urges the United Nations Office of Inves-  
7        tigative Oversight Services to conduct an investiga-  
8        tion of sexual exploitation of refugees by humani-  
9        tarian aid workers of both non-governmental organi-  
10       zations and government sponsored agencies; and

11           (3) urges the President to—

1           (A) affirm the commitment of the United  
2 States to protecting the well-being and human  
3 rights of women and girls; and

4           (B) instruct the Administrator of the  
5 United States Agency for International Devel-  
6 opment and the Secretary of Agriculture to re-  
7 view the distribution of food assistance to ref-  
8 ugee communities throughout the world to en-  
9 sure that humanitarian assistance to refugees  
10 provided by the United States is respectful of  
11 the human rights of women and girls and sup-  
12 ports young girls identified as victims of sexual  
13 exploitation.

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