

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 196

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should provide assistance for women and women's organizations in Iraq in order to strengthen and stabilize the emerging Iraqi democracy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. HOBSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should provide assistance for women and women's organizations in Iraq in order to strengthen and stabilize the emerging Iraqi democracy.

Whereas women represent approximately 55 percent of the population of Iraq, and thus represent enormous social capital for Iraq if properly supported and trained;

Whereas living conditions for women in Iraq deteriorated during Saddam Hussein's regime, and many women have lost jobs and been forced to abandon their vocations, thereby losing both financial independence as well as opportunities for self-determination and liberation;

Whereas under Saddam Hussein's regime and in post-war Iraq, most women have to focus all their efforts in search of enough food and clean water to ensure their family's survival;

Whereas the women's movement in Iraq has severely suffered due to sanctions and laws discriminating against women imposed by Saddam Hussein's regime since the mid-1990s;

Whereas there has been a sharp increase in maternal mortality in Iraq because women are not receiving emergency obstetric care for complications during pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas girls and women in Iraq are facing a major learning gap as compared to boys and men in Iraq; and

Whereas there has been a sharp decline in female literacy in Iraq in recent years and nearly twice as many girls as boys are currently not in school: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the
 3 President, acting through the Department of Defense, the
 4 Department of State, the United States Agency for Inter-
 5 national Development, and other appropriate Federal de-
 6 partments and agencies, should provide assistance for
 7 women and women's organizations in Iraq in order to
 8 strengthen and stabilize the emerging Iraqi democracy, in-
 9 cluding through the protection of the rights of Iraqi
 10 women and their families, the revitalization of the agricul-
 11 tural sector, the restoration of the healthcare system, in-

1 creased educational opportunities for women and girls,
2 and increased employment opportunities for women in
3 order to afford full participation by women in all aspects
4 of public life, including government.

