

when they walk. Women who are in their homes are not allowed to be seen from the street, and houses with female occupants must have their windows painted over. Parents cannot teach their daughters to read, or take their little girls to be treated by male doctors.

Women are also forced to wear a full head-to-toe garment called a burqa. This restrictive covering allows only a tiny opening to see and breathe through. I understand that some women may choose to wear a burqa for religious reasons—that should be their right. However, the requirement that women wear a burqa is a clear violation of human rights. And further, the rules surrounding this requirement are frightening.

Women found in public who are not wearing a burqa are beaten by Taliban militiamen. If they wear a burqa and their ankles are showing, they are beaten as well. Poor women who cannot afford a burqa are forced to stay at home, preventing them from receiving medical care.

The Physicians for Human Rights recently conducted a study of 160 women in Afghanistan and their findings are horrific.

The study found that 77 percent of women had poor access to health care in Kabul, while another 20 percent reported no access at all. Of the participants, 81 percent reported a decline in their mental condition; 97 percent met the diagnostic criteria for depression; 42 percent met the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder; and 21 percent reported having suicidal thoughts “extremely often” or “quite often.” In addition, 53 percent of women described occasions in which they were seriously ill and unable to seek medical care.

The resolution passed today calls on the President of the United States to prevent a Taliban-led government of Afghanistan from taking a seat in the United Nations General Assembly, as long as these gross violations of human rights persist.

My resolution also urges the Administration not to recognize any government in Afghanistan which does not take actions to achieve the following goals: effective participation of women in all civil, economic, and social life; the right of women to work; the right of women and girls to an education without discrimination and the reopening of schools to women and girls at all levels of education; the freedom of movement of women and girls; equal access of women and girls to health care; equal access of women and girls to humanitarian aid.

It is shocking that women and girls in Afghanistan are suffering under these conditions as we approach the 21st century. The United States has an obligation to take the lead in condemning these abuses.

I want to thank the majority and minority leaders for allowing this legislation to come to the floor, and I appreciate the support from the many cosponsors of this resolution who are working to end human rights abuses against women in Afghanistan.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I understand that Senator BOXER has amendments to the resolution and the preamble at the desk.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendments to the resolution be agreed to, that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 305 and 306) were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 305

(Purpose: To improve the resolution)

On page 3, line 4, strike “the” and insert “any”.

AMENDMENT NO. 306

(Purpose: To improve the preamble)

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas millions of women and girls living under Taliban rule Afghanistan are denied their basic human rights;

Whereas according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Taliban continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in gross violation of internationally accepted norms;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices (hereafter “1998 State Department Human Rights Report”), violence against women in Afghanistan occurs frequently, including beatings, rapes, forced marriages, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings;

Whereas women and girls under Taliban rule are generally barred from working, going to school, leaving their homes without an immediate male family member as chaperone, and visiting doctors, hospitals or clinics;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, gender restrictions by the Taliban continue to interfere with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to women and girls in Afghanistan;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are forced to don a head-to-toe garment known as a burqa, which has only a mesh screen for vision, and many women found in public not wearing a burqa, or wearing a burqa that does not properly cover the ankles, are beaten by Taliban militiamen;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, some poor women under Taliban rule cannot afford the cost of a burqa and thus are forced to remain at home or risk beatings if they go outside the home without one;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, the lack of a burqa has resulted in the inability of some women under Taliban rule to get necessary medical care because they cannot leave home;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, women under Taliban rule reportedly have been beaten if their shoe heels click when they walk;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women in homes must not be visible from the street, and houses with female occupants must have their windows painted over;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are not allowed to drive, and taxi drivers reportedly have been beaten if they take unescorted women as passengers;

Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human Rights Report, women under Taliban rule are forbidden to enter mosques or other places of worship; and

Whereas women and girls of all ages under Taliban rule have suffered needlessly and even died from curable illness because they have been turned away from health care facilities because of their gender: Now, therefore, be it

The resolution (S. Res. 68), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 6. I further ask consent that on Thursday immediately following the prayer the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 900, and Senator GRAMM be recognized in order to offer an amendment as under the original consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GRAMM. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the Financial Services Modernization Act, with Senator GRAMM immediately recognized to offer his amendment.

It is hoped that the bill will be completed during Thursday’s session of the Senate. Therefore, rollcall votes will occur throughout tomorrow’s session of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before