

less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than men.

The statistics of violence against women are appalling. Globally, one out of every three women and girls has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. Each year, there are 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 women and children illegally trafficked across international borders, with 50,000 women and children transported to the United States. It is estimated that 130,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, with at least 10,000 girls at risk of this practice in the United States. These statistics are unacceptable. We are in the midst of a global crisis and we can not afford to continue passing on this crisis of violence to our sons and daughters.

It is promising that for the first time, the international community has declared that sexual crimes against women during times of war will no longer be considered natural occurrences of war but will be punishable as a crime against humanity. Crimes against humanity are less in severity to only those of genocide.

I applaud and honor the work of women all over the world who live and fight the struggle every day. I also urge Congress to pass my resolution which will reaffirm the United States government's commitment to pursue policies to end discrimination and violence against women and pursue policies that guarantee basic rights for women both in the United States and in countries around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LANDMINE  
ELIMINATION AND VICTIMS AS-  
SISTANCE ACT OF 2001

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2001*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Landmine Elimination and Victims Assistance Act of 2001.

I am proud that I am joined in this effort by Representatives QUINN and MCGOVERN. They have been strong leaders in our fight to eliminate the scourge of landmines around the world and I look forward to continuing our work together. We are also joined by a bipartisan group of nearly 30 other Members of Congress. Our legislation is the companion to Senator LEAHY's bill which he will be introducing shortly as well with a bipartisan cast of sponsors.

The legislation accomplishes four things. It expresses the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should field currently available weapons, other technologies, tactics and operational concepts which provide suitable alternatives to landmines. I believe that alternatives exist that are more effective and less costly than mixed mine systems and that also match more closely our country's doctrine of mobility warfare. This view is shared by many active and retired military officers.

It also calls on our nation to end its use of mines, and to join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as

possible. In addition, it also codifies the Leahy-Evans U.S. moratorium on mine exports, which has been in effect since 1992 and is official United States policy.

Finally, it establishes an inter-agency working group, involving the Departments of State, Defense, Health and Human Services, Education and the VA, to develop a comprehensive plan for expanded mine action programs, including programs to assist mine victims.

The bill is the latest chapter in the work of many members of Congress to address the tragedy surrounding the proliferation of landmines. The carnage caused by landmines is well-known. Too many poor and developing countries have suffered tens of thousands of civilian casualties. The crisis that has afflicted much of the third world led to an outcry that forced the world to act.

The resulting international treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines has gained international acceptance more quickly than any other arms control treaty in history. The treaty, which came into force in 1998, has been signed by 139 countries and ratified by 110. However, our nation has not signed the treaty. It is a glaring absence considering our role as the world's remaining superpower.

President Bush has not indicated how he wants to proceed on the landmine issue. However, I hope that he sees that he has a tremendous opportunity in front of him. First he has the chance to reclaim US leadership and achieve the distinction of blazing the way to a truly landmine free world. It is a role that could help achieve universalization of the treaty which in turn would not only limit the threat of these weapons to civilians but also to our own soldiers who too often face landmines in peacekeeping duties around the world.

Second, he can eliminate a weapon which actually hinders our forces instead of helps them. Our current military doctrine emphasizes mobility on the battlefield. This will become even more of a focus as we move towards the more mobile forces that the Army has envisioned in its efforts at "Transformation". However, deploying "mixed" mine systems comprised of anti-tank mines deployed with anti-personnel mines actually restricts the movement of US forces on the battlefield. Even with self destructing mines that destroy themselves within hours, our forces may need to move through an area that was just mined minutes before. That is the essence of mobility warfare—being able to move at a moments notice as the battlefield changes. It is why former Marine Corps Commandant Al Gray once stated "What the hell is the use of sowing all this if you're going to move through it . . . We have many examples of our own young warriors trapped by their own minefields . . . We even had examples in Desert Storm."

However, this does not mean we have to give away military capability. We also have "smart" weapons currently in the inventory that can more effectively deal with armored threats and that do not have the "side" effects of landmines on our mobility doctrine and the safety of our fighting men and women. The US has been developing alternatives with the support of myself and Senator LEAHY. While these technologies show great promise, we must remember that we do have the ability

today to have a landmine free military that is more capable and effective.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that moving towards a landmine free military is a win-win for our nation and the world. We can help eliminate the scourge that has cost tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children their lives and limbs while better protecting our own military and achieving a more effective fighting force. However, it will take leadership.

We will fight hard to move this legislation. It will help demonstrate the will of Congress to show leadership on this issue, make permanent the export moratorium and establish an interagency working group that will more effectively provide the expertise of our own government in dealing with the staggering human costs that mine have already inflicted and will continue to inflict. Above all, I hope it is seen by the President as an invitation to strengthen US policy so we may see the day of a landmine free world sooner rather than later. I look forward to working with the President and his Administration.

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRES-  
SIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CON-  
DEMNING RACIAL SLANDER BY  
SENATOR ROBERT BYRD

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus:

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK  
CAUCUS CONDEMNING RACIAL SLANDER BY  
SENATOR ROBERT BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA

Whereas, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus regret the many years, in the not so distant past, when certain members of the House and Senate freely used racial slurs on the floor and in other public places; and,

Whereas, our great nation has made great strides in both de jure and de facto race relations and has established a new moral standard in public discourse; and,

Whereas, the administration of William Jefferson Clinton greatly advanced progress in race relations through his policies of inclusion and the President's demonstration of great personal comfort among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups; and,

Whereas, the current political environment is such that negative and derogatory sentiments, attitudes, and practices of the past are being resurrected as new, caring, and compassionate versions of sanctioned segregation; and,

Whereas, the sentiments, attitudes and behaviors of the Ku Klux Klan have long ago been condemned by the majority of Americans and outlawed by the U.S. Constitution; and,

Whereas, United States Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia recently made a statement using a racial slur regurgitated from the painful past Ku Klux Klan era, that was hurtful, incendiary, and counterproductive; and,

Whereas, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus consider it one of our priority duties to offer moral leadership on behalf of our constituents and to the American people