



Advocacy Update

Sent May 2, 2012

VAWA Reauthorization , Continued

Last week's Social Justice e-mail spoke of the need for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, and its imminent consideration by the Senate, as well as the steps the Administration has taken to address the incidence of violence against women in this country and to support VAWA reauthorization.

An [April 26th article on the Washington Post website](#), posted at 5:00 PM ET, noted that the Senate had just passed, with bipartisan support, a bill that would reauthorize and improve and expand services provided by the Violence Against Women Act. The bill would provide training to law enforcement and court personnel to prevent homicides of domestic partners by high risk offenders. It would also expand services to populations now unserved, such as battered illegal immigrants, Native American women living on reservations, and those in LGBT relationships. There are also provisions for new programs to increase awareness on college campuses.

VAWA Reauthorization will now need to be passed by the House of Representatives, where many legislators are supporting a more limited and inadequate version of the bill, which may come to a vote within a couple of weeks. WRJ will keep you informed about the reauthorization process as it evolves. You can also check the [Religious Action Center website](#) for updates, such as the blog on Senate passage of VAWA.

Anat Hoffman Will Appear on Amanpour!

Anat Hoffman, Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), was interviewed on Tuesday, May 1st, by the world-renowned journalist, Christiane Amanpour, about gender segregation in Israel – bringing it to public debate. Such debate will put pressure on Israeli decision makers to end denigration and segregation in Israel of women of any religious background. Excerpts of the interview will be available Friday, May 4th, on CNN online. <http://amanpour.blogs.cnn.com/>

In the April 30th issue of The Pluralist, IRAC's newsletter, Anat Hoffman describes a discriminatory statement by the manager of a radio station, which does not air women's voices, and also tells us how the bus segregation issue came to the IRAC.

Please read, then circulate, this e-mail to all your sisterhood members. Anat Hoffman writes, "We all need to be engaged in this issue. Together our voice is strong. Three years ago, women on over 5000 bus lines were forced to sit in the back of the bus, but together we have changed that and together we will keep this issue at the top of the agenda."