



U.S. AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

*file girls educ'n*

August 15, 1997

*The Administrator*

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Over the past two years, you have played a key role in championing girls' and women's education worldwide. Your launching of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Girls' and Women's Education Initiative at the U.N. Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, and your many speeches and activities related to girls' and women's education during your travels here and abroad, have had a profound effect on raising the world's consciousness about the importance of female education for sustained development.

You are clearly associated with the USAID Girls' and Women's Education Initiative, and, once again, we wish your assistance in focusing international attention on the role that diverse constituencies — decision makers and opinion leaders in the private sector, religious organizations, and the media — can play in ensuring that all girls have the opportunity to complete school.

We would be honored if you would provide the keynote address at USAID's International Conference on Girls' Education to be held in Washington on March 18-20, 1998. The session will be open to the press. We are expecting approximately 500 leaders from the United States and USAID-assisted countries, including government leaders, representatives of major international media organizations, heads of major businesses and corporations, and religious leaders. The Conference will showcase the commitment and contributions of public- and private-sector leaders to promoting girls' education as a critical international development issue. The goal of the Conference is to reach consensus on sustainable initiatives that will increase girls' school participation worldwide.

USAID is inviting a group of donor organizations, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union, UNICEF, and the Lewis T. Preston Education Program for Girls to co-sponsor this event.

In addition to highlighting the USAID Girls' and Women's Education Initiative, the objectives of the Conference are:

- to examine the pivotal role of private-sector and other non-governmental organizations in ensuring girls' school completion;
- to showcase and learn from leaders in business, industry, religious organizations, and foundations in the United States and other countries who are leading educational improvement efforts; and
- to create a forum for linking these leaders and sharing their successful approaches and lessons with public- and private-sector leaders in the United States and in the developing world.

Please let me know if you would like more information about the conference or the Initiative. We would be delighted to schedule your appearance to address the 1998 Conference on March 18, 19, or 20, at whatever time is most convenient for you.

I thank you for your consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely,



J. Brian Atwood

Enclosure: Announcement of the 1998 USAID International Conference on Girls' Education

# International Conference on Girls' Education

**Announcement**

March 18, 19, & 20, 1998

## Mobilizing International Leaders

### Conference Program and Venue

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has invited the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union, UNICEF, and the Lewis T. Preston Education Program for Girls to co-sponsor an international conference on girls' education. It will address the effectiveness, responsibility, and sustainability of girls' education interventions.

The conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 18, 19, and 20, 1998.

U.S. Agency for International  
Development  
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### Girls' Education: Key to Sustainable Development

The education of girls is important for all nations. It has high social and economic benefits in terms of decreased fertility, improved family health and nutrition, children's educational attainment, productivity, and democratic participation.

All sectors of society — business, religion, the media, academia — in collaboration with the government, can make a difference in the education of children, particularly girls. Over the past decade, numerous interventions to increase girls' school attendance, completion, and achievement have been tested, and promising strategies have been identified. The critical issues of the long-term effectiveness of these interventions, and the responsibility for sustaining them over time, have not been adequately addressed.

- *How can we challenge the notion that ministries of education and other government entities are solely responsible for solving the problems of girls' education?*
- *What roles can the private sector, religious community, and other non-governmental organizations play in ensuring that girls' educational needs are addressed?*
- *What can parents be encouraged to do?*
- *What interventions are most cost-effective in reducing the gender gap in education?*

### Goal

The goal of the conference is to reach a consensus on sustainable initiatives that will increase girls' school participation worldwide. To this end, the conference will:

- Examine the pivotal role of the private-sector and other non-governmental organizations in ensuring girls' school completion;
- Showcase leaders in business, industry, religious organizations, and foundations in the U.S. who are involved in supporting educational improvement;
- Link these leaders to promote the sharing of their successful approaches and lessons with those of public- and private-sector leaders in the U.S. and in donor-assisted countries; and
- Present new knowledge on cost-effective and sustainable approaches for increasing girls' educational opportunities.

### Participants

- International donors
- U.S. and international non-governmental organizations
- Religious organizations
- Private-sector, academic, and philanthropic organizations, and foundations
- Media organizations
- U.S. leaders in government, business, industry, and agriculture
- Representatives from government, business, industry, and religious organizations in Africa, Asia & the Near East, and Latin America

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education

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Women's Rights

Women's Rights National Historical Park

New York

Women's Rights  
National Historical Park  
New York

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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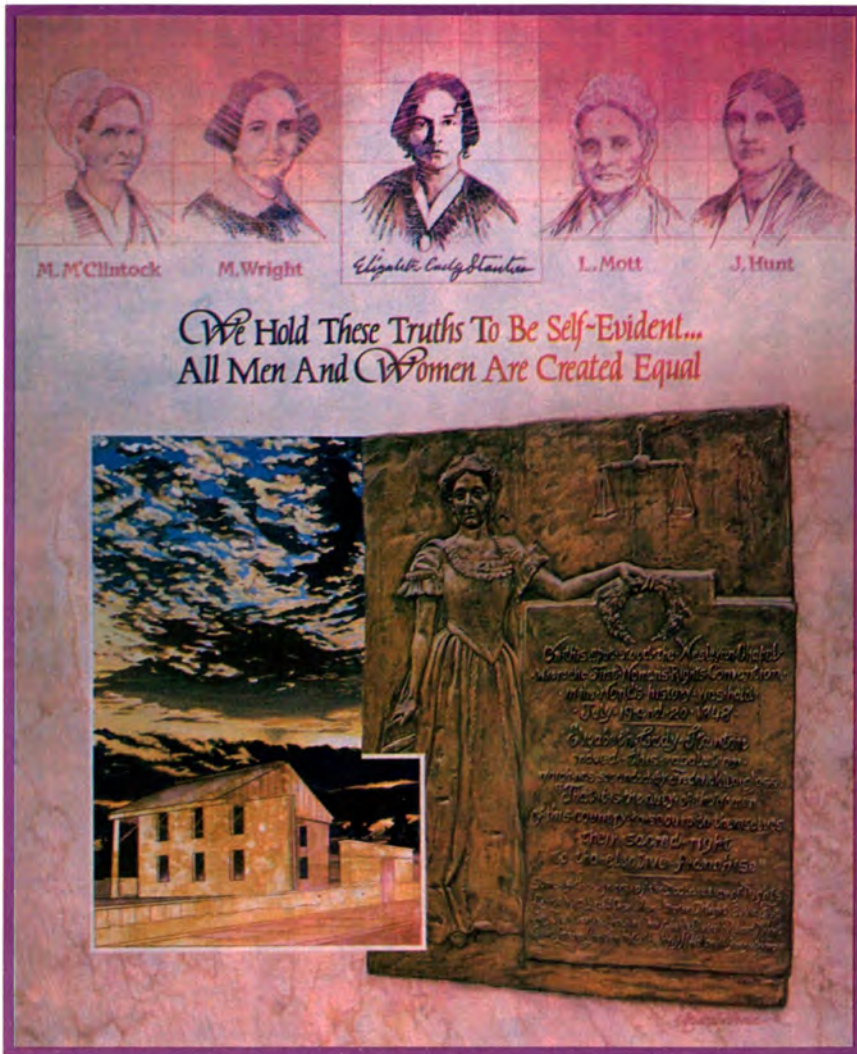
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National Park Service  
Women's Rights National Historical Park  
Seneca Falls, New York



Original artwork depicting  
the Wesleyan Chapel,  
site of the first  
Women's Rights Convention,  
and its organizers.  
By Mark E. Verna.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Women's Rights National Historical Park  
136 Fall Street  
Seneca Falls, New York 13148



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*Academy for Educational Development*  
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1202



*International Conference*

*Honorary Chair:*  
*First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton*

**EDUCATING GIRLS**  
*A DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVE*

*Sponsor Agencies*



Inter-American  
Development Bank



USAID



unicef

*Partner Agencies:* The World Bank, Delegation of the European Commission,  
Lewis T. Preston Education Program for Girls

*Washington, D C May 6, 7, and 8, 1998*