

DRAFT

PO ANITA, RICK, + KATHERINE

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
COLUMN #8 -- THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN BEIJING
TALKING IT OVER/CREATORS SYNDICATE

"Go to China and stand up for American values."

An American veteran of World War 2 said these words to me as I was leaving the V-J day observances in Hawaii last weekend ~~to~~ to go to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

A few days later, ^{as} I stood before the conference delegates preparing to give a keynote address, the veteran's words came back to me.

Looking out at the sea of faces representing nearly every country in the world, I appreciated even more the privilege of ~~being an American and~~ ^{as} living in a ~~truly~~ free society.

As an American, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are my birthright and the birthrights of all Americans. The rights we take for granted are fought for and died for around the world.

In some countries, citizens are not allowed to vote, speak their minds, assemble freely, or exercise their faith without fear of persecution, arrest, or even torture.

These are what we commonly think of as violations of human rights.

But, as the women's conference taught us, it is also a violation of human rights when, in countries around the world,

women and girls are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled, and beaten up.

If one message rang clear from the conference, it is that women's rights are human rights. And human rights are women's rights.

As I said to the delegates:

It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken simply because they are born girls.

It is a violation of human rights when women and girls are sold into the slavery of prostitution, sometimes by their own brothers and fathers.

It is a violation of human rights when women are doused with gasoline, set on fire, and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small.

It is a violation of human rights when individual women are raped in their own communities and when thousands of women are subjected to rape as a tactic or prize of war.

It is a violation of human rights when a leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 to 44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes.

It is a violation of human rights when young girls are brutalized by the painful and degrading practice of genital mutilation, which happens to millions of women in Africa.

It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced

to have abortions or being sterilized against their will.

Today, women bear the brunt of human rights violations around the world. As long as those violations persist -- and discrimination and inequities remain commonplace - a peaceful and prosperous life is sadly beyond our reach.

One reason we haven't progressed further is that so many women have been afraid to speak up and speak out. As I said in Beijing, it is time to break the silence so that women everywhere have a greater say in the future we share.

As different as we may be, there is more that unites than divides us. The conference proved that.

I am grateful that on behalf of our country I had the opportunity to attend this conference with men and women from all over the world who are committed to speaking out and taking action against abuses and injustices that fly in the face of internationally recognized human rights.
~~basic human values.~~

If we take bold steps to better the lives of women, we will be taking bold steps to better the lives of children and families too.

Families rely on mothers and wives for emotional support and care. Families rely on women for labor in the home. And increasingly, families rely on women for income needed to raise healthy children and care for other relatives.

The women's conference by itself won't change any lives. But I hope that, by encouraging ~~forcing~~ people to take notice of these issues, it will help lead us to a world in which every woman and girl is

given the respect and dignity she deserves.

Rev 2

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Our nation is the longest living democracy in history. We are often called the "land of opportunity." And life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are birthrights of all Americans.

That is why, as the veteran suggested, our nation's presence at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was so important to millions of women, children and families throughout the world.

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But, as the women's conference taught us, it is also a violation of human rights when, in countries around the world, women and girls are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled, and beaten up.

The goal of the conference was to value, nurture, and respect the God-given potential of every boy and girl and to

bring new strength and stability to families everywhere.

I am grateful that on behalf of our country I had the opportunity to attend this conference with women and men from all over the world who are committed to speaking out and taking action against abuses and injustices women and girls suffer every day.

At a World Health Organization forum on women's health, I met doctors and nurses who are trying to save the lives of 500,000 mothers who die in childbirth every year because they lack medical care.

The next day, I talked with women and men who are giving women the chance to earn income for themselves and their families through access to small loans.

I also traveled to Huairou, a distant suburb of Beijing, where tens of thousands of women from different organizations gathered in a in a muddy field to share ideas about strategies that had worked their own countries.

These women, many of whom traveled great distances to get to China, were denied the chance to fully participate in the United Nations conference. But that didn't keep them from making their voices heard.

If one message rang clear from the conference, it is that women's rights are human rights. And human rights are women's rights.

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To value, nurture, and respect the *God-given* potential of every boy and girl *and to bring new strength and stability to families.*
~~and girl is a clear expression of human rights.~~

~~I will be forever grateful for the rare opportunity to have~~
~~attended this conference and to stand beside~~ ^{am} ~~men and women from~~ ^{that on behalf of your country I had}
~~all over the world who are committed to speaking out~~ ^{with} ~~against the~~ ^{and acting}
~~abuses and injustices that fly in the face of basic human values.~~ ^{gives and women suffer every day}

At a World Health Organization forum on women's health, I
met doctors and nurses who are trying to save ^{the 500,000} ~~mothers and babies~~ ^{who die in childbirth every year}
^{who die} ~~dying~~ of malnutrition because their families are so poor. The ^{become 1}
next day, I talked with women and men who are ~~figuring out ways~~ ^{inadequate}
to enable ^{ing} women to ^{earn income} ~~create a livelihood~~ ^{and their families} for themselves through ^{medical}
access to small loans. ^{care and}
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I also traveled to Huairou, a distant suburb of Beijing,
where tens of thousands of ^{women gathered to share ideas that worked} ~~grass-roots advocates became a~~
^{in their own countries and encourage one another to work to help women despite the} ~~monument to the human rights issue.~~ They were denied the chance
^{to be studied they faced at home.} to fully participate in the United Nations conference. But they
still made their voices heard.

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Today, women bear the brunt of human rights violations around the world. As long as those violations persist -- and discrimination and inequities remain commonplace -- a peaceful and prosperous ^{life} world is sadly beyond ~~our~~ reach ^{for many of the} ~~world's girls and women.~~

One reason we haven't progressed further is that so many women have been afraid to speak up and speak out. As I said in Beijing, it is time to break the silence so that women ^{everywhere} have a greater say in the future we share.

As different as we may be, there is more that unites us than divides us. The conference proved that.

~~All of our mothers and grandmothers traveled a very long~~

distance against very great odds to find a place for themselves
in the world and to prepare a place for us.

How can we do be any less committed to finding common ground
so that we may bring respect and dignity to women and girls all
over the world?

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COLUMN

Vets (VJ Day)
Military people

} go to China + stand up
for American values

Look out at NGOs - so many struggling for human rights
why are women 30 miles away -

Human rights are women's rights

re:
China

to s.o. who is neither a student of Chinese
culture but learning more about wonderful
history - ∴ saddens to see that
oppression + victimization -
great tradition, great history + they're active

To lose face of grace may save the human race
[Arthur Goldkey]

← insecure, defensive

— more a tale of sorrow + bewilderment
than condemnation

Harlow } urged me not to go bc of what
is happening there -

it is a metaphor for women
being silenced all over
the world

~~5/10/2000~~

Begin — encourage participation by govts + NGOs

We are here:

to strengthen families

We believe: girls must be valued as individuals.
equality of spouses.

women should be able to make informed
decisions about ^{their} ~~their~~ ^{plans} ~~plans~~ ^{future}

want to see forces that weaken family —
pornography, sexual exploitation,
dom. violence — condemned & curbed

here not to converse but to make commitments

U.S. has led efforts to promote equal rights

U.S. commitments

Final commitment — speak out about human rights

No one should be forced to remain silent for fear
of religious or political persecution,
arrest, abuse, or torture.

All of us should be able to exercise control
over the course of our own lives & help
shape the destiny of our communities & countries.
Freedom to participate in the political process
is the inalienable right of every woman & man.

It is deeply troubling, therefore, that the
right to free expression has been called
into question here, at a conference

Conducted under the auspices of the
U.N. & whose every purpose is free &
open discussion of women's rights

It is indefensible . . .

It is a challenge to us all that so
many countries in so many parts of the world
fall short of the noble objectives outlined
in the Platform.

Every nation, including my own, must do better.

It why we will continue to seek dialogue w/
JFK - including that of our host - that
they fully recognize rights to
their citizens.

Look and this room & you will see women who have
reached the pinnacle of power and
authority. Go to Harrow & you will see
an explosion of energy & intelligence

Quote from Aung San Suu Kyi -

time to apply the wisdom & experience for

Human rights litany
Women's rights are human rights
< Women, children, & families >

Choices → →

WHO

Plenas
micro

} same pts at each stop

NCOs

Guam > part of the America community
citizens of America
golfing paradise / center

Took off from Guam / U.S. think I didn't know
what to expect

so proud of our deleg'n bc they are a
country of diff races, beliefs,

what's so great abt America is we have
people from everywhere

- much to offer the world & much to learn

- whole head ppl talk

Micro diff approaches to work

so much more to come -

Some things that are peculiarly American -
American values

American way of life

Largest living democracy

- must stand up for American values -

- Mohammed Youssef -

Beyond Stalin on position + def

What is it that really makes a diff -

one thing that is why is it called Micro

franchise - started 15 yrs ago -

✓ successful at ~~not~~ leading small acts

✓ money →

old lead
to →

fewer women in welfare

Disabled people couldn't get around

Struck again as I always am by all the blessings

we have Americans -

we have tried to be respectful

a woman in a wheel chair - Roman - grabbed

my hand -

doesn't get fair treatment as a woman/
or a ^{person w/} disability

Broad range of women

air conditioned in sat'l costumes ^{elites /}
Sloppy in mud + shorts + t-shirts ^{cool}

all part of same discussion

Thread that unites all of them
Some why all grass roots

MMM —

/Maggie/

- = broader definition of human rights
- narrowly cast —
- not not wide enough to have women's rights
people miss out in the policy of
having women's rights

any social movement —

every great social movement has depicted
a woman / ~~man~~

Mandela — his focus in S Africa —
shed to focus — rights of women

talked specifically about women
in mayoral address

a.o

has world — women
contributes to

link to the

show what we would like to be next. of
to think are needed to
be the future!

typ