



We are pleased to share with you, our friends and supporters,
the **Women's Commission's 2007 key achievements.**

To promote reproductive health, we:

- Investigated the lack of health care services for Iraqi women and girl refugees in Jordan, who are at particular risk of exploitation and abuse. We released reports (in English and Arabic), a briefing paper and three short videos to raise awareness and advocate through the media, blogs, presentations and take actions on our Web site.
- Spearheaded the creation of the first United Nations Task Force dedicated to developing concrete strategies to protect refugee women and girls from rape and murder when they leave camps to collect firewood for cooking.
- Engaged men and boys as active participants in the fight against gender-based violence—our work has led the UN to promote male refugee involvement as an essential tool in the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- Assessed the reproductive health needs of women and girls in northern Uganda. We are urging the U.S. government and humanitarian agencies to invest in programs that prevent maternal and infant mortality.



To protect children and young people displaced by conflict, we:

- Mobilized a critical new global initiative to improve educational and job training programs for young men and women.
- Promoted access to education for all children and youth in Darfur by pressing decision-makers to increase funding for programs, recruit more teachers and ensure adequate pay for teachers.
- Participated in the 2007 Clinton Global Initiative's (CGI) newly launched program on education.
- Conducted studies with youth in Sierra Leone and northern Uganda to develop strategies to ensure that young people's voices are heard by decision-makers. Our findings were included in the official UN report to the General Assembly on children in armed conflict.

To ensure that women, children and families seeking asylum in our country are treated with justice and compassion, we:

- Released a groundbreaking report on the treatment of immigrant families in U.S. government family detention centers, after getting special permission to tour the sites. We found that families—many with small children—are being kept in prison-like conditions. The report's release generated a media firestorm and formed the basis of an ACLU lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The lawsuit was settled out of court, thereby requiring DHS to follow a number of our recommendations.
- Launched a project with law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP to assess the living conditions of detention facilities housing immigrant children who arrive in the U.S. alone—without a parent or guardian. This project builds on our past success in persuading Congress to require that unaccompanied children are transferred to child-friendly shelters within 72 hours of entering the country.
- Advocated for policies to protect trafficked children, ensuring that they have access to appropriate services and protection, including the appointment of a guardian to protect their best interests.
- Continued to secure much-needed congressional funding to identify and implement detention alternatives for asylum seekers as they wait for their cases to be resolved.

To help refugees earn a living, we:

- Launched pilot projects in Thailand, northern Uganda, southern Sudan, Colombia and Burundi to test innovative programs that help refugees earn a living and provide for their families.
- Conducted studies in southern Sudan and Liberia to evaluate programs designed to help refugees who are returning to communities ravaged by war. We are advocating for increased investment in education, job training and income-generation programs that take into account factors such as local market demands and labor supply.
- Continued to play a leadership role in an international coalition of agencies dedicated to strengthening economic security for refugees around the world.
- Assessed the economic opportunities available to refugees who have made a new home in San Diego, CA.

To mobilize for change in U.S. policy, we:

- Fought for critical U.S. funding to address the desperate living conditions of over 4 million displaced Iraqis—the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world.
- Partnered with the International Rescue Committee to secure more than 50,000 signatures for a petition urging Congress to make additional funding available for the prevention and treatment of rape and violence against women and girls. The petition will help build congressional support for new legislation, the *International Violence Against Women Act*.
- Helped secure congressional approval of an additional \$350 million for U.S. agencies working to provide lifesaving assistance to refugees in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- Increased congressional awareness and oversight of refugee children who arrive on U.S. shores alone and are held in detention facilities.