



National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women

December 31, 2012

Dear VAWA activists and supporters,

Despite valiant efforts by the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women and our Congressional champions, VAWA 2012 cannot overcome House Republican leaders' opposition to fully including immigrants, tribal members and LGBTQ victims and survivors. Unless the House adopts the Senate version of VAWA in the hours ahead, 2012 will end without a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Aren't you angry? Wouldn't New Year's Eve be happier if you didn't have to hear this (and I didn't have to sit here and write this)?

Well, we knew it wouldn't be easy. In the last few months, leaders of the immigrant women's, tribal justice and LGBTQ movements have been working with Senator Leahy's and Representative Cantor's office to try and forge a deal so that VAWA could become law this year. We were willing to make compromises to pass the bill so that we could move on to an awareness, treatment, enforcement and prevention campaign in our homes, communities, schools, churches and workplaces. BUT the resistance from opponents who simply do not trust tribal law enforcement or the word of immigrant women or the needs of lesbians and gays was just too entrenched. Thanks to all of you for trying so hard to make this happen. We aren't giving up, right!!!

Our message is "We tried, but now the deal is off. We'll be back next year with a stronger Congress, a deeper determination and a firmer resolve to not let a day go by when we don't stand up, shout out, gather allies and forge a collaboration that will make it impossible for our country's leaders to ignore the violence. We'll not only pass VAWA but will demand an end to the violence."

Harness your horror at the brutal beating, rape and murder in India, the toddler who was ravaged by the bullet shot by her father as it passed through her face to kill her mother (WDC last month). Be outraged at the failure to fully address the violence in the military, in the workplace, in our communities of color, among our low income and poverty families, on our campuses, tribal lands and the streets and homes of our neighborhoods as well as across the globe.

Talk and write about VAW – the bill and the cruel injustice. Call, write to or seek out your U.S. Senators and House member and ask them to pass VAWA immediately.

Speak out early and often against rape, sexual assault, domestic/ dating violence, stalking, incest, sex slavery and all sexual atrocities that end, ruin and oppress people's lives. Get to know the Congressional staff people who work for the Members in your state and send them the research, analyses and news coverage of local beatings, shootings and abuse and ask them to act on behalf of their constituents who have been brutalized. Don't let up until you have turned your Congress people into VAWA supporters.

And commit yourself to a "rising" on February 14 this year (see below). Join an event in your community, plan one, corral your school classmates and colleagues, your car pool, your co-workers. If you only stand at your desk or waltz to the counter at the coffee shop, you'll be part of the billion people who are rising, dancing, demanding and sending energy and a message to our leaders that people deserve a safe and just world.

Happy New Year,

Pat Reuss

www.4vawa.org

[NOW activist's blog on VAWA](#)



SHARE YOUR PLANS:

The World wants to know how YOU are RISING!

What will YOU be doing on 14 February? How and where will you be rising We want to hear from you! **plans! Here's** how some V-Day activists are celebrating ONE BILLION RISING:

[We want to hear from YOU! SHARE your plans > Need RISING ideas? DOWNLOAD the toolkit > SIGN UP to host your own ONE BILLION RISING event or JOIN an existing event >](#)

V-Day Organizers: Get Your Event On the Map! Whether it's a production of *The Vagina Monologues* or a screening of *What I Want My Words To Do To You*, make sure that your February 14th V-Day benefit event is part of the ONE BILLION RISING map! [Add Your Event >](#)

"At Dominican University we are planning a Dance, Rise, Strike event. We will be engaging the entire campus, closing all classes for two hours, beginning with a rally at noon and then attendees marching to, and through, downtown San Rafael." - Dr. Denise M. Lucy

"I am very happy for the wonderful experience for sensitizing women and girls in my community in Sierra Leon about ONE BILLION RISING Africa to stop violence for women and girls. I involved artists, women of power, and students from different secondary schools so that we can dance, sing, cry, and to say no more rape for women and girls." - Kadiatu Kondeh

"I will be rising with my students to raise awareness in Newham, East-London. In the week commencing Monday 11 February we will be discussing equality and women's rights at our weekly Assembly. On Thursday 14 February we will rise! Our voices will be heard and nothing will keep our feet from dancing!" - Katrina McCracken

"We're working to celebrate Chicago RISING with coordinated actions at area campuses and with local rape crisis centers!" - Sharmili Majmudar

"We are planning to perform The Vagina Monologues in Persian language in 3 different cities in Iran. The members of the V-Day team in Iran meet every 14 days in Tehran and are going to perform in private houses in different locations with selected audiences." - Mehrdad Khameneh

"We will be rising in our lunchroom on February 14, doing a flash mob to the One Billion Rising anthem [Break The Chain](#). We can't wait to show our school Girl Power!" - Kate Shelledy

"Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is hosting ONE BILLION RISING and performing The Vagina Monologues! We're fundraising for a local women's shelter and hope to get quite a crowd!" - Allison Anderson-Cutright-Cisneros

"In Guelph we are putting on The Vagina Monologues and after we will launch into the ONE BILLION RISING introduction - and lead into a drumming circle with chanting, and dancing!" - Heather MacRae

onebillionrising.org [#1billionrising](https://twitter.com/1billionrising)   

[CLICK HERE for the 2012 Annual Report - The Path To One Billion >](#)