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***Remarks by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations,
At the Commission on the Status of Women, March 6, 2013***

Thank you, Madame Chair. On behalf of the United States, let me thank you for this opportunity to stand firmly in support of the safety and dignity of women and girls and to insist upon the elimination of all forms of violence against women everywhere.

I come here to reaffirm a simple, bedrock principle: that the rights of my daughter are just as real, just as sacred, just as self-evident as the rights of my son. We cannot live in truly free societies, if women and girls are not free to reach their full potential. We cannot live in truly open societies, if the doors of opportunity are not open equally to all women and all girls.

preventing and eliminating rape, abuse and all forms of gender-based violence. All women and girls have a fundamental right to live free from violence and fear. Whenever one woman suffers

choices. Community members — from police officers to religious leaders to health officials — must also fulfill their respective responsibilities to