



# Ethical Action Report



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**Save Darfur:** Demand Accountability and an End to the Genocide in Darfur

The Save Darfur Coalition held a successful rally in Washington, DC, on April 30, with many prominent speakers and a large and diverse turnout. Continue to take action by filling out a postcard at [www.MillionVoicesForDarfur.org](http://www.MillionVoicesForDarfur.org).

**Peace and Conflict Resolution:** Support the Department of Peace and Nonviolence Act (H.R. 3760 and S. 1756)

Urge your representative to support the establishment of a U.S. Department of Peace for the purpose of research, communication, and facilitation for nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflicts. To learn more, visit [www.thepeacealliance.org](http://www.thepeacealliance.org).

## **Civil Liberties:** Participate in the Scouting for All Rally

Join the Scouting for All Rally and Candlelight Vigil in Washington, DC, May 24-26, in support of justice and human rights for all. Become a courageous voice against discrimination and homophobia. For details, see [www.scoutingforall.org](http://www.scoutingforall.org).

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## **Human Rights:** Oppose the U.S. Government's Involvement in Torture

Our leaders need to hear the message that torture is un-American and unacceptable.

### BACKGROUND

In the last few years, widespread evidence has become available pointing to a pattern of torture and abuse toward detainees in U.S. custody. The ACLU released over 100,000 government documents under the Freedom of Information Act supporting this pattern.

Acts of torture and abuse go against all American ideals of freedom and justice, and compromise our nation's security. The military and federal government's refusal to condemn torture practices seriously injures perceptions of America at home and abroad.

The American government must take action by condemning acts of torture, while investigating and holding accountable those who have been perpetrating such acts.

### ACTION

Urge the President and Congress to investigate and eliminate torture practices. Sign the ACLU petition on torture addressed to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at [action.aclu.org](http://action.aclu.org).

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## **Civil Rights:** Support the Voting Rights Act Renewal

Prevent voter discrimination by making sure the Voting Rights Act is renewed and restored.

### BACKGROUND

The Voting Rights Act is a very successful civil rights bill, passed in 1965. Unless Congress renews several key sections of the law, they will expire by 2007.

Congress started hearings on the renewal of the Voting Rights Act on October 18, 2005. Unfortunately, voter discrimination remains an issue of concern for many minority Americans. This is why Congress needs to hold thorough hearings—to rightly demonstrate the need for important protections in the Voting Rights Act.

Help now to make sure all of the expiring provisions are renewed and restored. The expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act seek to prevent continuing voter discrimination. The expiring provisions are: Pre-clearance and Bail Out, Federal Examiner and Observer, and Language Assistance.

These provisions also allow for important federal oversight of local and state voting functions for jurisdictions considered to have the most persistent and worst histories of voting discrimination against minorities.

#### ACTION

Urge Congress to renew and restore the Voting Rights Act. Support voter discrimination reform and anti-discrimination enforcement. To learn more about the Voting Rights Act, visit the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights [www.civilrights.org](http://www.civilrights.org).

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### **Economic Justice:** Support Raising the Federal Minimum Wage (S. 1062 and H.R. 2429)

Support American workers by telling Congress to raise the federal minimum wage.

#### BACKGROUND

The federal minimum wage has not been raised in almost ten years and hardworking Americans are suffering economically. Currently, 7.3 million Americans earn only the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour and are still desperately struggling to make ends meet. Of these workers, 61 percent are women and 72 percent are breadwinning adults. More than a third are supporting children under the age of 18 and 700,000 are single mothers.

Nearly 36 million people live in poverty in the United States, and this number has risen by 4.3 million since 2001. The minimum wage is not indexed for inflation and a full time worker making minimum wage only earns \$10,712 a year, which is more than \$5,000 below the poverty line.

Two identical bills in the Senate (S. 1062) and House (H.R. 2429) would raise the federal minimum wage over the course of two years from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour. These bills still need more cosponsors to have a chance at making it to the floor of both houses for a vote.

#### ACTION

Tell your senator or representative to help sponsor or vote to pass S. 1062 or H.R. 2429. Go to the take action page on [www.now.org](http://www.now.org) for more information.

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### **Women's Rights:** Demand Protection and Justice for the Women of Guatemala

Encourage your representative to take action on behalf of Guatemalan women.

#### BACKGROUND

Women and girls in Guatemala face discrimination and violence on a daily basis. Since 2001, over 1,900 women were brutally killed. Between 2002 and 2005, the number of women reported murdered increased by 110 percent, while the number for men increased by 40 percent.

Few of these murders are investigated or prosecuted and little is being done to prevent future violence. In 1995 the Guatemalan government ratified the Convention of Belém do Pará (The Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women), and thus committed to specifically protecting women's lives.

Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA), Tom Lantos (D-CA), and Hilda Solis (D-CA) are circulating a Dear Colleague letter to Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas A. Shannon at the Department of State, insisting that the United States do more to protect the lives of women and human rights workers in Guatemala.

#### ACTION

Urge your representative to sign onto the Dear Colleague letter to the Department of State. To learn more, visit: [takeaction.amnesty.org](http://takeaction.amnesty.org).

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## *Contacting Elected Officials*

### **White House**

*Mailing Address*

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*Phone Number*

Comments: (202) 456-1111  
Fax: (202) 456-2461

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President George W. Bush:  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Vice President Richard Cheney:  
[vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)

### **Congress**

*Mailing Address*

United States Senate  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

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Visit <http://www.senate.gov> or  
<http://www.house.gov> to use your  
representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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