



# Ethical Action Report



*A joint publication of the American Ethical Union (AEU) and the  
American Humanist Association (AHA)*

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Number 08-12

December 2008

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**Separation of Church and State:** Ask President-Elect Obama to Stop Religious Discrimination!

Write to President-Elect Obama and ask him to restore civil rights and protect the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

## BACKGROUND

For the past eight years, President Bush’s Faith-Based Initiative has threatened the American tradition of separation of church and state. The Faith-Based Initiative has allowed hiring discrimination and proselytizing, and has lacked accountability to the preemption of state and local civil rights laws.

But now we have an opportunity to reverse the damage as a new administration takes office. President-Elect Obama has said he will continue a government partnership with faith-based organizations, and it's vital that he end the most destructive aspects of the Faith-Based Initiative.

Please speak up to ensure that the wrongs of the Bush Faith-Based Initiative are made right. We can repair the Jeffersonian wall!

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### **Stand up for Choice:** Tell the Senate Richard Honaker is Too Extreme for the Federal Bench!

Write to your senators and tell them to refuse to consider the nomination of anti-choice crusader Richard Honaker to the U.S. District Court of Wyoming. Honaker is far too extreme for a life-long appointment. Instead, a moderate individual who is more in line with American mainstream views should fill the post.

#### BACKGROUND

President George W. Bush nominated Richard Honaker for a lifetime job as a federal judge, continuing his assault on a woman's right to choose. Honaker has consistently denied women access to safe, legal reproductive-health services. He has called abortion equivalent to murder, and has tried to ban abortion in Wyoming three times (unsuccessfully). In addition, he also teamed up with an extreme anti-choice group to push for a ballot measure to ban abortion, which was overwhelmingly rejected by Wyoming voters.

Tell your senators to take a stand against anti-choice nominations today!

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### **LGBT Equality:** Tell Congress to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (H.R. 1246)

Ask your Representatives to become a co-sponsor of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246).

#### BACKGROUND

It's time to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which bans gay, lesbian and bisexual troops from serving openly in the military. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246), which has been re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, would do just that.

Not only would this legislation bar discrimination against gay and lesbian soldiers, it would protect national security and strengthen our military. It would also save taxpayers millions of dollars—money that we can't afford to spare.

Stand a stand against LGBT discrimination today!

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## **Human Rights: Support Increased Aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Write to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and ask that urgent contributions of troops and equipment are made to MONUC, the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Send letters to:

The Hon. Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

### **BACKGROUND**

Fighting in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has displaced over one million civilians. Most are without sufficient food or water, and lack medical supplies and shelter. In addition, Amnesty International has received reports of serious human rights abuses, including unlawful killings of civilians, rape and forced recruitment. The fighting has gone on despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the National Congress for the Defense of the People on October 29.

Humanitarian agencies are doing their best to help, but are stretched thin and overwhelmed. It's important that we help bring aid to displaced people in the DRC.

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## **Women's Rights: Support the International Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 5927)**

Urge your Representative to cosponsor the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) (H.R. 5927)

### **BACKGROUND**

Violence against women is a crime and a worldwide pandemic - at least one out of every three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

I-VAWA will be reintroduced in the newly-elected Congress in 2009. This past year, I-VAWA received support from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress. When I-VAWA is re-introduced, we need the support to be even stronger.

I-VAWA would increase efforts to prevent violence against women during conflict and in humanitarian settings, would increase pressure to find perpetrators and bring them to justice, would strengthen capacity of women's organizations working to bring such perpetrators of violence to justice, and would increase economic and educational opportunities that would reduce the vulnerability of women at risk of violence.

Speak out against the horrors suffered by women around the world. Demand that your Representatives stand up and support the International Violence Against Women Act.

## *Contacting Elected Officials*

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| <b>Congress</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| <i>Mailing Address</i><br>United States Senate<br><i>or</i><br>U.S. House of Representatives<br>Washington, DC 20515                                                                   |  |
| <i>Phone Number</i><br>Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121                                                                                                                             |  |
| <i>E-mail</i><br>Visit <a href="http://www.senate.gov">www.senate.gov</a> or <a href="http://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a><br>to use your representatives' e-mail<br>contact forms. |  |

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