



Iowa Branch Connector

May, 2015

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

The Value of Affiliation with AAUW: *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy.

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President 2014-16

Prevention of Violence Against Women is from Faith Sherman, AAUW Iowa International Relations Director.

The ultimate purpose of learning about an issue in depth is to provide the membership with knowledge and resource tools to enable them to advocate and to develop other strategies that will result in improvement in the lives of girls and women worldwide. The Women Graduates-USA has taken up the cause of violence prevention by forming a working group to learn more about this priority issue, to share what they learn, to hold monthly telephone meetings to discuss their work and to make plans for programs.

The topic of violence against women has many possibilities for study and action. The Women Graduates-USA passed a resolution in 2013. The background and rationale included:

“An estimated one in every three women worldwide experiences violence, with rates reaching as high as 70 percent in some countries. Gender-based violence ranges from rape to domestic abuse and acid burnings to dowry deaths and so-called ‘honor killings.’ Violence against women and girls—in peacetime and in conflict—knows no national or cultural boundaries.

“This year’s Committee on the Status of Women meetings, cited the 2012 UN report by Rashida Manjoo, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women the world over, which shows that the rate of killings of men has been stable over the last decade but there has been an increase in the rate of killings of women.”

The resolution states “that Women Graduates USA assume leadership within their own communities to recognize and address the pervasive and devastating problems of violence against women as a major obstacle to women’s equality and take steps to

1. Promote legislative and appropriate administrative, social, and educational measures required to protect women from violence in all its forms
2. Support the Agreed Conclusions document related to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2013) related to ‘Violence Against Women in all its Forms’
3. Work to support the end to violence against women wherever it occurs.”

If you would like to become a part of the working group on the Prevention of Violence or have any questions about it, contact kbhorvat@comcast.net, Women GraduatesUSA.