

March, 2006

# March is International Women's Month

A SPECIAL DEDICATION TO OUR WOMEN OF TOMORROW



OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

## Violence Prevention E-Brief

*From the National Council for Research On Women and Girls*

- Of the world's 1.3 billion **poor** people, it is estimated that nearly 70% are women.
- Of the world's nearly one billion **illiterate** adults, two-thirds are women.
- One in every four **households in the world is headed** by a woman.
- Each year an estimated two million girls suffer the practice of **genital mutilation**.
- Two out of three of the 130 million children worldwide **not in school**—are girls.
- Girls are a proportionally higher percentage of **victims of violence**—including rape—than boys.
- Girls' **math achievement** now almost matches that of boys.
- The **rate of arrest for violent crimes** is rising more quickly for girls than for boys.
- Girls are twice as likely than boys to be **depressed**.
- **Research on girls** has focused on risks and negative trends, rather than exploring positive aspects of their lives.
- The **voices of girls** are rarely heard in research reports or in discussions of policies that affect their lives.
- **Adolescence is a potentially healthy time for girls**, but the leading causes of premature death among women—including lung cancer, other cancers, heart disease and AIDS—are associated with behaviors that often begin during adolescence.

### Tool Box for Effective Service Provision to Girls!

People who work with girls need to be **sensitive to other aspects of their identities**- including race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, different abilities, and the communities where they live- that influence girls' actions, attitudes and ultimately, their futures.

Educators, a range of professionals, public officials and other members of the community should strengthen their efforts to **create a safe and supportive climate** that nurtures girls and encourages them to develop and pursue their goals.

Adults should **L**isten to what girls have to **S**ay about their own **L**ives.

Adults who want to help girls must **collaborate** not only with one another, but also **with girls themselves**.

*I would have girls regard themselves  
not as adjectives but as nouns.*     ~Elizabeth Coody Stanton

### COOL WEBSITES

<http://www.newbeginningsnh.org/html/teen.html>    [www.feminist.org/sports/](http://www.feminist.org/sports/)    [www.ch.org/themes/self\\_esteem.html](http://www.ch.org/themes/self_esteem.html)