



Stories of Courage and Success: Surviving and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Internationally



THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE
and leading organizations of a coalition of
over 100 U.S.-based groups

INVITE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFF TO ATTEND

A breakfast briefing organized in cooperation with
CONGRESSMAN BILL DELAHUNT
CONGRESSMAN TED POE
CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY

Featuring a special screening* of
PUSHING THE ELEPHANT

*approximately 5 minutes of the film will be screened

FEATURED PANELISTS:

• **ROSE MAPENDO**

Survivor & advocate from the Democratic Republic of Congo

• **AMBASSADOR (RET.) GEORGE WARD**

Senior Vice President for International Programs, World Vision

• **SAMANTHA MATHIS**

Actor & Human Rights Advocate

• **RITU SHARMA**

President & Co-Founder, Women Thrive Worldwide

WITH INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY:

• **Paula Kerger**

President & CEO, Public Broadcasting Service

PUSHING THE ELEPHANT

A film by Beth Davenport & Elizabeth Mandel

Coming to the Emmy Award-winning PBS Series Independent Lens in March 2011

When civil war came to her Congolese village, Rose managed to escape with nine of her 10 children and eventually resettled in Arizona. More than a decade later, mother and daughter are reunited in the U.S., where they must confront the past and build a new future. A story of forgiveness, hope, and the joy of family life, *Pushing the Elephant* captures one of the most important stories of our times, in which genocidal violence is challenged by the moral fortitude and grace of one woman's mission for peace in her country. *Co-production of Arts Engine, Inc. and ITVS.*

ITVS partners with a wide variety of organizations to bring its independently produced content to audiences in diverse settings. Our goals are to convene communities to discuss, debate and engage; ITVS does not take a position on any legislation or policy issues that may be related to the content of our films.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 8:30 AM
Rayburn House Office Building
Room B-340

RSVP to Aya Sonoda of CARE:
asonoda@care.org or 202-595-2815

Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic. In Iran, a woman faces possible stoning for alleged adultery, in Afghanistan a woman was recently mutilated for trying to flee abuse in her home, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo rape of women and girls is rampant. Around the world, women and men are taking a stand to end violence against women and girls. They are working to stop attacks against girls on their way to school, reduce trafficking in women and girls, end violence in the home, and rape as a weapon of war. When women and girls thrive, societies are more likely to prosper economically, reduce rates of HIV and AIDS, decrease child and maternal mortality, and have more participatory and democratic governments. Congress is now considering the International Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 4594/S.2982), which supports solutions.

