



For 20 years, WIIS has provided a unique forum  
for sharing expertise, making connections,  
and professional growth.

Contact: Jolynn Shoemaker, Executive Director, WIIS  
Tel: 202-687-2817; E-mail: shoemakj@georgetown.edu

## WIIS Report Card on Women In International Security

Women have made enormous strides in the past two decades in international affairs. In the United States, two women have served in the position of Secretary of State. Women are in Congress, on the Supreme Court, and in many senior positions in government. Internationally, women are serving as heads of state, ministers, and members of parliament in greater numbers than ever before. However, in the U.S. and within the international community, equal representation is not yet a reality, especially at the senior levels of policymaking, academia, think tanks, and in the corporate sector. In the U.S., more than half of university students in international affairs related programs are women, yet this education is not translating into equal representation in the profession. The fact that women comprise half of the population, and yet they are not in half of the leadership positions is an equality problem itself.

The need is evident for both qualitative and quantitative data gathering on women's presence in key decision-making roles in international peace and security. Although it is generally acknowledged that women are under-represented in various sectors of international affairs, the actual numbers are not easily assessable, and there is no comprehensive source for this information. Such information is crucial for governments, multinational organizations, civil society, and the private sector to identify the gaps that need to be addressed and steps that need to be taken for women to achieve equal opportunities for advancement.

### Project Goal

During 2007, Women In International Security (WIIS) will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization. In conjunction with this anniversary, WIIS plans to produce a report card that will gather statistics on women's representation in international affairs related positions. The purpose of the report card is to examine the current state of professional women in the field. The first report card will focus on U.S. foreign and defense careers and examine positions of influence as well as their feeder positions (those with the opportunity for advancement into more senior positions) and will present data on the following specific sectors that impact international security:

- The U.S. Government:
  - U.S. Department of State
  - U.S. Department of Defense
  - U.S. Congress (*Members and Chiefs of Staff/Legislative Directors*)
  - National Security Council
  - U.S. Intelligence Agencies
- The U.S. Military
- Private Sector (*U.S. defense contractors and consulting firms*)
- Think Tanks
- Academia
- International Affairs Journals

### Public Events

In conjunction with the report card, WIIS will host a series of public conversations on women's leadership in these sectors throughout 2007-2008. The panels will feature women in senior positions who will share their substantive expertise and their insights about the challenges and opportunities for women in the field. The events will also allow younger women to discuss their own perceptions of opportunities in the field. WIIS plans to host a gala event at the end of this series to launch the report card and celebrate women's leadership in international security.

### About Women In International Security

WIIS is the premier global non-profit, non-partisan membership organization dedicated to increasing the influence of women in foreign and defense affairs by raising their numbers and visibility, while enhancing dialogue on international security issues. WIIS has a network of 5,000 people worldwide – with a dues paying membership base of 1,500. WIIS has international affiliates in 12 countries around the world and domestic chapters in four cities throughout the U.S. WIIS has members in 47 countries and 38 states, who are policymakers, military personnel, diplomats, legislative aides, scholars, students, journalists, business executives, and lobbyists at all stages of their careers. They work on diverse issues, ranging from nonproliferation and arms control, to terrorism, human rights, sustainable development, environmental security, and conflict resolution.