

# NEWS RELEASE



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 20, 2001

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**Statement of  
Jacqueline Woods  
Executive Director  
American Association of University Women  
CARD Coalition Press Conference  
National Press Club, Washington, DC**

AAUW supports the President in his war against terrorism. We recognize that we have begun a war unlike any waged before. We are not fighting an easily identified enemy, but a network that lives in the shadows and employs violence as a weapon to further their goal of a world constantly in conflict. New means must be employed and powers altered, but in doing so we must also reconcile the requirement of security with the demands of liberty.

As we move beyond the overwhelming emotions over last week's terrorist attacks, we begin the difficult job of securing our nation and seeking justice. Time and again, America has proven that we are a resilient nation, and as we have so many times before, we will rebuild our communities and restore our faith in democracy. In this time of national crisis, we must ensure that those vital efforts are not undertaken at the expense of the freedom and liberty that are the hallmark of our democratic society.

AAUW has long championed the expansion of hate crime protections; today we call on all Americans to resist the urge to target people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, or appearance. Already we are hearing reports of people targeted for violence because they are perceived to be Arab or Muslim. Such attacks have no place in our society; indeed such hateful expression would mean that the terrorist assault continues to tally its score.

Today, we stand in solidarity with a broad coalition of organizations. Some of these groups have never before shared a political podium. Yet, in this time of national crisis we have come together to offer our political leaders the guidance and support they need to fulfill the difficult task of providing for our national security while protecting our democratic institutions. Incorporating these guidelines will ensure that our nation emerges stronger than ever from this crisis and that we will continue to serve as a beacon of liberty to the world.

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AAUW, representing 150,000 college graduates and more than 1,500 branches, is the nation's leading advocate for education and equity for women and girls. Please visit our web site at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) for more information.