

Gifts of Speech News

V. 3 #10 - October 2008

October 8, 2008

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1. This Is What Women Want



Tired of being talked about this election season? Done with being represented by skewed polls and stereotypes?

This Is What Women Want is your chance to cut through the spin and tell the media, the candidates and the world

exactly what you want this election season. Let's demonstrate how diverse we are in thought, action, and experience. Let's uncover what we have in common. Let's amplify our own and each others' voices until they cannot be ignored.

Women have been too much talked about and not enough listened to this election cycle. And it's no surprise why: the Pew Research Center found that only 30% of U.S. news coverage included even one female source. The White House Project found that only 14% of the guests on Sunday morning public affair talk shows are female. And the National Urban League found that in an eighteen-month period only three black women appeared on these shows.

This Is What Women Want is designed to help women speak for themselves and amplify each other's voices until we get heard.

Explore the site at the link below.

Link: <http://thisiswhatwomenwant.com/>

2. Women Are Overlooked for Science Awards

Women, highly accomplished in so many areas of science research, are woefully under-represented as the recipients of major science awards due to unintended, male-oriented biases across the review process, according to an editorial in the September 2008 issue (Volume 27, Number 9) of *DNA and Cell Biology*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. The editorial is available free online [here](#). (Click on **Looking for a Few Good Women.**)

During the past two decades, nearly half of all doctoral degrees given in the life sciences have been awarded to women, yet only about a quarter of full professors in the life sciences are women. Yet, when it comes to awards for scientific achievement, women lag far behind men, as evidenced by the latest recipients of the Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation awards, which, for the second year in a row, were all men.

--From the Mary Ann Liebert website

Read more at the link below.

Link: http://www.liebertpub.com/prdetails.aspx?pr_id=667

3. Almost Funny . . . But Not Really

From the Feminist Peace Network:

Poland's Minister of Health, Ewa Kopacz, has just announced the government's plan to establish a database of all pregnancies in Poland in an effort to eliminate illegal abortions. If this idea becomes law, every pregnant woman will be registered by her physician. Her pregnancy will remain under state surveillance, so that she cannot terminate it.

Shades of Nicolae Ceausescu! Is Poland turning into 1980's Romania?

[Feminoteka](#) a Polish feminist information service is suggesting a way to let Minister Ewa Kopacz know that she is demanding far more medical information than any government has a right to know.

Feminoteka would like all those who do not support this plan to send the following letter to Minister Kopacz:

Dear Minister Kopacz,
I know that you are planning to build a database of pregnancies in Poland. I am not a Polish citizen, but I too would like to be registered in your system. I thought you may be interested to know that I am not pregnant, and therefore unlikely to have an abortion. I send you my towel/ tampon as proof. I will be glad to keep you up to date on the state of my reproductive system.

yours sincerely,
(name, address)

The appropriate "proofs" of non-pregnancy should be included with the letter. See the link below for the whole article and Minister Kopacz's mailing address.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/3jswpq>

4. Women's Leadership in Africa

Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa strives to engage, inspire and equip young women and girls to become the next generation of leading politicians, activists, social entrepreneurs and change agents: Leaders who can transform and change institutions that legitimize and perpetuate discrimination against women.

Moremi Initiative is an initiative by African women. They firmly believe that the full and active participation of women in leadership is a prerequisite for positive change and development in Africa. See the link below to visit the site.

Link: <http://moremiinitiative.org/>

5. October Site of the Month

The Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking (IAST) is a distinctive partnership of organizations (spearheaded by The Salvation Army National Headquarters) united in their desire to abolish the sex trafficking of women and children -- one of the largest and most destructive routes into slavery in the world today.

We exist to create and equip a new abolition movement for the eradication of sexual trafficking, the protection of survivors, and the prosecution of traffickers and exploiters.

Read more at the link below.

Link: <http://www.iast.net/>



Thank you for subscribing to the **Gifts of Speech Newsletter.**

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--Liz Kent

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