

Questions for Candidates:

1. Most Americans recognize that the real wealth of our nation lies in our children, yet our great country has been falling behind other industrialized nations, such as the “caring societies” of Sweden, Finland, and Norway, in child mortality, child poverty, and educational scores.¹ Studies show a strong correlation between policies that support caring for children and these nations’ high ranking in quality of life surveys and global economic competitiveness ratings.² What do you propose to do so that our nation invests more adequately in caring for our children, and with this, in the high quality human capital needed for the new knowledge-based economy?

2..Studies show that countries where there is more equality between women and men are more economically prosperous and democratic.³ The United States is one of only a handful of countries worldwide that has not ratified the women’s human rights treaty known as CEDAW. Do you support U.S. ratification of this treaty? What, specifically, would you do to insure U.S. ratification?

3. Violence against women and children is the most prevalent human rights violation globally, yet its devastating social, economic, and political effects, including the, are still largely ignored.⁴ What do you propose to do to address this violence, particularly where there is a resurgence of fundamentalist religious vigilantes?

4. Government statistics show that women over the age of 65 (most of the caregivers or former caregivers) are twice as likely to be poor as men over 65.⁵ Studies also show that when we take into account women’s lower work hours and their years with zero earnings due to family care, women workers make only 38 percent of what men earn over their lifetime.⁶ Do you support policies such as refundable caregiver tax credits, social security credits for childcare, and paid parental leave for both mothers and fathers?

¹ *CIA World Factbook*, January 1, 2007 (<http://indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?c=rp&v=29>; “Facts and Figures, U.S. & the World, State of Working America 2004/2005,” Washington DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2005 (http://www.epinet.org/books/swa2004/news/swafacts_international.pdf); “Finnish teens score high marks in latest PISA study,” *Helsingin Sanomat International Edition*, December 21, 2007.

² *World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness 2007 Report*; *World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2006*; Riane Eisler, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics*, San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 2007; *Human Development Report 1995*. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

³ Ricardo Hausman, Laura Tyson, Saadia Zahidi, *The Error! Main Document Only.2007 Global Gender Gap Report*, Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2007; Ronald F. Inglehart, Pippa Norris, Christian, Welzel, "Gender Equality and Democracy," *Comparative Sociology*, 2002, 1 (3/4), 321-346; Riane Eisler, David Loye, Kaari Norgaard, *Women, Men, and the Global Quality of Life*, Pacific Grove, CA: Center for Partnership Studies, 1995.

⁴ *United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children*, Distributed to the United Nations General Assembly, August 29, 2006; *Ending Violence Against Women: From Words to Action*, Study of the UN Secretary General, Released April, 2007; for international statistics, see <http://www.saiiv.net/SourceBook/Storage/pages/stats.html>.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey*, March 2002.

⁶ Stephen J. Rose and Heidi I. Hartmann, "Still a Man's Labor Market: The Long-Term Earnings Gap," Washington DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2004. Across the 15 years of the study, the average prime age working woman earned only \$273,592 while the average working man earned \$722,693 (in 1999 dollars). This gap of 62 percent is more than twice as large as the 23 percent gap commonly reported.