



February 10, 2006

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you attending the DAWN 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons, *Recognizing the Dignity and Rights of Women*. I am especially pleased that this conference is jointly sponsored by two outstanding organizations – Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) and Vital Voices Global Partnership.

Throughout history we have seen in many places the cold dark region of the human soul that permits one group to de-humanize another. In spite of a half-century of progress since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we have not expanded the circle of human dignity far enough. In too many places we fail to see the injustice done to women whether through legal systems, economic means, political structures, educational opportunities or cultural beliefs. As I have traveled around the world, I have met countless women who know nothing of this Declaration and its promises. However, they are eloquent in their belief that despite everything they are told by culture and tradition, in their hearts and souls, they know these are God-given rights that they were born with as surely as they were born into the human family. I commend DAWN and Vital Voices for bringing together this prestigious group to discuss an issue which touches the lives of women and girls in too many corners of this world. Your efforts today shine the bright light of public attention on these transgressions of fundamental human rights. I applaud your efforts.

I send to each of you my best wishes and my hopes for great success in the important work to which you dedicate yourselves today.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton".

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator