

## **Advocacy Update**

### **February 21 – February 25, 2011**

**Athletics is a positive influence on girls** (February 21) – This article discusses the positive impact of athletic participation on girls. Higher self-esteem, better health and better grades are all benefits of sport participation for girls. [Read more](#).

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**UN launches new women's agency: UN Women** (February 25) – This week, the United Nations formally launched a new agency, UN Women, that is dedicated to providing financial and diplomatic support to women and to advocate for equality and broader roles for women in policy-making roles around the world. The United States is the primary supporter of the agency which was formerly called the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Chilean President, Michelle Bachelet has been named Executive Director of UN Women.

The agency will focus on five core principles:

1. Provide support to partners who want to enact international agreements and standards regarding women;
2. Support attempts to rewrite gender equality policies;
3. Advocate for the rights of the world's most underrepresented women and girls;
4. Promote a UN system to focus on gender equality;
5. Act as a global clearinghouse of gender-based knowledge

The agency's largest hurdle appears to be finances, as it was only given \$300 million in operating funds instead of the \$1 billion it was promised.

[Read more about UN Women.](#)

[Read more about the financial struggles facing UN Women.](#)

[Learn more about UN Women.](#)

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**Commission on the Status of Women** (February 25) – From February 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>, the 55<sup>th</sup> annual UN Commission on the Status of Women is taking place in New York City. The Priority Theme for the Commission is: Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. [Learn more](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch live webcasts of the Commission.

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**March is Women's History Month!** (February 25) – Many groups around the country will be hosting great events for Women's History Month. Check your University or community calendars to see what events are happening. Stay tuned to [nacwaa.org](http://nacwaa.org) for news and events from the National Office.