The Eleanor Roosevelt Project Hosts The Courage to Lead
A Human Rights Summit for Women Leaders
December 8-10, 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Receive Eleanor Roosevelt Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Human Rights

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Human Rights at the first Courage to Lead Summit in Geneva, Switzerland December 8-10, 2009. The summit organized by the Eleanor Roosevelt Project of George Washington University and Vital Voices Global Partnership with support from the United States Department of State, the International Labour Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, will bring together women human rights defenders from around the world to share their experience and promote mentoring and collaboration among established and emerging female human rights activists worldwide. “This summit will equip emerging women leaders with the knowledge, skills, connections and international support they need to bring about change in their home countries,” says Dr. Allida Black, director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Project, who planned the conference to commemorate the 125th birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt. “We want to develop leaders who can put together
sustainable programs to protect, feed, house, educate and empower women. Eleanor Roosevelt believed in the power of women to bring about change, and she spent her life working to improve conditions for all human beings. This conference is our way of commemorating and extending her work.”

The three-day summit will focus on three topics: access to adequate food and shelter, access to education and full political participation, and the eradication of human trafficking and other forms of violence against women. Utilizing comprehensive workshops, training exercises, networking and brainstorming sessions, participants will be able to design strategies to employ in their own countries.

Besides Clinton, who will be honored for her devotion to “women’s rights as human rights,” Cambodian Parliamentarian and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Mu Sochua, and Somali activist Asha Hagi, chairman of Save Somali Women and Children, will receive Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Leadership Awards.

Clinton will also speak to conference participants via a live video link. Other speakers include Kyung-wha Kang, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Margo Alexander, President of the Acumen Fund, Joy Ezeilo, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Patricia Viseur-Sellers, Former Legal Officer, Legal Advisor for Gender and Acting Senior Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and Elham Naji-al-Shwaily, Director of the Love and Peace Society and former Director of Oxfam’s and the Red Crescent’s water and food relief programs.