



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates for Human Rights and Mongolian Partner to Conduct Interviews on Domestic Violence in Mongolia

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (1/15/13) - The Advocates for Human Rights will travel to Mongolia on January 19 on the first of two fact finding missions to conduct an assessment of the country's efforts to protect victims of domestic violence. The Advocates will work with its Mongolian partner, the National Center Against Violence (NCAV), to interview police, prosecutors, judges, social service providers, non-governmental advocacy organizations, and high-level government officials. The goal will be to understand how Mongolia's current domestic violence law has been implemented and to make recommendations for improvement.

According to the NCAV, domestic violence remains a serious problem for women in Mongolia, despite the existence of a domestic violence law since 2005. The NCAV estimated that one in three women was a victim of domestic violence and one in ten was a victim of battering in 2010. While restraining orders are available to women suffering from abuse, they are often poorly enforced.

Proposed amendments to the 2005 law are scheduled to be introduced in Mongolia's Parliament in October of this year. To aid legislators, The Advocates and the NCAV plan to release a report with findings and recommendations based on its fact-finding before then.

Cheryl Thomas, Director of The Advocates' Women's Human Rights Program, says, "The Advocates applauds Mongolia's efforts to strengthen its domestic violence law and provide better protection for victims of violence. We welcome this opportunity to work with our partners in Mongolia to assess the country's current law on domestic violence and its implementation, as well as make recommendations for improvement."

For more information on violence against women in Mongolia, visit www.stopvaw.org/Mongolia.

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights. To learn more about The Advocates' local, national, and international work, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.