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February 2, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

RE: Protection of Women Refugees from Gender Violence


Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to follow up on my September 30, 2005 letter commending the Department of Homeland Security for recognizing, in its February 19, 2004 brief to the Attorney General in *Matter of R-A*, the need for asylum protection for women fleeing gender-based violence.

I would like to reiterate the American Bar Association's concern, however, over the ongoing delay in promulgating regulations consistent with your agency's recommendation in *Matter of R-A*, and over troubling reports of Immigration & Customs Enforcement trial counsel making arguments diametrically opposed to the guidance in DHS' brief. Once again, we urge you to cooperate with the Department of Justice to promptly issue these regulations, and to issue written guidance to DHS attorneys regarding the position taken by DHS in its brief.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Evans

cc: The Honorable Alberto Gonzales