

## **- WOMEN'S ISSUES ANGLE -**

As the wind begins to bite and sun tan oil is traded in for pumpkin spice lattes, the autumn often brings with it several important events. While kids anxiously count the days until Halloween and the country stocks up for a bountiful Thanksgiving, the world eagerly anticipates an often monumental and goal affirming summit held in the thriving pockets of America.

The Clinton Global Initiative was founded in 2005 by former President Bill Clinton as an annual meeting to bring delegates from around the world to turn great ideas into real results. The programs and the topics they cover encompass a broad range across global and domestic hardships. Equality, poverty, human rights, education, climate control, disaster relief and health initiatives are a few of the major challenges broached at these events.

There has been a solid history of many innovative ideas and strategies brought forth by insightful speakers and organizations that have been implemented in world wide policies and reform. In fact, if one were to follow the trends of a given year regarding global concerns, you would see a parallel in talks addressing those challenges head on at the following CGI collective. The 2016 Clinton Global Initiative is shaping up to follow in those footsteps.

While the country faces an important decision in choosing the next leader of the free world, the presence of Hillary Clinton as the Democratic nominee has brought a larger spotlight on a struggle that has yet to be won; gender equality and woman's rights.

The lineup of talks for this year's CGI appears robust in content over several major areas but the bulkhead of the ship seems to steer towards aggressively addressing Hillary's No Ceiling Project and the heavy issues facing adolescent girls and women globally. A large focus is being placed on educating and empowering women so that they may become a more active and vital part of world economies. The stress is being put upon the fact that so many talented and innovative minds are not being nourished simply because of their gender. Females being held back, stripped of opportunities and viewed as nothing more than chattel is weakening the structure of many world markets. Women who are given the tools to succeed are able to stimulate economic growth for their countries. By the simple act of educating, a world of difference is made in production increase, healthier import/export trade, lowering unemployment rates and government assistance, reducing poverty levels and building a stronger financial backbone.

The thought is that education and empowerment also builds leaders and thinkers. By limiting females, we are losing out on advances in science and technology. Possible cures, exploration and better quality of life may be just beyond our reach because they are locked inside the mind of an adolescent girl in Africa who is discouraged from free thinking.

The 2016 Clinton Global Initiative will be acknowledging growth in education and building skills for girls regarding business, banking, community involvement, literacy, health and perception, to name a few. Spearheaded by Chelsea Clinton will be talks on increasing opportunities for adolescent girls with a concentration on increasing life skills, education and creating gender friendly environments in and out of the classroom. This is a topic that has always been high on the Clinton's priority list.

The CGI will also be tackling the hot button issue of gender bias in media and marketing. While a long time issue in the US, hopefully we will be able to see some forward thinking towards the concerns of gender discrimination and objectification come out of this year's talks. Another highlight of this coming CGI will be the focus on basic woman's rights in health and well-being such as HIV prevention and combating teen pregnancy and cervical cancer.

Even though we can not gauge the results of the Presidential election as yet, we can already see the influence of a female nominee in something as simple as the upcoming program schedule for the 2016 Clinton Global Initiative. Regardless of who secures the Presidency, the contents of this event are imperative to our quality of life and survival as a whole. There can be no success if there are no solutions and resolutions can only come from open and honest communication and negotiation.

Through all of the trials needing to be faced and the blueprints that need to be laid, this years Clinton Global Initiative should prove to be another stepping stone towards a better foundation for our future.

## **- BUSINESS GROWTH ANGLE -**

The 2016 Clinton Global Initiative quickly approaches and with it comes a spotlight on business and world economies. There are very real opportunities that are slipping beyond our vision that could greatly impact investing and strengthen world markets. While this year's summit seems to have a usual focus on human rights and climate policies, there is an underlying thread of business development beyond our borders that should clue us in to a bigger financial outline wanting to burst forward.

There is an increase in communication on solidifying struggling communities and bringing an influx of education and skills to its people. For instance, there is a discussion being held on African economic growth and sustainable resource management. Businesses are thriving in locations thought to be financially stagnant or stalemated by war. The CGI is encouraging open talks and networking among professionals with the goal of uniting communities and providing cultivation so they are working towards stabilizing a single economy. Not only is this a triumph for the country and its citizens but this only increases the vigor and prosperity of the global market in its entirety. With each nation that improves from within, we are seeing robust trade, currency elevation, better valuation on production and more diverse opportunities for investing and strategy.

This is only intensified by the open dialogues that will be held on anchoring underdeveloped infrastructures in harsh regions and increasing the scale of services to the populace of those regions. By reducing risk and providing basic solutions for stimulating growth, we are enabling entire communities to create their own prosperity. Reducing the struggle brought on through poor services ensures a mindset switch from just survive to thrive. The event looks towards empowering refugees, war addled nations and rural communities by implementing the resources needed to sustain and overcome in order to exact the change necessary for stimulus.

A highlight of the upcoming CGI is the session on social entrepreneurs from around the world. The objective is to confront challenges facing social entrepreneurs and achieve a greater impact through scaling their enterprises. Issues such as access to capital, exposure to markets, recruitment, business models and incorporation of programs supporting women and minority based enterprises are defined and dissected. Through understanding the ideas and obstacles of international entrepreneurs, we are better able to assess global market trends and explore more fruitful opportunities for progression.

While the Clinton Global Initiative is no stranger to paving the way through climate difficulties, a discussion will be held on using climate solutions to bring prosperity to an area. One side will address how a lack of proper energy services can cripple a region while the other will pertain to how these conditions can lead to a surge of economic growth from businesses and governments. Investing in clean energy and sustainable services to these sections in need will provide better situations for health, education and wealth creation. A new wave of entrepreneurs living in these impoverished communities will start to develop and evolve. Similar to the climate prosperity talks, there will also be light shed on agriculture and urban development leading to spurs in economy and investing.

Particular attention will also be paid to impact investing and catalytic capital. Impact investing refers to investments made with the intention to generate not only a financial return but some sort of

beneficial social or environmental impact as well. The CGI will be delving into strategies to access more capital, talent and exposure to markets to inspire more impact investments. With the drive to illuminate how energy and agricultural solutions can lead to prosperity and embolden a nation, it would only make sense to provoke the desire for impact investing in those areas.

The 2016 CGI will be expanding on this topic by examining a wide variety and the most efficient financial tactics in which to infuse capital into these impact investments. Investors, bankers, donors and the like will be sharing current stratagems and brainstorming fresh ways to do creative financing and blend financial transactions in order to bring these projects to closure. With the varied structures of deal flow in today's market, its prudent to be aware of the broader scope of financial solutions available.

With forums on social enterprise, inclusive growth, the burgeoning freelance economy and establishing sector prosperity, the 2016 annual Clinton Global Initiative is shaping up to be an enlightened perspective on business development and world markets. Last years event was focused on impact and setting the standard for universal change and implementation. The 2016 meeting taking place in the heart of New York City looks to be setting its sights on skyrocketing that idea and enacting real world determinations and global economic proliferation.