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Elizabeth Lamme, 800.825.3695 elamme@owl-national.org

www.owl-national.org

Media Advisory

Report Release: Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2009 Policy Briefing: Tuesday May 12, 2009 – 10 am – Senate -Russell Building 485

WASHINGTON, DC – Anywhere from 500,000 to 5 million individuals suffer from the affects of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation in a given year. Women are two-thirds of the victims. This Mother's Day, OWL – The Voice of Midlife and Older Women, is highlighting the atrocity of elder abuse as a women's issue. Women will no longer sit idly by and let their mothers and grandmothers suffer from abuse.

It's easy for Americans to agree that all individuals have the right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, regardless of their gender, race or age, yet Congress has failed to pass comprehensive abuse protections for seniors for the past thirty years. For the same number of years OWL has been releasing Mother's Day policy reports on issues important to women. This Mother's Day, OWL is releasing a report on Mother's Day titled "Elder Abuse: A Women's Issue", and will be hosting a Capitol Hill policy briefing on the issue.

Elder Abuse experts from across the country have contributed research and information for the 2009 Mother's Day report on issues ranging from elder abuse from a feminist perspective to the role of overmedication in elder abuse.

Panelists for the event include:

- **Robert Blancato** - National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition
- **Maura Conroy, PharmD, MSW, LCSW** – Consultant for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
- **Cindy Hounsell, J.D.** - President of the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement
- **Pat Reuss** - Senior Policy Analyst for the NOW Foundation
- **Dr. Donna Wagner** - Professor at Towson University and OWL President

"This Mother's Day, OWL's goals are to heighten awareness about the abomination that we call elder abuse, as well as to ignite the feminist and aging advocacy grassroots to set in motion comprehensive federal abuse protections," stated Ashley Carson, Executive Director of OWL.

Women fought to pass adequate legislative abuse protections for children, and for the victims and survivors of domestic violence. OWL believes that women can fight to pass comprehensive elder abuse protections in 2009.

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