



Add women. **CHANGE** everything.

January 20, 2012
For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Kona Goulet, VP – External Relations
(212) 709-4450
kgoulet@thewhitehouseproject.org

CHRISTINE WARNKE HEADS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK IN WASHINGTON, DC Dr. Warnke Joins The White House Project to Advance Women's Leadership

January 20, 2012, New York, NY – Christine Warnke, award-winning humanitarian, author, and champion for women's rights has signed on to be the Washington, DC Chair for The White House Project, a national nonprofit dedicated to igniting the leadership of women in business and politics. Leveraging the strengths of Warnke and The White House Project, the *Washington Women's Initiative* seeks to advance the leadership of the next generation of women leaders in Washington DC.

"Dr. Warnke is a passionate advocate for change in the Washington DC community," says Tiffany Dufu, President of The White House Project, "Her dedication, experience and knowledge serve as an inspiration after which other women can model themselves."

Warnke has served as Chair of the D.C. commission for Women under three different mayors over a fifteen-year period. With a career steeped in human rights and education, she was one of the first women to hold office in the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1999, she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award along with then First Lady Hillary Clinton. She currently serves as a Board Member of the Smithsonian Museum of National African Arts' Advisory Board and the University of the District of Columbia Foundation Board.

The White House Project's *Washington Women's Initiative* provides opportunities for women to build valuable bridges with mentors, emerging leaders, and their peers. "I am very excited that the White House Project is expanding to Washington DC," said former DC Mayor Anthony Williams. "The Washington Women's Initiative is truly an inspiration. And I cannot envision anyone better suited for this task than Christine Warnke. Christine epitomizes both the inspirational and practical goals fundamental to The White House Project."

ABOUT DR. WARNKE

Dr. Christine M. Warnke is currently the Senior Governmental Affairs Advisor at Hogan and Hartson, L.L.P. She was appointed by Mayor Anthony Williams and confirmed by the Washington, D.C. City Council to serve on the District of Columbia Human Rights Commission, and has spearheaded the D.C. Commission for Women. Dr. Warnke has received many honors for her work with women and women's initiatives, both in the US and abroad. In 2002, she was the sole honoree of the Salute to Women Award, given every two years for excellence in serving the international and national community by the Daughters of Penelope, the largest and oldest international auxiliary of

women of Hellenic descent. In 2009, she was named a Gusi Peace Prize Laureate in the “Economics & Humanitarianism” category, one of nineteen international recipients. Dr. Warnke’s lengthy list of accomplishments includes being one of the first women to hold office in the Junior Chamber of Commerce and being the founding president of the Hellenic American Women’s Council. She sits on the boards of the Smithsonian and of the University of the District of Columbia. Dr. Warnke received her doctoral degree from the University of Maryland in 1993 and her Masters of Science in 1975 from the University of Maryland.

ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE PROJECT

The White House Project, a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization, 501(c)(3), aims to advance women’s leadership in all communities and sectors, up to the U.S. presidency. By filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women, we make American institutions, businesses and government truly representative. Through multi-platform programs, The White House Project creates a culture where America’s most valuable untapped resource—women—can succeed in all realms.

To advance this mission, The White House Project strives to support women and the issues that allow women to lead in their own lives and in the world. When women leaders bring their voices, vision and leadership to the table alongside men, the debate is more robust and the policy is more inclusive and sustainable. By supporting women and the values that allow women to succeed—the full range of health options, security platforms that utilize all our resources, economic stability for all—we work to create an equitable culture.

###