



THE *Isabel Allende*  
FOUNDATION

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## NEWS RELEASE

NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL: September 12, 2013  
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### **Isabel Allende Foundation Award Promotes Women's Rights Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch Receives 2013 Espiritu Award**

SAUSALITO, Calif., September 12, 2013 — Internationally acclaimed author Isabel Allende announced today that the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch is this year's recipient of her foundation's annual Espiritu Award.

A leading defender of human rights worldwide, Human Rights Watch was one of the first independent organizations to focus on women's rights in particular. The Women's Rights Division was created in 1993 to expose rights violations against women and to press policymakers to improve the lives of women through legislation, enforcement of existing laws, vocal opposition to repressive practices, and more.

"It may be the 21st century, but for too many women and girls around the world it might as well be the Dark Ages," says Allende. "They are married as children, trafficked into forced labor, denied education and trapped in wars where rape is used as a weapon. The Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch gives oppressed women a voice, and its rigorous investigation of rights abuses and targeted advocacy build irresistible pressure for action and change."

Human Rights Watch will receive a grant of \$80,000 and be honored by Allende at its first Women's Rights Summit in San Francisco today. The summit, the first ever hosted by the Women's Rights Division, will highlight the organization's critical work on reproductive health, violence against women, and economic and labor rights.

### **About the Isabel Allende Foundation**

Founded in 1996 in honor of the author's daughter, who died at age 28, the Isabel Allende Foundation supports select nonprofits dedicated to providing women and girls with reproductive self-determination, healthcare and education, as well as protection from violence, exploitation and discrimination. It envisions a world in which girls can achieve their full potential and women are able to participate as equal members of society.

For more information about the Isabel Allende Foundation, visit [www.isabelallendefoundation.org](http://www.isabelallendefoundation.org). Additional information about Isabel Allende can be found at [www.isabelallende.com](http://www.isabelallende.com).

Background on Human Rights Watch and today's Women's Right Summit in San Francisco is available at [www.humanrightswatch.org](http://www.humanrightswatch.org).