Maria Bello
Actress, Activist & Adventurer

Maria Bello is an internationally renowned actor and women's rights activist and the co-founder of We Advance, a women's movement and NGO based in Cite Soleil, Haiti. The organization advocates for women throughout the country to have full political, economic, and social participation.

Having starred in over 30 movies (including *Coyote Ugly*, *A History of Violence*, and *The Cooler*), Bello has had several nominations and wins for her acting, including the Golden Globe Awards and the NY Film Critic's Awards. She was most recently seen playing "Det. Jane Timoney" on the critically acclaimed NBC drama *Prime Suspect*, and will be in season 2 of the FOX drama *Touch* as well as Adam Sandler's *Grown Ups 2*, slated for a summer 2013 release.

Bello began her career as an activist at Villanova University, where she majored in peace and justice education and worked at the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia. In 2009 she was voted one of *Variety* magazine's most powerful women in Hollywood for her activism with women in Darfur. Since 2008, she has worked in Haiti with Artists for Peace and Justice and Femmes en Democratie. Additionally, Bello raised funds and produced a women's media campaign for the elections in November, and spearheaded the opening of the women's clinic in the Petionville Camp immediately following the earthquake. She is a member of CGI and works on gender policy within the Haiti Network.

Maria Bello was named a Vital Voices Global Ambassador for women and participated in the first ever Vital Voices / Bank of America International Women's Conference in Haiti. She speaks around the world on social impact investing, Haiti, and women's rights. In 2012, she was a keynote speaker at the State Department's Forum on Impact Investing.

Topics:
- You Serve Best by Doing What You Love Most
- The Importance of Investing in Women
- Social Impact & Civic Engagement
- Disaster Relief, Healthcare & Women's Issues in Developing Countries
- Caregiving: A Personal Perspective