

October 25, 2021

Shalanda Young
Acting Director,
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge you to boldly increase investments in global gender equality through the Biden Administration's FY 2023 funding request. Over the past 18 months, it has been clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already wide gap in gender equality and equity around the world. It is similarly clear that, unless the United States dedicates significant resources to closing those gaps, decades of incremental progress for women and girls globally will be lost. To effectively build back better and achieve the Biden Administration's ambitious and commendable vision for advancing gender equity, robust funding for gender programming is not only strategic, it is urgently required. One cannot be accomplished without the other.

On March 8, 2021, President Biden's Executive Order establishing the White House Gender Policy Council stated, "Advancing gender equity and equality is a matter of human rights, justice, and fairness. It is also a strategic imperative that reduces poverty and promotes economic growth, increases access to education, improves health outcomes, advances political stability, and fosters democracy. The full participation of all people — including women and girls — across all aspects of our society is essential to the economic well-being, health, and security of our Nation and of the world."

To meet the President's own call to action, the Biden Administration must reverse the trend of underinvestment in women and girls. Over the past 6 years, our community has repeatedly sounded the alarm that resources allocated to gender equality are falling well short of the global need. The budget request attributed to gender has steadily declined since 2014 and while the FY22 request marks an increase from the historic lows under the Trump Administration, it remains about a billion dollars less than the FY14 peak request when adjusted for inflation. This leaves the United States far behind its allies in its commitments to gender equality, where the [U.S. currently ranks 3rd from last](#).

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Request (Obama)	Request (Obama)	Request (Obama)	Request(Obama)	Request(Trump)	Request(Trump)	Request(Trump)	Request(Trump)	Request((Biden)
\$1,910	\$1,840	\$1,737	\$1,337	\$782	\$875	\$817	\$875	\$1,194

This decline in resources requested is happening despite the continuous and persistent assault on the rights and opportunities of women and girls worldwide: [132 million](#) girls are not in school today, the [majority](#) of world's poor are women; [12 million](#) girls are married before the age of 18 each year; and 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately \$1.5 trillion. These figures are rising dramatically as a result of the pandemic, which has laid bare the underlying inequities affecting communities -- and largely the women and girls in them -- worldwide.

As such, we respectfully urge you to at a minimum request \$2.25 billion to integrate gender equality into U.S. foreign assistance and advance gender equality globally. This is an investment not just in saving lives but in building a system with wide-ranging impact for women and girls, communities, nations, and the global community as a whole.

We understand you face difficult budget choices and there are many priorities you must consider, but our nation must be a leader in providing these essential resources. We look forward to working with you and with Congress to secure the funding necessary to advance gender equality, which will not only support millions of women and girls, but will in turn promote sustainable development, strengthen national security, and reduce poverty around the world, and note that any increases to the accounts listed above should not come at the expense of other poverty-focused development or humanitarian assistance accounts.

Sincerely,

Supporting Organizations

Advocates for Youth
Alliance for Peacebuilding
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Aware Girls
CARE
Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria
Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
Colorado Coalition on Women, Peace and Security
Collective Impact
Council for Global Equality
El-Karama
Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network)
Every Woman Treaty
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Futures Without Violence
GWU/Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs
Girl Rising
Girl Up
Global Fund for Women
Global Justice Center
Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation

Global Women's Institute
GreeneWorks
Heartland Alliance International
Her Story Mentorship
International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law (IANGEL)
International Center on Research on Women
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
International Partnership for Microbicides
International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPFWHR)
Ipas
Islamic Relief USA
Just Like My Child Foundation
Kakenya's Dream
Karuna Center for Peacebuilding
KIOO Project
Last Mile4D
League of Women Voters of the United States
Milaan Foundation
Nonviolent Peaceforce
North American Men Engage Network (NAMEN)
Outright Action International
PAI
PFLAG National
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Population Media Center
Promundo
Room to Read
Save the Children
Seeds to Sew International
The Global Justice Institute
The Women's Collective
Together for Girls
United Nations Association of the USA
White Ribbon Alliance
Women for Women International
Women Graduates USA
Women Pillar Alliance (WOPA)
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.
Women's Action for New Direction (WAND)
Women's Refugee Commission
Women's Regional Network: Afghanistan, Pakistan and India
World Learning
Zonta International

TOPLINE REQUEST CHART:

CATEGORY	TOPLINE REQUEST AMOUNT
GENDER EQUALITY (STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS):	No less than \$2,250,000,000 in FY23 for gender equality to match previous peak funding levels and a commitment to integrate gender in 100% of foreign policy spending by 2025, and to have about 20% of foreign assistance spending dedicated to closing gender gaps (about \$6 billion in aid alone)
GENDER EQUALITY STAFFING AND TRAINING	Have dedicated funding across all foreign policy agencies for increased gender staff and gender training to implement the gender strategy mandates.
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	No less than \$400,000,000 to support efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence worldwide.
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	No less than \$350,000,000 for all activities that foster women's economic empowerment.
EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS & ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE	No less than \$250,000,000 dollars for the coordination and implementation of the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls , AND no less than \$30,000,000 dollars to be dedicated to the implementation of a coordinated and comprehensive effort to end child marriage and meet the needs of married girls globally in alignment with the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls .
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY	No less than \$355,000,000 to support the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security , and its implementation plans for the U.S. Department of State , Department of Defense , Department of Homeland Security , and USAID .
WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LEADERSHIP	No less than \$50,000,000 to increase leadership opportunities for women and girls in countries where they suffer discrimination due to law, policy, or practice.
WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM	No less than \$19,000,000 to support and engage women and girls who are at risk from extremism and conflict and help with the implementation of the U.S. Strategy to Support Women and Girls at Risk from Violent Extremism and Conflict released publicly in October 2018.

FUNDING REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE:

1. **GENDER EQUALITY** - We request a minimum of \$2,250,000,000 in FY23 to promote gender equality in United States Government diplomatic, development and humanitarian efforts. This would represent a return to peak funding levels adjusted for inflation, and signal a commitment in State and Foreign Operations to fund the goals expressed via the establishment of the [White House Gender Policy Council](#). Additionally, the Administration should commit to 100 percent of U.S. international funding incorporating gender and social inclusion in project design, implementation, and evaluation (i.e., be “gender mainstreamed”), and further commit to a benchmark of 20 percent of U.S. international funding having gender equality as a primary objective. This funding and subsequent supported projects and initiatives would cut across all sectors and areas of foreign policy (e.g., trade, migration, defense) to ensure that all of US foreign policy addresses gender inequalities and different needs, perspectives, and challenges faced by people of different genders.

This should be combined with a commitment to scale up funding to address the large global gender gaps that will take [over 100 years to close at the current rate of change](#). Funding should be scaled up in following ways:

- a. The CBJ category “*Gender Equality/Women’s Empowerment-Primary*”, should be updated to include a commitment to be scaled up to 20% of international assistance by 2025. This means that at a minimum there should be at least \$6 billion in foreign assistance funding that has a main goal of closing gender gaps.
- b. The CBJ category “*Gender Equality/Women’s Empowerment-Secondary*” should be updated to also include that “all activities should integrate gender” and include a commitment to mainstream gender in all projects by 2025 so that 100 percent of funding qualifies to at least be counted as gender equality secondary.” This commitment should go beyond foreign assistance and include all foreign policy efforts including, development finance, trade, defense, and immigration.
- c. An additional category should also be added for funds to feminist and women’s rights organizations. At a minimum, the FY22 request for this new category should be \$270 million, and should be scaled up in subsequent years.

The Biden Administration should also invest in building the internal capacity and infrastructure to make this effort effective. **The Administration should request dedicated funding for additional administrative/operating expenses for training of all staff across agencies, departments, programs, sectors, offices, and functional staff (like contracting officers and procurement teams) and also for increased staff with gender expertise.** This should include high level dedicated gender staff at every foreign policy agency (those focused on Trade, Foreign Assistance, Diplomacy, Defense, and Immigration) and staffing levels on the White House Gender Policy Council that mirror all other government councils. This will lay the foundation to enable teams to integrate and target gender more holistically, with accountability mechanisms to ensure the goal of 100 percent of foreign assistance integrating gender can realistically be met. See Annex for specific figures and rough estimates.

2. **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)** - We request no less than \$400,000,000 to support efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence worldwide. This funding should build upon existing investments, including implementation of the interagency [U.S.](#)

[Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV Globally](#), and address newer concerns such as the dramatic increase of GBV as a result of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and the linkages between GBV and [climate change](#). GBV programs should address GBV across various contexts, including developing, fragile, and crisis-affected areas, and approach GBV prevention and response across the life cycle and the range of intersectional identities (e.g., address GBV as it affects adolescent girls, Black and Indigenous women, disabled women, etc.). Also, as the [U.S. launches](#) the new National Action Plan on GBV and updates the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV Globally, the President's request should include robust resources to ensure adequate agency staffing, technical expertise, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms to implement the new/revised plans.

Justification: Gender-based violence (GBV) is a horrific and widespread human rights abuse that requires a robust response. GBV occurs in many forms, including intimate partner violence; child, early, and forced marriage; rape; sexual assault; trafficking; female genital mutilation/cutting; and so-called “honor” killings. GBV is a critical impediment to the personal safety, economic empowerment, and long-term well-being of people around the world, particularly women and girls who often bear the brunt of such violence, and is also an early warning sign of societal instability and violent conflict. In 2016, the [global cost of violence against women](#) was estimated by the UN to be \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to approximately 2% of the global gross domestic product (GDP), or roughly the size of the entire Canadian economy.

The crises in Afghanistan, Haiti, and Tigray in just the last year have all spurred dramatic increases in GBV and exemplify the risks posed during *any* emergency to increased incidents of GBV. The UN reports that up to [70% of women](#) experience GBV in humanitarian contexts, with many facing domestic violence ([sometimes up to 65%](#) of women in certain contexts), child marriage, and human trafficking during displacement. Despite the critical need to address this issue, GBV funding accounted for just [0.12 per cent](#) of all humanitarian funding – which represents only one-third of funding requested for GBV.

Globally, women and girls who identify as Black, Indigenous, disabled, or as other diverse identities are further at risk of GBV. For instance, [women and girls with disabilities](#) are two to five times more likely to experience violence than women and girls without disabilities. This compounded problem requires programs to proactively address these intersections and account for the disproportionate impact and unintended GBV consequences programs may cause.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated already high rates of GBV globally. UNFPA estimates an additional [31 million cases of GBV and 13 million](#) child marriages will occur between 2020 and 2030. This increase is set to reverse 25 years of progress. The COVID-19 pandemic not only exposed the lack of preparedness of countries to respond to and deal with existing, ongoing and persistent GBV, it also led to a significant rise of this already prevalent human rights violation. This rise in violence has taken many forms and for certain populations, like refugees and migrants, who are not reached by government schemes, the challenges are even greater. According to the latest report from the UN Trust Fund for Women's latest [report](#), the measures adopted to address the pandemic have made it harder, if not impossible, for many civil society organizations (CSOs), and especially women's rights organizations (WROs), to continue their essential work responding to the needs of women and girl survivors and at risk of

violence. There is an urgent need to continuously resource CSOs/WROs, who are first responders during every crisis, and which provide essential support services for women survivors of violence. While some USG funding aimed to address the rise in GBV spurred by the pandemic, those funds remained largely focused on domestic GBV concerns and neglected to address the alarming increase in GBV worldwide.

3. WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY - We request no less than \$350,000,000 for all activities that foster women's economic empowerment and equality. This includes renewed funding for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund, U.S. Government contributions to the We-Fi Initiative, and implementation of the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018.

The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) should also continue to scale up financing opportunities for women owned and led businesses and increase economic opportunities for women through their 2x initiative. The Biden Administration should set a goal of 50% of the DFC's portfolio achieving this criteria as women make up 50% of the population. There need to be funds set aside from the program account to ensure that this work can continue, in addition to increasing dedicated gender staffing. Additionally, the impact of COVID-19 on women in the economy should influence project decisions.

Justification: Investment in programs that strengthen women's access to employment opportunities, support entrepreneurship, create market linkages, and break down barriers to women's participation in the economy creates far-reaching benefits. Yet, women still hold fewer assets, earn less, and own fewer businesses than men. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed progress on closing the gender economic equity gap back by 10 years, so now it will take [over 267 years to close the economic gender gap](#). In humanitarian crises, women's economic resilience is further challenged by displacement, insecurity, and pre-existing gaps between women and men in education, literacy, and entrepreneurship skills. Programs focused on addressing the full range of factors that hold women back and perpetuate inequality are key to ending poverty, building economic resilience to crises, and creating vibrant economies and communities. This includes investments in addressing critical barriers to women's engagement in economic activity, including gender-based violence, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and poor access to quality and comprehensive health services.

4. EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS & ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE

We request \$250,000,000 for the coordination and implementation of the [U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls](#). A 2017 Task Force convened by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which included bipartisan Members of Congress and development experts, recommended funding these efforts at \$250,000,000 annually.

Justification: The first-ever strategy of its kind, of any government, the Girl Strategy outlines a comprehensive U.S. Government approach to agency-specific responses to educate and empower adolescent girls in development and humanitarian contexts, as well as mechanisms for inter and intra-agency coordination to harness the full power of the U.S. government and avoid duplication of efforts. The Strategy fulfilled a requirement from the 2013 Violence Against Women Act reauthorization.

Furthermore, the FY 2022 Congressional Budget Justification should enumerate what activities the Department of State and USAID have already undertaken in their agencies with regard to adolescent girls, including diplomatic efforts and programmatic efforts including but not limited to enhancing access to education, providing economic opportunities, promoting access to comprehensive health information and services, and combatting harmful practices, including gender-based violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, and child marriage across the humanitarian-development nexus. They should also further articulate the coordinated, comprehensive, and specific goals and objectives as to how their agencies aim to address the specific challenge of child marriage in their diplomatic or development engagements, including developing, implementing and measuring new or expanded efforts.

We request no less than \$30,000,000 be dedicated to the implementation of a coordinated and comprehensive effort to end child marriage and meet the needs of married girls globally in alignment with the [U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls](#). This represents an increase from the \$15 million enacted in FY21. These funds should include a new allotment of \$7,000,000 to the U.S. commitment to the joint UNICEF/UNFPA Global Program to End Child Marriage, which has generated remarkable results addressing child marriage in [12 of the most high-prevalence or high-burden countries](#). Please also see [FY23 OMB Letter for Children and Youth](#) for the inclusion of these requests.

Justification: This request is based on a 2012 CBO score, estimating the cost to implement the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, and on increased need due to COVID-19. The funding for the joint UNFPA/UNICEF program is critically needed as the UK has recently announced an 80% cut to its annual contribution to the program (from \$8.6M to \$1.72M annually), which leaves a devastating \$6.88M hole in the annual budget of \$31M, which is already experiencing a shortfall of more than \$6M/year. The UK has also announced a 60% cut in its regular (core) contributions to UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women.

These funds should also include increased commitments to local organizations that are championing girls' rights. Local women's rights and youth rights organizations, including girl-led initiatives, have critical roles to play in preventing child marriage and supporting married girls, including in humanitarian contexts.

5. **WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY** - We request that no less than \$355,000,000 be made available to support the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, the [U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security](#), released in June 2019, and its [implementation plans](#) for the U.S. [Department of State](#), [Department of Defense](#), [Department of Homeland Security](#), and [USAID](#), released in June 2020, to expand, and improve coordination of, U.S. Government efforts to empower women as equal partners in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well peacebuilding, transitional processes, and relief and reconstruction efforts in countries affected by conflict, crisis, or political transition, as well as to ensure the equitable provision of relief and recovery assistance to women and girls. This funding request also reflects the lessons and recommendations put forth by the [2021 SIGAR Report - Support for Gender Equality: Lessons from the U.S. Experience in Afghanistan](#). In addition to programming, capacity-building, and technical assistance, the U.S. should train U.S. military, diplomatic, development, and other relevant staff, contractors, and grantees, as well as partner

governments and militaries, on how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies, programs, and outcomes, as well as on the specific laws, policies, and programming available to enhance women's participation in all spheres of life. The establishment of senior level gender advisors will improve conflict prevention, management, and resolution efforts by promoting women's contributions to security, through attention at both the policy and operational levels, and strengthen the U.S. Government's ability to effectively and holistically counter adversaries, promote stability, and provide relief in conflict- and crisis-affected areas of the world. Any and all programming must also include reporting requirements, such as indicators, outcomes, analysis, and the collection of sex-disaggregated data, which will serve to identify and address barriers to women's meaningful participation in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, as well as peacebuilding efforts, training, and programs.

Justification: As the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda is now enshrined in U.S. law and policy, and linked to the broader National Security Strategy, appropriate budget support is critical to the promotion and sustainment of peace and democracy and the achievement of U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.

- \$100,000,000 for the Department of Defense for full implementation of the WPS Act, the U.S. National Strategy on WPS, and the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act, including staffing, programming, research, and training.
 - This should include resources for hiring and training full-time equivalent personnel as full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in the Department of Defense within the six geographic combatant commands, Special Operations Command, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Cyber Command, Transportation Command, Strategic Command, and Space Command.
 - This should also include resources for department-wide training to ensure officials understand how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.
 - Furthermore, this should include at least \$9,000,000 to support WPS-related security cooperation and partner capacity-building efforts at the Department of Defense. Such support would facilitate implementation of the WPS Act and of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act by funding the participation of female forces and the integration of gender perspectives in annual training, education, exercises, and engagements. Including women in international security forces advances the primary purpose of U.S. security assistance— making these forces better and stronger and improving our national security. The U.S. should train its partner militaries on how including women improves security outcomes, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.
- \$100,000,000 for the Department of State for full implementation of the WPS Act and the U.S. National Strategy on WPS, including staffing, programming, research, and training. This should include resources for hiring and training full-time equivalent personnel as full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in the Department of

State, in addition to department-wide training to ensure officials understand how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.

- \$100,000,000 for USAID for full implementation of the WPS Act and the U.S. National Strategy on WPS, including staffing, programming, research, and training. This should include resources for hiring and training full-time equivalent personnel as full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in USAID, in addition to agency-wide training to ensure officials understand how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.

- \$50,000,000 for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the implementation of the WPS Act and the U.S. National Strategy on WPS, including staffing, programming, research, and training. This should include resources for hiring and training full-time equivalent personnel as full-time gender advisors to bolster WPS efforts in the Department of Homeland Security, in addition to department-wide training to ensure officials understand how the inclusion of women increases the effectiveness of security-related policies and programs, and specific steps that they can take to promote women's participation.

- \$5,000,000 to support State, USAID, DOD, and DHS in conducting coordinated research on the impact of WPS principles on the effectiveness of peace and security related policies and programs.

6. WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LEADERSHIP - We request no less than \$50,000,000 to increase leadership opportunities for women and girls in countries where they suffer discrimination due to law, policy, or practice, by strengthening protections for women's political status, expanding women's participation in political parties and elections, increasing adolescent girls' civic and political knowledge and related foundational skills, and increasing women's opportunities for leadership positions in the public and private sectors at the local, provincial, and national levels. We urge the U.S. to direct this funding toward women- and girl-led organizations as part of the USG's locally-led development agenda.

7. WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM – We request no less than \$19,000,000 be made available to support and engage women and girls who are at risk from extremism and conflict and help with the implementation of the [U.S. Strategy to Support Women and Girls at Risk from Violent Extremism](#) and Conflict released publicly in October 2018. This State Department and USAID strategy seeks to “limit the destabilizing effects of violent extremism, including the risks it poses to women and girls, by supporting women and girls as actors in countering terrorist ideology to prevent terrorist radicalization in their families, communities, countries, and online.”

Justification: An [analysis of thirty countries](#) across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia found that women were substantially more likely than men to be early victims of extremism. Some violent extremist groups use women and girls as a form of currency in a shadow economy, generating revenue from sex trafficking, sexual slavery, and extortion through ransom. According to New America's research, one-third of individuals

associated with jihadist-inspired violence inside the United States had a record of domestic abuse or other sexual violence. Additional research looking at [cases of violent extremism from 2011 to 2016](#) in the US and the UK also shows a high correlation between perpetrators' history of domestic violence and terrorist acts. While the degree of causation cannot be determined, the correlation is too strong to ignore. Extremist groups don't only benefit from subjugating women; they also recruit them to act as informants, facilitators, recruiters, and martyrs. In fact, many extremist groups have made a concerted effort to recruit women to their ranks. Some women are motivated by ideological commitment, similar to potential male fighters. Others join in hopes of gaining freedoms and access to resources. The U.S. government should increase resources to facilitate women's involvement in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. To address drivers of recruitment, the State Department and USAID should invest in programs to expand gender equality, including women's access to resources. Department of Defense, the State Department, and USAID should invest in women's roles to counter terrorism and violent extremism. This includes through prevention-related funds, but also security funds, such as antiterrorism and law enforcement programs. It is also important to make it easier for proponents of women's involvement in deradicalization efforts to access funding— whether in militaries, police, government, or civil society.

8. TRACKING EXPENDITURES - The progress that has been made in tracking US investments in gender programming has not been matched by a systematic tracking of obligations and expenditures. The [SFOPS House Committee Report for FY 2022](#) even expresses concern that “only 20 percent of the United States’ official development assistance integrates gender or promotes gender equality” and further directs the Secretary of State to “submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations on the percentage of development programs focused on gender integration as reported to the OECD and plans to improve the United States’ performance.” This failure to effectively account for and track investments in gender programming has inhibited the ability of both advocates and policymakers to accurately assess where and how funds have been used. We strongly suggest including funding in the budget to ensure that financial expenditure tracking systems at the Department of State and USAID are funded and include an explicit focus on gender expenditures in US-funded foreign operations.

9. OTHER REQUESTS – In addition to the requests outlined above, the signatories recommend support for other gender-related issues and programs, such as the protection and advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights, which has been stated as an administration priority in both executive actions and in the U.S. commitments to the Generation Equality Forum. The inability to access contraception and other reproductive health services limits the capacity of individuals to exercise agency over their bodies and may hinder their potential to pursue opportunities around education and economic and civic engagement. Increasing funding for bilateral family programs and UNFPA (the leading multilateral provider of maternal and reproductive health and GBV services) to meet the U.S. fair share contribution to addressing global unmet contraceptive need, as well as, maternal, newborn, and child health programs and HIV/AIDS programs, including the DREAMS partnership, is vital. See the Organizational Letter to OMB for [FY2023 Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Programs](#) for additional details.

Gender equality also must include investments in global LGBTQI+ rights programs, which should include \$30 million for the State Department's Global Equality Fund and

increasing USAID's Inclusive Development Hub's Protection of LGBTQI+ Persons to \$30 million in the President's Budget Request for FY 2023, see the [Organizational Letter to OMB for FY 2023 Global LGBTQI+ Programs](#) for additional details.

Annex:

The following figures are rough estimates and may need to be adjusted based on the needs of each agency and expanded to all relevant agencies as needed.

1. **USAID Operating Expenses:** No less than \$15 million to USAID for operating expenses to adequately implement its gender analysis requirement (Sec. 3 of the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act) so that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are integrated throughout the Agency's program cycle and related processes for purposes of strategic planning, project design and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The U.S. Government must ensure that all strategies, projects and activities are informed by gender analyses that identify, understand, and explain differences in status between genders; the influence of gender roles, structural barriers, and norms; and the differing impacts of development efforts on women and men. Additionally, the U.S. should make significant investments in data disaggregation by sex and age to assess the impact of development assistance on women and girls.
2. **MCC Administrative Expenses:** \$2 million for additional gender training and staff with expertise in gender.
3. **U.S. DFC Administrative Expenses:** An additional \$3 million for additional gender training and staff.
4. **State Department Administration of Foreign Affairs:** Funds for additional gender experts, training and for a review of current gender experts within the State Department, including an assessment across offices and bureaus, noting whether gender expertise is the core competency of staff or one of many job functions.
5. **State Department Office of Global Women's Issues:** An additional \$20,000,000 be made available to support the programming of the [Office of Global Women's Issues](#). The Office ensures that gender equality, including the rights of women and girls, are fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy and programming. This request reflects the need for supplementary resources arising from a growing body of work the office has taken on in the past four years.
6. **Department of Treasury International Affairs Technical Assistance:** An additional \$500,000 for increased gender training and staff.
7. **International Trade Assistance (ITA) and the United States Trade Representative (USTR):** While not under this budget request, is a key area to address this work: Funds for a review of current gender experts within the ITA and USTR, including an assessment across the institutions, noting whether gender expertise is the core competency of staff or one of many job functions and include a commitment to request funds in the FY23 budget consistent with the findings of such a review.