

Calendar No. 152

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2484

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2017

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Women, Peace, and
5 Security Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Around the world, women remain underrep-
9 resented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution,
10 and post-conflict peace building efforts.

1 (2) Women in conflict-affected regions have
2 achieved significant success in—

3 (A) moderating violent extremism;

4 (B) countering terrorism;

5 (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent
6 mediation and negotiation; and

7 (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the
8 effectiveness of security services, peacekeeping
9 efforts, institutions, and decision-making proc-
10 esses.

11 (3) Research suggests that peace negotiations
12 are more likely to succeed and to result in durable
13 peace agreements when women participate in the
14 peace process.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) the meaningful participation of women in
18 conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes
19 helps to promote more inclusive and democratic soci-
20 eties and is critical to the long-term stability of
21 countries and regions;

22 (2) the political participation, and leadership of
23 women in fragile environments, particularly during
24 democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining last-
25 ing democratic institutions; and

1 (3) the United States should be a global leader
2 in promoting the meaningful participation of women
3 in conflict prevention, management, and resolution,
4 and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

5 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 It shall be the policy of the United States to promote
7 the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of
8 overseas conflict prevention, management, and resolution,
9 and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced
10 through diplomatic efforts and programs that—

11 (1) integrate the perspectives and interests of
12 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and
13 strategies;

14 (2) encourage partner governments to adopt
15 plans to improve the meaningful participation of
16 women in peace and security processes and decision-
17 making institutions;

18 (3) promote the physical safety, economic secu-
19 rity, and dignity of women and girls;

20 (4) support the equal access of women to aid
21 distribution mechanisms and services;

22 (5) collect and analyze gender data for the pur-
23 pose of developing and enhancing early warning sys-
24 tems of conflict and violence;

1 (6) adjust policies and programs to improve
2 outcomes in gender equality and the empowerment
3 of women; and

4 (7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate the efforts
5 related to each strategy submitted under section 5
6 and the impact of such efforts.

7 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PAR-**
8 **TICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PRE-**
9 **VENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.**

10 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, and again 4 years there-
12 after, the President, in consultation with the heads of the
13 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit
14 to the appropriate congressional committees and make
15 publicly available a single government-wide strategy, to be
16 known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that
17 provides a detailed description of how the United States
18 intends to fulfill the policy objectives in section 4. The
19 strategy shall—

20 (1) support and be aligned with plans developed
21 by other countries to improve the meaningful partici-
22 pation of women in peace and security processes,
23 conflict prevention, peace building, transitional proc-
24 esses, and decision-making institutions; and

1 (2) include specific and measurable goals,
2 benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and
3 monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure the ac-
4 countability and effectiveness of all policies and ini-
5 tiatives carried out under the strategy.

6 (b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND AGEN-
7 CIES.—Each strategy under subsection (a) shall include
8 a specific implementation plan from each of the relevant
9 Federal departments and agencies that describes—

10 (1) the anticipated contributions of the depart-
11 ment or agency, including technical, financial, and
12 in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

13 (2) the efforts of the department or agency to
14 ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out
15 pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve
16 maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

17 (c) COORDINATION.—The President should promote
18 the meaningful participation of women in conflict preven-
19 tion, in coordination and consultation with international
20 partners, including, as appropriate, multilateral organiza-
21 tions, stakeholders, and other relevant international orga-
22 nizations, particularly in situations in which the direct en-
23 gagement of the United States Government is not appro-
24 priate or advisable.

1 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that the President, in implementing each strategy
3 submitted under subsection (a), should—

4 (1) provide technical assistance, training, and
5 logistical support to female negotiators, mediators,
6 peace builders, and stakeholders;

7 (2) address security-related barriers to the
8 meaningful participation of women;

9 (3) encourage increased participation of women
10 in existing programs funded by the United States
11 Government that provide training to foreign nation-
12 als regarding law enforcement, the rule of law, or
13 professional military education;

14 (4) support appropriate local organizations, es-
15 pecially women’s peace building organizations;

16 (5) support the training, education, and mobili-
17 zation of men and boys as partners in support of the
18 meaningful participation of women;

19 (6) encourage the development of transitional
20 justice and accountability mechanisms that are in-
21 clusive of the experiences and perspectives of women
22 and girls;

23 (7) expand and apply gender analysis, as appro-
24 priate, to improve program design and targeting;
25 and

1 (8) conduct assessments that include the per-
2 spectives of women regarding new initiatives in sup-
3 port of peace negotiations, transitional justice and
4 accountability, efforts to counter violent extremism,
5 or security sector reform.

6 **SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PAR-**
7 **TICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PRE-**
8 **VENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.**

9 (a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—The Secretary of State, in
10 conjunction with the Administrator of the United States
11 Agency for International Development, shall ensure that
12 all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, mem-
13 bers of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members
14 of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors)
15 responsible for or deploying to countries or regions consid-
16 ered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent
17 conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following
18 areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and
19 ensuring meaningful participation by women:

20 (1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolu-
21 tion.

22 (2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploi-
23 tation, and trafficking in persons.

24 (3) International human rights law and inter-
25 national humanitarian law.

1 (b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of
2 Defense shall ensure that relevant personnel receive train-
3 ing, as appropriate, in the following areas:

4 (1) Training in conflict prevention, peace proc-
5 esses, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives
6 that specifically addresses the importance of mean-
7 ingful participation by women.

8 (2) Gender considerations and meaningful par-
9 ticipation by women, including training regarding—

10 (A) international human rights law and
11 international humanitarian law, as relevant;
12 and

13 (B) protecting civilians from violence, ex-
14 ploitation, and trafficking in persons.

15 (3) Effective strategies and best practices for
16 ensuring meaningful participation by women.

17 **SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
19 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
20 national Development may establish guidelines or take
21 other steps to ensure overseas United States personnel of
22 the Department of State or the United States Agency for
23 International Development, as the case may be, consult
24 with appropriate stakeholders, including local women,
25 youth, ethnic and religious minorities, and other politically

1 underrepresented or marginalized populations, regarding
2 United States efforts to—

3 (1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict;

4 and

5 (2) enhance the success of mediation and nego-
6 tiation processes by ensuring the meaningful partici-
7 pation of women.

8 (b) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-
9 retary of State should work with international, regional,
10 national, and local organizations to increase the meaning-
11 ful participation of women in international peacekeeping
12 operations, and should promote training that provides
13 international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive
14 knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective physical
15 security and meaningful participation of women in conflict
16 prevention and peace building.

17 **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

18 (a) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of the first submission of a strategy required under section
20 5, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Adminis-
21 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
22 velopment and the Secretary of Defense, shall brief the
23 appropriate congressional committees on existing, en-
24 hanced, or newly established training carried out pursuant
25 to section 6.

1 (b) REPORT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY
2 STRATEGY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the
3 submission of each strategy required under section 5, the
4 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
5 committees a report that—

6 (1) summarizes and evaluates the implementa-
7 tion of such strategy and the impact of United
8 States diplomatic efforts and foreign assistance pro-
9 grams, projects, and activities to promote the mean-
10 ingful participation of women;

11 (2) describes the nature and extent of the co-
12 ordination among the relevant Federal departments
13 and agencies on the implementation of such strat-
14 egy;

15 (3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation
16 tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess
17 progress made on the policy objectives set forth in
18 section 4; and

19 (4) describes the existing, enhanced, or newly
20 established training carried out pursuant to section
21 6.

22 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
5 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
6 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

7 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
8 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
9 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives.

11 (2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
12 AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal depart-
13 ments and agencies” means—

14 (A) the United States Agency for Inter-
15 national Development;

16 (B) the Department of State;

17 (C) the Department of Defense;

18 (D) the Department of Homeland Security;

19 and

20 (E) any other department or agency speci-
21 fied by the President for purposes of this Act.

22 (3) STAKEHOLDERS.—The term “stakeholders”
23 means nongovernmental and private sector entities
24 engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and
25 stabilization, peace building, protection, security,

1 transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or re-
2 lated efforts.

Passed the House of Representatives June 20, 2017.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

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