

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1141

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Around the world, women remain under-
7 represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution,
8 and post-conflict peace building efforts.

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

11 (A) moderating violent extremism;

12 (B) countering terrorism;

13 (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent
14 mediation and negotiation; and

15 (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the
16 effectiveness of security services, peacekeeping
17 efforts, institutions, and decisionmaking proc-
18 esses.

19 (3) Research suggests that peace negotiations
20 are more likely to succeed and to result in durable
21 peace agreements when women participate in the
22 peace process.

23 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

25 (1) the meaningful participation of women in
26 conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes

1 helps to promote more inclusive and democratic soci-
2 eties and is critical to the long-term stability of
3 countries and regions;

4 (2) the political participation, and leadership of
5 women in fragile environments, particularly during
6 democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining last-
7 ing democratic institutions; and

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

12 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

13 It shall be the policy of the United States to promote
14 the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of
15 overseas conflict prevention, management, and resolution,
16 and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced
17 through diplomatic efforts and programs that—

18 (1) integrate the perspectives and interests of
19 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and
20 strategies;

21 (2) encourage partner governments to adopt
22 plans to improve the meaningful participation of
23 women in peace and security processes and decision-
24 making institutions;

(3) promote the physical safety, economic security, and dignity of women and girls;

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

(5) collect and analyze gender data for the purpose of developing and enhancing early warning systems of conflict and violence;

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

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

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and again four years thereafter, the President, in consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make publicly available a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United

1 States intends to fulfill the policy objectives in section 4.

2 The strategy shall—

3 (1) support and be aligned with plans developed
4 by other countries to improve the meaningful partici-
5 pation of women in peace and security processes,
6 conflict prevention, peace building, transitional proc-
7 esses, and decisionmaking institutions; and

8 (2) include specific and measurable goals,
9 benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and
10 monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure the ac-
11 countability and effectiveness of all policies and ini-
12 tiatives carried out under the strategy.

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

17 (1) the anticipated contributions of the depart-
18 ment or agency, including technical, financial, and
19 in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

20 (2) the efforts of the department or agency to
21 ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out
22 pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve
23 maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

24 (c) COORDINATION.—The President should promote
25 the meaningful participation of women in conflict preven-

1 tion, in coordination and consultation with international
2 partners, including, as appropriate, multilateral organiza-
3 tions, stakeholders, and other relevant international orga-
4 nizations, particularly in situations in which the direct en-
5 gagement of the United States Government is not appro-
6 priate or advisable.

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

10 (1) provide technical assistance, training, and
11 logistical support to female negotiators, mediators,
12 peace builders, and stakeholders;

13 (2) address security-related barriers to the
14 meaningful participation of women;

15 (3) encourage increased participation of women
16 in existing programs funded by the United States
17 Government that provide training to foreign nation-
18 als regarding law enforcement, the rule of law, or
19 professional military education;

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

22 (5) support the training, education, and mobili-
23 zation of men and boys as partners in support of the
24 meaningful participation of women;

1 (6) encourage the development of transitional
2 justice and accountability mechanisms that are in-
3 clusive of the experiences and perspectives of women
4 and girls;

5 (7) expand and apply gender analysis, as appro-
6 priate, to improve program design and targeting;
7 and

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

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

16 (a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—The Secretary of State, in
17 conjunction with the Administrator of the United States
18 Agency for International Development, shall ensure that
19 all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, mem-
20 bers of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members
21 of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors)
22 responsible for or deploying to countries or regions consid-
23 ered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent
24 conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following

1 areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and
2 ensuring meaningful participation by women:

3 (1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolu-
4 tion.

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

7 (3) International human rights law and inter-
8 national humanitarian law.

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

12 (1) Training in conflict prevention, peace proc-
13 esses, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives
14 that specifically addresses the importance of mean-
15 ingful participation by women.

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

18 (A) international human rights law and
19 international humanitarian law, as relevant;
20 and

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

23 (3) Effective strategies and best practices for
24 ensuring meaningful participation by women.

1 **SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
3 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development may establish guidelines or take
5 other steps to ensure overseas United States personnel of
6 the Department of State or the United States Agency for
7 International Development, as the case may be, consult
8 with appropriate stakeholders, including local women,
9 youth, ethnic, and religious minorities, and other politi-
10 cally under-represented or marginalized populations, re-
11 garding United States efforts to—

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

13 and

14 (2) enhance the success of mediation and nego-
15 tiation processes by ensuring the meaningful partici-
16 pation of women.

17 (b) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-
18 retary of State should work with international, regional,
19 national, and local organizations to increase the meaning-
20 ful participation of women in international peacekeeping
21 operations, and should promote training that provides
22 international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive
23 knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective physical
24 security and meaningful participation of women in conflict
25 prevention and peace building.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 of the first submission of a strategy required under section
4 5, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Adminis-
5 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
6 velopment and the Secretary of Defense, shall brief the
7 appropriate congressional committees on existing, en-
8 hanced, or newly established training carried out pursuant
9 to section 6.

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

15 (1) summarizes and evaluates the implementa-
16 tion of such strategy and the impact of United
17 States diplomatic efforts and foreign assistance pro-
18 grams, projects, and activities to promote the mean-
19 ingful participation of women;

20 (2) describes the nature and extent of the co-
21 ordination among the relevant Federal departments
22 and agencies on the implementation of such strat-
23 egy;

24 (3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation
25 tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess

1 progress made on the policy objectives set forth in
2 section 4; and

3 (4) describes the existing, enhanced, or newly
4 established training carried out pursuant to section
5 6.

6 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
12 the Committee on Armed Services, and the
13 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
14 and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
16 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
17 mittee on Appropriations of the of the House of
18 Representatives.

19 (2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
20 AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal depart-
21 ments and agencies” means—

22 (A) the United States Agency for Inter-
23 national Development;

24 (B) the Department of State;

25 (C) the Department of Defense;

1 (D) the Department of Homeland Security;

2 and

3 (E) any other department or agency speci-

4 fied by the President for purposes of this Act.

5 (3) STAKEHOLDERS.—The term “stakeholders”

6 means non-governmental and private sector entities

7 engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and

8 stabilization, peace building, protection, security,

9 transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or re-

10 lated efforts.

Passed the Senate August 3, 2017.

Attest:

Secretary.

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