

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5332

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 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

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

9 (2) Despite the historic under-representation of
10 women in conflict resolution processes, women in
11 conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved
12 significant success in—

13 (A) moderating violent extremism;

14 (B) countering terrorism;

15 (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent
16 mediation and negotiation; and

17 (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the
18 effectiveness of security services, peacekeeping
19 efforts, institutions, and decision-making pro-
20 cesses.

21 (3) Research shows that—

22 (A) peace negotiations are more likely to
23 end in a peace agreement when women’s groups
24 play an influential role in the negotiation pro-
25 cess;

1 (B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35
2 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if
3 women have participated in the negotiation
4 process; and

5 (C) when women meaningfully participate,
6 peace negotiations are more likely to address
7 the underlying causes of the conflict, leading to
8 more sustainable outcomes.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that—

11 (1) the meaningful participation of women in
12 conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes
13 helps to promote more inclusive and democratic soci-
14 eties and is critical to the long-term stability of
15 countries and regions;

16 (2) the political participation and leadership of
17 women in fragile environments, particularly during
18 democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining last-
19 ing democratic institutions; and

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

1 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It shall be the policy of the United States to promote
3 the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of
4 conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-
5 conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through dip-
6 lomatic efforts and programs that—

7 (1) integrate the perspectives and interests of
8 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and
9 strategies;

10 (2) encourage partner governments to adopt
11 plans to improve the meaningful participation of
12 women in peace and security processes and decision-
13 making institutions;

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

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

18 (5) collect and analyze gender data for the pur-
19 pose of developing and enhancing early warning sys-
20 tems of conflict and violence;

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

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

1 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PAR-**
2 **TICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PRE-**
3 **VENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than October 1, 2017,
5 October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, in
6 consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal depart-
7 ments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate con-
8 gressional committees and make publicly available a single
9 government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women,
10 Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed de-
11 scription of how the United States intends to fulfill the
12 policy objectives in section 4. The strategy shall—

13 (1) support and be aligned with plans developed
14 by other countries to improve the meaningful partici-
15 pation of women in peace and security processes,
16 conflict prevention, peace building, transitional proc-
17 esses, and decision-making institutions; and

18 (2) include specific and measurable goals,
19 benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and
20 monitoring and evaluation plans, to ensure the ac-
21 countability and effectiveness of all policies and ini-
22 tiatives carried out under the strategy.

23 (b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy
24 under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementa-
25 tion plan from each of the relevant Federal departments
26 and agencies that describes—

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

4 (2) the efforts of the department or agency to
5 ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out
6 pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve
7 maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

8 (c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—

9 Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State,
10 the Secretary of State shall task the current Principal
11 Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the
12 implementation of the strategy under subsection (a) and
13 the specific implementation plan for the Department
14 under subsection (b), with respect to the roles and respon-
15 sibilities of such bureau. The Principal Deputy Assistant
16 Secretaries tasked with such responsibility shall meet, at
17 least twice a year, to review the implementation of the
18 strategy and the plan and to contribute to the report
19 under section 8(b).

20 (d) COORDINATION.—The President should promote
21 the meaningful participation of women in conflict preven-
22 tion, in coordination and consultation with international
23 partners, including multilateral organizations, stake-
24 holders, and other relevant international organizations,

1 particularly in situations in which the direct engagement
2 of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

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

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

9 (2) address security-related barriers to the
10 meaningful participation of women;

11 (3) increase the participation of women in exist-
12 ing programs funded by the United States Govern-
13 ment that provide training to foreign nationals re-
14 garding law enforcement, the rule of law, or profes-
15 sional military education;

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

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

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

1 (3) International human rights law and inter-
2 national humanitarian law.

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

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

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

12 (A) international human rights law and
13 international humanitarian law, as relevant;
14 and

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

17 (3) Effective strategies and best practices for
18 ensuring meaningful participation by women.

19 **SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
21 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development shall establish guidelines for over-
23 seas United States personnel of the Department or the
24 Agency, as the case may be, to consult with stakeholders
25 regarding United States efforts to—

1 (1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict;
2 and

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

6 (b) FREQUENCY AND SCOPE.—The consultations re-
7 quired under subsection (a) shall take place regularly and
8 include a range and representative sample of stakeholders,
9 including local women, youth, ethnic and religious minori-
10 ties, and other politically under-represented or
11 marginalized populations.

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

21 **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

22 (a) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of State, in conjunc-
23 tion with the Administrator of the United States Agency
24 for International Development and the Secretary of De-
25 fense, shall brief the appropriate congressional commit-

1 tees, not later than 1 year after the date of the first sub-
2 mission of a strategy required under section 5, on—

3 (1) existing, enhanced, and newly established
4 training carried out pursuant to section 6; and

5 (2) the guidelines established for overseas
6 United States personnel to engage in consultations
7 with stakeholders, pursuant to section 7.

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

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

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

22 (3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation
23 tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess
24 progress made on the policy objectives in section 4;
25 and

1 (4) describes the existing, enhanced, and newly
2 established training carried out pursuant to section
3 6.

4 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

9 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
10 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
11 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

12 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
13 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
14 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives.

16 (2) **STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “stakeholders”
17 means non-governmental and private sector entities
18 engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and
19 stabilization, peace building, protection, security,
20 transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or re-
21 lated efforts, including—

22 (A) registered or non-registered nonprofit
23 organizations, advocacy groups, business or
24 trade associations, labor unions, cooperatives,
25 credit unions, relief or development organiza-

1 tions, community and faith-based organizations,
2 philanthropic foundations, and tribal leaders or
3 structures;

4 (B) independent media, educational, or re-
5 search institutions; and

6 (C) private enterprises, including inter-
7 national development firms, banks, and other fi-
8 nancial institutions, particularly small busi-
9 nesses and businesses owned by women or dis-
10 advantaged groups.

11 (3) MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION.—The term
12 “meaningful participation” means safe, genuine, and
13 effective access to, and present and active involve-
14 ment in the full range of formal or informal proc-
15 esses related to negotiation or mediation with re-
16 spect to any efforts toward the following:

17 (A) Conflict prevention.

18 (B) Resolution or mitigation of, or transi-
19 tion from, violent conflict.

20 (C) Peacekeeping and peace building.

21 (D) Post-conflict reconstruction, transition
22 initiatives, elections, and governance.

23 (E) Humanitarian response and recovery.

1 (4) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
2 AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal depart-
3 ments and agencies” means—

4 (A) the United States Agency for Inter-
5 national Development;

6 (B) the Department of State;

7 (C) the Department of Defense;

8 (D) the Department of Homeland Security;

9 and

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

Passed the House of Representatives November 15,
2016.

Attest:

Clerk.

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