

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9497

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CASE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MANNING, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. DEAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. JONES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIND, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

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 AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 5 “International Violence Against Women Act of 2022”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
 7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PROGRAMS

- Sec. 101. United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.
- Sec. 102. Implementation of the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.
- Sec. 103. Monitoring the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

TITLE II—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Sec. 201. Office of Global Women’s Issues.
- Sec. 202. Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.
- Sec. 203. Briefing and assessment.
- Sec. 204. Addressing violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict, and postconflict settings.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress makes the following findings:

- 10 (1) An estimated one out of every three women
 11 throughout the world will be beaten, coerced into
 12 sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

1 (2) Up to 70 percent of women in some coun-
2 tries report experiencing gender-based violence at
3 some point in their lives.

4 (3) Intimate partner violence is the most preva-
5 lent form of violence against women, preventing
6 them from playing more active roles in the social,
7 economic, and political development of their commu-
8 nities.

9 (4) Sexual violence among adolescents and pre-
10 adolescents is alarmingly high. National surveys in
11 Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Haiti
12 have found that between 28 and 38 percent of girls
13 and between 9 and 18 percent of boys report experi-
14 encing sexual violence before reaching 18 years of
15 age.

16 (5) Adult male respondents in six countries who
17 had experienced violence as children were signifi-
18 cantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate
19 partner violence themselves according to the Inter-
20 national Men and Gender Equality Survey dataset.
21 Analysis by the International Center for Research on
22 Women further shows that men who witnessed vio-
23 lence against their mothers are consistently and sig-
24 nificantly more likely to report perpetrating sexual
25 violence. Further, sexually aggressive behaviors start

1 young for these men, and overlap significantly with
2 other forms of physical violence.

3 (6) Gender-based violence harms economies and
4 the workers that fuel them. Despite under-reporting,
5 striking statistics document prevalent forms of gen-
6 der-based violence globally that affect the world of
7 work. Worldwide, women are concentrated in low-
8 wage, insecure jobs in workplaces where they lack
9 bargaining power, protections against gender-based
10 violence, safe and confidential reporting systems, re-
11 course to justice, and access to legal, medical, and
12 psychosocial services.

13 (7) Women living in poverty are particularly
14 vulnerable to gender-based violence. Lack of eco-
15 nomic opportunities often compel women to use des-
16 perate and dangerous means to provide for them-
17 selves and their families, risking significant exposure
18 to sexual exploitation and abuse. These women often
19 cannot afford critical social and medical services.

20 (8) Research conducted in India, Colombia,
21 South Africa, and Uganda indicates that when
22 women have greater control of assets, they are less
23 likely to experience intimate partner violence. Addi-
24 tionally, when women participate in the economy,
25 they are able to develop a wider support network,

1 which allows them to more easily escape intimate
2 partner violence.

3 (9) Gender-based violence impacts livelihoods
4 and food security by reducing work capacity and
5 productivity, including the ability to grow food for
6 consumption. Studies have shown that women af-
7 fected by gender-based violence are exposed to ill-
8 nesses and injuries that hamper their ability to work
9 productively and care for their families. Diminished
10 food production consequently increases hunger and
11 women’s vulnerability to further violence.

12 (10) Country studies indicate that the risk of
13 HIV among women who have experienced violence
14 may be up to three times higher than among those
15 who have not experienced violence. The World
16 Health Organization found that women who experi-
17 ence intimate partner violence are at more than 50
18 percent greater risk of HIV infection, and in some
19 instances their risk of HIV infection increases four-
20 fold. Women living with HIV are more likely to ex-
21 perience violence than other women, and fear of vio-
22 lence can prevent women from accessing HIV/AIDS
23 information and receiving treatment and counseling.

24 (11) Addressing gender norms and inequities is
25 essential to reducing HIV risk and increasing access

1 to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for
2 women and men.

3 (12) Prevalence of sexual and physical violence
4 is higher among persons with disabilities, particu-
5 larly for adolescents and intimate partners with dis-
6 abilities, and for men and women with intellectual
7 impairments living in institutions. The World Health
8 Organization reports that rates of gender-based vio-
9 lence are between 4 and 10 times greater among
10 persons with disabilities compared to non-disabled
11 persons.

12 (13) Displaced, refugee, and stateless women
13 and girls in humanitarian emergencies, conflict set-
14 tings, and natural disasters face extreme violence
15 and threats, including—

16 (A) being forced to exchange sex for food
17 and humanitarian supplies; and

18 (B) being at increased risk of rape, sexual
19 exploitation, and abuse.

20 (14) Rape and sexual assault against women
21 and girls are used to torture, intimidate, and ter-
22 rorize communities. Rape and sexual assault are
23 used as tools of war in conflict zones, including the
24 Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Syria, Af-
25 ghanistan, El Salvador, and South Sudan. UNFPA,

1 the United Nation’s reproductive health and rights
2 agency, leads the Gender Based Violence Area of
3 Responsibility, which is responsible for global coordi-
4 nation and collaboration on GBV prevention and re-
5 sponse in humanitarian settings and is a leading
6 provider of post-rape care and other reproductive
7 health services and commodities in humanitarian
8 settings.

9 (15) Child and forced marriage of girls—

10 (A) is a harmful practice that deprives
11 girls of their dignity and rights and creates bar-
12 riers to development for communities and coun-
13 tries;

14 (B) is projected to affect more than
15 150,000,000 girls who will become brides be-
16 tween 2019 and 2030;

17 (C) can prematurely end girls’ education,
18 increase vulnerability to gender-based violence,
19 and significantly raise the risk of maternal and
20 infant morbidity or mortality, including the risk
21 of obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted dis-
22 eases, including HIV/AIDS;

23 (D) is perpetuated by poverty, a lack of
24 educational or employment opportunities for
25 girls, a lack of legal policies and enforcement of

1 laws, and religious, cultural, and social factors
2 related to girls' perceived lack of value, factors
3 which become particularly acute in conflict and
4 disaster settings where fears of sexual violence
5 and overstretched coping mechanisms often
6 drive child and forced marriage; and

7 (E) child marriage is estimated to con-
8 tribute, on average, to a loss in earnings of
9 about nine percent for women who married
10 early, which translates into a loss of about one
11 percent in earnings for the entire labor force
12 when factoring in all working adults.

13 (16) Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/
14 C) is carried out most often on girls between infancy
15 and 15 years of age and has impacted more than
16 200,000,000 girls and women who are alive today.
17 FGM/C can cause long-term health problems, includ-
18 ing infertility, complications in childbirth, and in-
19 creased risk of newborn deaths. Mental health is one
20 of the least explored domains of impact of gender-
21 based violence; indeed, self-harm and suicide is the
22 leading cause of death globally for adolescent girls
23 aged 15–19.

24 (17) World Bank data shows that gender in-
25 equality directly corresponds to increased levels of

1 political and economic instability within states. Gen-
2 der-based violence impedes women's meaningful par-
3 ticipation in social, political, and economic spheres,
4 which is essential to the stability and democratiza-
5 tion of a country. Since women disproportionately
6 experience gender-based violence during conflict and
7 post-conflict reconstruction, they can play a pivotal
8 role in preventing, mitigating, and resolving conflict,
9 and countering extremism.

10 (18) Gender-based violence is a contributing
11 factor to human trafficking. Experts in the field
12 have reported that women and girls who have experi-
13 enced gender-based violence and live in societies that
14 tolerate severe gender discrimination appear to be
15 more vulnerable to being trafficked. Comprehensive
16 efforts to reduce human trafficking must include ef-
17 forts to prevent and respond to gender-based vio-
18 lence due to the intertwined relationship of the two
19 crimes.

20 (19) Health services are among the first places
21 survivors of violence seek assistance. Health focused
22 nongovernmental organizations and United Nations
23 agencies like UNFPA, the Reproductive Health and
24 Rights Agency, has critical opportunities to reach af-
25 fected women and girls.

1 (20) Gender-based violence also manifests on-
2 line; gender-based cyberviolence is a growing con-
3 cern, with women and girls disproportionately af-
4 fected and targeted based on their appearance, activ-
5 ism and sexuality.

6 (21) Taking meaningful action to address gen-
7 der-based violence is an imperative acknowledgment
8 of a woman’s agency and personal right to leading
9 a dignified life.

10 (22) Addressing gender norms and inequities is
11 essential to reducing HIV risk and increasing access
12 to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for
13 women and men.

14 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

15 It is the policy of the United States—

16 (1) to take effective action to prevent and re-
17 spond to violence against women and girls around
18 the world as a matter of basic human rights and to
19 promote gender equality, economic growth, and im-
20 proved public health;

21 (2) to systematically integrate and coordinate
22 efforts to prevent and respond to violence against
23 women and girls internationally into United States
24 foreign policy and foreign assistance programs, in-

1 including peace-building efforts and humanitarian re-
2 lief and recovery;

3 (3) to support and build local capacity in devel-
4 oping countries, including the capacity of govern-
5 ments at all levels and nongovernmental organiza-
6 tions, especially women-led organizations to prevent
7 and respond to violence against women and girls;

8 (4) to consult, cooperate, coordinate, and col-
9 laborate with a wide variety of nongovernmental
10 partners with demonstrated experience in preventing
11 and responding to violence against women and girls,
12 including faith-based organizations and women-led
13 organizations;

14 (5) to employ a multisectoral approach to pre-
15 venting and responding to violence against women
16 and girls internationally, including activities in the
17 economic, education, health, nutrition, legal, and ju-
18 dicial sectors;

19 (6) to work at all levels, from the individual to
20 the family, community, local, national, and inter-
21 national levels, to prevent and respond to violence
22 against women and girls around the world;

23 (7) to enhance training by United States per-
24 sonnel of professional foreign military and police
25 forces and judicial officials, including specific and

1 thorough instruction on preventing and responding
2 to violence against women and girls around the
3 world;

4 (8) to engage men and boys as partners, as an
5 essential element of making sustained reductions in
6 violence against women and girls;

7 (9) to include the prevention of child and forced
8 marriage as an important part of United States
9 Government efforts to prevent violence against girls
10 and promote gender equality and global health;

11 (10) to require that all United States contrac-
12 tors and grantees establish appropriate policies and
13 take effective measures to prevent violence against
14 women and girls and sexual exploitation and abuse
15 within their workforce;

16 (11) to exert sustained international leadership
17 to prevent and respond to violence against women
18 and girls, including in bilateral and multilateral fora;
19 and

20 (12) to implement the United States Strategy
21 to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence
22 Globally.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE.—The term “Am-
2 bassador-at-Large” means the Ambassador-at-Large
3 for Global Women’s Issues at the Department of
4 State appointed by the President pursuant to section
5 201(a).

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

9 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
11 of Representatives; and

12 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
13 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
14 Senate.

15 (3) GENDER ANALYSIS.—The term “gender
16 analysis” means the examination of the differential
17 impact of policies on different genders.

18 (4) GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.—The term
19 “gender-based violence”—

20 (A) means any harmful threat or act di-
21 rected at an individual or group based on actual
22 or perceived biological sex, gender identity or
23 expression, sexual orientation, or lack of adher-
24 ence to varying socially constructed norms
25 around masculinity and femininity;

1 (B) is rooted in structural gender inequal-
2 ities, patriarchy, and power imbalances; and

3 (C) includes the use or threat of physical,
4 psychological, sexual, economic, legal, political,
5 social and other forms of control or abuse.

6 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
7 fice of Global Women’s Issues established by the
8 Secretary of State pursuant to section 201(a).

9 (6) SENIOR COORDINATOR.—The term “Senior
10 Coordinator” means the Senior Coordinator for Gen-
11 der Equality and Women’s Empowerment at the
12 United States Agency for International Development
13 appointed pursuant to section 202.

14 (7) VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.—
15 The term “violence against women and girls”—

16 (A) means any act of violence against
17 women or girls that results in, or is likely to re-
18 sult in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm
19 or suffering to women or girls, including threats
20 of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations
21 of liberty, whether occurring in public or private
22 life; and

23 (B) includes—

24 (i) physical, sexual, and psychological
25 violence occurring in the family, including

1 battering, sexual abuse of female children
2 in the household, dowry-related violence,
3 marital rape, female genital cutting and
4 mutilation, forced child marriage, and
5 other harmful practices to women and
6 girls, nonspousal violence, and violence re-
7 lated to exploitation;

8 (ii) physical, sexual, and psychological
9 violence occurring within the general com-
10 munity, including rape, sexual abuse, sex-
11 ual harassment and intimidation at work,
12 in educational institutions and elsewhere,
13 trafficking in women and girls, and forced
14 prostitution; and

15 (iii) physical, sexual, and psycho-
16 logical violence perpetrated or condoned by
17 the state, wherever it occurs.

18 **TITLE I—STRATEGY, POLICY,** 19 **AND PROGRAMS**

20 **SEC. 101. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RE-** 21 **SPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOB-** 22 **ALLY.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years there-

1 after, the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the
2 Senior Coordinator, shall—

3 (1) develop or update, in consultation with civil
4 society, including service providers, a United States
5 global strategy to prevent and respond to violence
6 against women and girls, using evidence-based inter-
7 ventions and standards that address the root causes
8 of, and provide comprehensive responses to, violence
9 against women and girls;

10 (2) submit the strategy under paragraph (1) to
11 the appropriate congressional committees for com-
12 ment and review; and

13 (3) make the strategy publicly available on the
14 internet.

15 (b) INITIAL STRATEGY.—For the purposes of this
16 section, the “United States Strategy to Prevent and Re-
17 spond to Gender-Based Violence Globally”, issued in Au-
18 gust 2012 and updated in 2016, shall be deemed to fulfill
19 the initial requirement of subsection (a).

20 (c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 60
21 days after submission of the strategy under subsection (a),
22 the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the Senior
23 Coordinator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
24 committees an implementation plan detailing how the
25 strategy will be implemented in the upcoming 4 fiscal

1 years, including the budget resources requested, and the
2 specific activities to be supported, by each executive agen-
3 cy under the strategy.

4 (d) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In devel-
5 oping the strategy under subsection (a), the Ambassador-
6 at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall consult with—

7 (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;

8 (2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Traf-
9 ficking in Persons; and

10 (3) representatives of civil society, including
11 nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organi-
12 zations, multilateral organizations, local and inter-
13 national civil society groups, and local service pro-
14 viders and beneficiaries with demonstrated experi-
15 ence in addressing violence against women and girls
16 or promoting gender equality internationally.

17 (e) CONTENT.—The implementation plan required
18 under subsection (c) shall—

19 (1) identify eligible low-income and lower-mid-
20 dle income countries with significant levels of vio-
21 lence against women and girls, including within dis-
22 placed communities, that have the governmental or
23 nongovernmental organizational capacity to manage
24 and implement gender-based violence prevention and
25 response program activities and should, when pos-

1 sible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally di-
2 verse from one another;

3 (2) select 5 to 20 of the eligible countries iden-
4 tified under paragraph (1) in which to develop com-
5 prehensive and holistic individual country plans that
6 incorporate at least two of the program activities
7 listed in section 102(b);

8 (3) assess and describe the current or potential
9 capacity of the government of each eligible country
10 selected under paragraph (2) and civil society orga-
11 nizations in each such eligible country to address
12 and respond to violence against women and girls;

13 (4) identify coordination mechanisms with Fed-
14 eral agencies that—

15 (A) have existing programs relevant to the
16 strategy;

17 (B) will be involved in new program activi-
18 ties; and

19 (C) are engaged in broader United States
20 strategies around development;

21 (5) describe the monitoring and evaluation
22 mechanisms established for each eligible country,
23 and their intended use in assessing overall progress
24 in prevention and response;

1 (6) project general levels of resources needed to
2 achieve the stated objectives in each eligible country,
3 including an accounting of—

4 (A) activities and funding already ex-
5 pended by the Department of State, the United
6 States Agency for International Development,
7 and other Federal agencies, donor country gov-
8 ernments, and multilateral institutions; and

9 (B) leveraged private sector resources;

10 (7) integrate gender analysis into the strategy
11 for each country; and

12 (8) include, as appropriate, strategies designed
13 to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, in-
14 ternally displaced refugees and religious or ethnic
15 minority women and girls.

16 **SEC. 102. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES**
17 **STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO**
18 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State and the
20 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
21 national Development are authorized to provide assistance
22 to prevent and respond to violence against women and
23 girls internationally.

24 (b) **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Assistance
25 provided under this section shall be used to carry out, in

1 each of the countries identified in the strategy required
2 pursuant to subsection 101(e)(2), two or more of the fol-
3 lowing program activities:

4 (1) Increasing legal and judicial protections
5 by—

6 (A) supporting programs that strengthen a
7 coordinated community response to violence
8 against women and girls, including through co-
9 ordination between judges, police, prosecutors,
10 and legal advocates to enhance prospects for
11 perpetrator accountability;

12 (B) supporting efforts and providing re-
13 sources to provide training and technical assist-
14 ance to police, prosecutors, forensic physicians,
15 lawyers, corrections officers, judges, and judi-
16 cial officials, and where appropriate, to non-
17 lawyer advocates and traditional community au-
18 thorities on violence against women and girls;

19 (C) supporting efforts to reform and revise
20 criminal and civil laws to prohibit violence
21 against women and girls and create account-
22 ability for perpetrators;

23 (D) enhancing the capacity of the justice
24 sector, including keeping official records of all
25 complaints, collecting and safeguarding evi-

1 dence, systematizing and tracking data on cases
2 of violence against women and girls, and under-
3 taking investigations and evidence gathering ex-
4 peditiously;

5 (E) helping women and girls who are vic-
6 tims of violence gain access to the justice sector
7 and supporting them throughout the legal proc-
8 ess, including establishing victim and witness
9 units for courts and promoting support for sur-
10 vivor services, including hotlines and shelters;

11 (F) promoting civil remedies in cases of
12 domestic violence that—

13 (i) prioritize victim safety and con-
14 fidentiality and offender accountability;

15 (ii) grant women and children re-
16 straining, protection, or removal orders
17 with appropriate criminal sanctions for vio-
18 lations against perpetrators of violence;

19 (iii) strengthen and promote women’s
20 custodial rights over children and protect
21 children; and

22 (iv) grant courts authority to provide
23 specific relief pursuant to a restraining or
24 removal order, including restitution, spous-
25 al maintenance, child support, payment of

1 debt, or return or equitable distribution of
2 property;

3 (G) reducing the incidence of violence
4 against women and girls committed by govern-
5 ment officials by developing confidential mecha-
6 nisms for reporting violence against women and
7 girls committed by government officials and in-
8 stitutions and developing laws to punish the
9 perpetrators and remove immunity from state
10 officials;

11 (H) promoting broader legal protection for
12 women and girls against all forms of violence
13 against women and girls, such as female infan-
14 ticide and female genital mutilation, and prac-
15 tices that are associated with higher rates of vi-
16 olence against women and girls, such as child
17 and forced marriage; and

18 (I) increasing the number of women advo-
19 cates trained to respond to violence against
20 women and girls at police stations, including
21 the creation of domestic violence units and in-
22 creasing the number of women police.

23 (2) Carrying out health care initiatives, includ-
24 ing—

1 (A) promoting the integration of programs
2 to prevent and respond to violence against
3 women and girls into existing programs ad-
4 dressing child survival, women’s health, repro-
5 ductive health, family planning, mental health,
6 and HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment;

7 (B) training of health care providers, in-
8 cluding traditional birth attendants, on methods
9 to safely and confidentially assess women and
10 girls seeking health services for intimate part-
11 ner, family, and sexual violence;

12 (C) developing and enforcing national and
13 operational women’s health, reproductive health,
14 children’s health, and HIV/AIDS policies that
15 prevent and respond to violence against women
16 and girls, with accompanying resources, includ-
17 ing through cooperative efforts with ministries
18 of health;

19 (D) developing information gathering sys-
20 tems within the health care sector that, con-
21 sistent with safety and confidentiality concerns,
22 collect and compile data on the type of violence
23 against women and girls, access to care, age of
24 victims, and relationship of victims to perpetra-
25 tors;

1 (E) working with governments to develop
2 partnerships with civil society organizations to
3 create referral networks systems for psycho-
4 social, legal, economic, or other support serv-
5 ices; and

6 (F) integrating screening and assessment
7 for gender-based violence into HIV/AIDS pro-
8 gramming and other health programming into
9 all country operation plans, and increasing
10 women’s access to information, strategies, and
11 services to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.

12 (3) Conducting public awareness programs to
13 change social norms and attitudes, including—

14 (A) supporting women survivors of violence
15 to educate their communities on the impacts of
16 violence;

17 (B) engaging men, including faith and tra-
18 ditional leaders;

19 (C) providing funding and programmatic
20 support for mass media social change cam-
21 paigns; and

22 (D) supporting community efforts to
23 change attitudes about harmful traditional
24 practices, including child marriage, female gen-
25 ital mutilation, and so-called “honor killings”.

1 (4) Improving economic opportunities for
2 women and girls, including—

3 (A) supporting programs to help women
4 meet their economic needs and to increase their
5 economic opportunities, in both rural and urban
6 areas, including through support for—

7 (i) the establishment and development
8 of businesses (micro, small, and medium-
9 sized enterprises) through access to finan-
10 cial and nonfinancial services; and

11 (ii) education, literacy, and numeracy
12 programs, leadership development and job
13 skills training, especially in nontraditional
14 fields and expected growth sectors;

15 (B) supporting programs to help increase
16 property rights, social security, and home own-
17 ership and land tenure security for women by—

18 (i) promoting equitable extension of
19 property and inheritance rights, particu-
20 larly rights to familial and marital prop-
21 erty;

22 (ii) promoting legal literacy, including
23 among faith and traditional leaders, about
24 women's property rights; and

1 (iii) helping women to make land
2 claims and protecting women's existing
3 claims and advocating for equitable land ti-
4 tling and registration for women, including
5 safeguards for women title-holders in the
6 case of domestic violence disputes;

7 (C) integrating activities to prevent and re-
8 spond to violence against women and girls into
9 existing economic opportunity programs by—

10 (i) integrating education on violence
11 against women and girls into women's
12 microfinance, microenterprise, and job
13 skills training programs; and

14 (ii) training providers of economic op-
15 portunity services and programs in sensi-
16 tivity to violence against women and girls;
17 and

18 (D) addressing violence against women and
19 girls in the workplace.

20 (5) Improving educational opportunities for
21 women and girls, including—

22 (A) supporting efforts and providing re-
23 sources to provide training for all teachers and
24 school administrators on school-related violence,
25 in particular increasing awareness of violence

1 against women and girls, and to improve re-
2 porting, referral, and implementation of codes
3 of conduct;

4 (B) working to ensure the safety of girls
5 during their travel to and from school and on
6 school grounds;

7 (C) supporting programs for girls and boys
8 on the unacceptability of violence against
9 women and girls;

10 (D) comprehensive sexuality education pro-
11 grams which include consent education; and

12 (E) conducting national and baseline sur-
13 veys to collect data on school-related violence
14 against women and girls.

15 (c) BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY.—Not less than 10
16 percent of the amount of assistance provided to an eligible
17 country under this section should be provided to commu-
18 nity-based nongovernmental or faith-based organizations,
19 with priority given to nongovernmental organizations led
20 by women.

21 **SEC. 103. MONITORING THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO**
22 **PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED**
23 **VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—In each strategy submitted under
25 section 101(a), the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Co-

1 ordinator shall include an analysis of best practices for
2 preventing and addressing violence against women and
3 girls internationally, which shall include—

4 (1) a description of successful efforts by foreign
5 governments, multilateral institutions, nongovern-
6 mental organizations, educational organizations, and
7 faith-based organizations in preventing and respond-
8 ing to violence against women and girls;

9 (2) recommendations related to best practices,
10 effective strategies, and improvements to enhance
11 the impact of prevention and response efforts; and

12 (3) the impact of activities funded by the strat-
13 egy in preventing and reducing violence against
14 women and girls internationally.

15 (b) AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Assistance Act of
16 1961 is amended—

17 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

18 (A) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (B) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
22 and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(13) wherever applicable, the nature and ex-
2 tent of violence against women and girls (as such
3 term is defined in section 4 of the International Vio-
4 lence Against Women Act of 2022).”;

5 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

6 (A) by redesignating the second subsection
7 designated as subsection (i) as subsection (j);
8 and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following new
10 subsection:

11 “(k) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VI-
12 OLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.—The report re-
13 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,
14 the nature and extent of violence against women and girls
15 (as such term is defined in section 4 of the International
16 Violence Against Women Act of 2022).”.

17 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—In coordination
18 with relevant officials, and consistent with the monitoring
19 and evaluation policies of their respective agencies, the
20 Ambassador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall
21 develop a plan for monitoring and independent evaluation
22 of programs, projects, and activities carried out under this
23 Act. The plan shall—

24 (1) apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation
25 methodologies to focus on learning, accountability,

1 and policymaking, choosing from among a wide vari-
2 ety of qualitative, quantitative, summative, and
3 formative methods common in the field of social sci-
4 entific inquiry, including impact evaluations; and

5 (2) be included in the implementation plan re-
6 quired under section 101(e).

7 (d) RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-
8 retary of State and the Administrator of the United States
9 Agency for International Development shall—

10 (1) produce original research or analysis of ef-
11 fective interventions to prevent or respond to vio-
12 lence against women and girls internationally;

13 (2) collect and analyze new or existing data on
14 the scope and extent of all forms of violence against
15 women and girls internationally, including under
16 documented forms of violence and violence against
17 marginalized groups;

18 (3) conduct research on effective interventions
19 to respond to violence against women and girls inter-
20 nationally, including efforts to scale up effective pro-
21 gramming; and

22 (4) support systemic data collection using inter-
23 nationally comparable indicators, norms, and meth-
24 odologies for measuring the scope, prevalence, and

1 incidence of violence against women and girls inter-
2 nationally.

3 **TITLE II—OVERSIGHT AND**
4 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

5 **SEC. 201. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall
7 establish in the Office of the Secretary of the Department
8 of State the Office of Global Women's Issues. The Office
9 shall be headed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global
10 Women's Issues, who shall be appointed by the President,
11 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The
12 Ambassador-at-Large shall report directly to the Secretary
13 and shall have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-
14 Large.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—In addition to the duties described in
16 subsection (c) and duties determined by the Secretary of
17 State, the Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate efforts of
18 the United States Government as directed by the Sec-
19 retary regarding approaches that promote equality and ad-
20 vance the status of women and girls in United States for-
21 eign policy.

22 (c) DUTIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador-at-Large—

24 (A) in consultation with the Senior Coordi-
25 nator, shall direct activities, policies, programs,

1 and funding relating to gender equality and the
2 advancement of women and girls internation-
3 ally, including those intended to prevent and re-
4 spond to violence against women and girls, for
5 all bureaus and offices of the Department of
6 State and in the international programs of all
7 other Federal agencies;

8 (B) shall actively promote and advance the
9 integration of gender analysis into the pro-
10 grams, structures, processes, and capacities of
11 bureaus and offices of the Department of State
12 and in the international programs of other Fed-
13 eral agencies;

14 (C) shall direct United States Government
15 resources, as appropriate, to respond to needs
16 for promoting gender equality and the em-
17 powerment of women in United States Govern-
18 ment foreign policies and international pro-
19 grams, including to prevent and respond to vio-
20 lence against women and girls internationally;

21 (D) may design, support, and implement
22 activities regarding empowerment of women
23 internationally, including for the prevention of
24 and response to violence against women and
25 girls internationally;

1 (E) shall conduct regular consultation with
2 civil society organizations working to prevent
3 and respond to violence against women and
4 girls internationally;

5 (F) shall ensure that programs, projects,
6 and activities designed to prevent and respond
7 to violence against women and girls internation-
8 ally are subject to rigorous monitoring and eval-
9 uation, and that there is a uniform set of indi-
10 cators and standards for such monitoring and
11 evaluation that is used across all Federal agen-
12 cies;

13 (G) shall serve as the principal advisor to
14 the Secretary of State regarding gender equal-
15 ity, women’s empowerment, and violence
16 against women and girls as a foreign policy
17 matter; and

18 (H) is authorized to represent the United
19 States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on
20 matters relevant to the status of women and
21 girls, including violence against women and
22 girls internationally.

23 (2) INFORMATION SHARING AND TRANS-
24 PARENCY.—The Office—

1 (A) shall be the central repository of data
2 on all United States programs, projects, and ac-
3 tivities that relate to prevention and response to
4 violence against women and girls; and

5 (B) shall produce a full accounting of
6 United States Government spending on such
7 programs, projects, and activities.

8 **SEC. 202. SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY**
9 **AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
11 United States Agency for International Development the
12 position of Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and
13 Women's Empowerment. The Senior Coordinator shall—

14 (1) report to the Administrator of the United
15 States Agency for International Development; and

16 (2) conduct the activities of the Administrator
17 under this Act.

18 (b) DUTIES.—The Senior Coordinator—

19 (1) in consultation with the Ambassador-at-
20 Large, shall direct activities, policies, programs, and
21 funding of the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development relating to gender equality
23 and women's empowerment, including those intended
24 to prevent and respond to violence against women
25 and girls;

1 (2) shall actively promote and advance the inte-
2 gration of gender analysis into the programs, struc-
3 tures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus and
4 offices of the United States Agency for International
5 Development as required by the Agency's Gender
6 Equality and Female Empowerment Policy;

7 (3) shall direct United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development resources for gender equality
9 and women's empowerment, including to prevent and
10 respond to violence against women and girls inter-
11 nationally;

12 (4) may design, support, and implement activi-
13 ties led by the United States Agency for Inter-
14 national Development regarding gender equality and
15 women's empowerment, including for the prevention
16 and response to violence against women and girls
17 internationally;

18 (5) shall conduct regular consultation with civil
19 society organizations working to prevent and re-
20 spond to violence against women and girls inter-
21 nationally;

22 (6) shall serve as the principal advisor to the
23 Administrator regarding gender equality, women's
24 empowerment, and violence against women and girls;
25 and

1 (7) shall track and analyze monitoring and eval-
2 uation data and findings on international prevention
3 and response programs of the United States Agency
4 for International Development, consistent with
5 Agency-wide monitoring and evaluation activities, to
6 assist in the preparation of the strategy developed
7 under section 101(a).

8 **SEC. 203. BRIEFING AND ASSESSMENT.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Amba-
11 sador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall provide,
12 to the appropriate congressional committees—

13 (1) a briefing on international violence against
14 women and girls prevention and response strategies,
15 programming, and associated outcomes; and

16 (2) an assessment of human and financial re-
17 sources necessary to fulfill the purposes and duties
18 under this Act.

19 **SEC. 204. ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND**
20 **GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, PEACE-**
21 **KEEPING, CONFLICT, AND POSTCONFLICT**
22 **SETTINGS.**

23 (a) **ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
24 **WITH USAID.**—The Secretary of State and the Adminis-

1 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
2 velopment shall ensure that—

3 (1) bilateral and multilateral assistance made
4 available for humanitarian relief, conflict mitigation,
5 and post-conflict reconstruction including funds
6 made available through Safe from the Start and
7 other programs and efforts—

8 (A) prevents and responds to violence
9 against women and girls from the very onset of
10 and throughout a crisis;

11 (B) builds the capacity of humanitarian
12 actors, including multilateral agencies and those
13 leading relevant humanitarian cluster responses
14 and Areas of Responsibility (AOR), such as the
15 GBV AOR;

16 (C) builds the capacity of local partners to
17 address the special protection needs of women
18 and children;

19 (D) supports survivors of violence through
20 education, essential medical and psychosocial
21 assistance, trauma counseling, family and com-
22 munity reinsertion and reunification, and eco-
23 nomic opportunity programs; and

24 (E) provides legal services for women and
25 girls who are victims of violence;

1 (2) specialists in violence against women and
2 girls are designated and deployed, as appropriate, as
3 an integral part of Disaster Assistance Response
4 Teams to ensure the integration of prevention and
5 response to violence against women and girls inter-
6 nationally in strategies and programming; and

7 (3) contractors, grantees, and governments that
8 carry out programs with United States assistance—

9 (A) train humanitarian workers in pre-
10 venting and responding to violence against
11 women and girls, including in the use of mecha-
12 nisms to report violence against women and
13 girls;

14 (B) conduct appropriate public outreach to
15 make known to the host community the mecha-
16 nisms to report violence against women and
17 girls; and

18 (C) promptly and appropriately respond to
19 reports of violence against women and girls and
20 treat survivors in accordance with best practices
21 regarding confidentiality.

22 (b) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CREDIBLE REPORTS
23 OF CRITICAL OR WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE AGAINST
24 WOMEN AND GIRLS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, act-
2 ing through the heads of relevant bureaus and of-
3 fices of the Department of State, shall—

4 (A) identify critical or widespread incidents
5 of violence against women and girls in situa-
6 tions of armed conflict when such incidents
7 occur, through consultation with other Federal
8 departments and agencies, the United Nations,
9 international organizations, and nongovern-
10 mental organizations;

11 (B) determine emergency response meas-
12 ures not later than 45 days after such identi-
13 fication; and

14 (C) brief Congress, upon request, on the
15 implementation of such emergency response
16 measures and outcomes not later than 90 days
17 after such determination.

18 (2) CONTENT.—The emergency measures devel-
19 oped under paragraph (1) shall include a description
20 of bilateral diplomatic efforts with—

21 (A) the government of the country in
22 which the violence is occurring;

23 (B) governments in the region in which the
24 violence is occurring; and

1

(C) other donor governments.

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