

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5332

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2016

Mrs. NOEM (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiations 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 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Around the world, women remain under-
4 represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution,
5 and post-conflict peace building efforts.

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

10 (A) moderating violent extremism;

11 (B) countering terrorism;

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

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

18 (3) Research shows that—

19 (A) peace negotiations are more likely to
20 end in a peace agreement when women’s groups
21 play an influential role in the negotiation proc-
22 ess;

23 (B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35
24 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if
25 women have participated in the negotiation
26 process; and

1 (C) when women meaningfully participate,
2 peace negotiations are more likely to address
3 the conflict's underlying causes, leading to more
4 sustainable outcomes.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

16 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
18 of the United States to promote the meaningful participa-
19 tion of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, man-
20 agement, and resolution, reinforced through diplomatic ef-
21 forts and programs that—

22 (1) integrate the perspectives and interests of
23 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and
24 strategies;

1 (2) encourage partner governments to adopt
2 plans to improve the meaningful participation of
3 women in peace and security processes and decision-
4 making institutions;

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

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

9 (5) collect and analyze gender data for the pur-
10 pose of developing and enhancing early warning sys-
11 tems of conflict and violence;

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

15 (7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate implementa-
16 tion efforts and the impact of such efforts.

17 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
18 Congress that the President, in implementing each strat-
19 egy submitted under section 5, should—

20 (1) provide technical assistance, training, and
21 logistical support to female negotiators, mediators,
22 peace builders, and stakeholders;

23 (2) address security-related barriers to the
24 meaningful participation of women;

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

6 (4) support appropriate local organizations, es-
7 pecially women's peace building organizations;

8 (5) support the training, education, and mobili-
9 zation of men and boys as partners in support of the
10 meaningful participation of women;

11 (6) encourage the development of transitional
12 justice and accountability mechanisms that are in-
13 clusive of the experiences and perspectives of women
14 and girls;

15 (7) expand and apply gender analysis to im-
16 prove program design and targeting; and

17 (8) conduct assessments that include the per-
18 spectives of women before implementing new
19 projects or activities in support of peace negotia-
20 tions, transitional justice and accountability, efforts
21 to counter violent extremism, or security sector re-
22 form.

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 head of each relevant Federal de-
7 partment and agency, 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 nations to improve the meaningful partici-
15 pation of women in peace and security processes,
16 conflict prevention, peace building, transitional proc-
17 esses, and decisionmaking institutions in conflict-af-
18 fected environments; and

19 (2) include specific and measurable goals,
20 benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and
21 monitoring and evaluation plans to ensure the ac-
22 countability and effectiveness of all policies, pro-
23 grams, projects, and activities carried out under the
24 strategy.

25 (b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy
26 under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementa-

tion plan from each relevant Federal department and agency that describes—

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

(2) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the activities and programs carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

(c) COORDINATION.—The President should promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, in coordination and consultation with international partners, including multilateral organizations, stakeholders, and other relevant international organizations, particularly in circumstances in which direct engagement is not appropriate or advisable.

SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—Section 704 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) The Secretary, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel (in-

cluding special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or foreign service, and contractors) responsible for or deploying to countries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and ensuring meaningful participation by women:

“(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

“(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

“(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.”.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) Chapter 107 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 2158. Training for Ensuring Meaningful Participation by Women.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that all appropriate personnel (including members of the armed forces, members of mediation or negotiation teams, and relevant members of the civil service) responsible for or deploying to coun-

1 tries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing,
2 or emerging from violent conflict obtain training, as ap-
3 propriate, in the following areas:

4 “(1) Advanced training in conflict prevention,
5 peace processes, mitigation, resolution, and security
6 initiatives that specifically addresses the importance
7 of meaningful 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 “(b) EXISTING TRAINING.—All training provided in
18 accordance with subsection (a) shall be incorporated into
19 existing pre-deployment training.”.

20 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of
21 chapter 107 of title 10, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following new
23 item:

“2158. Training for Ensuring Meaningful Participation by Women.”.

24 (c) COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.—
25 The Secretary of State should work with the United Na-

1 tions and the international community to increase the
2 meaningful participation of women in international peace-
3 keeping operations, and should promote training that pro-
4 vides international peacekeeping personnel with the sub-
5 stantive knowledge and skills needed to effectively ensure
6 the physical security and meaningful participation of
7 women in conflict prevention and peace building.

8 **SEC. 7. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
10 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
11 national Development shall establish guidelines for over-
12 seas United States personnel to consult with stakeholders
13 regarding United States efforts to—

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

15 and

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

19 (b) FREQUENCY AND SCOPE.—Consultations under
20 subsection (a) shall take place regularly and include a
21 range and representative sample of stakeholders, including
22 local women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, and
23 other politically under-represented or marginalized popu-
24 lations.

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

2 (a) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of State, in conjunc-
3 tion with the Administrator of the United States Agency
4 for International Development and the Secretary of De-
5 fense, shall brief the appropriate congressional commit-
6 tees, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, on—

8 (1) existing, enhanced, and newly established
9 training carried out pursuant to section 6 and the
10 amendments made by such section; and

11 (2) the guidelines established for overseas
12 United States diplomatic and consular personnel to
13 engage in consultations with United States and
14 international stakeholders, pursuant to section 7.

15 (b) REPORT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY
16 STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the
17 submission of each strategy required under section 5, the
18 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
19 committees a report that—

20 (1) outlines the monitoring and evaluation
21 tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess
22 progress made on the policy objectives in section 4;

23 (2) summarizes United States diplomatic efforts
24 and foreign assistance programs, projects, and ac-
25 tivities to promote the meaningful participation of
26 women; and

1 (3) summarizes and evaluates the impact of the
2 programs, projects, and activities that support the
3 policy objectives in section 4.

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 nongovernmental 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 nonregistered 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, with respect to
13 the full range of formal or informal processes related
14 to negotiation or mediation, safe, genuine, and effec-
15 tive access to, and present and active involvement
16 in—

17 (A) conflict prevention;

18 (B) efforts to resolve, mitigate, or transi-
19 tion from violent conflict;

20 (C) peacekeeping and peace-building ef-
21 forts;

22 (D) post-conflict reconstruction, transition
23 initiatives, and governance; and

24 (E) humanitarian response.

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 (E) the Department of Justice;

10 (F) the Department of the Treasury;

11 (G) the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

12 (H) the Peace Corps;

13 (I) the Office of the United States Trade
14 Representative;

15 (J) the Centers for Disease Control and
16 Prevention; and

17 (K) any other department or agency speci-
18 fied by the President for purposes of this Act.

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