

2017 G7 Women's Economic Empowerment Recommendations

The Italian G7 Presidency has identified women's and girls' economic empowerment as a priority for the G7 in 2017. The **U.S. G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance** calls on the U.S. government to play a leading role in encouraging the G7 to take the following actions.

Recommendations:

Building on the transformative agenda of the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, we propose the following investments be prioritized by G7 countries to uphold their SDG commitments, in their development assistance and at home:

- 1. Build the talent pipeline.**
 - a. Offer financial incentives to keep girls in school¹ and learn skills. This will delay age at marriage² and contribute to more equal opportunities for girls in higher education and the labor market.
- 2. Dismantle barriers to employment.**
 - a. Invest in care services to increase women's labor market participation, generate employment, reduce poverty and inequality, stimulate tax revenue generation, and increase fiscal space. Invest in infrastructure to reduce drudgery and time poverty for women.³
- 3. Recognize and support the role of migrant care workers.**
 - a. Apply existing labor rights norms and conventions to address care deficits in home and host countries, protect the rights of care workers in labor importing countries and ensure that migrant workers are able to claim these rights.

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BACKGROUND

For the 2017 G7, the Italian government has prioritized commitments to reducing unemployment and implementing the 2030 Agenda, which highlights gender equality and empowering women and girls through equal access to quality education and economic resources. Investing in women can provide the greatest return for development, supporting greater individual and collective wellbeing, delaying the age at marriage, increasing incomes, and reducing poverty.

And yet despite significant investments in closing gender gaps in education and increasing primary enrollment and completion rates for both boys and girls, secondary enrollment and completion rates for girls remain markedly less than boys in some regions of the world.⁴

Furthermore, the responsibility for unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls. This limits engagement in market activities, reduces productivity, and leads to concentration in low-paid or part-time, more insecure, informal, and home-based work.

And finally, G7 countries constitute 6 of the top 20 countries that import immigrant women into developed economies for care work, often in informal settings and without full access to social protection and labor rights.⁵ The consistent application of SDGs 5 and 8 linked to existing labor protections could address care deficits and protect the rights of care workers, while guaranteeing the effective implementation of [ILO Convention 189](#).

While the statement is not designed to be a consensus position of the contributors, it has been endorsed by InterAction's leadership. Each set of recommendations was developed by a Policy Team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance, listed below. This Policy Paper will be available on the InterAction web site: www.InterAction.org.

International Center for Research on Women,
Lyric Thompson (Lead) and Spogmay
Ahmed
Bread for the World, Faustine Wabwire

The Hunger Project, Mary Kate Costello
Save the Children, Jessica Brady
Women Thrive Worldwide, Emily Bove

End Notes

¹ Such as conditional cash transfers and scholarships.

² Nanda, P., Datta, N., Pradhan, E., Das, P., and Lamba, S. (2016). "Making Change with Cash? Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Age of Marriage in India," ICRW. https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/IMPACT_Marriage_Webready.pdf, and "Girls Not Brides. (2013). 'Ending Child Marriage: What Will it Take?' <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/ForcedMarriage/NGO/GirlsNotBrides.pdf>

³ United Nations General Assembly (2013). Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. A/68/293. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/422/71/PDF/N1342271.pdf?OpenElement>.

Blackden, C. and Wodon, Q., eds. (2006). Gender, Time Use, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington, DC: World Bank., Koolwal, G. and Van de Walle, D. (2009). Access to Water, Women's Work, and Child Outcomes. Washington, DC: World Bank., and Asian Development Bank.(2015). Balancing the Burden? Desk Review of Women's Time Poverty and Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/177465/sdcc-balancing-burden.pdf>.

⁴ Particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

⁵ UN report Trends in International Migrant Stock: the 2015 Revision <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>.