

## 2018 G7 Gender Equity Recommendations G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.) G7 Charlevoix Summit

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The Canadian G7 Presidency has identified gender equity as a priority for the G7 in 2018. The Gender Equality Policy Team of the **U.S. G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance**, a group of 54 non-governmental organizations, calls on the U.S. government to play a leading role in encouraging the G7 to take the following actions.

1. **Implement the [G7 Roadmap for a Gender Responsive Economic Environment](#)** setting clear timelines, targets, benchmarks and reporting on progress, and **expand its application** to developing country contexts and development strategies. Achieve the target to **reduce the gender gap in labor force participation** by 25% by 2025 by investing 2% of GDP in the care economy (health, education, childcare, etc.),<sup>1</sup> increasing investment in quality education and training, land tenure security, financial services and market access for female entrepreneurs, as well as ensuring decent work and living wages for women workers.
2. **Launch a Leaders' Initiative on Women's Workforce Development:** The U.S. should champion a leaders' initiative to facilitate workforce development for women and young people for skilled and higher-paying jobs in low- and middle-income countries to help build foundational, transferable and life skills; facilitate apprenticeships, internships and mentorships; promote market access for female entrepreneurs; ensure that commitments<sup>2</sup> to investment in care services and social infrastructure are fulfilled, and that time use surveys and national accounts are regularly updated.
3. **Ensure schools and workplaces are free of sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV)** by supporting a comprehensive and integrated ILO Convention and Recommendation on 'Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work,' investing in efforts to reduce GBV directed at girls and promoting girls' access to safe, quality education in all settings, including in conflict and crisis.

## BACKGROUND

It's time to shift the way G7 countries approach economic development by focusing on women and girls as key economic actors and making the investments that will be required to level the playing field for them. Investing in women and girls can provide the greatest return for development, supporting greater individual and collective well-being, delaying age at marriage<sup>3</sup> and first birth, increasing incomes, reducing hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and improving stability and security.

However, secondary educational enrollment and completion rates for girls remain markedly less than boys in some regions of the world,<sup>4</sup> female labor force participation rates often lag behind, and women worldwide struggle to access good-paying jobs.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, the responsibility of unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls – particularly those in rural areas.<sup>6</sup> 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.

Moreover, 6 of the G7 countries are among the top 20 migrant destinations where women make up a significant proportion of migrants, many of whom end up working in the care and health sectors, often in informal employment and without access to social protection and labor rights.<sup>7</sup> 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 effective implementation of ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, gender-based violence continues to be a pervasive expression of gender inequality worldwide. Working to eradicate violence, address the social norms that condone and protect aggressors, and uncovering habituation to the status quo can provide the basis for lasting transformation. Addressing violence in schools, universities, and the workplace will prove fundamental to removing one of the most persistent and pernicious barriers to women's economic empowerment and gender equality worldwide. Support for the ILO standard on "Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work," as well as SDGs 5 and 16, will be critical to achieving this.

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*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 the Gender Equality Policy Team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance, listed below. This Policy Brief will be available on the InterAction web site: [www.InterAction.org](http://www.InterAction.org).*

### **Gender Equality Policy Team**

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## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> International Trade Union Confederation. (2016). "Investing in the Care Economy: A gender analysis of employment stimulus in seven OECD countries." <https://www.ituc-csi.org/investing-in-the-care-economy-a>

<sup>2</sup> G7 (2017). *G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment*. <http://www.g7italy.it/sites/default/files/documents/Gender%20Roadmap.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> 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/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/IMPACT\\_Marriage\\_Webready.pdf](https://www.icrw.org/wpcontent/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>

<sup>4</sup> Particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

<sup>5</sup> World Bank (2017). "Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate)." <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations (2017). "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls." Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2018/3. <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/3>.

<sup>7</sup> UN DESA. (2017). "International migrant stock: the 2017 revision". <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml>, and WHO. (2017). "Women on the move: Migration, care work and health". <http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/women-on-the-move/en/>

<sup>8</sup> ILO (2011). "C189 – Domestic Workers Convention." [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEX-PUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C189](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEX-PUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C189).