



US Women's Caucus at the UN

Global Recommendations

Membership in the US Women's Caucus at the UN is open to US-based NGOs and individuals who are committed to the principles of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action

Social Protection

We call upon States to provide universal social protection in rural and urban areas in order to meet basic human needs, with special attention to policies and programs that protect widows, ethnic minorities, the elderly, the disabled, and migrant and refugee women.

Income Support

- 1a. Design cash transfer programs to address long-term inequality, paying special attention to single mothers, lone elders, and widows of all ages
- 1b. Designate female householders as best recipients of cash transfers as they prioritize food, healthcare and education for children
- 1c. Supplement cash transfers with in-kind subsidies such as food stamps, school lunches, produce and/or fuel
- 1d. Include victims of domestic abuse in unemployment schemes
- 1e. Adjust old-age pensions to account for women's low-paid employment, time spent out of the workforce in unpaid care work and longer life spans.
- 1f. Ensure adequate, sustainable funding for social protection programs that will keep pace with the cost of living
- 1g. Provide income support to family members caring for people with disabilities or the elderly

Paid Family Leave and Care Work

- 2a. Guarantee well-paid, job-protected maternity leave
- 2b. Guarantee well-paid, job-protected family leave to care for a sick child, elderly parent, or disabled family member
- 2c. Encourage both men and women to take on caregiving roles

Public Services

We call upon States to provide equal access for women and girls to gender-sensitive basic services, ensuring that women can participate fully in decision-making and in the development and design of delivery systems.

Healthcare Services

- 3a. Design universal health care systems that provide equal access for women and girls without financial barriers, particularly in rural areas
- 3b. Provide quality health care to expectant mothers before, during, and after delivery
- 3c. Assure universal access to sexual and reproductive services, including family planning and abortion; HIV, breast, and cervical cancer testing; and one-stop services to deal with violence against women and girls including intimate partner violence and rape.

Justice and Protection Services

- 4a. Ensure the physical safety and dignity of women and girls in all spheres of life, including at home, in school, at work, and in public places
- 4b. Protect women's rights to land ownership and control, especially for widows
- 4c. Mandate proper birth registration for girls
- 4d. Criminalize all harmful and discriminatory practices against women and girls, such as harassment, exploitation, child marriage, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, and sex trafficking
- 4e. Create special police units staffed by female officers to ensure fair treatment for female victims of violence, including child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and rape

Education and Training Services

- 5a. Guarantee women and girls quality education at all levels in urban and rural areas, paying special attention to the transition from primary to secondary school
- 5b. Provide sex-segregated sanitation facilities for girls, especially at the secondary level
- 5c. Provide catch-up classes and childcare to allow young married girls to complete their education, and provide out-of-school girls with alternative learning opportunities
- 5d. Eliminate formal and informal school fees so parents do not have to choose between a son's or daughter's education
- 5e. Provide state-subsidized early childhood education, day care centers, and elder care centers to prevent the diversion of girls from school into care work
- 5f. Encourage women and girls to enter and complete STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs

Sustainable Infrastructure

We call upon States to include women in decision-making on sustainable infrastructure and to consider the differential impacts of public infrastructure on women and girls.

Water and Sanitation

- 6a. Ensure clean water and proper sanitation for both urban and rural areas to facilitate healthy households, including during pregnancy and childbirth
- 6b. Take steps to mitigate climate change to prevent increased burdens on women in water and firewood collection

Transportation and Housing

- 7a. Ensure safe, reliable, and affordable public transportation to allow women to access school, work, health facilities, markets, and economic opportunities.
- 7b. Provide adequate lighting and security services that protect women and girls from harassment on public transportation
- 7c. Ensure women and girls equal access to safe, affordable housing and increase the availability of temporary housing for victims of domestic violence

Women Deserve Better !

Women are not only recipients but are also providers of social protection and public services by feeding the family, educating and caring for children and elderly relatives, and providing family health care. Women and girls deserve equal opportunity and justice to become full members of society and need protection when they are most vulnerable, whether young, pregnant, widowed, or elderly.

WOMEN deserve better!