



US Women's Caucus at the UN

US 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

The US has some of the widest income disparities and some of the least generous, most restrictive income support and social protection programs in the developed world. Coverage varies widely from state to state, leaving some women and children more vulnerable than others. Women deserve better treatment and special consideration in all programs.

Social Protection

We call upon the US government to provide universal social protection in all stages of the life cycle to protect women and girls especially those who are widows, elderly, disabled, ethnic minorities, and refugee and migrant women.

Income Support

- 1a. Expand cash transfer programs to address long-term inequality, paying special attention to single mothers, lone elders, and widows of all ages
- 1b. Take women's concerns into consideration and create nation-wide minimum standards for unemployment and long-term unemployment insurance eligibility, amounts and duration
- 1c. Include victims of domestic abuse in unemployment coverage schemes
- 1d. Expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamp for families and school lunch programs
- 1e. Adjust Social Security pensions to take into account women's low-paid employment, time spent out of the workforce in unpaid care work and longer life span
- 1f. Provide income support to those caring for disabled or elderly family members
- 1g. Ensure adequate, sustainable funding for social protection programs that will keep pace with the cost of living

Paid Family Leave and Care Work

- 2a. Guarantee well-paid, job-protected maternity leave for all working women
- 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 the US to provide equal access for women and girls to gender-sensitive basic services, prioritize the reduction of US maternal mortality rates, and ensure that women participate fully at all levels of decision-making in the development and design of delivery systems.

Healthcare Services

- 3a. Adopt a universal health care system for all Americans that provides equal access for women and girls without financial barriers, particularly in rural areas currently underserved
- 3b. Provide quality health care to all expectant mothers before, during, and after delivery

- 3c. Assure universal access to quality 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
- 3d. Continue to use standard, accepted terms such as “gender”, “sex” and “sexual reproductive health” in all government communications
- 3e. Eliminate the “gag rule” prohibiting government money to institutions providing information or access to safe and legal abortion care.

Justice and Protection Services

- 4a. Ratify the Convention to End All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) assuring the full rights of American women and girls
- 4b. Reinforce protections to ensure the physical safety and dignity of women and girls in all spheres of life at home, in school, at work, and in public places
- 4c. Vigorously enforce laws that prohibit harmful and discriminatory practices against women and girls such as harassment, exploitation, child marriage, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and sex trafficking
- 4d. Encourage the creation of police units staffed by female officers to ensure fair treatment for female victims of child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and rape
- 4e. Rigorously enforce equal pay laws and initiate programs to identify pay gaps
- 4f. Eliminate policies that separate asylum-seeking mothers from children and reunite mothers with children who have been separated

Education and Training Services

- 5a. Provide subsidized early childhood education, day care centers, and elder care centers
- 5b. Encourage girls to enter and complete STEM programs
- 5c. Initiate a nationwide campaign to eliminate bullying in schools and to prevent gun violence in schools and on university campuses

Sustainable Infrastructure

We call upon the US to consider the differential impacts of public infrastructure on the lives of women and girls and to improve it in both rural and urban areas.

- 6a. Upgrade its aging infrastructure of water and sanitation systems as well as expanding the reach of high speed broadband in rural areas.
- 6b. Upgrade its aging public transport systems and design new ones to ensure safe, reliable and affordable public transport across America
- 6c. Provide adequate lighting and security services to protect women and girls from harassment on public transportation
- 6d. Ensure women and girls equal access to safe, affordable housing and increase the availability of temporary housing for victims of domestic violence

Global Responsibilities of the US

We call upon the US to continue its historic world leadership role at the UN by rejoining the Paris Climate Treaty to ensure sustainability of the planet for future generations; to continue its vital funding commitments to the UN; and to once again take a prominent position in promoting the rights and the empowerment of women and girls.