



# US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

January 27, 2021

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield  
c/o The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ambassador:

On behalf of the US Women's Caucus at the United Nations, we wish to congratulate you on your recent nomination as US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Let us introduce our organization. The US Women's Caucus at the UN represents many national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) recognized by the UN Council of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC). Our member organizations work to secure the rights and improve the general welfare of women and girls in the United States and around the world.

The US Women's Caucus at the UN actively supports the UN 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We advocate for the US Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), remove the ratification deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), renew the Violence against Women Act (VAWA), and adopt a US feminist foreign policy agenda. The attached policy statement for the 2020 UN Commission on the Status of Women gives more information on our Caucus positions.

Representing American NGOs on women's issues at an international organization like the UN has been difficult in recent years given the rise of conservative populism in the US and around the globe, creating a hostile climate for women's rights and human rights more broadly. As a collective voice, the US Women's Caucus at the UN is hopeful that your appointment signals a commitment to reestablishing US leadership on these issues at home, abroad, and within the UN itself.

Our Caucus urges the Biden administration to review its UN policies, re-energize the US Mission to the United Nations, and commit to remit all UN dues which were stalled under the previous administration, hobbling the work of the UN.

Further, as a member of the Coalition for a Feminist Foreign Policy in the US, the Caucus stresses the importance of sending high-level US delegations to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the upcoming Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and Paris. While we hardily applaud the Biden Administration's naming of the first White House Gender Policy Council, we would like to encourage an Executive Order announcing the Administration's plan to mandate a US Strategy for Feminist Foreign Policy, commit resources to implement the policy, and to require an annual progress report.

We trust that when you are confirmed by the Senate and take your place at the UN, you will mainstream women's equality and urgently place these issues as top priority both at home and as part of US foreign policy. This is now particularly important in the face of the current COVID crisis where women have borne the brunt with higher infection rates, loss of jobs and health care coverage, low wages, and disproportionately shouldering both child and eldercare issues at home.

Best of luck on your confirmation process and we look forward to working with you at the UN.

With very best wishes,

The Rev. Susan H. Lee, Ph.D.  
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ENC. US Women's Caucus Policy Statement UN Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 2020.