

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5332

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Women, Peace, and  
3 Security Act of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Around the world, women remain under-  
7 represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution,  
8 and post-conflict peace building efforts.

9 (2) Despite the historic under-representation of  
10 women in conflict resolution processes, women in  
11 conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved  
12 significant success in—

13 (A) moderating violent extremism;

14 (B) countering terrorism;

15 (C) resolving disputes through nonviolent  
16 mediation and negotiation; and

17 (D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the  
18 effectiveness of security services, peacekeeping  
19 efforts, institutions, and decision-making pro-  
20 cesses.

21 (3) Research shows that—

22 (A) peace negotiations are more likely to  
23 end in a peace agreement when women’s groups  
24 play an influential role in the negotiation pro-  
25 cess;

1 (B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35  
2 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if  
3 women have participated in the negotiation  
4 process; and

5 (C) when women meaningfully participate,  
6 peace negotiations are more likely to address  
7 the underlying causes of the conflict, leading to  
8 more sustainable outcomes.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that—

11 (1) the meaningful participation of women in  
12 conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes  
13 helps to promote more inclusive and democratic soci-  
14 eties and is critical to the long-term stability of  
15 countries and regions;

16 (2) the political participation and leadership of  
17 women in fragile environments, particularly during  
18 democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining last-  
19 ing democratic institutions; and

20 (3) the United States should be a global leader  
21 in promoting the meaningful participation of women  
22 in conflict prevention, management, and resolution,  
23 and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

1 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It shall be the policy of the United States to promote  
3 the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of  
4 conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-  
5 conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through dip-  
6 lomatic efforts and programs that—

7 (1) integrate the perspectives and interests of  
8 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and  
9 strategies;

10 (2) encourage partner governments to adopt  
11 plans to improve the meaningful participation of  
12 women in peace and security processes and decision-  
13 making institutions;

14 (3) promote the physical safety, economic secu-  
15 rity, and dignity of women and girls;

16 (4) support the equal access of women to aid  
17 distribution mechanisms and services;

18 (5) collect and analyze gender data for the pur-  
19 pose of developing and enhancing early warning sys-  
20 tems of conflict and violence;

21 (6) adjust policies and programs to improve  
22 outcomes in gender equality and the empowerment  
23 of women; and

24 (7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate the efforts  
25 related to each strategy submitted under section 5  
26 and the impact of such efforts.

1 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PAR-**  
2 **TICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PRE-**  
3 **VENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than October 1, 2017,  
5 October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, in  
6 consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal depart-  
7 ments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate con-  
8 gressional committees and make publicly available a single  
9 government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women,  
10 Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed de-  
11 scription of how the United States intends to fulfill the  
12 policy objectives in section 4. The strategy shall—

13 (1) support and be aligned with plans developed  
14 by other countries to improve the meaningful partici-  
15 pation of women in peace and security processes,  
16 conflict prevention, peace building, transitional proc-  
17 esses, and decision-making institutions; and

18 (2) include specific and measurable goals,  
19 benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and  
20 monitoring and evaluation plans, to ensure the ac-  
21 countability and effectiveness of all policies and ini-  
22 tiatives carried out under the strategy.

23 (b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy  
24 under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementa-  
25 tion plan from each of the relevant Federal departments  
26 and agencies that describes—

1           (1) the anticipated contributions of the depart-  
2           ment or agency, including technical, financial, and  
3           in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

4           (2) the efforts of the department or agency to  
5           ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out  
6           pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve  
7           maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

8           (c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—

9           Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State,  
10          the Secretary of State shall task the current Principal  
11          Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the  
12          implementation of the strategy under subsection (a) and  
13          the specific implementation plan for the Department  
14          under subsection (b), with respect to the roles and respon-  
15          sibilities of such bureau. The Principal Deputy Assistant  
16          Secretaries tasked with such responsibility shall meet, at  
17          least twice a year, to review the implementation of the  
18          strategy and the plan and to contribute to the report  
19          under section 8(b).

20          (d) COORDINATION.—The President should promote  
21          the meaningful participation of women in conflict preven-  
22          tion, in coordination and consultation with international  
23          partners, including multilateral organizations, stake-  
24          holders, and other relevant international organizations,

1 particularly in situations in which the direct engagement  
2 of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

3 (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
4 gress that the President, in implementing each strategy  
5 submitted under subsection (a), should—

6 (1) provide technical assistance, training, and  
7 logistical support to female negotiators, mediators,  
8 peace builders, and stakeholders;

9 (2) address security-related barriers to the  
10 meaningful participation of women;

11 (3) increase the participation of women in exist-  
12 ing programs funded by the United States Govern-  
13 ment that provide training to foreign nationals re-  
14 garding law enforcement, the rule of law, or profes-  
15 sional military education;

16 (4) support appropriate local organizations, es-  
17 pecially women’s peace building organizations;

18 (5) support the training, education, and mobili-  
19 zation of men and boys as partners in support of the  
20 meaningful participation of women;

21 (6) encourage the development of transitional  
22 justice and accountability mechanisms that are in-  
23 clusive of the experiences and perspectives of women  
24 and girls;

1           (7) expand and apply gender analysis to im-  
2           prove program design and targeting; and

3           (8) conduct assessments that include the per-  
4           spectives of women before implementing any new ini-  
5           tiatives in support of peace negotiations, transitional  
6           justice and accountability, efforts to counter violent  
7           extremism, or security sector reform.

8 **SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PAR-**  
9                               **TICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PRE-**  
10                              **VENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.**

11           (a) FOREIGN SERVICE.—The Secretary of State, in  
12           conjunction with the Administrator of the United States  
13           Agency for International Development, shall ensure that  
14           all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, mem-  
15           bers of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members  
16           of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors)  
17           responsible for or deploying to countries or regions consid-  
18           ered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent  
19           conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following  
20           areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and  
21           ensuring meaningful participation by women:

22                       (1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolu-  
23                       tion.

24                       (2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploi-  
25                       tation, and trafficking in persons.



1           (3) International human rights law and inter-  
2           national humanitarian law.

3           (b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of  
4           Defense shall ensure that relevant personnel receive train-  
5           ing, as appropriate, in the following areas:

6           (1) Training in conflict prevention, peace proc-  
7           esses, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives  
8           that specifically addresses the importance of mean-  
9           ingful participation by women.

10          (2) Gender considerations and meaningful par-  
11          ticipation by women, including training regarding—

12                (A) international human rights law and  
13                international humanitarian law, as relevant;  
14                and

15                (B) protecting civilians from violence, ex-  
16                ploitation, and trafficking in persons.

17          (3) Effective strategies and best practices for  
18          ensuring meaningful participation by women.

19   **SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the  
21          Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
22          national Development shall establish guidelines for over-  
23          seas United States personnel of the Department or the  
24          Agency, as the case may be, to consult with stakeholders  
25          regarding United States efforts to—

1           (1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict;  
2           and

3           (2) enhance the success of mediation and nego-  
4           tiation processes by ensuring the meaningful partici-  
5           pation of women.

6           (b) FREQUENCY AND SCOPE.—The consultations re-  
7           quired under subsection (a) shall take place regularly and  
8           include a range and representative sample of stakeholders,  
9           including local women, youth, ethnic and religious minori-  
10          ties, and other politically under-represented or  
11          marginalized populations.

12          (c) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-  
13          retary of State should work with international, regional,  
14          national, and local organizations to increase the meaning-  
15          ful participation of women in international peacekeeping  
16          operations, and should promote training that provides  
17          international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive  
18          knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective physical  
19          security and meaningful participation of women in conflict  
20          prevention and peace building.

21          **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

22          (a) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of State, in conjunc-  
23          tion with the Administrator of the United States Agency  
24          for International Development and the Secretary of De-  
25          fense, shall brief the appropriate congressional commit-

1 tees, not later than 1 year after the date of the first sub-  
2 mission of a strategy required under section 5, on—

3 (1) existing, enhanced, and newly established  
4 training carried out pursuant to section 6; and

5 (2) the guidelines established for overseas  
6 United States personnel to engage in consultations  
7 with stakeholders, pursuant to section 7.

8 (b) REPORT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY  
9 STRATEGY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the  
10 submission of each strategy required under section 5, the  
11 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
12 committees a report that—

13 (1) summarizes and evaluates the implementa-  
14 tion of such strategy and the impact of United  
15 States diplomatic efforts and foreign assistance pro-  
16 grams, projects, and activities to promote the mean-  
17 ingful participation of women;

18 (2) describes the nature and extent of the co-  
19 ordination among the relevant Federal departments  
20 and agencies on the implementation of such strat-  
21 egy;

22 (3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation  
23 tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess  
24 progress made on the policy objectives in section 4;  
25 and

1           (4) describes the existing, enhanced, and newly  
2           established training carried out pursuant to section  
3           6.

4 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

5           In this Act:

6           (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
7           **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
8           mittees” means—

9                   (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the  
10                   Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-  
11                   mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

12                   (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the  
13                   Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-  
14                   mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
15                   resentatives.

16           (2) **STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “stakeholders”  
17           means non-governmental and private sector entities  
18           engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and  
19           stabilization, peace building, protection, security,  
20           transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or re-  
21           lated efforts, including—

22                   (A) registered or non-registered nonprofit  
23                   organizations, advocacy groups, business or  
24                   trade associations, labor unions, cooperatives,  
25                   credit unions, relief or development organiza-

1 tions, community and faith-based organizations,  
2 philanthropic foundations, and tribal leaders or  
3 structures;

4 (B) independent media, educational, or re-  
5 search institutions; and

6 (C) private enterprises, including inter-  
7 national development firms, banks, and other fi-  
8 nancial institutions, particularly small busi-  
9 nesses and businesses owned by women or dis-  
10 advantaged groups.

11 (3) MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION.—The term  
12 “meaningful participation” means safe, genuine, and  
13 effective access to, and present and active involve-  
14 ment in the full range of formal or informal proc-  
15 esses related to negotiation or mediation with re-  
16 spect to any efforts toward the following:

17 (A) Conflict prevention.

18 (B) Resolution or mitigation of, or transi-  
19 tion from, violent conflict.

20 (C) Peacekeeping and peace building.

21 (D) Post-conflict reconstruction, transition  
22 initiatives, elections, and governance.

23 (E) Humanitarian response and recovery.

1           (4) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND  
2 AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal depart-  
3 ments and agencies” means—

4           (A) the United States Agency for Inter-  
5 national Development;

6           (B) the Department of State;

7           (C) the Department of Defense;

8           (D) the Department of Homeland Security;

9           and

10           (E) any other department or agency speci-  
11 fied by the President for purposes of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives November 15,  
2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*