U.S. Civil Society Shadow Report on Beijing+20

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights have issued a shadow report on the U.S. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

As the global community gathers to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, and as governments and civil society chart out the Post-2015 Agenda and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, this shadow report serves as a roadmap for U.S. action to advance the rights of women and girls in the Post-2015 Agenda.

The shadow report examines gaps in the U.S. report on Beijing+20 and provides recommendations gathered from diverse civil society organizations to inform the formation of U.S. domestic and global policies to advance the rights of women and girls. It focuses on the twelve critical areas of concern outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action:

- Women and Poverty
- Women and Health
- Women and Armed Conflict
- Women in Power and Decision-making
- Human Rights of Women
- Women and the Environment
- Education and Training of Women
- Violence Against Women
- Women and the Economy
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
- Women and the Media
- The Girl-child

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are part of a continuum of international agreements, meetings, actions, and activities that have effectively advanced women’s rights globally over many decades. As the U.S. government (USG) moves forward in crafting and implementing polices in the Post-2015 Agenda, we hope this report and its recommendations will help ensure a momentum of positive change for women and girls in the U.S. and globally.

Some of the recommendations for U.S. action in the report – which are not exhaustive – include:

**Domestic Efforts**

- Incorporate international human rights standards in federal, state, and local policy and programs to prevent violence against women, including addressing gender-biased policing; fully implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) including provisions relating to expanding jurisdiction of tribal courts in cases of domestic abuse; ban the practice of shackling of pregnant women in prison, especially during labor while in Federal prisons and provide incentives to states to ban the practice as well; take additional steps to prevent sexual violence in the military including shifting decisions about prosecution out of the chain of command.

***The civil society shadow report is available online at www.genderhealth.org and www.civilrights.org***
Work to expand access to publically-funded family planning services; support medically-accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education for young people; support and strengthen Medicaid to ensure women and families access to health care and expand access to immigrant women and their families; increase access to health services for LGBTQ people and women that is free from discrimination, stigma, and violence.

Work to secure ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); continue to pursue legislation to create a broad and accessible path to legalization for women immigrants and their families, including recognizing women’s contributions at home and at work.

**Efforts Abroad**

- Fully implement the Feed the Future Initiative, with special focus on fully recognizing and integrating women into all elements of the program and improve coordination within and across USG agencies to ensure anti-poverty programs are linked with education, family planning, HIV/AIDS, and human rights programming.

- Identify and support women mediators and negotiators in conflict situations and eliminate barriers to their participation in the peace process; ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; support legislation and increased funding for the recruitment, retention, professionalization, and safety of women in military and police forces.

- Ensure implementation of policies to allow adolescent girls to be free from all harmful practices especially child, early, and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation/cutting; fully implement the Let Girls Learn initiative – especially elements of the program that promote access to health care.

**The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights would like to thank the following organizations that contributed to this report:**

The Leadership Conference Education Fund • Advocates for Youth • Center for Reproductive Rights • Communications Consortium Media Center • Family Values @ Work • Feminist Majority Foundation • International Center for Research on Women • International Women’s Health Coalition • Legal Momentum • National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum • National Congress of American Indians • National Network to End Domestic Violence • National Organization for Women • National Partnership for Women & Families • National Women’s Law Center • PAI • The Sierra Club • Sistersong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective • US Human Rights Network • 9to5, National Association of Working Women • Liesl Gerntholtz

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