

Qualifications for the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues

U.S. Department of State

Empowering women and girls and advancing gender equality are central to U.S. foreign policy. Investing in gender equality restores the U.S. Government's standing as a moral leader, strengthens its national security, and creates economic opportunities both abroad and at home in the United States.

The Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues (GWI) leads the Department of State's work to promote gender equality, and the rights and empowerment of women and girls in U.S. foreign policy. The Office of Global Women's Issues, which has had long-standing, bipartisan support, leads the Department's efforts to include women and girls in U.S. diplomacy, partnerships, and programs. This Senate-confirmed position is the highest-ranking official with this mandate in the State Department.

Any nominee for this post should, at a minimum, be a champion for the equality, human rights, and empowerment of women and girls, and others marginalized or discriminated against due to their gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. Candidates for this important post should be carefully considered throughout the nomination and confirmation process, and should have at least the following qualifications:

Qualifications and Experience

Commitment to gender equality and demonstrated experience advancing the rights and opportunities of women and girls

- Commitment to working with a broad range of governments, civil society, private sector, grassroots women's, and community-based organizations that represent various backgrounds and perspectives
- Experience working in international affairs
- Track record of advancing gender equality, human rights, and women's and girls' empowerment
- Understanding of gender as a social construct upon which gender equality is based, and gender inequality as a root cause of oppression, discrimination, harassment, and violence based on gender
- Understanding of intersectionality, and a commitment to opposing all forms of discrimination and violence, and to empowering populations which have been systemically marginalized, including religious, racial, and ethnic minorities; indigenous peoples; people with disabilities; LGBTQI; people living with HIV or AIDS; migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people; older persons; married or unmarried adolescents and youth; widows; or people who are economically disadvantaged

Understanding of U.S. foreign policy and mechanisms used to implement commitments to gender equality

- Knowledge of the Global Women's Issues Office and a commitment to the Office's mission and role within the U.S. Department of State
- Understanding of the suite of current U.S. Government strategies and legislation for women and girls empowerment, such as the U.S. Strategy on Women Peace and Security, the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence, the U.S. Department of State Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment, the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls, the USAID Vision for Action to End Child Marriage and Meet the Needs of Married Children, the USAID LGBTI Vision

for Action, the USAID Counter-Trafficking in Persons Policy, the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018, and the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017; a willingness to implement and leverage these strategies and legislation within U.S. foreign policy; and a commitment to build upon them

- Commitment to U.S. government leadership in the global community and ability to leverage the UN system and other multinational institutions to advance the engagement, participation, and human rights of women and girls across all sectors
- Experience in applying non-partisan research, evidence, and data as the basis of setting priorities and making decisions
- Commitment to and understanding of holistic and human-rights based programming approaches that advance the policy imperative of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment
- Commitment to supporting and promoting women's autonomous decision-making over their bodies and their lives
- Demonstrated ability to bring about consensus to advance shared values and interests

****NOTE:** The statement is not to be used to imply that any signatory endorses or opposes a specific candidate for the GWI Ambassador-at-Large nominee.*

Endorsing Organizations:

BRAC USA

Heartland Alliance International

InterAction

International Rescue Committee

MADRE

National Democratic Institute

Oxfam America

Plan International USA

Promundo-US

Radiant International

Save the Children

The Hunger Project

Vital Voices

Women's Refugee Commission

Woodhull Freedom Foundation