



Global Leaders Call For Urgent Action On Gender Equity

**# OVERDUE
4EQUITY**
Supporting Women's Leadership

 **The
Rockefeller
Foundation**

 **GIWPS**
Georgetown Institute for
Women, Peace and Security

“We live at a watershed moment. Seldom has the world more urgently needed gender equality. It is up to us to demand it.”

— **Hillary Clinton**

At the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, representatives from 189 nations came together to commit to achieving the full and equal participation of women. The rallying cry, “women’s rights are human rights,” catalyzed unprecedented advances in education, health care, economic inclusion, and political participation.

We cannot take this progress for granted. Today, the rights of women and girls around the world are threatened by widespread democratic recession, the existential threat of climate change, disproportionate consequences of Covid-19, and proliferating global crises. Women political leaders and human rights defenders face an increasingly hostile environment and unchecked abuse both on and offline. And in every region of the world, cultural norms, traditional practices, and patriarchal attitudes still hold women back.

This moment of crisis requires us to both hold the line and continue to advance gender equity with cohesion and resolve.

The upheaval we face is not a challenge to ignore, but an opportunity to seize to advance gender equity and transformative change. Women’s progress is not a zero-sum game. It is a fundamental precursor to economic productivity, peace, and prosperity. From peace operations and climate action to countering violent extremism and aid provision, women are essential to progress for all of society.

Shifting the global status-quo requires buy-in and commitment from across every sector. Women political leaders need high-level training, mentoring programs,

and support networks to navigate and thrive amidst pushback. Addressing the vitriol of online platforms demands greater regulation and accountability mechanisms to transform the social media space. Women leaders should use their own platforms to elevate other women leaders’ successes and call out attacks.

To combat the climate crisis, we must center women in climate action and the green transition. This includes ensuring local climate organizations have equitable access to climate financing, and unlocking new capital investments to scale women-led businesses and programs that promote the use of renewable energy and regenerative agriculture. Women are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and key agents for adaptation and mitigation.

From Afghanistan and Myanmar to South Sudan and Ukraine, women peacebuilders must be meaningfully included in all levels of conflict resolution and have their calls to action reflected in policy frameworks. There is a critical need to bridge global and local actors to expedite the flow of information and ensure women are influential and visible in humanitarian aid processes, crisis response, and post-conflict recovery. These efforts can only be realized if they are matched with political will and resources.

We are overdue for equity. Now is the moment to embrace transformation and unleash our collective power for purpose. While we must double down on commitments made, bold and innovative thinking is required to meet today’s challenges.

Our best future is still before us. We must make it so.

This statement resulted from the 2022 Global Women Leaders Summit in Bellagio, Italy, chaired by Secretary Hillary Clinton and coordinated by The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and The Rockefeller Foundation. Their ideas for transformation will be taken forward in the coming months and an overview can be found in summary briefings.

Signatories include:

Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister, New Zealand;
Former UNDP Administrator

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 67th Secretary of State,
United States

Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the Economic
and Social Commission for Western Asia

Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the Chairperson
of the African Union Commission on WPS

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change; Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Former President
of the UN General Assembly

Anne Finucane, Chairman, Bank of America Europe;
Former Vice Chair, Bank of America

Dalia Grybauskaitė, Former President of Lithuania

Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA

Reema Nanavaty, Head of Self-Employed Women's
Association of India

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General
of the World Trade Organization

Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland;
Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

Melanne Vermeer, Executive Director, Georgetown
Institute for Women, Peace and Security;
Former U.S. Ambassador for Global Women's Issues

Also pictured:

Carla Koppell, Distinguished Fellow,
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Eileen O'Connor, Senior Vice President of Strategic
Communications and Policy, The Rockefeller Foundation

