



Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

DRL Gender Equity and Equality Programs

Advancing gender equity and equality is fundamental to **ensuring women, girls, and LGBTQI+ persons, in all their diversity, are safe and their human rights are respected**. Ensuring that all people, regardless of their gender identity or expression, can achieve their full potential and receive fair treatment and equal opportunity is both a moral and strategic imperative.

In advancement of the [National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality](#), the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor’s Office of Global Programs (DRL/GP) employs an **intersectional approach in all its programming** that **addresses the discrimination, systemic barriers, and human rights abuses and violations** that have for too long inhibited the full empowerment of women, girls, and gender-diverse persons around the world, including those who belong to multiple social identity groups across gender, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and disability communities. DRL/GP’s gender equality and women’s empowerment programs target four key areas:



Promoting **women’s political participation, decision-making,** and economic participation



Enhancing **women’s access to and participation** in civil society, including the media



Combating violence and promoting women’s roles in conflict prevention initiatives



Providing **emergency services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)**, including legal and psychosocial services

Program Highlights



Mexico

DRL programs contributed to increased diversity in gender representation with the **election of more than 300 women for local government and congress** in the states of Morelos and Yucatan. **More than 50%** of the women who participated as aspiring candidates in the DRL program were **nominated as candidates** in the 2020-2021 elections. Programs also increase the **inclusion and representation** of women from marginalized communities in political processes.



East Asia and the Pacific

DRL programs work throughout the region to **advance women environmental defenders’ advocacy** on local and national priorities related to protecting the environment and to enable them to conduct their work safely. Programs also support **emerging women leaders**, including from indigenous communities, to engage young people in environmental defense and sustain the environmental movement.



Niger

DRL programs helped popularize the country’s **National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security** and **create a regional department** to monitor its implementation. Programs also help local women’s groups **mainstream gender into peace and security initiatives** to improve the conditions of women’s rights in post-conflict and conflict zones.



Iraq

Through DRL’s Voices Against Violence: The GBV Global Initiative, hundreds of **survivors of ISIS violence** received assistance. One survivor, who was kidnapped, trafficked, and separated from her husband and family, experienced torture and sexual slavery before intensified fighting allowed her to escape. She was able to **access medical and psychosocial services** and **relocate** outside the refugee camp and hopes to start a business.

Priorities

Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

DRL/GP programs take a **multi-pronged approach** to addressing GBV, including **urgent assistance** for survivors of egregious GBV, **small grants** to civil society organizations working on GBV prevention and response, and working with stakeholders to **improve access to justice** for survivors.

Transitional Justice programs also support **conflict-related sexual violence** documentation efforts for **pursuing truth and justice** for victims and survivors and **accountability** for crimes committed in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Women's Economic Security

DRL/GP programs advance **international labor standards** for workers around the world in support of democracy promotion and **inclusive economic growth**. Efforts target the **most vulnerable workers**, including women, migrants, and workers who experience high levels of violence and harassment.

DRL/GP's **Promoting the Rights of Domestic Workers in Mexico and Guatemala** program – supported by the [Gender Equity and Equality Action \(GEEA\) Fund](#) – **advances inclusive economic security** by protecting labor rights of domestic workers and supporting their transition to the formal workforce.

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)

DRL/GP program efforts specifically advance the **participation** and **protection** Lines of Effort of the [Department's Plan to Implement the U.S. Strategy on WPS](#).

Participation programs support the **leadership of women, in all their diversity, in politics** and civil society and meaningful engagement in **peacebuilding processes** and decision-making.

Protection efforts provide **urgent assistance** to survivors of egregious GBV, support **conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) documentation** to facilitate transitional justice and accountability, and address **technology-facilitated GBV** – a pervasive issue for women in public life.

Program Impacts

1.1 million

viewers of a TV show supported by Voices Against Violence: The GBV Global Initiative teaching women how to file a police report after surviving some form of GBV

6,760+

people accessing GBV services in the last year

1,270

individuals trained to advance gender equality through their roles in public and private sector institutions in the last year

350+

local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process in the last year

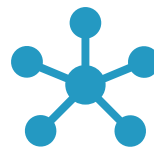
Emerging Priorities



Addressing **Technology-Facilitated GBV**, including **Online Abuse and Harassment**



Protecting and Empowering **Women Environmental Defenders**



Upholding **Human Rights** of Communities Marginalized by **Intersectional** Discrimination



Strengthening **CRSV Documentation and Accountability** Efforts