

**Gender Equality
Advisory Council
2023**



Gender Mainstreaming for an Inclusive, Peaceful, and Just Society

2023 GEAC Recommendations to the G7 Leaders

May 2023

Executive Summary

The 2023 G7 Summit in Hiroshima takes place at a time of multiple crises, including war and conflict, climate change, a weakening of democratic institutions, increasing global inequality, and the long-term health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19. **Women and girls in all their diversity have been disproportionately affected:** they suffer displacement and educational disruption, they are vulnerable to gender-based violence, and they shoulder the persistent burdens of unpaid care work and economic loss from the pandemic.

We are also living during a period of profound transformation through digitization, transitions to a green economy, and globalization. **Yet women and girls have not had consistent access to the opportunities brought about by these changes.** Rather than being uplifted, they risk being left behind—resulting in ever-widening gender gaps in education, income, and leadership.

In the face of these challenges, women's movements are leading on the frontlines. They are preventing violent conflict, delivering relief and recovery efforts, and forging lasting peace. As agents of change, women are bringing innovative solutions to tackle the climate crisis, reduce poverty, and address the promises and risks of the digital revolution. **The world is more peaceful, safe, and prosperous when women, in all their diversity, drive change and participate fully in all aspects of peace and security, as well as in every aspect of social, economic, and political life.**

Gender equality is not simply a value in itself, nor is it solely a concern for women: it is central to addressing current global challenges, powering the world economy, and creating a healthy and sustainable future for all. Gender is inextricably connected to social systems and political institutions, to work and family life, to scientific discovery, cultural vibrancy, and economic progress.

The Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) unequivocally advocates for the mainstreaming of gender into all policy making to achieve an inclusive and equal society, and it recognizes the intersectional dynamics of gender, such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability, and stage within the life course. **The 2023 GEAC calls upon the G7 leaders to make significant commitments to promoting gender equality in all areas,** including economic policy, climate change, paid and unpaid care work, access to quality sexual and reproductive health care, and LGBTQIA+ issues. The 2023 GEAC Recommendations highlight four fundamental pillars of gender equality: **Funding, Education, Peace Building, and Data.**

Beyond these four pillars, the 2023 GEAC emphasizes as an overarching theme the critical role of women's strong and persistent leadership and engagement. There will be no lasting peace, prosperity, or legitimacy for any state that seeks to limit the rights and opportunities of women. **The meaningful, direct involvement of women is therefore essential in every sphere**—political and economic, social and cultural, public and domestic.

Recommendations

Funding

Invest in gender equality, both domestically and internationally, through public-sector gender-responsive budgeting, international development assistance, climate finance, and policies designed to encourage private-sector investment in women-owned, women-led businesses.

- Implement gender-based analysis, gender-responsive budgeting, and gender auditing as guiding principles throughout policy development and implementation, such as through policies related to paid and unpaid care work.
- Increase direct flexible funding to women's rights organizations and women-led grassroots organizations, both domestically and through development assistance.
- Create a fund of funds to provide catalytic anchor investment in women-led funds with innovative gender-smart investing strategies to build the market and crowd in private capital.

Education

Promote gender equality in and through education by investing in comprehensive, lifelong learning and continuous professional training for all genders and all ages.

- Invest in educational programs that instill a knowledge of fundamental rights and combat gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, discrimination, and unconscious bias.
- Ensure that girls and women have access to the opportunities of digital transformation and the development of climate-resilient economies; invest in programs focusing on STEM competencies, AI skills, and digital literacy.
- Increase opportunities for gender-transformative learning and skills development; recognize and address the social and economic barriers to men's and boys' educational participation, engagement, and achievement.

Peace Building

Lead by example, invest in, and promote the full implementation of international human rights law and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

- Acknowledge as threats to democracy the growing attacks on women and LGBTQIA+ politicians, activists, journalists, and human rights defenders, feminist and women's rights actors and organizations, and recognize that investments in gender equality will serve to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.
- Combat impunity for violations of women's rights: adapt existing domestic legislative frameworks and renew commitments to fund international bodies mandated to ensure that all human rights violations, especially conflict-related sexual violence against girls and women, are properly investigated, prosecuted, and punished.
- Fund frontline women's organizations and ensure their direct, meaningful participation in peace and conflict prevention, negotiation, resolution, peace building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Data

Provide funding and public statements in support of timely, inclusive, robust, transparent, and publicly available data collection to create a **culture of accountability** in closing gender gaps and inform policy design and interventions.

- Support and strengthen existing platforms tracking progress on gender equality, including the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps and UN Women Data Hub, to promote access and use of gender data.
- Provide resources for creating clear guidelines on public- and private-sector collection of gender data.
- Increase financial commitments for targeted data collection on measures in which high-quality data is most urgently needed, including gender-based violence, unpaid care work, and women's leadership.
- Intensify efforts to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use data disaggregated simultaneously by gender and other aspects of identity (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, economic status, ability) in order to adopt effective and targeted policies with an intersectional lens.