

Policy Brief Three: Using Foreign Policy to Improve Global Gender Equality

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Executive Summary

Gender equality is a very important issue around the world, but many countries do not use foreign policy to support it. By adding gender equality to diplomacy, trade, and aid, governments can make real change. This brief shows how foreign policy can help reduce gender gaps and gives clear steps to take action.

Introduction and Defining the Problem

First, Gender equality is a human right. Moreover, it has a huge impact on the economy and politics. Therefore, the countries which support gender equality have stronger economies, good leadership, and more social stability. However, in many parts of the world, women are struggling. They do not have the same rights and opportunities as men (Al-Hadad, 2015).

Foreign policy can help in improving gender equality, but many governments disregard this issue when making international decisions. Developed countries like USA can impact the gender equality policies in these countries through diplomacy, trade agreements, and financial aid. However, these tools are not always used to support women's rights and opportunities. On the contrary USA likes fair trade but do not support deals where the U.S. is at a disadvantage, because Americans do not always want to win more, but they do not want to lose (Brutger et. Al. (2021).

This policy brief explains how foreign policy can help close gender gaps. It gives clear strategies for governments to include gender equality in their international work. The goal is to show that when countries make gender equality part of their foreign policy, they can create real and lasting change.

Policy Options & Recommendations

1. Include Gender in Foreign Aid

- Give money for programs that support gender equality in developing countries.
- Make sure foreign aid budgets include gender equality goals.
- Work with local groups that fight for women's rights.

2. Use Trade Policy to Support Gender Equality

- Make trade agreements that have rules for gender equality.
- Help businesses owned by women enter global markets.
- Ask companies to follow fair labor rules for women.

3. Improve Diplomatic Efforts

- Choose gender equality advisors for embassies and foreign ministries.
- Support international agreements that focus on gender, like CEDAW.
- Encourage women to take part in peace and security talks, like a goodwill ambassador.

4. Use Economic Sanctions & Rewards

- Put sanctions on countries that do not respect women's rights.
- Give rewards to governments that create gender-equal policies.
- Connect foreign investment deals with gender equality rules.

Conclusion

The third option, improving diplomatic, efforts is a very good way to use foreign policy to support gender equality. Diplomatic efforts are better because they help countries talk and build trust for long-term peace. Sanctions can be avoided, incentives can be used without real change, and trade rules do not always stop problems. Talking and working together can bring better results (Iqbal, 2024). When governments choose gender equality advisors, support

agreements like CEDAW, and include women in peace talks, they help make real progress. These actions push countries to create fair policies and give women more power in decision-making.

Reports from international groups show that countries with strong gender policies have better economies, more political stability, and fewer conflicts. According to Laurel Stone, a Quantitative Analysis of Women's Participation in Peace Processes, when women join peace talks, the peace agreements are 35% more likely to last for 15 years. This means that gender equality in diplomacy can bring long-term benefits (Coomaraswamy, 2015, p:49).

Focusing on gender in diplomacy is not only the right thing to do, but also a smart strategy. It helps to build peace, grow economies, and create equal chances for everyone. Governments should take action now to make gender equality part of their diplomatic work and bring real change to the world.

Implications and Recommendations

Implications

- If governments add gender equality to their diplomacy, then international policies will be more fair, and more women will have power in decisions.
- If women take part in peace talks, then peace agreements will stay longer, and countries will have more stability.
- If countries support agreements like CEDAW, then they will feel more pressure to improve women's rights.
- If gender equality advisors work in embassies and ministries, then global policies will focus more on gender issues.

Recommendations

- Choose Gender Equality Advisors. Governments should put advisors in embassies and ministries to focus on gender issues.
- Support International Gender Agreements. Countries should follow agreements like CEDAW and work to improve women's rights.
- Include Women in Peace Talks. Women should have a place in peace meetings and leadership discussions.
- Use Diplomacy to Promote Gender Equality. Foreign policy leaders should talk about gender equality when working with other countries.
- Follow-up on Progress. Governments should create reports to track gender equality in foreign policy and use this information to make better plans.

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