



# 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

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**Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.**

**We encourage readers to send comments to**

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## 10. Gender: Inequalities

“As many women have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, we will work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.”

*G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

### Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls across numerous spheres, such as health, economics, security and social protection.<sup>3497</sup> According to UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the crisis’s economic impact will considerably raise women’s poverty rate, with approximately 47 million females being pushed into extreme destitution by 2021.<sup>3498</sup> Impoverished girls who already face health and safety challenges managing their menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health without access to clean water and other basic needs are even more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus and its consequences.<sup>3499</sup> In April 2020, the UN Secretary-General acknowledged that “limited gains in gender equality and women’s rights made over the decades are in danger of being rolled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” making it

<sup>3497</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3498</sup> COVID-19 will widen poverty gap between women and men, new UN Women and UNDP data shows, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/\\_COVID-19\\_will\\_widen\\_poverty\\_gap\\_between\\_women\\_and\\_men\\_.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/_COVID-19_will_widen_poverty_gap_between_women_and_men_.html)

<sup>3499</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

imperative to address the outbreak's regressive effects on gender equality.<sup>3500</sup> Such impacts can be exacerbated for the most vulnerable groups of women, such as migrant workers, refugees, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households and youth.<sup>3501</sup>

School closures, overburdened health systems, and existing gender norms have created an increased demand on females to undertake unpaid care and domestic work, such as catering to their family's basic survival needs and caring for the sick.<sup>3502</sup> For women, this creates obstacles in balancing paid work or entering the labour force. UN Women estimates that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a "prolonged dip in women's income and labour force participation."<sup>3503</sup> Besides, young women and girls living in poverty, with disabilities or in rural, isolated locations are more likely to abandon their education to compensate for increased care and domestic work at home.<sup>3504</sup> Evidence from past epidemics reveals that such females are at an exceptionally high risk of not returning to school even after a pandemic is over.<sup>3505</sup> Estimates show that an additional 11 million girls may abandon their education by the end of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3506</sup> They are also more prone to child marriage and other kinds of violence as a means to alleviate their families' economic burdens.<sup>3507</sup> Hence, the pandemic's economic impacts are likely to increase sexual exploitation and disrupt efforts to end child marriage.<sup>3508</sup> The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that an additional 3 million child marriages will occur between 2020 and 2030.<sup>3509</sup>

Concerning the health response to COVID-19, currently, women represent 70 per cent of the global health workforce.<sup>3510</sup> Nevertheless, they are paid considerably less than their male counterparts.<sup>3511</sup> The gender pay gap in the health sector, at 25 per cent, is higher than the 16 per cent overall gender

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<sup>3500</sup> Put women and girls at centre of COVID-19 recovery: UN Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061452>

<sup>3501</sup> COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

<sup>3502</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3503</sup> Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf>

<sup>3504</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3505</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3506</sup> Over 11 million girls may not go back to school after the COVID-19 crisis, UNESCO (Paris) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/girlseducation>

<sup>3507</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3508</sup> New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

<sup>3509</sup> New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

<sup>3510</sup> COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

<sup>3511</sup> COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

pay gap in other sectors.<sup>3512</sup> According to UN Women, “women typically earn less and hold less secure jobs than men. With plummeting economic activity, women are particularly vulnerable to layoffs and loss of livelihoods.”<sup>3513</sup>

The outbreak of COVID-19 has also left women vulnerable to a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence.<sup>3514</sup> Emerging data and reports have shown a notable surge in domestic abuse.<sup>3515</sup> In numerous countries, violence reports and emergency calls have risen by 25 per cent since distancing measures, quarantine and movement restrictions were enacted.<sup>3516</sup> In November 2020, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that “violence against women is also a pandemic – one that pre-dates the virus and will outlive it...there has never been a more important moment to resolve to put our combined resources and commitment behind the biggest issues, and to end violence against women and girls, for good.”<sup>3517</sup>

At the 2009 London Summit, G20 members briefly mentioned building “a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”<sup>3518</sup> They also committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies.”<sup>3519</sup>

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members committed to “advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in care-giving.”<sup>3520</sup> In regards to fostering inclusion, G20 leaders recognized the need to encourage and expand economic opportunities for women.<sup>3521</sup> They pledged to “take concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women’s full economic and social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies.”<sup>3522</sup>

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the focus on gender-equality peaked when compared to previous years.<sup>3523</sup> G20 leaders focused on endorsing financial education for women and girls, committing to

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<sup>3512</sup> COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

<sup>3513</sup> COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

<sup>3514</sup> Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

<sup>3515</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3516</sup> COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters, UN Women (New York) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters>

<sup>3517</sup> Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

<sup>3518</sup> G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

<sup>3519</sup> The G20 London Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-london.html>

<sup>3520</sup> The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

<sup>3521</sup> The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

<sup>3522</sup> The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

<sup>3523</sup> G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

craft and take targeted actions to increase “incentives, financial literacy, education and consumer protection for...vulnerable groups such as women.”<sup>3524</sup>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members agreed to reduce “the gap in participation rates between men and women in [G20 members] by 25 per cent by 2025,...[and] to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force.”<sup>3525</sup> The Brisbane Action Plan committed to tackling long-term and structural unemployment, “[supporting citizens] particularly youth and women, to gain and maintain quality employment [as well as] enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequality.”<sup>3526</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders committed to reducing gender compensation gaps and take “further action to improve the quality of female employment and eliminate employment discrimination.”<sup>3527</sup> They planned to address such issues by promoting “effective wage policies, removing barriers women face when striving for higher-paying, higher-quality jobs, tackling occupational and sectoral segregation and fostering women’s career prospects including through entrepreneurship.”<sup>3528</sup> Additionally, they also acknowledged the need to provide quality education, training, social protection policies and legal reforms to females, promoting policies that “help women and men reconcile work and family lives in a more equitable manner.”<sup>3529</sup> They also committed to “provide women with protection against all forms of violence.”<sup>3530</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members pledged to “continue to promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and gender-based violence.”<sup>3531</sup> Leaders also recognized the need to promote women’s economic empowerment through “access to quality and affordable care infrastructure and parental leave.”<sup>3532</sup> G20 members also committed to encourage and “promote women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions.”<sup>3533</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders focused on addressing the gender gap in unpaid care work, recognizing that it “remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.”<sup>3534</sup> They were also resolute to end all forms of discrimination against women, combat stereotypes and

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<sup>3524</sup> The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>

<sup>3525</sup> The 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-14-brisbane.html>

<sup>3526</sup> G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

<sup>3527</sup> The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

<sup>3528</sup> The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

<sup>3529</sup> The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

<sup>3530</sup> The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

<sup>3531</sup> The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

<sup>3532</sup> The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

<sup>3533</sup> The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

<sup>3534</sup> The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

support “girls’ and women’s education and training, including providing quality primary and secondary education.”<sup>3535</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders committed to “work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities,” with the recognition that women have been “disproportionately affected” by the pandemic and the intention to not “undermine the progress made in recent decades” to empower women.<sup>3536</sup> “Women” is understood to mean female individuals aged 18 years or more.<sup>3537</sup> “Girls” refers to female individuals below the age of 18 years.<sup>3538</sup>

To “work to ensure” is understood to mean applying international diplomacy to make something certain to happen.<sup>3539</sup> This can include drafting proposals, encouraging new initiatives or putting forward new ideas.<sup>3540</sup>

“Pandemic” is understood to mean the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3541</sup>

To “widen” is understood to mean increasing the scope or extent of something.<sup>3542</sup>

“Gender inequalities” is understood to mean unequal access to or enjoyment of rights in various social, legal and cultural situations due to one’s sex and/or gender identity.<sup>3543</sup> As the COVID-19 pandemic has strained resources and limited institutional capabilities of numerous countries, this commitment outlines the pandemic’s disproportionate effects on women in three key spheres: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence.<sup>3544</sup> As part of this commitment, G20 members must take actions directed at the three spheres mentioned in response to efforts to mitigate the pandemic’s impacts on women.

“Health” is understood to mean a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.<sup>3545</sup> Examples of actions that support women’s health affected by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions for pre- and post-natal healthcare, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, promoting education on menstrual hygiene, providing quality care and support for survivors of gender-based violence, funding greater

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<sup>3535</sup> The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

<sup>3536</sup> G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

<sup>3537</sup> Gender: Education and Training, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/11-2019-osaka-final-compliance-gender-education.pdf>

<sup>3538</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva) 20 November 1989. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

<sup>3539</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3540</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3541</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12

November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3542</sup> Widen, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/widen>

<sup>3543</sup> Gender Inequality, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1182>

<sup>3544</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3545</sup> Constitution of the World Health Organization, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>

access to essential medicines or health insurance coverage, and reallocating resources to ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities.<sup>3546</sup>

“Economic security” is understood to mean the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity.<sup>3547</sup> Examples of actions that support women’s economic security disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks such as providing unemployment insurance relief, drafting proposals to ensure women’s access to social protections like paid sick leave, funding efforts to reduce pandemic-related lay-offs and job cuts, increasing access to affordable childcare support, and recognizing the importance of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>3548</sup>

“Gender-based violence” is understood to mean harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender and includes sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private as well as threats of violence, coercion and manipulation.<sup>3549</sup> Examples of actions that support women who experience gender-based violence due to situations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic include reallocating and increasing health, social, judicial and/or police services to respond to such cases, enacting national response plans with measures to eliminate all forms of violence, increasing security measures to prevent violence against women in deserted urban or rural public spaces and transportation services, and drafting proposals to aid or support women trapped at home with their abusers.<sup>3550</sup>

To “undermine” is understood to mean weakening or ruining something by degrees.<sup>3551</sup> Examples include resisting or impairing efforts put forth by other actors.<sup>3552</sup>

“Progress made in recent decades” is understood to mean the relevant UN declarations, processes, and calls to action to empower women and girls.<sup>3553</sup> Goal 3 of the UN Millennium Development Goals aimed to promote gender equality and empower women with a specific target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education by no later than 2015.<sup>3554</sup> Although much progress was made towards women’s equality in education and employment, the UN recognized the need to address other areas of gender inequality such as violence against women and women’s unequal access to opportunities in the labour market.<sup>3555</sup> As part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 also aims to achieve gender equality and empower all

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<sup>3546</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3547</sup> What is Economic Security?, International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva) 18 June 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/introduction-economic-security>

<sup>3548</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3549</sup> Gender-based Violence, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html>

<sup>3550</sup> How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

<sup>3551</sup> Undermine, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/undermine>

<sup>3552</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3553</sup> G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

<sup>3554</sup> The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

<sup>3555</sup> The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

women and girls with targets including eliminating all forms of violence against women and recognizing unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>3556</sup>

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is.<sup>3557</sup> A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss gender inequalities.<sup>3558</sup> For strong actions, a G20 member would have to initiate a program or new law, and/or contribute financial or technical assistance to ensure the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities in relation to the health, economic security and/or gender-based violence spheres previously stated.<sup>3559</sup>

Actions on the domestic level would include verbal reaffirmations, allocating money and budgetary resources, creating new offices, departments, and/or programs, and/or enacting domestic legislations to reduce gender inequalities.<sup>3560</sup> Actions on the international level would include sponsoring, signing or ratifying international treaties, financing or sending personnel to international organizations such as UN Women, and/or providing international financial support directly and/or through international institutions in support of women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3561</sup>

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member can take strong actions in two spheres and some action in one sphere to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in all three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of partial compliance, the G20 member has taken strong actions in one sphere and some actions in the other two spheres to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least one of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and/or Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in at least one of the three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed less than the aforementioned criteria.

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<sup>3556</sup> Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (New York) 25 September 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

<sup>3557</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3558</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3559</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3560</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3561</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member has NOT taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ANY of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken weak steps in only ONE of the three spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence).
0	G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least ONE of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in ONE sphere and weak steps in the other TWO spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence).
+1	G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ALL three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in at least TWO spheres and weak steps in ONE other sphere (health, economic security AND/OR gender-based violence).

*Compliance Director: Brandon Yih*

*Lead Analyst: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

**Argentina: +1**

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas launched the “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women” campaign.<sup>3562</sup> This campaign aims to eradicate and raise awareness surrounding gender-based violence in the field of production and the workplace.<sup>3563</sup>

On 10 December 2020, Argentina hosted the Women Economic Forum, an annual global business conference and gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders.<sup>3564</sup> The purpose of this forum is to promote and pursue initiatives for women’s empowerment and economic entrepreneurship.<sup>3565</sup> The conference was attended by over 150 allied countries and global chapters.<sup>3566</sup>

On 11 December 2020, the National Congress passed the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy Bill (IVE) along with the Bill for Comprehensive Healthcare during Pregnancy and Early Childhood.<sup>3567</sup> The IVE Bill legalized abortion in Argentina and the Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta stated that women will no longer be forced “to carry out a clandestine abortion and put her life or health at risk.”<sup>3568</sup>

On 16 December 2020, Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta and the Executive Director of the YPF Foundation Ofelia Cedola signed a strengthening and technical

<sup>3562</sup> Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

<sup>3563</sup> Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

<sup>3564</sup> WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

<sup>3565</sup> WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

<sup>3566</sup> WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

<sup>3567</sup> Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

<sup>3568</sup> Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

cooperation agreement to implement joint projects on gender, equality and diversity policies in the energy, science and technology sectors.<sup>3569</sup> This agreement will also promote greater participation of women in the energy sector through scholarships and other programs.<sup>3570</sup>

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (MGyD) inaugurated the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence in Moreno.<sup>3571</sup> The main objective of this Network is to implement prevention and protection policies for people affected by gender-based violence throughout the entire country.<sup>3572</sup>

On 14 January 2021, President Alberto Fernandez alongside the Minister of Health Ginés González García, signed the enactment of the IVE Bill and the Law on Comprehensive Healthcare During Pregnancy and Early Childhood.<sup>3573</sup> Both laws aim to support women's reproductive decisions.<sup>3574</sup> President Fernandez emphasized that this law would end the criminalization of women who undertake abortion and prevent them from all the dangers that clandestine termination entails.<sup>3575</sup>

On 28 January 2021, the MGyD, in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires and the municipalities of Ensenada and Berisso, launched the first day of the national prevention campaign, "United Argentina Against Gender Violence."<sup>3576</sup> This campaign aims to generate and make tools available for the prevention of gender-based violence in all parts of Argentina through audiovisual contents, digital training workshops and other campaign tools.<sup>3577</sup>

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<sup>3569</sup> We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

<sup>3570</sup> We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

<sup>3571</sup> We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

<sup>3572</sup> We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

<sup>3573</sup> The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

<sup>3574</sup> The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

<sup>3575</sup> The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

<sup>3576</sup> In Ensenada, we held the first day of the "United Argentina Against Gender Violence" campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

<sup>3577</sup> In Ensenada, we held the first day of the "United Argentina Against Gender Violence" campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

On 13 February 2021, the MGyD created the Integrated System of Cases of Gender-Based Violence.<sup>3578</sup> This initiative aims to nationally systemize available information on cases and complaints of incidents of gender-based violence, in order to support the creation of public policies aimed at preventing gender-based violence throughout Argentina.<sup>3579</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Argentina ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.<sup>3580</sup> The agreement outlines the challenges and harassment that women endure in the workplace and provides legislative suggestions to prevent and punish violence against women in the public sector.<sup>3581</sup>

On 3 March 2021, Argentina announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity policies within the framework of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence.<sup>3582</sup> The territorial centers will consist of interdisciplinary teams that will develop actions aimed at the prevention of violence, access to justice, and promotion of gender equality.<sup>3583</sup> Argentina announced an investment of ARS2.1 billion into this project.<sup>3584</sup>

On 8 March 2021, President Fernandez alongside the Minister of Women, Gender, and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, the Minister of the Interior Eduardo de Pedro and provincial governors signed the Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence.<sup>3585</sup> The agreement seeks to prevent and address femicides and gender-based violence, and to strengthen the provincial and municipal gender areas.<sup>3586</sup> Furthermore, the agreement also promotes a hierarchization and strengthening of provincial gender areas, who are responsible for comprehensive assistance and protection of those in situations of gender-based violence.<sup>3587</sup>

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<sup>3578</sup> The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

<sup>3579</sup> The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

<sup>3580</sup> The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

<sup>3581</sup> The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

<sup>3582</sup> The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

<sup>3583</sup> The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

<sup>3584</sup> The national government will invest 2.1 billion pesos for the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-invertira-2100-millones-de-pesos-para-la-construccion-de-centros>

<sup>3585</sup> Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

<sup>3586</sup> Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

<sup>3587</sup> Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence is signed, San Luis News Agency (San Luis) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://agenciasanluis.com/notas/2021/03/08/firman-el-acuerdo-federal-para-una-argentina-unida-contra-la-violencia-de-genero/>

On 15 March 2021, Minister Alcorta issued a joint statement alongside European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Namibia's Minister of Gender Equality Doreen Sioka at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>3588</sup> The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.<sup>3589</sup>

On 16 March 2021, the MGYD in partnership with the Comprehensive Medical Attention Program launched a series of regional meetings on "older people against gender-based violence" with the focus on retirement centers across Argentina.<sup>3590</sup> These regional meetings aim to generate tools for prevention and early detection of gender-based violence and promote actions to combat gender-based violence as part of the national prevention campaign, "United Argentina Against Gender-Based Violence."<sup>3591</sup> These regional meetings started in Buenos Aires on 16 March 2021 and will continue until 1 September 2021, ending with the Cuyo Region of Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis.<sup>3592</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Argentina and 20 countries (Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.<sup>3593</sup> This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>3594</sup>

On 8 April 2021, Minister Alcorta signed agreements with the Argentine Central Workers' Central Union to promote the gender perspective and equal participation of women in the union sphere.<sup>3595</sup>

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<sup>3588</sup> Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en)

<sup>3589</sup> Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en)

<sup>3590</sup> We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

<sup>3591</sup> We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

<sup>3592</sup> We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

<sup>3593</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>3594</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>3595</sup> We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

This agreement seeks to recognize the structural inequalities present in the work force and reduce situations of violence.<sup>3596</sup>

On 14 April 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security's Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the Workplace of the Ministry Pamela Ares participated in United Nations Women Argentina's first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socioeconomic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective.<sup>3597</sup> This initiative focuses on strengthening the economic autonomy of women in Argentina by increasing their participation in the labour market with more equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work as well as promoting better working conditions.<sup>3598</sup> Undersecretary Ares highlighted the need for a maternity and paternity leave regime to promote equality in the labour market.<sup>3599</sup>

On 21 April 2021, Minister Alcorta and the Executive Director of the National Agency for Controlled Materials Ramiro Urristi signed a cooperation agreement aimed at jointly developing projects on gender, equality, diversity, preventive measures with attention on gender-based violence.<sup>3600</sup> One project is the Federal Disarmament Campaign with a Gender Perspective, which focuses on controlling the possession and carrying of weapons by people with a history of gender-based violence.<sup>3601</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and the Minister of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires Estela Díaz signed a cooperation agreement to promote the active inclusion of victims of gender-based violence in the Empower Work program.<sup>3602</sup> This program aims to implement socio-productive, socio-labour and/or socio-community projects in Buenos Aires with the participation of victims of gender-based violence to help such persons strengthen their economic autonomy.<sup>3603</sup>

On 3 May 2021, Minister Arroyo and the Secretary of Socio-Urban Integration Fernanda Miño launched the Integrar es Salud ("Integrate is Health") program to manage the health emergency and

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<sup>3596</sup> We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

<sup>3597</sup> First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

<sup>3598</sup> First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

<sup>3599</sup> First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

<sup>3600</sup> We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

<sup>3601</sup> We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

<sup>3602</sup> Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

<sup>3603</sup> Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

strengthen community care in COVID-19 hotspot neighborhoods.<sup>3604</sup> This program will equip and manage the continued operation of community spaces, promote health and preventive actions by health and social work teams, provide teaching materials and new internet and telephone access points for youth and their families, and generate work in local communities led by socio-productive enterprises.<sup>3605</sup> Argentina has invested over ARS614 million into this program and aims to reach over 32,000 families in 219 hotspot neighborhoods across 20 provinces in the first stage.<sup>3606</sup>

On 8 May 2021, the MGYD launched a series of territorial operations as part of the Programa Acompañar (“Accompany Program”), which provides economic and psychosocial support to people facing situations of gender-based violence.<sup>3607</sup> This program provides economic support equivalent to the Salario Mínimo, Vital y Móvil (“Minimum Living and Mobile Salary”) for six months with the municipal state providing psychosocial support.<sup>3608</sup> The Minimum Living and Mobile Salary is the lowest remuneration that a person without family should receive in cash within a single legal working day in order to guarantee adequate food, decent housing, education, clothing, healthcare, transportation and other social services.<sup>3609</sup>

On 12 May 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero, Minister Alcorta, and the Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies Cecilia Merchán, presented the National Plan for Equality in Diversity (2021-2023).<sup>3610</sup> This plan includes over 200 commitments that will be assumed by various Argentinean ministries and agencies in order to reduce gender and sexual identity inequalities in work, health, education, politics, and more areas of life.<sup>3611</sup>

On 1 June 2021, Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro hosted a meeting with Secretary of Equality and Diversity Cecilia Merchán, alongside Undersecretary of Parliamentary Affairs of the Chief of Staff Cecilia Gomez Mirada to advance the implementation of public policies which guarantee equal access to menstrual management.<sup>3612</sup> These public policies aim

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<sup>3604</sup> We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

<sup>3605</sup> We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

<sup>3606</sup> We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

<sup>3607</sup> Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

<sup>3608</sup> Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

<sup>3609</sup> How much is the Minimum Living and Mobile Salary in Argentina, *Ámbito Financiero* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/economia/salario/cuanto-es-el-minimo-vital-y-movil-la-argentina-n5100480>

<sup>3610</sup> The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

<sup>3611</sup> The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

<sup>3612</sup> Initiatives to achieve Equal Access to Menstrual Management, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciativas-para-lograr-un-acceso-igualitario-la-gestion-menstrual>

to identify and develop initiatives to ensure all females have equal access to menstrual management and to help close gender inequality gaps.<sup>3613</sup>

On 4 June 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiera alongside Minister Alcorta and the Minister of Justice and Human Rights Martin Soria announced the launch of the *Acerar Derechos* Program.<sup>3614</sup> The *Acerar Derechos* program creates various teams of lawyers, psychologists, and social workers that will be distributed federally in order to provide support to victims of gender violence.<sup>3615</sup> The program aims to provide free legal and social support to victims of gender violence across Argentina and promote the well-being and security of Argentinian women.<sup>3616</sup>

On 2 August 2021, the MGyD introduced the National Program Sowing Equality for Women and LGBTI+ in Rural Areas.<sup>3617</sup> This initiative aims to ensure the full development of women and LGBTI+ populations in rural areas using an intersectional and intercultural approach built on human rights as well as to reduce socio-economic or cultural inequalities.<sup>3618</sup> This initiative also addresses the issue of gender-based violence in rural areas.<sup>3619</sup> This program is a part of the Government of Argentina's Plan for Equality in Diversity 2021-2023.<sup>3620</sup>

On 18 August 2021, Minister Alcorta signed a supplementary act with the Secretariat of Media and Public Communication and with Radio y Televisión Argentina (RTA).<sup>3621</sup> This agreement aims to

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<sup>3613</sup> Initiatives to achieve Equal Access to Menstrual Management, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciativas-para-lograr-un-acceso-igualitario-la-gestion-menstrual>

<sup>3614</sup> The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

<sup>3615</sup> The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

<sup>3616</sup> The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

<sup>3617</sup> We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

<sup>3618</sup> We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

<sup>3619</sup> We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

<sup>3620</sup> We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

<sup>3621</sup> We continue working with the public media to disseminate campaigns and programs with a gender and diversity perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seguimos-trabajando-con-los-medios-publicos-para-la-difusion-de-campanas-y-programas-con>

promote, diffuse and transmit the public policies, campaigns and programs by the MGyD for the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of women's and LGBTI+ rights.<sup>3622</sup>

On 18 August 2021, the MGyD and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights introduced the Federal Penitentiary Complex IV (CPFIV) survey on experiences of gender-based violence of women and LGBTI+ in confinement settings.<sup>3623</sup> This survey was designed within the framework of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence and the survey is aimed at identifying variables that reinforce gender-based violence in federal penitentiaries.<sup>3624</sup>

On 24 August 2021, the National Directorate of Policies for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence's technical team hosted the first training for preventing gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace.<sup>3625</sup> This training is aimed at companies owned by or affiliated with the Government of Argentina such as Aerolíneas Argentinas, Banco Nación and Casa de Moneda.<sup>3626</sup> Over 100 participants were trained on early detection and monitoring of situations of gender-based violence and a second training workshop will be held on 31 August 2021.<sup>3627</sup>

On 3 September 2021, Minister Alcorta signed an agreement with President of Dioxitek SA Santiago Sartori to implement the Igualar Program at the state-owned nuclear energy company.<sup>3628</sup> This agreement aims to reduce the inequality for women and LGBTI+ peoples in the labor and manufacturing sectors.<sup>3629</sup>

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by demonstrating strong actions in all three spheres of Economic Security,

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<sup>3622</sup> We continue working with the public media to disseminate campaigns and programs with a gender and diversity perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seguimos-trabajando-con-los-medios-publicos-para-la-difusion-de-campanas-y-programas-con>

<sup>3623</sup> We present a survey to address gender-based violence in confinement contexts, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-una-encuesta-para-el-abordaje-de-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-contextos>

<sup>3624</sup> We present a survey to address gender-based violence in confinement contexts, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-una-encuesta-para-el-abordaje-de-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-contextos>

<sup>3625</sup> We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

<sup>3626</sup> We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

<sup>3627</sup> We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

<sup>3628</sup> Gomez Alcorta signed an agreement with Dioxitek SA for the implementation of the Igualar Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-dioxitek-sa-para-la-implementacion-del-programa-igualar>

<sup>3629</sup> Gomez Alcorta signed an agreement with Dioxitek SA for the implementation of the Igualar Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-dioxitek-sa-para-la-implementacion-del-programa-igualar>

Gender-Based Violence and Health such as implementing programs to assist survivors of gender-based violence and introducing gender-sensitive economic programs and training workshops to reduce gender inequality gaps.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Leena Badri*

**Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston announced a provision of AUD1.125 million to be shared by three Indigenous organisations over the next two years to trial new family violence services in the Northern Territory.<sup>3630</sup>

On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) endorsed the terms of reference for the Women’s Safety Taskforce.<sup>3631</sup> This is in line with Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s announcement on 29 May 2020 concerning the establishment of an NFRC Taskforce on Women’s Safety to reduce violence against women and their children.<sup>3632</sup>

On 30 December 2020, Prime Minister Morrison announced a provision of up to AUD36 million from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy over the next three years.<sup>3633</sup> This fund will be used to deliver more girls academies to “support more than 5,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls across the country.”<sup>3634</sup>

On 26 February 2021, the Council of Australian Governments released the first progress report on the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.<sup>3635</sup> The report stated the completion of 18 initiatives per original schedule and one initiative ahead of schedule.<sup>3636</sup>

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<sup>3630</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2020/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>

<sup>3631</sup> Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women’s Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women’s-safety-taskforce>

<sup>3632</sup> Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women’s Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women’s-safety-taskforce>

<sup>3633</sup> More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>

<sup>3634</sup> More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>

<sup>3635</sup> Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

<sup>3636</sup> Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

On 8 March 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced an AUD18 million campaign to protect women from family and domestic violence.<sup>3637</sup> This is the third in the series of Stop it at the Start campaigns.<sup>3638</sup> The series aim to influence young people and intervene before attitudes and behaviours develop that may lead to violence against women and gender inequality.<sup>3639</sup>

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Minister for Women Marise Payne co-chaired the first Cabinet Taskforce meeting on women's security and economic security.<sup>3640</sup> The meeting was focused on identifying and addressing gaps in existing programs on women's issues.<sup>3641</sup>

On 12 April 2021, Australia released the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.<sup>3642</sup> This Plan builds on the first National Action Plan to protect women's human rights and increase their participation in peace and security processes.<sup>3643</sup> Additionally, the National Action Plan includes tackling increased gender-based violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3644</sup>

On 27 April 2021, Minister Payne attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.<sup>3645</sup> There were discussions about practical measures towards gender equality and women's human rights in the region, including ways to support women and girls impacted by COVID-19.<sup>3646</sup> Through the new Pacific Women Lead program, Australia would be increasing support for regional gender equality through an investment of AUD170 million over five years.<sup>3647</sup>

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<sup>3637</sup> Remarks, International Women's Day, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

<sup>3638</sup> Future Women Leadership Summit 2021, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/future-women-leadership-summit-2021>

<sup>3639</sup> Stop it at the Start campaign, Department of Social Services (Canberra) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

<sup>3640</sup> Remarks, Cabinet Women's Taskforce Meeting – Australian Parliament House, ACT, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-cabinet-womens-taskforce-meeting-australian-parliament-house-act>

<sup>3641</sup> Women's cabinet taskforce discusses 'practical' budget measures in first meeting, The Guardian (London) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/06/womens-cabinet-taskforce-discusses-practical-budget-measures-in-first-meeting>

<sup>3642</sup> Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

<sup>3643</sup> Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

<sup>3644</sup> Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

<sup>3645</sup> Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

<sup>3646</sup> Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

<sup>3647</sup> Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

On 11 May 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced a landmark package of almost AUD3.4 billion to support women's rights in the 2021-2022 Budget.<sup>3648</sup> This package includes AUD1.1 billion for women's safety, AUD1.9 billion to support women's economic security of which AUD1.7 billion is for improving the affordability of childcare services, and AUD351.6 million for measures to enhance women's health and wellbeing.<sup>3649</sup> The new Budget aims to combat domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS), especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, improve family and justice responses, address sexual harassment, increase women's workforce participation, promote women's leadership opportunities, and support women's healthcare.<sup>3650</sup>

On 22 May 2021, the Government of Australia announced its commitment of AUD39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program as a part of the effort to re-open, recover and reform Australia's economy.<sup>3651</sup> Organizations of the program will use the funds to increase women's opportunities and support women's development in five areas: job creation, economic security, workforce participation, leadership, and safety.<sup>3652</sup>

On 22 June 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade raised a joint fund of USD140,000 in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Vietnam, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Embassy of Japan in Hanoi, in order to provide Dignity Kits to 5,100 female workers in Vietnam's Bac Giang and Bac Ninh provinces.<sup>3653</sup> Targeting underprivileged women, the Dignity Kits include humanitarian aid products to protect women's reproductive health and basic rights and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.<sup>3654</sup> The Dignity Kits include over 20 items such as sanitary pads, underwear, face masks and flashlights.<sup>3655</sup>

On 6 September 2021, the Government of Australia hosted the virtual National Summit on Women's Safety to address key issues such as women's "economic security and financial independence, perpetrator interventions, and responding to sexual violence."<sup>3656</sup> The Summit, which lasts until 7 September 2021, included keynote addresses, panel discussions and closed roundtables

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<sup>3648</sup> Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

<sup>3649</sup> Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

<sup>3650</sup> Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

<sup>3651</sup> \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>

<sup>3652</sup> \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>  
<sup>3653</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>3654</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>3655</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>3656</sup> National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

with experts, advocates and service providers, which will build on the existing National Plan to aid the development of the next plan.<sup>3657</sup>

Australia has taken strong concrete steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres that affect women disproportionately (Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence) such as allocating budgetary funds for women's safety and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and introducing campaigns to prevent domestic violence.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 26 November 2020, Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights Damares Alves hosted the second National Meeting of Policy Organizations for Women to strengthen dialogue among Brazil's federal, state and municipal leaders.<sup>3658</sup> The meeting focused on women facing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to prevent femicide.<sup>3659</sup>

On 26 November 2020, Brazil allocated BRL335 million to expand access and care for pregnant women and premature newborns in the Unified Health System during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3660</sup> This investment is a part of Brazil's goals for reducing neonatal infant mortality rates, childhood mortality rates and maternal mortality rates.<sup>3661</sup>

On 7 December 2020, the Head of the National Secretariat of Policies for Women (SNPM) Cristiane Britto led a virtual meeting with United Nations Women and the European Union to discuss good practices for the prevention and mitigation of political violence against women.<sup>3662</sup> This meeting focused on exchanging experiences between nations and aimed to guarantee political rights to women and strengthen inclusive democracy in Brazil.<sup>3663</sup>

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<sup>3657</sup> National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

<sup>3658</sup> Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

<sup>3659</sup> Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

<sup>3660</sup> Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

<sup>3661</sup> Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

<sup>3662</sup> Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

<sup>3663</sup> Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

On 8 December 2020, Brazil invested BRL13 million in the state of Bahia for actions to prevent and combat violence against women.<sup>3664</sup> This funding includes integrating the Safe and Protected Woman program, guaranteeing services to women experiencing violent situations, maintaining buses in the sewing production units, purchasing trunk trucks, and acquiring more than 8,000 food baskets as part of contingency plans to address impacts by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3665</sup>

On 9 December 2020, Brazil established an intersectoral committee under the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH), to be responsible for elaborating on the National Plan to Combat Femicide.<sup>3666</sup> This committee also includes members from the SNPM, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.<sup>3667</sup>

On 12 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL15 million to the state of Goiás for the construction of three Brazilian Women's Houses (CMB), professional training courses for women in need, and over 1700 food baskets for vulnerable women in the state.<sup>3668</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL5.2 million to prevent violence against women in the state of Acre.<sup>3669</sup> These funds will be used for the construction of three CMBs and the reinforcement of public policies for women in socially vulnerable situations, including a project focused on combating violence against indigenous women in the countryside.<sup>3670</sup>

On 20 December 2020, the MMFDH launched the Qualifica Mulher ("Qualify Women") pilot project, which aims to create a network of partnerships among governmental authorities and private entities in order to increase the employability of women facing socially vulnerable situations.<sup>3671</sup> This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.<sup>3672</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation

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<sup>3664</sup> In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

<sup>3665</sup> In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

<sup>3666</sup> Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

<sup>3667</sup> Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

<sup>3668</sup> Federal Government invests R\$15 million in shares for women in GO, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-investe-r-15-mi-em-acoes-para-as-mulheres-em-go>

<sup>3669</sup> Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

<sup>3670</sup> Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

<sup>3671</sup> Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

<sup>3672</sup> Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

of the Qualifica Mulher project as an initiative to promote women's economic autonomy.<sup>3673</sup> More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.<sup>3674</sup>

On 28 January 2021, the MJSP launched and coordinated Operation "Resguardo" in 26 states and the Federal District.<sup>3675</sup> The operation's goal is to combat and prevent crimes of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in domestic settings.<sup>3676</sup> As part of this operation, police investigated complaints and surveyed open court orders specific to violence against women.<sup>3677</sup> Complaints from Ligue 180, a free service for reporting human rights violations and violence against women launched by the MMFDH, assisted this operation.<sup>3678</sup> In total, more than 10,300 attackers were arrested.<sup>3679</sup>

On 29 January 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated more than BRL11.2 million to the municipality of Manaus in order to reinforce care and support for pregnant women and postpartum women during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3680</sup> This funding supplements institutional support for managers and healthcare professionals in Primary Health Care units and maternity hospitals.<sup>3681</sup>

On 23 February 2021, Minister Alvez hosted a meeting with the Special Secretary of Policies and Promotion of Women in Rio de Janeiro, Joyce Gama, on the development of nano-entrepreneurship for women in order to address the rise in female unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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<sup>3673</sup> More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

<sup>3674</sup> More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

<sup>3675</sup> Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

<sup>3676</sup> Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

<sup>3677</sup> Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

<sup>3678</sup> Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

<sup>3679</sup> Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

<sup>3680</sup> Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manau>

<sup>3681</sup> Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manau>

and the need to invest in women's economic autonomy.<sup>3682</sup> At the meeting, the topic of violence against women during the pandemic was also addressed with concern.<sup>3683</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello and the First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro opened the Flores da Lapa Reference Center in Rio de Janeiro, which aims to guarantee full protection for socially vulnerable women with a focus on female victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence.<sup>3684</sup> The Ministry of Health reallocated BRL13 million to the municipality of Rio de Janeiro in order to support the new Reference Center's operations.<sup>3685</sup>

On 16 March 2021, Minister Alvez reaffirmed the importance of women's work for a post-pandemic economic recovery at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.<sup>3686</sup> Minister Alvez highlighted Brazil's public policies of income transfers during the COVID-19 pandemic like emergency aid, training programs to promote women's economic autonomy, and measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.<sup>3687</sup> At the forum, the three countries emphasized their commitment to reduce gender inequality and further encourage mutual cooperation on such issues.<sup>3688</sup>

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a series of video lessons in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization to guide health professionals on good practices for assisting pregnant and puerperal women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3689</sup> This series includes 10 videos addressing topics such as risk factors for pregnant women with COVID-19, laboratory diagnoses, telemedicine and prenatal care.<sup>3690</sup>

On 5 April 2021, the MMFDH signed cooperation agreements with the municipalities of Hortolandia and Guaruja in the state of São Paulo in order to streamline and improve the flow of

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<sup>3682</sup> Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

<sup>3683</sup> Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

<sup>3684</sup> Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

<sup>3685</sup> Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

<sup>3686</sup> Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

<sup>3687</sup> Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

<sup>3688</sup> Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

<sup>3689</sup> Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

<sup>3690</sup> Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

reports on and responses to human rights violations.<sup>3691</sup> These agreements aim to improve the reporting platforms of Dial 100 and Dial 180, which are free services operating 24 hours for people to report human rights violations and violence against women respectively.<sup>3692</sup>

On 7 April 2021, the MMFDH supported the launch of the “Todos por Elas” project, which is an educational platform using videos and interactive material to foster dialogue and combat violence against women.<sup>3693</sup> This project was developed by the Commercial, Industrial and Services Association of Goiás and focuses on companies and their employees.<sup>3694</sup>

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated BRL247 million to states and municipalities to improve quality healthcare access for pregnant women and postpartum women using prenatal services from public healthcare networks.<sup>3695</sup> This funding goes towards strengthening early identification and monitoring of pregnant and postpartum women with flu syndromes or severe acute respiratory syndromes with suspicion or confirmation of COVID-19.<sup>3696</sup> This investment is aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3697</sup>

On 20 April 2021, Minister Alves, Governor of the Federal District Ibaneis Rocha and First Lady Bolsonaro attended the opening of the first CMB in Ceilandia, the most populated region in the Federal District.<sup>3698</sup> During this event, a Technical Cooperation Agreement of the Safe and Protected Women Program was signed by figures from the federal and district governments, the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories, and the Public Defender’s Office of the Federal District.<sup>3699</sup> This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence

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<sup>3691</sup> Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

<sup>3692</sup> Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

<sup>3693</sup> All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3694</sup> All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3695</sup> Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

<sup>3696</sup> Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

<sup>3697</sup> Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

<sup>3698</sup> Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

<sup>3699</sup> Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

through specialized services from the public healthcare system, opportunities for justice, social assistance networks, and promotions of women's economic independence.<sup>3700</sup>

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.<sup>3701</sup> This initiative is part of the MMFDH's Qualifica Mulher project, which aims to promote female economic autonomy, and is an attempt at regionalization of the Qualifica Mulher project in order to better meet economic needs of different regions of Brazil.<sup>3702</sup> This initiative covers courses in entrepreneurship, social media, waste management, hospitality in health units, hospital sanitation and hygiene, and food production, and is aimed at socially vulnerable women living in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Paulista, São Lourenço da Mata and Recife.<sup>3703</sup>

On 6 May 2021, Brazil participated in a virtual meeting on "Measures implemented in Latin America against violence against women in the COVID-19 pandemic," hosted by the Organization of American States.<sup>3704</sup> The Director of the Department of Policies to Combat Violence against Women of the MMFDH Grace Justa shared Brazil's initiatives to combating gender-based violence with other states in attendance.<sup>3705</sup>

On 11 May 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a law that institutes the National Risk Assessment Form, which contains 27 questions to map cases of women in violent situations.<sup>3706</sup> This legal instrument for public security agencies will be used to prevent and manage crimes relating to domestic and family violence against women and will be used during the reporting of an incident at a police station.<sup>3707</sup>

On 13 May 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law No. 14,151/21, which determined that pregnant women must remain away from face-to-face activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and

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<sup>3700</sup> Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

<sup>3701</sup> Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

<sup>3702</sup> Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

<sup>3703</sup> Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

<sup>3704</sup> Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

<sup>3705</sup> Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

<sup>3706</sup> Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3707</sup> Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

work through teleworking or other remote methods.<sup>3708</sup> This new law provides protection for pregnant women by mandating that pregnant women cannot be working in person near other people.<sup>3709</sup>

On 26 May 2021, the National Secretary of Policies for Women of the MMFDH Cristiane Britto presented the Save a Women Project at the first Legal Colloquium Brazil-Organization of American States: Good Practices in Brazilian Law.<sup>3710</sup> The Save a Women Project supports the awareness and prevention of gender-based violence through the collaboration between private and public institutions.<sup>3711</sup> Partners of this initiative undergo training and sensitization classes on combating violence against women and they also disseminate educational materials about women in vulnerable places.<sup>3712</sup>

On 26 May 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL287,000 for the Health Services Hygienist course as part of the Qualifica Mulher pilot project.<sup>3713</sup> This initiative provides 300 women in vulnerable situations, especially immigrants, with 280 hours of training over four months to support the economic autonomy of women.<sup>3714</sup>

On 31 May 2021, the National Secretariat for Global Protection (SNPG) hosted the third edition of the National Forum on Responsibility with representatives from the MMFDH.<sup>3715</sup> The forum's theme was "Business and Human Rights: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Women and Families."<sup>3716</sup> Forum participants discussed and debated topics such as equal

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<sup>3708</sup> Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

<sup>3709</sup> Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

<sup>3710</sup> Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

<sup>3711</sup> Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

<sup>3712</sup> Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

<sup>3713</sup> Three hundred vulnerable women receive a training course in Uberlândia (MG), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/trezentas-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-recebem-curso-de-capacitacao-em-uberlandia-mg>

<sup>3714</sup> Three hundred vulnerable women receive a training course in Uberlândia (MG), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/trezentas-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-recebem-curso-de-capacitacao-em-uberlandia-mg>

<sup>3715</sup> 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

<sup>3716</sup> 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

pay and work-life balance.<sup>3717</sup> This event was part of the SNPG's Be Responsible Campaign, which focuses on promoting human rights in the corporate environment.<sup>3718</sup>

On 11 June 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law No. 14,164/21, which institutes the School Week to Combat Violence against Women to be held every year in March.<sup>3719</sup> This highlights the importance of raising awareness among future generations about identifying and preventing violence against women.<sup>3720</sup>

On 25 June 2021, the MMFDH launched the socio-economic inclusion program "Beleza Além das Fronteiras" in partnership with the Virada Feminina Movement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Casa Venezuela.<sup>3721</sup> This program supports the economic autonomy of over 200 Venezuelan women and migrants by training them to enter the beauty market.<sup>3722</sup> Training includes courses on hairdressing, entrepreneurship, and interview training.<sup>3723</sup>

On 30 June 2021, the Chamber of Deputies launched the National Observatory of Women in Politics (ONMP) to increase research on women's participation in politics.<sup>3724</sup> The National Secretary of Policies for Women of the MMFDH Britto emphasized how the Observatory is key in combating political violence, which is a primary cause of women's underrepresentation in politics.<sup>3725</sup>

On 2 July 2021, the Federal Government of Brazil announced an investment of BRL2.4 million to 16 municipalities of Marajó, Pará, for the protection of the rights of women and developing the

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<sup>3717</sup> 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

<sup>3718</sup> 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

<sup>3719</sup> Law includes the prevention of violence against women in the school curriculum, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/lei-inclui-a-prevencao-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-no-curriculo-escolar>

<sup>3720</sup> Law includes the prevention of violence against women in the school curriculum, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/lei-inclui-a-prevencao-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-no-curriculo-escolar>

<sup>3721</sup> Minister Damares Alves participates in the launch of the "Beleza Beyond Borders" program, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministra-damares-alves-participa-do-lancamento-do-programa-201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d>

<sup>3722</sup> "Beauty Beyond Borders" promotes economic autonomy for Venezuelans and migrants from neighboring countries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d-promove-autonomia-economica-de-venezuelanas-e-migrantes-de-paises-vizinhos>

<sup>3723</sup> "Beauty Beyond Borders" promotes economic autonomy for Venezuelans and migrants from neighboring countries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d-promove-autonomia-economica-de-venezuelanas-e-migrantes-de-paises-vizinhos>

<sup>3724</sup> National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

<sup>3725</sup> National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

economic autonomy of women.<sup>3726</sup> Some examples of this investment include the construction of a CMB in Breves, 4,000 places for training courses through the Qualifica Mulher project and lectures to sensitize populations about violence against women.<sup>3727</sup>

On 20 July 2021, the MMFDH, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, introduced the National Risk Assessment Form for femicide.<sup>3728</sup> This training for 54 civil police delegates aims to make the evaluation of domestic violence cases consistent using a questionnaire.<sup>3729</sup>

On 23 July 2021, the MMFDH, in partnership with Associação Aliança Empreendedora (AE), launched an initiative to provide free courses for 270,000 women in situations of social vulnerability.<sup>3730</sup> Themes of courses include entrepreneurship, financial education, digital marketing, crafts, and more.<sup>3731</sup> Women with a monthly income of up to one and a half of minimum wage are prioritized for these courses.<sup>3732</sup>

On 28 July 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned new legislation which includes marking a red “X” on the palm of the hand as a discrete manner to report an aggressor as inspired by the Red Signal Against Domestic Violence campaign.<sup>3733</sup> The new legislation also modifies the Penal Code to include bodily injury for reasons of being a female as well as typifying the crime of psychological violence against women.<sup>3734</sup> This legislation also created the Red Signal Against Domestic Violence Cooperation Program, which aims to encourage joint actions between the federal government, Public Defender’s Office, states, municipalities and private institutions.<sup>3735</sup>

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<sup>3726</sup> More than R\$ 2 million are invested in the protection and autonomy of women in Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/mais-de-r-2-milhoes-sao-investidos-na-protecao-e-autonomia-das-mulheres-do-marajo-pa>

<sup>3727</sup> More than R\$ 2 million are invested in the protection and autonomy of women in Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/mais-de-r-2-milhoes-sao-investidos-na-protecao-e-autonomia-das-mulheres-do-marajo-pa>

<sup>3728</sup> Course will address application of risk assessment form for femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-ira-abordar-aplicacao-de-formulario-de-avaliacao-de-risco-contra-o-feminicidio>

<sup>3729</sup> Course will address application of risk assessment form for femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-ira-abordar-aplicacao-de-formulario-de-avaliacao-de-risco-contra-o-feminicidio>

<sup>3730</sup> Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

<sup>3731</sup> Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

<sup>3732</sup> Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

<sup>3733</sup> Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

<sup>3734</sup> Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

<sup>3735</sup> Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

On 29 July 2021, the MMFDH and the National Supply Company (Conab) signed protocols of intentions for an initiative to support women from rural communities.<sup>3736</sup> This initiative, which is part of the Qualifica Mulher project, would offer free courses in vocational training and entrepreneurship targeted at empowering female farmers.<sup>3737</sup> This initiative recognizes the potential of women farmers that did not attend school but lead many family farming establishments.<sup>3738</sup>

On 3 August 2021, the Minister Alves signed a technical cooperation agreement to better protect victims of violence in Marília.<sup>3739</sup> This partnership with the municipality of Marília will direct data from the National Human Rights Ombudsman to the municipality in order to ensure greater speed in handling cases.<sup>3740</sup>

On 6 August 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law 14,192/21, which aims to criminalize political violence against women.<sup>3741</sup> This legislation contributes to the creation of norms to prevent and combat political violence against women by establishing punishments and conceptualizing violations.<sup>3742</sup>

On 11 August 2021, the National Human Rights Ombudsman (ONDH) partnered with the bus companies Piracicabana and Pioneira to publicize denunciation channels, Dial 100 and Ligue 180.<sup>3743</sup> This raises awareness of reporting incidents of violence, and offers more protection to women using public transport.<sup>3744</sup>

On 17 August 2021, the MMFDH signed the Technical Cooperation Agreement with Caixa Econômica Federal (Caixa) agencies, which affirms that all employees of Caixa agencies are allies in

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<sup>3736</sup> Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

<sup>3737</sup> Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

<sup>3738</sup> Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

<sup>3739</sup> Partnership with Marília (SP) will improve the sharing of allegations of human rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/parceria-com-marilia-sp-ira-aperfeicoar-o-compartilhamento-de-denuncias-de-violacoes-de-direitos-humanos>

<sup>3740</sup> Partnership with Marília (SP) will improve the sharing of allegations of human rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/parceria-com-marilia-sp-ira-aperfeicoar-o-compartilhamento-de-denuncias-de-violacoes-de-direitos-humanos>

<sup>3741</sup> Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3742</sup> Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3743</sup> Federal District buses disclose channels for reporting rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/onibus-do-distrito-federal-divulgam-canal-de-denuncia-de-violacao-de-direitos>

<sup>3744</sup> Federal District buses disclose channels for reporting rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/onibus-do-distrito-federal-divulgam-canal-de-denuncia-de-violacao-de-direitos>

the fight against violence.<sup>3745</sup> The partnership integrates civil society with the actions of the MMFDH's Save a Women Project through the provision of information on different types of violence, training initiatives and educational campaigns aimed at Caixa employees, and public policies that promote equity and respect in the workplace.<sup>3746</sup>

On 18 August 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security announced the launch of Operation Maria da Penha in collaboration with the MMFDH.<sup>3747</sup> This operation, which lasts from 20 August 2021 to 20 September 2021, focuses on tackling domestic violence against women and improving the system of protection for victims.<sup>3748</sup> This operation's actions will support assistance for victims of domestic violence and promote the importance of denouncing aggressions.<sup>3749</sup>

On 25 August 2021, the Head of the SNPM Cristiane Britto participated in an international webinar hosted by the Association of Business Women and Professionals of Latin America (BTW Latin America) on public policies to support women.<sup>3750</sup> With representatives from nine other countries present at the webinar, Head of the SNPM Britto highlighted actions taken by the Government of Brazil to encourage complaints and strengthen protection and reception networks in Brazil in order to prevent and reduce cases of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3751</sup>

Brazil has taken strong actions in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities. Brazil has focused on combating violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic through funding additional safehouses, improving report hotlines such as Ligue 180, and introducing educational campaigns. Brazil has also focused on women's health through increasing access to quality prenatal or postnatal care, and on women's economic security through funding training programs and online courses to promote economic autonomy.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

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<sup>3745</sup> Agreement with Caixa prioritizes actions to fight violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acordo-com-a-caixa-prioriza-aco-es-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3746</sup> Agreement with Caixa prioritizes actions to fight violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acordo-com-a-caixa-prioriza-aco-es-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>3747</sup> Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

<sup>3748</sup> Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

<sup>3749</sup> Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

<sup>3750</sup> International meeting discusses the impact of public policies on women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/encontro-internacional-discute-impacto-de-politicas-publicas-para-as-mulheres>

<sup>3751</sup> International meeting discusses the impact of public policies on women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/encontro-internacional-discute-impacto-de-politicas-publicas-para-as-mulheres>

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced at the virtual global conference “Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitments to Results,” hosted by Vietnam and the United Nations, that Canada will be providing CAD8.5 million over five years to UN Women to empower women, prevent violence and promote social cohesion in Southeast Asia.<sup>3752</sup> This is part of a joint five year programme launched by Canada, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UN Women to expand and strengthen women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery in South-East Asia.<sup>3753</sup> Canada’s financial commitment will help address gender equality and discrimination against women and girls in ASEAN member states, as targeted violence against women in Southeast Asia has been on the rise due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3754</sup> The new programme reflects the commitment of ASEAN and Canada to promote gender equality and to respond to an increasingly widespread call across the globe for women to be empowered to lead and participate in peace and development.<sup>3755</sup>

On 8 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced in a meeting with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Canada’s support of four projects totalling over CAD25 million to advance the economic empowerment of rural women, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine.<sup>3756</sup> Through investments, Canada aims to support the Government of Ukraine to enhance the economic security of women, especially those affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.<sup>3757</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Canada invested in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors.<sup>3758</sup> This funding will support these organizations in identifying and counselling survivors of trafficking, providing transition and second stage housing, mental health services, and

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<sup>3752</sup> Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

<sup>3753</sup> Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

<sup>3754</sup> Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

<sup>3755</sup> ASEAN, Canada and UN Women jointly launch a 5-year programme to advance Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/02/asean-canada-and-un-women-jointly-launch-a-5-year-programme>

<sup>3756</sup> Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

<sup>3757</sup> Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

<sup>3758</sup> Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

employment services and supports, as well as training and tools to gain financial independence.<sup>3759</sup> At the time of this announcement, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and for Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef stated: “In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more challenging to escape situations of human trafficking and to access supports, making the important work of organizations that provide these services even more essential.”<sup>3760</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Canada announced that an agreement has been reached with the Canada Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding, in the amount of CAD36.3 million, for gender-based violence support, to these frontline organizations.<sup>3761</sup> The funding will continue to help address the immediate needs of organizations that provide a range of gender-based violence supports and services, such as emergency helplines, crisis and resources centres, counselling support, crisis intervention, drop-in services and support groups.<sup>3762</sup> This funding towards these frontline organizations is in recognition of their increased demand, due to the high rates of gender-based violence against women and girls, that has intensified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3763</sup>

On 28 January 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Joel Lightbound announced an investment of CAD249,750 for the La Maison pour femmes immigrantes (House for Immigrant Women).<sup>3764</sup> This funding is to allow the organization to continue to promote social and systemic changes towards gender equality and is focused on the needs of immigrant and Quebecer women and children victims of domestic violence living in the Quebec City region.<sup>3765</sup>

On 3 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that up to CAD2.5 million in funding will be allocated for a new project named Advancing Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada

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<sup>3759</sup> Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

<sup>3760</sup> Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

<sup>3761</sup> Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

<sup>3762</sup> Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

<sup>3763</sup> Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

<sup>3764</sup> Government of Canada announces investment in women’s organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

<sup>3765</sup> Government of Canada announces investment in women’s organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

to Respond to COVID-19.<sup>3766</sup> This project aims to advance gender equity through the engagement with Black women's community organizations and prevent gender-based violence against Black women and girls during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3767</sup> This project will be launched by the Women's Centre for Social Justice in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Foundation and Battered Women's Support Services.<sup>3768</sup>

On 11 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the country would invest CAD100 million to support women impacted by the pandemic through the creation of a new call for proposals called Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, which will provide funding for projects helping those in greatest need.<sup>3769</sup> The women's program provides funding to eligible organizations in three priority areas, including, ending violence against women and girls, improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity and by encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles.<sup>3770</sup> This is in an effort to take strong action to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from rolling back progress or reversing the hard-won gains of women in Canada.<sup>3771</sup>

On 1 March 2021, Minister Gould announced at the Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen, convened by the United Nations, Sweden and Switzerland, that Canada would be pledging CAD69.9 million in funding in continued response to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Yemen in 2021.<sup>3772</sup> This new funding will be provided to UN agencies, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations, and will provide life-saving food and support health care, clean water and sanitation.<sup>3773</sup> In line with its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada's humanitarian assistance will also focus on the urgent needs of women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in

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<sup>3766</sup> Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

<sup>3767</sup> Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

<sup>3768</sup> Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

<sup>3769</sup> Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

<sup>3770</sup> Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

<sup>3771</sup> Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

<sup>3772</sup> Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

<sup>3773</sup> Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

Yemen.<sup>3774</sup> This funding aims to support Yemeni access to quality health care and ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities, especially for women and girls who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis.<sup>3775</sup>

On 2 March 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng, co-hosted the Canada-Sweden Ideas Roundtable with Anna Hallberg, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, alongside women entrepreneurs from both countries, to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs as both countries work toward an economic recovery that is sustainable and inclusive.<sup>3776</sup> The roundtable discussion allowed both Canada and Sweden to commit to working together “on advancing gender equality and collaborating to support women entrepreneurs and remove barriers to their success.”<sup>3777</sup>

On 5 March 2021, Canada announced CAD29.5 million in development assistance for six projects to support high-quality education, peace and economic prosperity in Colombia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Venezuela.<sup>3778</sup> This funding aims to support the economic empowerment of rural women and youth, as well as to address the increase in post-peace agreement violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence against Afro-Colombian women and girls.<sup>3779</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Canada hosted a two-day summit titled “Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery” to mark International Women’s Day.<sup>3780</sup> The Summit brought together politicians, experts, feminist leaders and those with lived experience to examine how COVID-19 is impacting the lives of women in Canada, as women have been on the front lines of the crisis.<sup>3781</sup> The Summit focused on the steps that governments, civil society and all Canadians can take to ensure an inclusive pandemic recovery by advancing gender equality.<sup>3782</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced investments in two women’s organizations.<sup>3783</sup> The ministry will provide CAD250,000 in

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<sup>3774</sup> Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

<sup>3775</sup> Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

<sup>3776</sup> Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

<sup>3777</sup> Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

<sup>3778</sup> Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

<sup>3779</sup> Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

<sup>3780</sup> Government of Canada to host Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit to mark International Women’s Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-host-canadas-feminist-response-and-recovery-summit-to-mark-international-womens-day.html>

<sup>3781</sup> Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

<sup>3782</sup> Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

<sup>3783</sup> Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

funding to the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto and CAD205,752 to support the North York Women's Centre.<sup>3784</sup> The purpose of these investments is to continue advancing the gender equality initiatives of the aforementioned organizations in their communities.<sup>3785</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Minister Monsef announced an additional CAD8.7 million in emergency funding will be allocated to the Government of Quebec to support victims of sexual violence and domestic violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3786</sup> This funding is for women's shelters, organizations helping victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, and organizations providing assistance or services to women in situations that may be susceptible to violence.<sup>3787</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Canada and 20 countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.<sup>3788</sup> This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>3789</sup>

On 7 April 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the federal government would invest CAD7.7 million into 16 women and equality-seeking organizations in the province of Ontario.<sup>3790</sup> This funding will allow these organizations to increase their capacity to continue their work addressing gender equality issues in their communities, through helping women find full-time employment and ensuring that they are able to access critical health services and social supports, and will allow these organizations to overcome the unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on women.<sup>3791</sup>

On 19 April 2021, Canada released their budget for 2021, which recognizes the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on women, and includes many investments centered around

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<sup>3784</sup> Canada's Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

<sup>3785</sup> Canada's Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

<sup>3786</sup> Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-charest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

<sup>3787</sup> Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-charest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

<sup>3788</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>3789</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>3790</sup> Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

<sup>3791</sup> Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

women's economic recovery.<sup>3792</sup> The Budget 2021's key measures towards a feminist economy recovery include investments totaling almost CAD30 billion over the next five years in a Canada-wide early learning and child care plan which aims to reduce fees for parents, an investment of CAD146.9 million into strengthening the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy to provide greater access to financing, mentorship and training for women entrepreneurs, an investment of CAD315.4 million to increase direct financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence to help with their rent payments and CAD250 million to support the construction, repair and operating costs of an estimated 560 units of transitional housing and shelter spaces for women and children fleeing violence.<sup>3793</sup> These sustained investments will work towards building a post-pandemic recovery that is inclusive of women and that addresses systemic gender inequality issues.<sup>3794</sup>

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Melanie Joly announced that the Canada would allocate more than CAD5.8 million in non-repayable contributions through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to nine organizations providing business and advisory services to women in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.<sup>3795</sup> This investment is aimed at helping organizations that empower women entrepreneurs with tools they need to maintain or expand their businesses, and offset the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3796</sup>

On 26 May 2021, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced CAD186 million in funding to support new and existing projects in Mozambique, including supporting Mozambique's direct response to the pandemic, mitigating the pandemic's secondary impacts on the health and education systems and addressing women and girls' increased vulnerability to gender-based violence and child marriage.<sup>3797</sup> This funding will support Mozambicans through programs that "increase access and reduce barriers to family planning services, that empower girls so that the number of child marriages and early pregnancies are reduced and that deliver sexual education in schools" to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on gender equality in Mozambique.<sup>3798</sup>

On 2 June 2021, Special Representative for the Prairies Jim Carr announced CAD1.72 million in funding for five women's and gender equality-seeking organizations in the prairies: Alberta Network of Immigrant Women, Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta, Alberta Native Friendship

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<sup>3792</sup> Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

<sup>3793</sup> Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

<sup>3794</sup> Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

<sup>3795</sup> ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

<sup>3796</sup> ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

<sup>3797</sup> Minister Gould concludes first day of virtual visit to Mozambique, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-gould-concludes-first-day-of-virtual-visit-to-mozambique.html>

<sup>3798</sup> Minister Gould concludes first day of virtual visit to Mozambique, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-gould-concludes-first-day-of-virtual-visit-to-mozambique.html>

Centres Association, Bonnyville Friendship Centre, Ikeyuktiit Incorporated Inc Manitoba.<sup>3799</sup> The funding is aimed at supporting work to address gender equality issues and to help women overcome unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed upon these populations.<sup>3800</sup>

On 4 June 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Daniel Vandal announced over CAD3 million in funding for six organizations advancing gender equality for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Northern communities in Canada.<sup>3801</sup> These investments will help the organizations “develop partnerships and strategies to promote full and equitable participation in the economy, advance women and underrepresented groups into leadership roles, address social and systemic change towards gender equality, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>3802</sup>

On 4 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Gudie Hutchings and Member of Parliament for Charlottetown Sean Casey announced CAD1.1 million in funding for Women’s Network PEI and PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.<sup>3803</sup> The funding is aimed at supporting efforts to advance gender equality initiatives and to increase access to supports for underserved populations, specifically women victims of gender-based violence.<sup>3804</sup>

On 9 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary Hutchings announced CAD2.8 million in investments to support eight organizations that prevent and address human trafficking in British Columbia, specifically those that provide services to Black, Indigenous and immigrant women and girls, who are particularly at-risk of being trafficked.<sup>3805</sup> This funding will “help these organizations increase

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<sup>3799</sup> Government of Canada announces \$1.72 million investment in 5 women’s and equality-seeking organizations in the prairies, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-172-million-investment-in-5-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-the-prairies.html>

<sup>3800</sup> Government of Canada announces \$1.72 million investment in 5 women’s and equality-seeking organizations in the prairies, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-172-million-investment-in-5-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-the-prairies.html>

<sup>3801</sup> Government of Canada announces over \$3 million for six organizations advancing gender equality in the North, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-over-3-million-for-six-organizations-advancing-gender-equality-in-the-north.html>

<sup>3802</sup> Government of Canada announces over \$3 million for six organizations advancing gender equality in the North, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-over-3-million-for-six-organizations-advancing-gender-equality-in-the-north.html>

<sup>3803</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.1 million in two women’s organizations in Prince Edward Island, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Charlottetown) 4 June 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-11-million-in-two-womens-organizations-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>3804</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.1 million in two women’s organizations in Prince Edward Island, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Charlottetown) 4 June 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-11-million-in-two-womens-organizations-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>3805</sup> Government of Canada invests \$2.8 million to help prevent human trafficking and support survivors and victims in British Columbia, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Vancouver) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-28-million-to-help-prevent-human-trafficking-and-support-survivors-and-victims-in-british-columbia.html>

awareness about human trafficking and support at-risk populations – including victims and survivors.”<sup>3806</sup>

On 11 June 2021, Minister for Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan announced CAD1.3 million in funding for three community organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador that support women.<sup>3807</sup> The three organizations include the Multicultural Women’s Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs who will each receive CAD450,000 to address organizational capacity and promote social and systemic change towards gender equality, and the Association for New Canadians, who will receive CAD400,000 to “advance knowledge and enhance empowerment supports with promising intervention practices for at-risk populations.”<sup>3808</sup> This funding will help these organizations “increase their capacity to support women and girls, as well as victims and survivors of human trafficking in Newfoundland and Labrador.”<sup>3809</sup>

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced nearly CAD180 million to advance gender equality around the world at the opening ceremony of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), which was convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France.<sup>3810</sup> Canada committed nearly CAD80 million in new funding for women and girls through action coalitions, focused on support for the education of girls, advancing gender equality in parliaments, and contributing to UNICEF’s Global Programme to End Child Marriage.<sup>3811</sup> The Government of Canada also announced that it will commit CAD100 million in new funding for stand-alone programming to address issues in unpaid and paid care work in low and middle-income countries in which Canada provides international assistance through women’s rights and civil society organizations, country partners and multilateral organizations.<sup>3812</sup> The programming will “help increase women’s ability to participate in the economy, in education, and in public life.”<sup>3813</sup>

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<sup>3806</sup> Government of Canada invests \$2.8 million to help prevent human trafficking and support survivors and victims in British Columbia, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Vancouver) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-28-million-to-help-prevent-human-trafficking-and-support-survivors-and-victims-in-british-columbia.html>

<sup>3807</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

<sup>3808</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

<sup>3809</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

<sup>3810</sup> Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

<sup>3811</sup> New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

<sup>3812</sup> New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

<sup>3813</sup> Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

On 30 June 2021, the Government of Canada announced the co-creation of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements in partnership with the Netherlands, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, the Count Me In! Consortium, the Global Fund for Women, the Equality Fund and Prospera.<sup>3814</sup> This new partnership will “create a new, dedicated space to address challenges that women and girls face towards achieving equality, including through funding and by enabling better planning among donors and feminist movements.”<sup>3815</sup>

On 26 July 2021, Member of Parliament for Fredericton Jenica Atwin, on behalf of Minister Monsef, announced CAD200,000 to support the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and CAD30,000 to support the New Brunswick Child Rights Inc, which both work to end gender-based violence in Canada.<sup>3816</sup> This funding will help the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council in establishing a crisis helpline for Indigenous people affected by the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and will allow the New Brunswick Champions for Child Rights Inc to develop an implementation plan to increase access to culturally sensitive and gender inclusive programs for victims of gender-based violence.<sup>3817</sup>

On 29 July 2021, Minister Monsef announced that 273 projects will receive funding from the CAD100 million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund.<sup>3818</sup> The projects selected will “address systemic issues that vulnerable and underrepresented women face and help ensure an inclusive recovery from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.”<sup>3819</sup>

On 6 August 2021, Minister Monsef announced agreements that will see almost CAD200 million over two years “flow to shelters, sexual assault centres and organizations supporting women and children experiencing violence.”<sup>3820</sup> Women and Gender Equality Canada will work with Women's Shelters Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation and with the Government of Québec to rapidly

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<sup>3814</sup> New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

<sup>3815</sup> Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

<sup>3816</sup> Government of Canada invests \$230,000 in two projects supporting women and families in New Brunswick, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-230000-in-two-projects-supporting-women-and-families-in-new-brunswick.html>

<sup>3817</sup> Government of Canada invests \$230,000 in two projects supporting women and families in New Brunswick, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-230000-in-two-projects-supporting-women-and-families-in-new-brunswick.html>

<sup>3818</sup> Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

<sup>3819</sup> Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

<sup>3820</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

deliver these funds across the country.<sup>3821</sup> This funding will ensure that front-line organizations can continue to provide critical health services and offer supports to victims of gender-based violence.<sup>3822</sup>

Through its increased investments in gender equality abroad, the creation of new programs at the domestic level that are focused on promoting the economic security and empowerment of women, and the multitude of investments into Canadian organizations that prevent and support victims of gender-based violence, Canada has taken strong actions in the spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence at both the domestic and international levels and therefore, has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Delaney Murphy*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 19 November 2020, the President of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yueyue chaired a symposium in Beijing with experts in attendance to discuss efforts to promote the development of women and children in the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).<sup>3823</sup> At the symposium, participants provided suggestions on solving inadequacies faced by women and children in relation to economic development, livelihoods and social participation.<sup>3824</sup> This symposium also focused on targets to eliminate gender discrimination in employment and to improve rural maternal and child health services.<sup>3825</sup>

On 23 February 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Accelerating the Rejuvenation of Rural Talents."<sup>3826</sup> Article 25 of the publication addressed the government's intention to speed up the development of rural vocational education to encourage veterans, laid-off workers, migrant workers, high-quality farmers and left-behind women to apply for higher vocational

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<sup>3821</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

<sup>3822</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

<sup>3823</sup> ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

<sup>3824</sup> ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

<sup>3825</sup> ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

<sup>3826</sup> China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx\\_zcwj/202103/t20210308\\_518402.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html)

colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.<sup>3827</sup> Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.<sup>3828</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security put into effect new regulations forbidding discriminatory content in online job advertisements.<sup>3829</sup> The regulations stipulate that employers should not post online job advertisements that discriminate based on nationality, race, gender or religious beliefs.<sup>3830</sup>

On 6 March 2021, President Xi Jinping spoke of the protection of women's rights and women's development on multiple occasions at the fourth annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.<sup>3831</sup> President Xi stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.<sup>3832</sup> He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women's undertakings.<sup>3833</sup> These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women's rights.<sup>3834</sup>

On 9 April 2021, the Office of the State Council approved China's Action Plan Against Human Trafficking for the period of 2021 to 2030.<sup>3835</sup> To effectively prevent and combat human trafficking crimes in China and abroad, the government plans to protect women's rights, regulate prostitution and marriage registrations, reinforce gender equality education, support women in rural and poverty-stricken areas with employment and/or entrepreneurship, and assist victims of trafficking with counselling and resettlement.<sup>3836</sup> The government also aims to strengthen exchanges and cooperation for anti-trafficking work with international organizations such as the International Organization for

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<sup>3827</sup> China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx\\_zcwj/202103/t20210308\\_518402.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html)

<sup>3828</sup> China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

[http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx\\_zcwj/202103/t20210308\\_518402.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html)

<sup>3829</sup> China bans discriminatory content in online job advertisements, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content\\_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html)

<sup>3830</sup> China bans discriminatory content in online job advertisements, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content\\_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html)

<sup>3831</sup> Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

<sup>3832</sup> Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

<sup>3833</sup> Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

<sup>3834</sup> When Xi Jinping visited the members of the medical and health education sector who participated in the CPPCC meeting, he emphasized that the protection of people's health should be placed on the strategic position of priority development and efforts to build a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system Wang Yang participated in the visit and discussion, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/xw/tt/202103/20210300032328.shtml>

<sup>3835</sup> Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

[http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content\\_5603574.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm)

<sup>3836</sup> Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

[http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content\\_5603574.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm)

Migration, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Women.<sup>3837</sup>

On 25 June 2021, the State Council issued an outline of a national campaign to improve scientific literacy from 2021 to 2035.<sup>3838</sup> Within its tasks, the campaign will target the agricultural population and the scientific literacy of girls and women in rural areas through education and activities on ecological environment protection, thrift in energy and resources, green production, disaster prevention and alleviation, hygiene and health, and changes in old customs and habits.<sup>3839</sup>

On 19 July 2021, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the All-China Women's Federation in cooperation with other departments announced the launch of a series of measures to support women in playing a greater role in research and innovation in science and technology.<sup>3840</sup> The measures include high-level training, supporting female innovation and entrepreneurship and supporting research through pregnancy and nursing.<sup>3841</sup>

On 20 July 2021, the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and the State Council issued a document detailing the specific measures and policy tools that will be used to support the policy decision from 31 May 2021, to allow couples to have a third child.<sup>3842</sup> China plans to establish a support system to reduce the burdens of child rearing and education by 2025.<sup>3843</sup> This document asks local authorities to remove any compensation fees currently imposed on those who breach current family planning policies, to remove any links between family planning and employment opportunities.<sup>3844</sup> This document further asks local governments to streamline services related to birth certificates, social security card applications and newborn vaccinations.<sup>3845</sup> Other supporting tools such as the provision of daycare services, the encouragement of kindergartens to admit children younger than age three, the enhancement of prenatal and postnatal health care services, the implementation of inspections to ensure that pregnancy and childbirth do not jeopardizing women's

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<sup>3837</sup> Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

[http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content\\_5603574.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm)

<sup>3838</sup> Scientific literacy to flourish nationwide, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 1 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content\\_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html)

<sup>3839</sup> Scientific literacy to flourish nationwide, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 1 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content\\_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html)

<sup>3840</sup> China to help stimulate innovation vitality of female sci-tech talents, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content\\_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html)

<sup>3841</sup> China to help stimulate innovation vitality of female sci-tech talents, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content\\_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html)

<sup>3842</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

<sup>3843</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

<sup>3844</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

<sup>3845</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

careers and the suggestion that couples with younger children will have access to tax reductions, subsidized housing, and breastfeeding leave have also been mentioned in this document.<sup>3846</sup>

China has taken some steps to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Gender-Based Violence and Health spheres. However, China has not taken any meaningful steps to address gender inequalities in regard to the Economic Security sphere, nor has China made any meaningful international collaborative commitments to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in any of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately (Health, Economic Security and/or Gender-Based Violence).

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Laura Bustos*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister Delegate in charge of Citizenship Marlène Schiappa launched an initiative in partnership with TikTok to promote the website Arrêtons les Violence (Stop the Violence) on the TikTok app.<sup>3847</sup> The website is used to report sexual and gender-based violence and the aim of the initiative is to allow young girls to find advice, their rights, laws, concrete cases as well as educational and awareness resources against domestic violence.<sup>3848</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office Élisabeth Moreno announced that an additional EUR4 million has been added to the government budget.<sup>3849</sup> The aim is to help the government fight against menstrual insecurity in 2021 by increasing the accessibility of periodic protection, particularly women in precarious situations, for all women in France.<sup>3850</sup> The additional funds brings the total budget for fighting menstrual insecurity to EUR5 million.<sup>3851</sup>

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<sup>3846</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

<sup>3847</sup> Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

<sup>3848</sup> Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

<sup>3849</sup> Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

<sup>3850</sup> Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

<sup>3851</sup> Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

<https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

On 16 February 2021, the National Assembly passed an anti-radicalism bill focused on tackling Islamist extremism and separatism.<sup>3852</sup> The bill, titled “Supporting respect for the principles of the republic” cracks down on a variety of practices not formally attached to a specific religion such as polygamy, forced marriages and banning virginity certificates and tests.<sup>3853</sup> As indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO), virginity tests are a violation of women’s human rights since it is impossible to prove the occurrence of sexual intercourse by inspecting the hymen, either visually or physically.<sup>3854</sup>

On 23 February 2021, the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal announced that the Regional Centre for University and School Work university residences and university health services will all be equipped with free hygienic products.<sup>3855</sup> The aim of this is to improve gender equality, class attendance and subsequently lead to improved employment and education for women and girls.<sup>3856</sup>

On 25 February 2021, France, the WHO and the non-governmental organization Women in Global Health, launched a new global initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector.<sup>3857</sup> The initiative was created in response to the gender pay-gap and position disparity highlighted between men and women in the health sector by the pandemic.<sup>3858</sup> The initiative aims to introduce measures to accomplish the following in the health sector: increase the number of women in leadership positions, get unpaid work recognized and reduce the gender pay gap, protect women against gender-based violence at work and guarantee safe working conditions.<sup>3859</sup> Regarding this initiative, Minister Véran has stated that “promoting the position of women, who play a crucial role at the heart of our health systems and are often the first to be affected by growing inequality, is more necessary than ever...this initiative is a further step towards tangible gender equality in the health and care sector.”<sup>3860</sup>

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<sup>3852</sup> French MPs approve bill to combat Islamist extremism, France 24 (Paris) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210216-french-mps-approve-bill-to-combat-islamist-extremism>

<sup>3853</sup> France passes anti-radicalism bill that worries Muslims, AP News (Paris) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/polygamy-radicalism-secularism-elections-france-cbee2c916aa8c35380562277f0025c2b>

<sup>3854</sup> French government condemns reality TV 'virginity test,' BBC News (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56600958>

<sup>3855</sup> The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

<sup>3856</sup> The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

<sup>3857</sup> Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

<sup>3858</sup> Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

<sup>3859</sup> Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

<sup>3860</sup> Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

On 8 March 2021, the French National Standards Association (AFNOR), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity launched an initiative aimed at establishing an international standard on gender equality.<sup>3861</sup> The goal of this initiative is to create a normative reference, entitled AFNOR-SPEC, that will constitute a technical guide detailing the best practices relating to the internal and external activities undertaken by public and private French organizations.<sup>3862</sup> The guide will cover the following topics: education, health and sexual reproductive rights, prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, the rights of women and girls and female economic empowerment.<sup>3863</sup>

On 29 March 2021, France and Mexico co-chaired the first portion of the Generation Equality Forum.<sup>3864</sup> This first portion happened in Mexico City from 29 March 2021 until 31 March 2021, and the second portion is scheduled to occur on 30 June 2021 until 2 July 2021 in Paris, France.<sup>3865</sup> Convened by UN Women in response to the effect that COVID has had on women and girls, the forum is a civil-society driven event that brings together civil society, public authorities, local government, the private sector and the media.<sup>3866</sup> The purpose of the forum is to develop partnerships that will allow countries to swiftly implement large scale actions addressing gender equality.<sup>3867</sup>

On 31 March 2021, France and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.<sup>3868</sup> This group aims at centralizing public

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<sup>3861</sup> Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

<sup>3862</sup> Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

<sup>3863</sup> Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

<sup>3864</sup> The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

<sup>3865</sup> Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) n.d. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

<sup>3866</sup> The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

<sup>3867</sup> The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

<sup>3868</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>3869</sup>

On 15 April 2021, the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass legislation that increased the minimum age of sexual consent in France to 15 years of age.<sup>3870</sup> According to the legislation, sexual relations with anyone under the age of 15 is considered to be rape and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.<sup>3871</sup> The legislation was introduced as a way of preventing future instances of sexual assault.<sup>3872</sup>

On 12 May 2021, 61 Members of Parliament (MPs) present in the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass a draft law that would require companies with more than 1,000 employees to ensure women hold 40 per cent of top management posts by 2030.<sup>3873</sup> The goal of the bill is to improve gender equality by putting in place measures such as introducing an equality index in higher education institutions along with more mixed juries to fight gender bias and providing single-women with children with training and reserved places in nurseries.<sup>3874</sup>

On 30 June 2021, the Government of France committed EUR100 million in sexual and reproductive health and rights for the next five years at the Paris-held Generation Equality Forum (GEF).<sup>3875</sup> This commitment includes EUR90 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supplies, EUR5 million for Shaping Equitable Market Access for Reproductive Health (SEMA) and EUR5 million to the Global Partnership Forum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.<sup>3876</sup>

On 2 July 2021, Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Elisabeth Borne participated in the Paris-held GEF and reaffirmed that the Government of France views ratifying the International Labour Organization's Convention 190 as a political priority.<sup>3877</sup> This ILO Convention

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<sup>3869</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>3870</sup> French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021.

Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

<sup>3871</sup> France toughens law on sex with minors under age 15, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-toughens-law-on-sex-with-minors-under-age-15/a-57220223>

<sup>3872</sup> French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021.

Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

<sup>3873</sup> French MPs approve quotas for more women in corporate management, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210513-french-mps-approve-quotas-for-more-women-in-corporate-management>

<sup>3874</sup> French MPs approve quotas for more women in corporate management, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210513-french-mps-approve-quotas-for-more-women-in-corporate-management>

<sup>3875</sup> The Generation Equality Forum: June 30 to July 2, 2021, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/le-forum-generation-egalite-30-juin-au-2-juillet-2021>

<sup>3876</sup> The Generation Equality Forum: June 30 to July 2, 2021, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/le-forum-generation-egalite-30-juin-au-2-juillet-2021>

<sup>3877</sup> Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

aims to put an end to violence and harassment at work, especially against women.<sup>3878</sup> Minister Borne indicated that a bill to ratify ILO Convention 190 will be examined soon in the French National Assembly.<sup>3879</sup>

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of the Interior launched a free, anonymous, and 24-hour reporting portal for victims of sexual and/or gender-based violence.<sup>3880</sup> This portal allows for victims to instantly interact with a police officer or gendarme that has been specifically trained to care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>3881</sup> This portal can also be used by witnesses of sexual and gender-based violence to report facts to the police and gendarmerie.<sup>3882</sup>

On 9 August 2021, France contributed EUR200,000 to support the UNFPA's efforts to improve the mental health and psychosocial support services available to victims of gender-based violence in Bangladesh.<sup>3883</sup> The purpose of the funding is to mitigate the effects that the pandemic has had by both improving the availability of face-to-face mental health and psychosocial support services at the community level and strengthening existing virtual support services in Bangladesh.<sup>3884</sup> This funding marks the first contribution that France has ever made to UNFPA Bangladesh.<sup>3885</sup>

On 9 September 2021, the Government of France announced that birth control would be free for all women under the age of 25.<sup>3886</sup> The birth control methods covered by this scheme include the pill, intrauterine devices (IUDs), contraceptive patches and other methods composed of steroid hormones.<sup>3887</sup> The main purpose of the scheme is to protect women's rights and alleviate youth poverty by ensuring that women are not forced to give up birth control due to financial reasons.<sup>3888</sup>

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<sup>3878</sup> Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

<sup>3879</sup> Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

<sup>3880</sup> Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

<sup>3881</sup> Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

<sup>3882</sup> Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

<sup>3883</sup> UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

<sup>3884</sup> UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

<sup>3885</sup> UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

<sup>3886</sup> France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

<sup>3887</sup> France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

<sup>3888</sup> France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

France has taken strong steps to address issues of gender inequality, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, both domestically and internationally in the all three spheres of Economic Security, Gender-Based Violence and Health through international initiatives and events, information sharing, the allocation of funds and through amending and passing new legislation.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Diana Anton*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 6 January 2021, the federal government proposed the draft law, the Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II.<sup>3889</sup> The draft law further develops and improves the Management Positions Act (FÜPoG) that came into force in 2015 by making it mandatory for private and public sector German businesses to include more women on their executive boards.<sup>3890</sup> The law came into force on 12 August 2021.<sup>3891</sup>

On 14 January 2021, Germany donated EUR1 million to the Rapid Response Window initiative.<sup>3892</sup> The Rapid Response Window is a UN initiative that provides women with financial support for travel, childcare and dedicated training to facilitate their involvement in peace processes.<sup>3893</sup> This donation makes Germany the initiative's biggest donor to date.<sup>3894</sup>

On 6 February 2021, Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey presented a letter of protection to safeguard girls from genital mutilation abroad.<sup>3895</sup> Developed in coordination with non-governmental organizations and the federal government, the letter should be carried by all girls when traveling abroad since it clearly states that there is a risk of up to 15 years of prison time if female genital mutilation is carried out, both within Germany and

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<sup>3889</sup> Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

<sup>3890</sup> Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

<sup>3891</sup> Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

<sup>3892</sup> No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

<sup>3893</sup> Statement by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on the occasion of the official opening of the Rapid Response Window of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-rapid-response-window/2433846>

<sup>3894</sup> No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

<sup>3895</sup> Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstuemmelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbriege-vor--165700>

abroad.<sup>3896</sup> The aim of this letter is to discourage families from performing genital mutilation on their daughters while traveling by outlining the penal consequences and the possibility of having their residency permits revoked.<sup>3897</sup>

As of 24 February 2021, the German Cabinet has formally adopted a new National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Agenda, “Women, Peace and Security.”<sup>3898</sup> The four priorities of the Action Plan to be undertaken by Germany include: crisis prevention, the participation of women in peace processes, protection against sexual violence as well as support for survivors and strengthening the participation of women in crisis management.<sup>3899</sup> This is the first strategy with strictly binding indicators in order to measure progress.<sup>3900</sup>

On 17 March 2021, Germany held and organized the event, “On the Path to Economic Justice and Rights: Working towards Women’s Economic Empowerment,” in coordination with the Leadership Structure of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum.<sup>3901</sup>

On 17 March 2021, Germany along with the Council of Europe and the German Council of Women hosted the webinar, “Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age” during the 65th session of the UN Commission on Women’s Rights.<sup>3902</sup> During the event, panelists presented possible strategies to improve the digital participation and empowerment of women online and to eradicate online gender based violence.<sup>3903</sup> The webinar was organized in response to the increase in online violence against women of all ages, origins and religions during the pandemic, particularly on social media platforms.<sup>3904</sup>

On 18 March 2021, Germany along with the United States, Chile and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make

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<sup>3896</sup> Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstueummelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

<sup>3897</sup> Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstueummelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

<sup>3898</sup> New national Action Plan on the UN Agenda “Women, Peace and Security” adopted, German Federal Government (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/aktionsplan-zur-agenda-frauen-frieden-und-sicherheit-1861314>

<sup>3899</sup> No peace without women: New Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Federal Cabinet, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

<sup>3900</sup> Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to the German Bundestag in the debate on International Women’s Day on 8 March, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-international-women-day/2446526>

<sup>3901</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3902</sup> Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/side-event-csw-65-2021>

<sup>3903</sup> High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

<sup>3904</sup> High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

their voices count?”<sup>3905</sup> The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.<sup>3906</sup> The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.<sup>3907</sup>

On 19 March 2021, Germany, Bangladesh, South Africa, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Women, United Nations Children’s Fund and the Women in Migration Network co-organized the event, “Ensuring Migrant Women’s Effective Participation in Public Life and Elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.”<sup>3908</sup> This event demonstrated the urgency of working with all stakeholders during COVID-19 to help prevent and respond to gender-based violence against migrant women and girls.<sup>3909</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Germany and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.<sup>3910</sup> This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>3911</sup>

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation.<sup>3912</sup> The foundation will work by showing where more equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality

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<sup>3905</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3906</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3907</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3908</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3909</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>3910</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>3911</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>3912</sup> Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

with citizens.<sup>3913</sup> The aim of the foundation is to enable women and men to lead a self-determined life so that they can develop their potential regardless of gender.<sup>3914</sup>

On 3 May 2021, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth signed an agreement with the Bremen Senator for Finance Dietmar Strehl on behalf of the Bremen Senate to implement digital services for family and children services.<sup>3915</sup> This is part of the Online Access Act, which stipulates that all administrative services must be available online by the end of 2022.<sup>3916</sup> Online services would include daycare service registration, applications for benefits for abortion, applications for benefits due to pregnancy, and application for parental allowances.<sup>3917</sup> The Federal Government of Germany will invest EUR134 million to increase digital access to family benefits.<sup>3918</sup>

On 11 May 2021, in partnership with the Gender Equality Division and the Violence against Women Division of the Council of Europe, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth organised and held the “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A Decade of Action” conference.<sup>3919</sup> The purpose of the conference was to reaffirm the political will of countries to fully implement the Istanbul Convention.<sup>3920</sup> The Convention was also meant to identify and discuss ways to tackle sexism and gender stereotypes.<sup>3921</sup> Given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender violence, the Federal Minister for Women Franziska Giffey indicated that this conference is important because it “highlights the importance of states working together internationally to ensure that all women and girls in situations of violence find protection and support and a functioning legal system.”<sup>3922</sup>

On 19 May 2021, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development announced the launch of the Support Her Education (SHE) initiative in support of one million girls in developing

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<sup>3913</sup> Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

<sup>3914</sup> Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

<sup>3915</sup> 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

<sup>3916</sup> 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

<sup>3917</sup> 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

<sup>3918</sup> 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

<sup>3919</sup> Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:\[0](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:[0)

<sup>3920</sup> Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:\[0](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:[0)

<sup>3921</sup> International protection of women is a top priority, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/internationaler-schutz-von-frauen-hat-oberste-prioritaet-179252>

<sup>3922</sup> International protection of women is a top priority, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/internationaler-schutz-von-frauen-hat-oberste-prioritaet-179252>

countries who lost their access to education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3923</sup> As part of the initiative, Germany will be investing almost EUR100 million over the next four years into supporting one million girls in low-income countries in returning to school after pandemic-related school closures.<sup>3924</sup>

On 28 May 2021, the Federal Government of Germany established the Federal Equality Foundation.<sup>3925</sup> This Foundation aims to accelerate necessary changes to create “a country where women and men have equal opportunities.”<sup>3926</sup> For the year 2021, the Bundestag allocated EUR3 million for the Foundation’s construction and a further EUR5 million for 2022 onwards.<sup>3927</sup>

On 7 July 2021, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture introduced the National Strategy for Breastfeeding Promotion with the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the Federal Ministry of Health.<sup>3928</sup> This national strategy aims to improve breastfeeding promotion in Germany in the long term by improving framework conditions for breastfeeding, increasing public acceptance of breastfeeding, increasing breastfeeding motivation in Germany, and supporting women according to their individual needs.<sup>3929</sup>

Through the organization of informational events and amending legislation, Germany has demonstrated strong action in Economic Security and Health initiatives as well demonstrated action in implementing public awareness campaigns about Gender-Based Violence towards women and girls during COVID-19 at both the international and national levels.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Diana Anton*

#### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

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<sup>3923</sup> In COVID-19 crisis, Germany supports Global Partnership for Education together with Malala Fund, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-supports-global-partnership-for-education-79296>

<sup>3924</sup> In COVID-19 crisis, Germany supports Global Partnership for Education together with Malala Fund, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-supports-global-partnership-for-education-79296>

<sup>3925</sup> Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

<sup>3926</sup> Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

<sup>3927</sup> Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

<sup>3928</sup> Federal cabinet adopts national breastfeeding strategy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-nationale-stillstrategie-183246>

<sup>3929</sup> Federal cabinet adopts national breastfeeding strategy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-nationale-stillstrategie-183246>

On 21 January 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development Ram Mohan Mishra chaired a webinar on menstrual hygiene as part of National Girl Child Week celebrations with participants from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and several state governments.<sup>3930</sup> The webinar highlighted the need to educate and spread awareness to girls on menstruation needs and other issues relating to puberty through inter-state mechanisms.<sup>3931</sup>

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman announced an investment of INR10 billion for a special welfare scheme for tea workers in Assam and West Bengal with the focus on women and their children.<sup>3932</sup> The goal of this scheme is to protect “weaker and vulnerable sections” of Indian society during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3933</sup>

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment’s Employees’ State Insurance Corporation announced policy changes to improve services for insured women.<sup>3934</sup> One policy change is a relaxation in contributory conditions covering sickness and maternity benefits between January to June 2021.<sup>3935</sup> This policy was changed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures that has at times led to the non-entitlement of sickness and maternity benefits for many insured female workers.<sup>3936</sup>

On 16 March 2021, the Council of State approved the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which amends the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.<sup>3937</sup> The bill increases women’s access to abortion by allowing women to get an abortion within 20 weeks of one doctor’s advice and 20-24 weeks on two doctors’ advice, instead of 12 weeks on one doctor’s advice and 12-20 weeks on two doctors’ advice.<sup>3938</sup> This bill also increases access to abortion for women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault.<sup>3939</sup>

On 18 March 2021, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at

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<sup>3930</sup> Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

<sup>3931</sup> Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

<sup>3932</sup> Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

<sup>3933</sup> Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

<sup>3934</sup> ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

<sup>3935</sup> ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

<sup>3936</sup> ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

<sup>3937</sup> Rajya Sabha passes the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1705381>

<sup>3938</sup> Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don’t Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

<sup>3939</sup> Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don’t Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.<sup>3940</sup> At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.<sup>3941</sup>

On 20 March 2021, Indian Railways under the Ministry of Railways issued guidelines to all Zonal Railways and Production Units in order to combat crimes against women in trains and in railway premises.<sup>3942</sup> These guidelines include a short term plan of keeping watch on suspects and routine visits to vulnerable locations including bathrooms, abandoned buildings and waiting rooms by duty officers and other staff members.<sup>3943</sup> These guidelines also include a long term plan of improving infrastructure such as video surveillance technology and light masts.<sup>3944</sup> The guidelines also focus on training and sensitizing all railway employees and contractual staff on reporting incidents of violence against women as well as on publicizing notices to all passengers like attaching helpline numbers on train tickers.<sup>3945</sup>

On 21 March 2021, India achieved its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres by 31 March 2021.<sup>3946</sup> Focusing on COVID-19 prevention and non-COVID-19 essential health services, these AB-HWCs provide care for pregnant women and child births, neonatal and infant healthcare services, and general reproductive health services among other primary healthcare services.<sup>3947</sup>

On 2 April 2021, India allocated USD300,000 in funding to UN Women in support for gender equality and women empowerment.<sup>3948</sup>

On 28 June 2021, the National Commission for Women announced the launch of the “Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence.”<sup>3949</sup> This program takes place online and involve a number of modules over five days of training.<sup>3950</sup> The program seeks to provide

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<sup>3940</sup> Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

<sup>3941</sup> Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

<sup>3942</sup> Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

<sup>3943</sup> Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

<sup>3944</sup> Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

<sup>3945</sup> Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

<sup>3946</sup> India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

<sup>3947</sup> India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

<sup>3948</sup> India contributes \$300,000 to UN Women, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-contributes-300000-to-un-women/articleshow/81868903.cms>

<sup>3949</sup> NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

<sup>3950</sup> NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

protection officers with training in addressing domestic violence issues in order to “bridge the gap between administration and justice for aggrieved women.”<sup>3951</sup>

On 7 July 2021, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy hosted a webinar entitled “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability” in partnership with the International Solar Alliance.<sup>3952</sup> This webinar opened dialogue for bringing more women to leadership positions in the renewable energy sector and creating entrepreneurial opportunities for women.<sup>3953</sup>

On 16 July 2021, the National Commission for Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Police Research and Development regarding “gender sensitization training programme for police personnel.”<sup>3954</sup> The program will take place in a three-to-five-day period with 18-24 hours of training provided in total.<sup>3955</sup> The purpose of the program is to get police officers better attuned to women’s needs, particularly regarding crimes committed against women, gender issues and women-related laws.<sup>3956</sup>

On 27 July 2021, Minister Irani announced the launch of the National Commission for Women’s 24-hour helpline for women affected by violence.<sup>3957</sup> The helpline provides online support to women through referrals by linking callers with appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services and more.<sup>3958</sup> This helpline will link female victims of violence with appropriate criminal justice and counselling services in an attempt to combat the effects of gender-based violence facing women in India.<sup>3959</sup>

On 27 August 2021, Minister Irani addressed the first G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment, held in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.<sup>3960</sup> At the conference, Minister Irani affirmed India’s commitment to the G20 goals of addressing women’s empowerment and gender equality

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<sup>3951</sup> NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

<sup>3952</sup> Webinar on “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability,” Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

<sup>3953</sup> Webinar on “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability,” Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

<sup>3954</sup> NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

<sup>3955</sup> NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

<sup>3956</sup> NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

<sup>3957</sup> Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

<sup>3958</sup> Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

<sup>3959</sup> Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

<sup>3960</sup> Union WCD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani Addresses the First Ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749489>

issues and highlighted India's efforts to ensure better healthcare for women and efforts to strengthen women's safety and security.<sup>3961</sup>

On 30 August 2021, Minister Irani chaired the National Conference 2021 in Kevadia, Gujarat, and highlighted the importance of women-led development envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.<sup>3962</sup> The National Conference discussed and planned for better implementation and governance of programs led by the Ministry for Women and Child Development and specifically focused on the Second Mission Poshan, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.<sup>3963</sup>

On 7 September 2021, the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Women and Child Development hosted a webinar on the significance of Poshan Vatika for the alleviation of malnutrition.<sup>3964</sup> The webinar speakers highlighted how planting herbal plants in Aanganwadis, schools and kitchen gardens can ensure the accessibility of nutritious food and medicinal plants for pregnant and/or lactating women.<sup>3965</sup>

India has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through welfare schemes, new legislation supporting women's access to abortion, personnel training programs, and the creation of helplines for women affected by violence.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Rachel Zack*

#### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of National Development Planning launched the Knowledge Hub for Reproductive Health in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Indonesia and the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Public Health.<sup>3966</sup> The Hub is meant to support the improvement of maternal and child health, family planning, and reproductive health in Indonesia.<sup>3967</sup>

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<sup>3961</sup> Union WCD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani Addresses the First Ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749489>

<sup>3962</sup> Union Minister for Women & Child Development Chairs National Conference of States/UTs at Kevadia, Gujarat, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1750955>

<sup>3963</sup> Union Minister for Women & Child Development Chairs National Conference of States/UTs at Kevadia, Gujarat, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1750955>

<sup>3964</sup> Webinar on the importance of Poshan Vatika for alleviation of malnutrition organised, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752976>

<sup>3965</sup> Webinar on the importance of Poshan Vatika for alleviation of malnutrition organised, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752976>

<sup>3966</sup> Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

<sup>3967</sup> Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA), in partnership with UNFPA Indonesia and United Nations Women, launched the Guidelines for the Protection of Women's Rights from Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in Pandemic Situations.<sup>3968</sup> These Guidelines are aimed at governmental ministries and agencies, local governmental organizations and program or service providers related to women.<sup>3969</sup> These Guidelines focus on preventing and handling stigma and discrimination on women caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as documenting and monitoring cases of discrimination and violence against women.<sup>3970</sup>

On 16 December 2020, PPPA implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Family Equality.<sup>3971</sup> This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3972</sup> The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.<sup>3973</sup>

On 29 December 2020, the PPPA signed a memorandum of understanding with Permodalan Nasional Madani to strengthen women's empowerment in entrepreneurship.<sup>3974</sup> The memorandum is on the "Participation of Women in Ultra Micro and Micro Business Actors in Women's Empowerment and Child Protection."<sup>3975</sup>

On 31 December 2020, Indonesia and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund signed the 2021-2025 Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) worth USD150 million to support

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<sup>3968</sup> A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

<sup>3969</sup> A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

<sup>3970</sup> A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

<sup>3971</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>3972</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>3973</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>3974</sup> The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

<sup>3975</sup> The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

development for Indonesian women and children with disabilities.<sup>3976</sup> This CPAP aims to double the number of households using clean drinking water to 15 per cent, and increase access to health, social or law enforcement services for female and male victims of violence from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.<sup>3977</sup>

On 4 January 2021, Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga attended the Indonesian Political Women Caucus Webinar entitled “Reflections on the End of 2020 towards 2021, Quo Vadis Indonesian Women,” stated that, in view of COVID-19 challenges, she would use all networks and stakeholders to provide assistance and consultations in order to strengthen the economic role of women, to prevent violence against women and children, along with empowering village women through programs to improve women’s leadership.<sup>3978</sup>

On 29 January 2021, Indonesia and the UNFPA signed the 2021-2025 CPAP worth USD27.5 million to guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services with a focus for women and children.<sup>3979</sup> The Ministry of National Development Planning is leading the CPAP’s implementation with five main goals of reducing maternal mortality, implementing maternal health and family planning services, increasing youth welfare, reducing violence against women, and integrating population data information.<sup>3980</sup>

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia signed a decree that banned abusive dress codes for female students and teachers in Indonesia’s state schools.<sup>3981</sup> This is meant to end discrimination and to give women and children their agency back.<sup>3982</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Minister Puspayoga attended the Focus Group Discussion hosted by the National Awakening Party Faction and stressed the urgent need to ratify the Draft Bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS).<sup>3983</sup> This Draft Bill was removed from the 2020 Prolegnas (“National Legislation Program”) and the PPPA has pushed for the Draft Bill’s re-

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<sup>3976</sup> Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

<sup>3977</sup> Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

<sup>3978</sup> Reflections on Women’s Empowerment in 2020, Minister of PPPA: Support the Advancement of Women, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3019/refleksi-pemberdayaan-perempuan-tahun-2020-menteri-pppa-dukung-kemajuan-perempuan>

<sup>3979</sup> Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

<sup>3980</sup> Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

<sup>3981</sup> News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

<sup>3982</sup> News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

<sup>3983</sup> Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

inclusion in the 2021 Prolegnas.<sup>3984</sup> The House of Representative included RUU PKS into the 2021 Prolegnas at a plenary session.<sup>3985</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the PPPA launched the Call Center Service for Women and Children (SAPA 129) in partnership with PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom Indonesia).<sup>3986</sup> The SAPA 129 service aims to increase access for victims or eyewitnesses to report cases of violence against women and children as well as to allow data collection on such cases.<sup>3987</sup> This dial service can also be accessed through WhatsApp in order to further increase access to the SAPA 129 service.<sup>3988</sup>

On 9 March 2021, the Vice-Minister for State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN/SOE) Pahala Nugraha Mansury attended a virtual event called “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” in Indonesia, hosted by the UN Women’s WeEmpowerAsia program.<sup>3989</sup> Vice Minister Mansury spoke about the importance in empowering women as well as supporting women in leadership positions.<sup>3990</sup> This event was focused on mobilizing the private sector to advance gender equality, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3991</sup>

On 26 July 2021, the Kemen PPPA launched a series of Gender Responsive and Child Rights Responsive Family Festivals entitled “Later We Tell About Women and Children (NKCTPA),” from 21 July 2021 to 30 July 2021.<sup>3992</sup> The Deputy for Community Participation at the Kemen PPPA Indra Gunawan said that the Kemen PPPA would continue to make efforts to promote children's rights, protect children, and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.<sup>3993</sup>

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<sup>3984</sup> Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

<sup>3985</sup> Plenary of DPR Agrees on 33 Priority Prolegnas Bills 2021, House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.dpr.go.id/berita/detail/id/32239/t/Paripurna+DPR+Sepakati+33+RUU+Prolegnas+Prioritas+2021>

<sup>3986</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

<sup>3987</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

<sup>3988</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

<sup>3989</sup> Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

<sup>3990</sup> Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

<sup>3991</sup> Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

<sup>3992</sup> The Ministry of PPPA Invites All Parties to Push for the Acceleration of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3299/kemen-pppa-ajak-semua-pihak-dorong-percepatan-kesetaraan-gender>

<sup>3993</sup> The Ministry of PPPA Invites All Parties to Push for the Acceleration of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3299/kemen-pppa-ajak-semua-pihak-dorong-percepatan-kesetaraan-gender>

On 5 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA launched the Gender Perspective Entrepreneurship Training Program for Vulnerable Women and the Rural Women's Leadership Training Program.<sup>3994</sup> These two training programs aim to strengthen the economic empowerment of vulnerable women including survivors of violence, of disasters, and female heads of families.<sup>3995</sup> The programs are meant to increase women's potential in leadership as well as to support the realization of a Women Friendly and Child Care Village (DRPPA).<sup>3996</sup> The training provides soft skills for women with the aim of increasing the role of rural women in the decision-making processes in their villages.<sup>3997</sup> The programs are the result of collaboration between the PPPA and community institutional partners such as KAPAL Perempuan, Empowerment of Women Heads of Family (PEKKA), Association of Small Business Women Assistance (ASPPUK), Center for Women's Resource Development (PPSW), and the Indonesian Women's Coalition (KPI).<sup>3998</sup>

On 6 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA held discussions with the National Commission on Women (Komnas) and UNFPA Indonesia to strengthen commitments in protecting and fulfilling the rights of female victims of violence, especially sexual violence.<sup>3999</sup> The Kemen PPPA campaigned to stop violence against women and children in domestic settings through the Joint Protecting Family (BERJARAK) movement, which encourages a system for preventing and handling sexual violence through a draft law.<sup>4000</sup>

On 10 August 2021, Minister Puspayoga announced that the Government of Indonesia is formulating the National Action Plan for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children in Social Conflict (RAN P3AKS) and the National Action Plan for Combating and Prevention of

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<sup>3994</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

<sup>3995</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

<sup>3996</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

<sup>3997</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

<sup>3998</sup> Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

<sup>3999</sup> 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual>

<sup>4000</sup> 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual>

Extremism Leading to Terrorism (RAN PE) at the village level.<sup>4001</sup> Through RAN P3AKS, the Government of Indonesia encourages the prevention and immediate handling of all incidents of violence and violations of the rights of women and children, as well as recognizing that providing basic and special services for women and children in conflict is an inseparable part of conflict handling activities.<sup>4002</sup> Within the same announcement, Minister Puspayoga also launched an e-learning platform and a set of guidelines for the Peaceful Village/Kelurahan Action.<sup>4003</sup> This action guide contains the RA Desa Guidelines, Guidelines for the Protection of Women from Accessing Justice for Peaceful Village Working Groups and Guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender-Based Violence Cases.<sup>4004</sup>

On 12 August 2021, Minister Puspayoga inaugurated the 2021 Sispreneur Program for Business Management Incubation (Assistance), which focuses on increasing women's knowledge of entrepreneurship and increasing access to digital marketing for women entrepreneurs, to promote business, improve the family economy, and contribute on the national economy.<sup>4005</sup> This program is a collaboration between the Kemen PPPA with PT XL Axiata Tbk.<sup>4006</sup> Program participants were also given training and support related to gender equality such as knowledge about reproductive health, child care, legal advice, and leadership.<sup>4007</sup>

On 31 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA provided 1,010 packages of assistance for women's specific needs to female heads of families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in three regions in West Java: Bekasi City, Bogor Regency, and Tangerang Regency.<sup>4008</sup> This scheme aims to inspire other agencies

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<sup>4001</sup> Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

<sup>4002</sup> Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

<sup>4003</sup> Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

<sup>4004</sup> Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

<sup>4005</sup> Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

<sup>4006</sup> Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

<sup>4007</sup> Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

<sup>4008</sup> Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of PPPA gives specific needs assistance to women heads of families, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Bekasi City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3370/terdampak-pandemi-covid-19-menteri-pppa-beri-bantuan-kebutuhan-spesifik-pada-perempuan-kepala-keluarga>

of the Government of Indonesia to take similar action in providing specific assistance to women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4009</sup>

On 7 September 2021, the Kemen PPPA hosted the Gender Perspective Entrepreneurship Training Activities for Vulnerable Women in Kupang Regency, East Nusa Tenggara with the support of the Association of Small Business Women Facilitators (ASPPUK).<sup>4010</sup> This event is for vulnerable women who have survived violence and disasters, and women who are heads of families, in order for them to be economically independent so that they can contribute to improving the welfare of their families.<sup>4011</sup> This event will also be held for vulnerable women groups in Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara.<sup>4012</sup>

Indonesia has fully complied with their commitment to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence, affecting women disproportionately through financial support of educational, employment and health programs related to gender-based violence.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Annabelle Bourzeix*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 23 November 2020, Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities Elena Bonetti and the Single Guarantee Committees network signed a memorandum of understanding to continue their collaboration to offer assistance to women victims of violence.<sup>4013</sup> The main goal of the program is to raise awareness, training and information on combating gender-based violence.<sup>4014</sup>

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Public Education Lucia Azzolina announced the launch of a competition of ideas for female students, intending to encourage dialogue, preventing and combating

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<sup>4009</sup> Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of PPPA gives specific needs assistance to women heads of families, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Bekasi City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3370/terdampak-pandemi-covid-19-menteri-pppa-beribantuan-kebutuhan-spesifik-pada-perempuan-kepala-keluarga>

<sup>4010</sup> Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

<sup>4011</sup> Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

<sup>4012</sup> Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

<sup>4013</sup> Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unici-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-opportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

<sup>4014</sup> Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unici-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-opportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

violent behaviour and indifference.<sup>4015</sup> The competition, “The new Red Code,” aimed at primary and secondary schools, was also promoted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice.<sup>4016</sup>

On 3 December 2020, Minister Bonetti, Abi Federcasse from the Italian Federation of Cooperative Credit Banks and Rural Banks, the National Body for Microcredit and Italian Caritas, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a guarantee fund for the “Microcredit of Freedom.”<sup>4017</sup> With an initial endowment of EUR3 million, the fund serves as a financial instrument for the economic emancipation of women victims of male violence from forms of economic subjections.<sup>4018</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published the state budget law for the financial year of 2021 and a multi-year budget for the three years of 2021 to 2023.<sup>4019</sup> The budget allocates EUR50 million to support and enhance organizational measures favouring working mothers’ return after childbirth.<sup>4020</sup> The Ministry of Economic Development has also forecasted a budget of EUR20 million for 2021 and 2022 to strengthen, promote and support female entrepreneurship.<sup>4021</sup> Additionally, the budget allocates expenditures of EUR2 million per year to guarantee and implement the presence and institution of psychological professionals in penitentiaries.<sup>4022</sup> The psychologists should have expertise in intensified cognitive-behavioural treatments for perpetrators of crimes against women, which would be applied to prevent recidivism.<sup>4023</sup>

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<sup>4015</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

<sup>4016</sup> International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

<sup>4017</sup> Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

<sup>4018</sup> Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

<sup>4019</sup> State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

<sup>4020</sup> State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

<sup>4021</sup> State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

<sup>4022</sup> State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

<sup>4023</sup> State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies announced the Second Circulaire, regulating extraordinary leave for parents of children in lower secondary school or parents of children with disabilities in the event of suspension of teaching or closure of daycares, through amendments passed in Law n. 176 on 18 December 2020.<sup>4024</sup> It stated that for the working days of leave taken, working parents who need to stay with their children would be paid 50 per cent of their salary.<sup>4025</sup>

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published a breakdown of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.<sup>4026</sup> This plan aims to make Italy a more equitable, green and inclusive country focused on six missions: digitalization, innovation, competitiveness and culture; green revolution and ecological transition; infrastructure for sustainable mobility; education and research; inclusion and cohesion; and health.<sup>4027</sup> The plan mobilizes over EUR300 billion for the 2021-2026 budget planning, committing to Education, Research and Labour improvements with a focus on women, youth and the southern population.<sup>4028</sup> Expressly, Minister Bonetti has stated that EUR6 billion of the National Relaunch and Resilience plan will be allocated to funding kindergartens, female work, and entrepreneurship.<sup>4029</sup>

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation.<sup>4030</sup> Italy affirmed that they are committed to that end by working with international organisations, starting with the negotiations in the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, and with bilateral relationships with interested third countries, and through the Italian Cooperation projects.<sup>4031</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio reaffirmed Italy's commitment to promoting women's empowerment.<sup>4032</sup> He noted that the recent approval of the Fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the allocation of EUR3 million over the next three

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<sup>4024</sup> COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

<sup>4025</sup> COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

<sup>4026</sup> Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

<sup>4027</sup> Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

<sup>4028</sup> Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

<sup>4029</sup> Italy Celebrates Women – But It's A Long Road to Gender Parity, Forbes Magazine (New Jersey) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/08/italy-celebrates-women-but-its-a-long-road-to-gender-parity/?sh=333ae8083b20>

<sup>4030</sup> International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili\\_0.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html)

<sup>4031</sup> International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili\\_0.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html)

<sup>4032</sup> Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html)

years by the Italian Parliament, will support their commitment to promote the involvement of women in peace and mediation processes that ensure agreements and societies that are more inclusive and sustainable.<sup>4033</sup>

On 22 February 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the opening of the proceedings of Women20, the G20 engagement group tasked with making proposals and recommendations on gender equality to G20 members.<sup>4034</sup> During Minister Bonetti's address to the Women20 group, she remarked the importance of empowering women as a fundamental element for gender equality.<sup>4035</sup>

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the National Institute of Social Security issued the 32nd Circolare.<sup>4036</sup> This circolare clarified that employers can be exempt from contributions for the employment of women in the two years of 2021-2022 in the amount of 100 per cent, up to EUR6,000 per year if they hire women categorized as "disadvantaged workers."<sup>4037</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases activated the "Health and Protection of Women Service" to care for vulnerable women in need of health and/or psychological assistance.<sup>4038</sup> A multi-professional team that includes professionals such as doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and lawyers would provide care and tools for prevention such as information, and guidance for both Italian and foreign women.<sup>4039</sup> This service will target health care but also recognize and promote women's rights.<sup>4040</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the Official Gazette published Decree Law 13 March 2021, n. 30, containing urgent measures to cope with the spread of COVID-19 and support interventions for workers with

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<sup>4033</sup> Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html>

<sup>4034</sup> The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

<sup>4035</sup> The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

<sup>4036</sup> Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

<sup>4037</sup> Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

<sup>4038</sup> Violence against women, Ministry of Health (Rome) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioContenutiDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=4498&area=Salute%20donna&menu=societa>

<sup>4039</sup> In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

<sup>4040</sup> In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

minor children in distance learning or quarantine.<sup>4041</sup> The decree detailed the possibilities of “smart working,” temporary leaves and a babysitting bonus for working parents.<sup>4042</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family, Youth and Integration Susanne Raab on the sidelines of the 65th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).<sup>4043</sup> They discussed the strategies and action plans of their respective governments for combating violence against women, assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women’s lives and initiating recovery efforts, instituting equal opportunities in the access of female students to science, technology, engineering and mathematical subjects, and supporting female leadership.<sup>4044</sup>

On 19 March 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the general debate during the CSW65.<sup>4045</sup> Minister Bonetti talked with political leaders, representatives of the United Nations, and international organizations about the opportunity to rebuild from the pandemic with co-responsibility between women and men.<sup>4046</sup>

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Family introduced a new law for family support, entitling families with children under the age of 21 to a monthly check worth EUR250 per child.<sup>4047</sup> The state has dedicated a budget of EUR23 billion for this initiative, with payments planned to begin in July 2021.<sup>4048</sup> This initiative aims to support parents, favour birth rates, and promote employment, especially among women.<sup>4049</sup> The law is part of the more comprehensive “Family Act Reform,” which will be integrated in the following months to strengthen policies that support and incentivize education, parental leave, female employment and financial autonomy.<sup>4050</sup>

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<sup>4041</sup> COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

<sup>4042</sup> COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

<sup>4043</sup> CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

<sup>4044</sup> CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

<sup>4045</sup> CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-lintervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

<sup>4046</sup> CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-lintervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

<sup>4047</sup> Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

<sup>4048</sup> Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

<sup>4049</sup> Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

<sup>4050</sup> Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

On 22 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a decree authorizing the expenditure of EUR3 million spread over the financial years of 2021, 2022 and 2023, for endometriosis research.<sup>4051</sup> The research aims to produce results with an explicit applicative orientation for the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.<sup>4052</sup> This research will target a women's health issue that affects at least three million Italian women.<sup>4053</sup>

On 29 March 2021, Minister Bonetti joined the first event of the Generation Equality Forum, which took place in Mexico City with UN Women.<sup>4054</sup> She addressed participants through videoconference and reaffirmed Italy's commitment to national gender equality.<sup>4055</sup> She also confirmed that Italy will be taking part in the upcoming forums against gender violence and will hold a ministerial-level conference within the G20 dedicated exclusively to female empowerment for the first time ever.<sup>4056</sup>

On 13 April 2021, Minister Bonetti formally invited the ministers of the G20 members and of the guest countries to the Ministerial Conference dedicated to female empowerment scheduled for 26 August 2021.<sup>4057</sup> The event will be aimed at enhancing women's talent and leadership as well as promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence.<sup>4058</sup> The results of the discussion will be brought to the attention of G20 Leaders before the summit in October 2021.<sup>4059</sup>

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Breast Units of the Tor Vergata University of Rome and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, announced the initiative of "In the Hearth of Health," a communication and information campaign aimed at promoting a culture of prevention for pathologies of reproductive health, specifically breast cancer.<sup>4060</sup> The initiative will start at the end of May 2021 and will provide an instrument for women to increase their knowledge of cancer prevention measures.<sup>4061</sup> The program will also offer the possibility for women who are

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<sup>4051</sup> World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777)

<sup>4052</sup> World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777)

<sup>4053</sup> World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777)

<sup>4054</sup> The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

<sup>4055</sup> The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

<sup>4056</sup> The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

<sup>4057</sup> G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesipartecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

<sup>4058</sup> G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesipartecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

<sup>4059</sup> G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesipartecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

<sup>4060</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

<sup>4061</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

identified to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.<sup>4062</sup> The initiative is directly linked to the promotion of women's health, which has been compromised by the pandemic, especially at the early stages when the COVID-19 outbreak caused a slowdown in the implementation of screening programs and early diagnoses of pathologies.<sup>4063</sup>

On 23 April 2021, Minister of Labour and Social Policies Andrea Orlando sent a letter to the private social security and assistance bodies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies to take the most appropriate initiatives to ensure the widest participation of women in governing bodies of institutions and in representative assemblies.<sup>4064</sup> The letter was meant to reinforce the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies' commitment to counteracting the repercussions that COVID-19 has had on women's living and working conditions as well as reinforcing the idea that gender equality is a priority action.<sup>4065</sup>

On 28 April 2021, the National Control Room, chaired by Minister Bonetti, met to discuss the adoption of the next National Strategic Plan on male violence against women.<sup>4066</sup> During the meeting, Minister Bonetti outlined the actions planned to strengthen the government's interventions on the anti-violence front.<sup>4067</sup> In particular, she discussed the allocation of EUR30 million for resources for anti-violence centers and shelters in 2021.<sup>4068</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister Bonetti took part in the "Advancing Women in Private Sector Leadership: A G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review of Progress" promoted by the OECD in collaboration with the Italian presidency of the G20.<sup>4069</sup> The event promotes inclusive growth and gender equality and supports commitments to strengthen women's leadership in the private sector.<sup>4070</sup> During the event, Minister Bonetti noted that women would be at the center of their joint commitment for post-pandemic social, cultural, and economic recovery and encouraged event members to seize the opportunity to define gender policies for empowerment and female leadership in a shared vision.<sup>4071</sup>

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<sup>4062</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

<sup>4063</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

<sup>4064</sup> Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

<sup>4065</sup> Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

<sup>4066</sup> Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

<sup>4067</sup> Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

<sup>4068</sup> Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

<sup>4069</sup> Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

<sup>4070</sup> Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

<sup>4071</sup> Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

On 10 May 2021, Minister of University and Research Maria Cristina Messa participated in the event promoted by the Network of Universities Against Gender Violence (UN.I.RE) and the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Femicide.<sup>4072</sup> The event was held in honour of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention.<sup>4073</sup>

On 11 May 2021, Minister Bonetti shared a joint declaration with ministers from 16 European countries supporting the Istanbul Convention on the occasion of the convention's tenth anniversary.<sup>4074</sup> Italy and 15 other European countries also asked Turkey to revoke the decision taken a few months ago on withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention and to work together to protect the values guaranteed by this Convention.<sup>4075</sup>

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family expanded the CLEAR Project by publishing informational video tutorials online.<sup>4076</sup> The CLEAR Project aims to close the gender pension gap by increasing women's awareness and helping inform women about how the pension system works and the possible effects of career choices on future pensions.<sup>4077</sup>

On 18 May 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the second seminar of the Be Smart Be Equal cycle, promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden in Italy with the patronage of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) and the Nordic Council of Ministers.<sup>4078</sup> The seminar aims to promote best practices in reconciling work and personal lives to tend to issues related to work-life balance and equal opportunities in Italian companies compared to northern European companies.<sup>4079</sup> During the seminar, Minister Bonetti reiterated Italy's commitment to invest in female work and parental leave by implementing the Family Act and the National Strategy for Equality for the 2021-2026 period, which will be launched this year.<sup>4080</sup>

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<sup>4072</sup> The role of the university in the fight against gender-based violence, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.mur.gov.it/node/580>

<sup>4073</sup> The role of the university in the fight against gender-based violence, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.mur.gov.it/node/580>

<sup>4074</sup> Istanbul Convention: Minister Bonetti shares a joint statement by European Ministers in support of the Convention 10 years after its birth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/convenzione-di-istanbul-la-ministra-bonetti-condivide-una-dichiarazione-congiunta-di-ministri-europei-a-sostegno-della-convenzione-a-10-anni-dalla-nascita>

<sup>4075</sup> Istanbul Convention: Minister Bonetti shares a joint statement by European Ministers in support of the Convention 10 years after its birth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/convenzione-di-istanbul-la-ministra-bonetti-condivide-una-dichiarazione-congiunta-di-ministri-europei-a-sostegno-della-convenzione-a-10-anni-dalla-nascita>

<sup>4076</sup> CLEAR Project – Online informative tutorials on the gender pension gap, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/progettoclear>

<sup>4077</sup> CLEAR Project – Online informative tutorials on the gender pension gap, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/progettoclear>

<sup>4078</sup> Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

<sup>4079</sup> Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

<sup>4080</sup> Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

On 18 May 2021, the Ministry of Health passed Decree Law 178/2020, which established the procedures and requirements for the disbursement of EUR20 million per year for the reimbursement of genomic testing for early-stage hormone-responsive breast cancer.<sup>4081</sup> This funding allows all regions in Italy to offer free genomic tests to all women who could benefit from them to help ensure the appropriateness of a therapeutic option for breast cancer.<sup>4082</sup>

On 16 June 2021, Minister Elena Bonetti chaired an institutional meeting to finalize the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2025.<sup>4083</sup> Minister Bonetti noted that, through the missions of the National Strategy, the Italian government hopes to encourage female participation in the labour market to correct the lack of balance in equal opportunities and to reduce the gender gap, which in turn will support the restart of the economy after the pandemic and the economy of the whole country.<sup>4084</sup>

On 23 June 2021, the Minister for Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando chaired the G20 Labour Ministerial Conference dedicated to the support for female employment, gender equality, the adaptation of social protection systems to the recent changes, and the regulation of increasingly widespread forms of work such as remote and digital platforms.<sup>4085</sup> The meeting was also attended by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family Elena Bonetti, who congratulated Minister Orlando for the roadmap to improve the degree of participation of women in the labour market.<sup>4086</sup>

On 1 July 2021, Minister Bonetti attended the Generation Equality Forum opening ceremony in Paris.<sup>4087</sup> The Generation Equality Forum is an initiative of the United Nations Women and promoted by the governments of France and Mexico to address the issues of equal opportunities, female empowerment and gender-based violence.<sup>4088</sup> During the Forum, the Government of Italy

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<sup>4081</sup> Breast cancer, Speranza signs implementing decree that unlocks 20 million euros for genomic tests, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549)  
<sup>4082</sup> Breast cancer, Speranza signs implementing decree that unlocks 20 million euros for genomic tests, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549)  
<sup>4083</sup> National strategy on gender equality 2021-2025: Minister Bonetti brings together the administrations involved, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/strategia-nazionale-sulla-parita-di-genere-2021-2025-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-le-amministrazioni-coinvolte>

<sup>4084</sup> National strategy on gender equality 2021-2025: Minister Bonetti brings together the administrations involved, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/strategia-nazionale-sulla-parita-di-genere-2021-2025-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-le-amministrazioni-coinvolte>

<sup>4085</sup> G20: summary Final declaration by the Labor Ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 30 June 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/G20-sintesi-Dichiarazione-finale-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro.aspx>

<sup>4086</sup> Participation of Minister Bonetti at the G20 Ministerial Labor Conference, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 30 June 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/partecipazione-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-g20-del-lavoro>

<sup>4087</sup> Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

<sup>4088</sup> Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

officially presented their commitment to preventing and combating violence against women and girls, which the pandemic has exacerbated.<sup>4089</sup>

On 13 July 2021, Minister Bonetti attended the Women20 Summit held in Rome.<sup>4090</sup> The summit, which will take place until 15 July 2021, aims to discuss equality, women's work, entrepreneurship, opportunities offered by digital development, access to education and care services, equal presence in decision-making places, the wage gap, contrasting gender stereotypes, and violence against women.<sup>4091</sup>

On 14 July 2021, the Department for Family Policy launched a series of webinars, which will take place between July and September 2021, to discuss the most significant issues that have emerged in preparation for the fourth National Conference on the Family taking place in the 2021 fall season.<sup>4092</sup> The webinars will be available for public consultation on the "ParteciPA" platform.<sup>4093</sup> Four groups coordinated by the President of the Technical Scientific Committee of the Observatory Chiara Giaccardi discuss four main themes around which the webinars will centre: the demographic question; the relationship between genders and generations; the topic of inequality; and the topic of work with a focus on gender equality.<sup>4094</sup> The first two webinars are scheduled for 15 July 2021 and 21 July 2021, on the themes of "the demographic question" and "the relationship between genders and generations," respectively.<sup>4095</sup>

On 14 July 2021, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the University of Rome Tor Vergata and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, inaugurated the project "In Bosom of Health" to prevent breast cancer.<sup>4096</sup> The communication and information campaign aims to promote a culture of prevention for pathologies of reproductive health, specifically breast cancer and other issues affecting women's health.<sup>4097</sup> The initiative will provide an instrument for women to increase their knowledge of cancer prevention measures and will offer the possibility for women who are identified

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<sup>4089</sup> Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

<sup>4090</sup> Minister Bonetti Attends the WOMEN20 Summit, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3957>

<sup>4091</sup> Minister Bonetti Attends the WOMEN20 Summit, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3957>

<sup>4092</sup> "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

<sup>4093</sup> "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

<sup>4094</sup> "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

<sup>4095</sup> Towards the IV National Conference of the Family, Department of Family Policy (Rome) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <http://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/comunicazione/notizie/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-della-famiglia>

<sup>4096</sup> Starting today, the project "In Bosom of Health" for the prevention of breast cancer, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. [https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5554](https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5554)

<sup>4097</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.<sup>4098</sup>

On 16 July 2021, Minister Bonetti met with the Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Women Anita Bhatia to discuss women's situation in light of the pandemic, which has affected women's income, health and increased instances of violence against women.<sup>4099</sup> During the meeting, Deputy Executive Director Bhatia confirmed the participation of United Nations Women in the G20 ministerial conference dedicated to women's empowerment.<sup>4100</sup> Also, Minister Bonetti presented the Government of Italy's measures introduced in the Family Act, and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to support female employment, gender equality and reduce male violence against women.<sup>4101</sup>

On 19 July 2021, the National Control Room met for its first discussion about the draft Strategic Plan to reduce male violence against women.<sup>4102</sup> The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family Elena Bonetti, who is also the chair of the National Control Room, presented the document structured in compliance with the Istanbul Convention.<sup>4103</sup> The upcoming National Strategic Plan will be in line with the interventions to promote female empowerment as defined in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which will be the primary tool to prevent male violence.<sup>4104</sup>

On 28 July 2021, Minister Bonetti spoke at the presentation of the Business20 Policy Document on the topic of Women Empowerment.<sup>4105</sup> This Policy Document listed three recommendations focusing on gender equality and the inclusion of women in the labour market, the elimination of stereotypes and discrimination, and the promotion of women's talent and leadership.<sup>4106</sup>

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<sup>4098</sup> National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

<sup>4099</sup> Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

<sup>4100</sup> Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

<sup>4101</sup> Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

<sup>4102</sup> Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

<sup>4103</sup> Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

<sup>4104</sup> Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

<sup>4105</sup> The Business Policy Document20 on the topic of Empowerment was presented, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/presentato-il-policy-document-del-business20-sul-tema-dellempowerment>

<sup>4106</sup> The Business Policy Document20 on the topic of Empowerment was presented, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/presentato-il-policy-document-del-business20-sul-tema-dellempowerment>

On 5 August 2021, Minister Bonetti presented the first National Strategy for Gender Equality to the Council of Ministers.<sup>4107</sup> Five priorities are listed for the strategic plan: Work, Income, Skills, Time and Power.<sup>4108</sup> The document details measurable objectives and targets to be achieved by 2026 to increase Italy's Gender Equality Index ranking from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).<sup>4109</sup>

On 9 August 2021, the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Family announced that Italy will host the first G20 conference dedicated to women's empowerment on 26 August 2021 in Santa Margherita Ligure, to be chaired by Minister Bonetti.<sup>4110</sup> The conference will focus on the quality of women's work, policies to support their talents and leadership, the protection of women's rights, and the fight against gender-based violence.<sup>4111</sup> This conference will allow participants to debate their views and beliefs about best practices regarding two key topics: one, STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment and sustainability; and two, labour and economic empowerment, and work-life balance.<sup>4112</sup> The results of the discussion will be collected ahead of the G20 summit on 30 to 31 October 2021.<sup>4113</sup>

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Italy hosted the first G20 conference dedicated to female empowerment.<sup>4114</sup> The conference was attended by the Ministers responsible for equal opportunities from G20 members, as well as by representatives from UN Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and by members of the

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<sup>4107</sup> Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

<sup>4108</sup> Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

<sup>4109</sup> Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

<sup>4110</sup> On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

<sup>4111</sup> On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

<sup>4112</sup> On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

<sup>4113</sup> On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

<sup>4114</sup> The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

business world and academia.<sup>4115</sup> Minister Bonetti also convened a special meeting during the conference dedicated to the condition of women in Afghanistan.<sup>4116</sup>

Italy has fully complied with their commitment to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence, affecting women disproportionately through financial support of educational, employment and health programs related to gender-based violence.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Laura Bustos*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine progress made in recent decades.

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare designated 1 March 2021 to 8 March 2021 as “Women’s Health Week” in order to promote women’s health as a national movement.<sup>4117</sup> This campaign will include virtual events, video messages and articles written by health experts in order to spread awareness to the Japanese general public on women’s health issues.<sup>4118</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Minister in Charge of Women’s Empowerment Tamayo Marukawa issued a statement on International Women’s Day where she emphasized the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to gender equality.<sup>4119</sup> Minister Marukawa announced that based on these ideas, the Cabinet formed the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality in December 2020.<sup>4120</sup> The plan aims to implement measures to increase women’s participation in leadership positions and to create a gender-equal society within the 2030s.<sup>4121</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Minister Marukawa emphasized the importance of increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions at the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s 65th Session of

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<sup>4115</sup> The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

<sup>4116</sup> The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

<sup>4117</sup> About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_16897.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html)

<sup>4118</sup> About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_16897.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html)

<sup>4119</sup> Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. [https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd\\_2021.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html)

<sup>4120</sup> Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. [https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd\\_2021.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html)

<sup>4121</sup> Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. [https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd\\_2021.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html)

the Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>4122</sup> Minister Marukawa stated that Japan drafted the 2020 Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality with these considerations in mind.<sup>4123</sup>

On 31 March 2021, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takashi Uto attended a ministerial meeting hosted by Mexico for the formal establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality during the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City.<sup>4124</sup> This Group of Friends aims to foster cooperation among like-minded countries striving towards gender equality and women's empowerment.<sup>4125</sup> At this meeting, Minister Uto announced that the Government of Japan has decided to participate in the Actions Coalitions focusing on gender-based violence.<sup>4126</sup>

On 1 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.9 million to the United Nations Women's Safe and Prosperous District Programme, which focuses on securing women's livelihoods in Papua New Guinea that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4127</sup> This programme aims to improve working conditions in Tari, Wewak and Alotau markets by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities as well as security services.<sup>4128</sup> This programme also aims to increase access to financial tools for market vendors in recognition that over 60 per cent of market vendors who are women in Papua New Guinea.<sup>4129</sup> This programme will focus on promoting digital financial tools and on training women in various different trades to access new economic opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4130</sup>

On 6 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.3 million in funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support efforts to protect the health and dignity of women and girls in Libya.<sup>4131</sup>

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<sup>4122</sup> Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World's Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women's Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

<sup>4123</sup> Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World's Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women's Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

<sup>4124</sup> State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page6e\\_000235.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html)

<sup>4125</sup> State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page6e\\_000235.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html)

<sup>4126</sup> State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page6e\\_000235.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html)

<sup>4127</sup> Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>4128</sup> Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>4129</sup> Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>4130</sup> Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>4131</sup> UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

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Started on 1 April 2021, this UNFPA project in Libya is mainly focused on addressing the lack of sexual and reproductive health services and the increase in gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4132</sup> On gender-based violence, this project aims to provide quality services such as psychological support, case management or referrals for healthcare, maintaining safe spaces for females, and raising awareness on the issue.<sup>4133</sup> On sexual and reproductive health, this project aims to support obstetric and infant care services through mobile teams into conflict areas or areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, distribute medical equipment, train frontline health workers on COVID-19 prevention, and improve risk communications.<sup>4134</sup>

On 22 April 2021, Japan allocated an additional USD1 million to support the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund COVID-19 response measures in Zimbabwe.<sup>4135</sup> These measures focus on providing responsive and preventive care to vulnerable children and women covering issues like gender-based violence and primary healthcare.<sup>4136</sup>

On 26 April 2021, Japan launched a joint project with the Government of Vietnam and the UNFPA on reducing harms on vulnerable populations due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as the increased incidents of gender-based violence and the lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.<sup>4137</sup> The Government of Japan is providing over USD2.8 million to support this project from April 2021 to March 2022.<sup>4138</sup> This joint project focuses on enhancing protection services for victims of gender-based violence, strengthening preventive work by raising awareness on gender-based violence, and ensuring continuous sexual and reproductive health services in emergency situations with additional concern for ethnic minorities and those living in remote locations.<sup>4139</sup>

On 9 June 2021, JICA made a joint announcement with development finance institutions on the occasion of the G7 leaders' summit, which set a new goal of 15 billion dollars to be mobilized over

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<sup>4132</sup> UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

<sup>4133</sup> UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

<sup>4134</sup> UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

<sup>4135</sup> Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

<sup>4136</sup> Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

<sup>4137</sup> The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

<sup>4138</sup> The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

<sup>4139</sup> The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

2021 and 2022 as a new phase of initiative called the G7 2X challenge: Financing for Women.<sup>4140</sup> Along with the JICA, the development finance institutions of the G7 aim to mobilize their own funds to contribute to efforts for gender equality.<sup>4141</sup> JICA aims to strengthen its cooperation with 2X member organizations in order to provide women access to employment, teach women to build resilient businesses, and help women manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4142</sup>

On 28 June 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) adopted 20 indirect subsidy projects that support services using Femtech and work towards promoting women's health and the continued employment of working women.<sup>4143</sup> These 20 projects are under the METI's Fiscal Year 2021 Subsidy Project for Demonstration Projects for Femtech and Similar Support Services.<sup>4144</sup> The 2021 Subsidy Project aims to prevent "unwanted turnover of working women triggered by life events such as pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause, as well as to improve the well-being of individuals."<sup>4145</sup>

On 25 August 2021, JICA signed a USD50 million loan agreement with the Northern Arc Capital (NAC) to fund non-bank financial entities that support financial services to women in India.<sup>4146</sup> This loan will be co-financed with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) and is in support of the G7 2X Challenge: Finance for Women.<sup>4147</sup> This initiative aims to improve Indian women's access to finance, to rectify gender inequalities and ensure sustainable economic growth in India.<sup>4148</sup>

While Japan has taken limited actions domestically to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has taken strong actions internationally through funding various projects and programs by JICA and other UN agencies in support of women's Health and Economic

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<sup>4140</sup> Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html)

<sup>4141</sup> Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html)

<sup>4142</sup> Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html)

<sup>4143</sup> Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html)

<sup>4144</sup> Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html)

<sup>4145</sup> Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html)

<sup>4146</sup> Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831\\_10e.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html)

<sup>4147</sup> Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831\\_10e.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html)

<sup>4148</sup> Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831\\_10e.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html)

Security as well as funding development projects to combat Gender-Based Violence and support victims of such violence.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Leena Badri*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Second International Conference on Action with Women and Peace with the theme of “Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict – Ensuring Survivor-centered Approach.”<sup>4149</sup> The conference specifically discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual violence in conflicts and plans to support survivors after the pandemic.<sup>4150</sup>

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection.<sup>4151</sup> This program is meant to increase women’s economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4152</sup> The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.<sup>4153</sup>

On 19 January 2021, MOGEF announced that government support for childcare services will be expanded and service quality will be enhanced in order to alleviate childcare burdens, especially due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4154</sup> This plan would include increasing annual support hours by the government by 120 hours up to 840 hours a year and for households with low income, single parent households or disabled parent/child, the percentage of government support for childcare services will be increased by five per cent to cover 90 per cent.<sup>4155</sup> MOGEF will also provide anti-epidemic materials to childcare workers visiting households such as masks and hand

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<sup>4149</sup> 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321384](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384)

<sup>4150</sup> 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321384](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384)

<sup>4151</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>4152</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>4153</sup> Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

<sup>4154</sup> Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536)

<sup>4155</sup> Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536)

sanitizer as well as temporarily providing a linkage service on a childcare mobile application when households require childcare services at night, on weekends or in short-notice due to emergencies.<sup>4156</sup>

On 25 January 2021, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Chung Young-ai introduced standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of female victims of violence at workplaces.<sup>4157</sup> These guidelines aim to encourage public institutions to improve their organizational culture and prevent violence against women at workplaces.<sup>4158</sup> The guidelines highlight preventive measures and education institution chiefs and members should take, punishment for perpetrators, and measures to handle complaints.<sup>4159</sup>

On 18 February 2021, Korea introduced the 2021 Implementation Plan of the Second Gender Equality Policy Basic Plan, which set plans for the year on promoting conditions for work-life balance, ending sexual violence against women and improving health for women among other targets.<sup>4160</sup> On work-life balance, Korea announced an expansion of childcare infrastructure such as introducing and expanding pilot programs of community childcare.<sup>4161</sup> The Plan also includes starting seven “local digital gender-based crimes consulting centers” with the launch of a department focused on digital gender crimes within the MOGEF, and ensuring eight OB/GYN clinics are disabled-friendly in order to protect the right of disabled women to have access to pregnancy and birthing healthcare services.<sup>4162</sup>

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced the implementation of new measures aimed at increasing the recovery of women’s labour force participation, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4163</sup> New programs include a revised supplementary budget with a focus on the rapid creation of jobs in both the private sector and public sector, expansions of services that support job seekers, and the creation

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<sup>4156</sup> Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536)

<sup>4157</sup> MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539)

<sup>4158</sup> MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539)

<sup>4159</sup> MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539)

<sup>4160</sup> Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607)

<sup>4161</sup> Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607)

<sup>4162</sup> Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607)

<sup>4163</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635)

of a subsidy paid to businesses hiring women.<sup>4164</sup> The new measures are expected to create more than 780,000 women's jobs.<sup>4165</sup>

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced increased support for childcare in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the objective of minimizing the negative impacts of the pandemic on women's employment.<sup>4166</sup> Measures include the extension of emergency support for family care expenses to help mitigate the burden of female workers who were forced to use unpaid family care leave to take care of children left at home due to school closures.<sup>4167</sup> This includes KRW50,000 a day for up to 10 days during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4168</sup>

On 15 March 2021, President Moon Jae-in urged Senior Secretaries to "implement, as planned, the extension of special employment support and the designation of additional business lines eligible for such support, as well as customized job programs for young people and women together with the public employment projects."<sup>4169</sup> His remarks aimed to encourage the prioritization of gender equality initiatives, and subsequently lead to improved employment for women and girls.<sup>4170</sup>

On 23 March 2021, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) announced that it will invest USD7 million by 2024 to address gender-based violence in Laos.<sup>4171</sup> In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, KOICA plans to establish a violence prevention and response center for women in Vientiane, dispatch experts from South Korea to help train local personnel in counseling and assist the Laotian government in drawing up a mid- to long-term strategy to address violence against women while also mitigating exacerbated gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4172</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Korea and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain,

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<sup>4164</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635)

<sup>4165</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635)

<sup>4166</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635)

<sup>4167</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635)

<sup>4168</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635)

<sup>4169</sup> Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

<sup>4170</sup> Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

<sup>4171</sup> KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://www.koica.go.kr/koica\\_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2](https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2)

<sup>4172</sup> KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://www.koica.go.kr/koica\\_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2](https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2)

Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.<sup>4173</sup> This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>4174</sup>

On 28 April 2021, MOGEF and the Embassy of Finland in Seoul held a panel discussion entitled “Women in Tech,” in order to share information about gender equality in Korea and Finland as well as look for ways to improve gender policies in both countries.<sup>4175</sup> At the panel, attendees from both the public and private sector discussed the status of women in the technical field.<sup>4176</sup>

On 22 June 2021, KOICA raised a joint fund of USD140,000 in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Vietnam, the Government of Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Embassy of Japan in Hanoi, in order to provide Dignity Kits to 5,100 female workers in Vietnam’s Bac Giang and Bac Ninh provinces.<sup>4177</sup> Targeting underprivileged women, the Dignity Kits include humanitarian aid products to protect women’s reproductive health and basic rights and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.<sup>4178</sup> The Dignity Kits include over 20 items such as sanitary pads, underwear, face masks and flashlights.<sup>4179</sup>

On 23 June 2021, MOGEF and UN Women signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality.<sup>4180</sup> This agreement aims to establish an international women’s organization in Korea in order to develop gender equality policies, provide education and training, and create international cooperative relations with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>4181</sup>

On 28 June 2021, KOICA signed the 2021-2024 Multilateral Cooperation Program for Gender Equality in Egypt with Egypt’s Ministry of International Cooperation, and this program is run in

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<sup>4173</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4174</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4175</sup> Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767)

<sup>4176</sup> Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767)

<sup>4177</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>4178</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>4179</sup> KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/376681/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do)

<sup>4180</sup> UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896)

<sup>4181</sup> UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896)

partnership with the UNFPA and UN Women.<sup>4182</sup> The KOICA will support efforts to prevent gender-based violence, the UNFPA's gender equality response project, and UN Women's economic empowerment for women project.<sup>4183</sup>

On 13 July 2021, the Government of South Korea's amendments to the Sexual Violence Prevention Act entered into force.<sup>4184</sup> The amendments require the head of a public institution involved in a sexual violence case to report it to the MOGEF and submit measures to prevent a recurrence of sexual violence and if a head of a public institution fails to report to an investigation agency, fines up to KRW3 million will be given as punishment.<sup>4185</sup> The amendments aim to prevent systematic cover-ups of cases of sexual violence in the workplace.<sup>4186</sup>

On 5 August 2021, KOICA pledged an investment of USD2.99 million by 2023 for the UNFPA to launch a project supporting victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence amid conflict in northern Iraq.<sup>4187</sup> The project aims to build two One-Stop Support Centers for Women Victimized by War Violence in order to provide treatments, psychological counselling, legal advice, and adaptation assistance for women affected by war violence.<sup>4188</sup> This project should extend services to over 93,000 Iraqi women.<sup>4189</sup>

On 30 August 2021, MOGEF hosted the 20th session of the Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) online with the theme of "KOWIN's Future Vision based on 20 Years of Its Activities."<sup>4190</sup> At this conference, participants reflected on activities carried out for gender equality

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<sup>4182</sup> Under the Auspices of the Ministry of International Cooperation, UN Women, UNFPA sign agreements with KOICA to enhance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, United Nations Population Fund Egypt (Cairo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/news/under-auspices-ministry-international-cooperation-un-women-unfpa-sign-agreements-koica-enhance>

<sup>4183</sup> Under the Auspices of the Ministry of International Cooperation, UN Women, UNFPA sign agreements with KOICA to enhance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, United Nations Population Fund Egypt (Cairo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/news/under-auspices-ministry-international-cooperation-un-women-unfpa-sign-agreements-koica-enhance>

<sup>4184</sup> You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926)

<sup>4185</sup> You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926)

<sup>4186</sup> You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926)

<sup>4187</sup> KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378272/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do)

<sup>4188</sup> KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378272/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do)

<sup>4189</sup> KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. [http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378272/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do)

<sup>4190</sup> 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039)

by Korean women around the world and discussed how KOWIN should be developed in the future.<sup>4191</sup>

On 31 August 2021, KOICA signed an agreement in Peru to launch a project to respond to gender-based violence by strengthening the capacity of the Justice of the Peace.<sup>4192</sup> The KOICA announced an investment of USD6 million for this project, which will be led in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).<sup>4193</sup> This project aims to improve Peru's judicial systems, train justices of the peace to handle cases of gender-based violence, and establish a database of precedents.<sup>4194</sup>

On 1 September 2021, KOICA committed USD7 million in funding to efforts for enhancing gender equality in Bolivia.<sup>4195</sup> This funding is aimed at a project led in cooperation with the UNFPA to promote gender equality in order to enhance sexual and reproductive rights for women.<sup>4196</sup> This project will be conducted in La Paz and Cochabamba provinces and last until 2025.<sup>4197</sup>

Korea has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through allocating financial resources to international projects supporting women's health and security, increasing access to affordable childcare services, enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks, and introducing national plans to eliminate violence against women.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Brandon Yih, Rana Al-Fayez and Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

#### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitments to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequality and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) and the Senate of the Republic signed a collaboration agreement to promote and monitor the incorporation of gender perspectives and the principle of equality between women and men in the work of the Federal

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<sup>4191</sup> 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039)

<sup>4192</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

<sup>4193</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

<sup>4194</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

<sup>4195</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

<sup>4196</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

<sup>4197</sup> KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

[http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica\\_en/706/378498/artclView.do](http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do)

Legislative Power.<sup>4198</sup> The President of the Senate Eduardo Ramírez pledged to approve legal reforms that guarantee wage equity, as well as the end of gender-based violence, addressing the protection of all fundamental rights for women, and the punishment for any conduct that violates these rights.<sup>4199</sup> The President of INMUJERES Nadine Gasman Zylbermann stated that INMUJERES will monitor actions that involve the Legislative Power in the National Program for Equality between Women and Men, as well as conduct research and dissemination projects on the situation of Mexican women in various regions of the country for legislative work.<sup>4200</sup> Additionally, the INMUJERES, partnered with the Legislative Power, committed to analyze legal norms and follow up with their implementation in order to promote the human rights of women and girls.<sup>4201</sup>

On 22 December 2020, the decree approving the National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD “Pro-Equality” 2020-2024) and the document originated from the National Development Plan were published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.<sup>4202</sup> The Program articulates and commits to closing historical gaps of inequality, guaranteeing the wellbeing of females, responding to female citizen’s demands, and upholding women’s human rights.<sup>4203</sup> The INMUJERES, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the Ministry of Public Function will monitor the implementation of the Program’s priority objectives, strategies and actions.<sup>4204</sup> The promulgation of the aforementioned decree makes the examination of PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 measures mandatory for Federal Public Administration’s agencies and entities.<sup>4205</sup>

On 27 January 2021, Mexico extended the Second Change Programme, which allows women to learn empowerment, leadership skills and entrepreneurship by running a greenhouse.<sup>4206</sup> This initiative aims to help decrease poverty and help increase female empowerment.<sup>4207</sup>

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<sup>4198</sup> INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

<sup>4199</sup> INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

<sup>4200</sup> INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

<sup>4201</sup> INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais>

<sup>4202</sup> With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

<sup>4203</sup> With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

<sup>4204</sup> With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

<sup>4205</sup> With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

<sup>4206</sup> Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the ‘Second Chance’ programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

<sup>4207</sup> Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the ‘Second Chance’ programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

On 11 February 2021, the Chamber of Deputies and UN Women, as part of the Spotlight initiative in Mexico, signed a memorandum of understanding which seeks to promote a non-binding parliamentary alliance to discuss and develop legislative proposals concerning the eradication of violence against females.<sup>4208</sup> This program will establish activities that prioritize the prevention and care of violence as well as the promotion of actions which guarantee the full access of women's rights.<sup>4209</sup> Additionally, this memorandum will install periodic working groups with commissions such as those of Gender Equality, Human Rights, Justice, Government and Population, Rights of Children and Adolescents, Constitutional Points, Public Safety, Youth and Sexual Diversity and Health, among other collaborative actions.<sup>4210</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Mexico and the United Nations collaborated to work on the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls programme to help remove language barriers in COVID-19 health campaigns and indigenous gender-based violence.<sup>4211</sup> This initiative aims to help break down the language barriers for indigenous individuals in Mexico in regard to COVID-19 health campaigns and to help prevent violence against indigenous women.<sup>4212</sup>

On 26 February 2021, the Secretary of the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) Delfina Gómez Álvarez led a meeting with educational authorities to discuss and promote actions that prevent and eradicate violence against women in higher education institutions.<sup>4213</sup> Secretary Gómez Álvarez reaffirmed the Government of Mexico and SEP's commitment to work towards specific actions that guarantee female's right to education as well as their right to an equitable, inclusive and violence-free instruction.<sup>4214</sup> During the meeting, Secretary Gómez Álvarez also stated that the SEP will launch actions to encourage young mothers and pregnant women to continue their studies, creating inclusive

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<sup>4207</sup> Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the 'Second Chance' programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

<sup>4208</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

<sup>4209</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

<sup>4210</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight?idiom=es>

<sup>4211</sup> 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

<sup>4212</sup> 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

<sup>4213</sup> Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

<sup>4214</sup> Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

learning environments, strengthening autonomy for girls and adolescents and accelerating measures to achieve full gender equality in educational spaces.<sup>4215</sup>

On 18 March 2021, Mexico joined Bolivia in strengthening legal sanctions against violence around women in politics.<sup>4216</sup> This initiative aims at amending eight national laws to prevent violence against women in politics.<sup>4217</sup> This reaffirms a greater emphasis in decreasing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4218</sup>

On 25 March 2021, the INMUJERES, the Mexican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Crossdresser, and Intersex coalition and the Coalition and Dilo Inclusive Schools, organized the webinar “Exercise of sexual rights and reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities.”<sup>4219</sup> In the webinar, the INMUJERES reaffirmed its commitment to promote and strengthen collaborative actions between institutions, civil organizations and other societal organs to help eliminate barriers that prevent the free and true exercise of women’s rights.<sup>4220</sup> The INMUJERES also committed to work towards the independence and prevention of violence against women and girls with disabilities.<sup>4221</sup> The purpose of the webinar was to discuss the importance of recognizing and increasing the visibility of reproductive rights of females with disabilities.<sup>4222</sup> The program also aimed to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding disabled females and the exercise of their sexuality.<sup>4223</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Mexico and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of

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<sup>4215</sup> Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

<sup>4216</sup> Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

<sup>4217</sup> Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

<sup>4218</sup> Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

<sup>4219</sup> Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

<sup>4220</sup> Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

<sup>4221</sup> Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

<sup>4222</sup> Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

<sup>4223</sup> Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

Friends for Gender Equality.”<sup>4224</sup> The launch of the group was led by the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Martha Delgada Peralta with the aim of centralizing public policies and promote coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>4225</sup>

On 7 April 2021, the Senate of the Republic and UN Women signed a General Collaboration Agreement with the purpose of creating a foundation to develop and execute actions aimed at analyzing and shaping non-binding legislative proposals concerning the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and the reduction of gender inequalities in Mexico.<sup>4226</sup> Specific initiatives include the active participation of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in harmonizing legal frameworks concerning the criminal offense of femicide, obstetric violence, gender discrimination, the recognition of the gender identity of trans people and the sexual as well as reproductive rights of all women.<sup>4227</sup> The President of the Senate Board of Directors Eduardo Ramírez stated that “the signing of the agreement commits the senators to carry out the pending legislative agenda in favor of the [female] population.”<sup>4228</sup>

On 14 April 2021, the INMUJERES held the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men.<sup>4229</sup> At this session, INMUJERES and various state agencies, independent organizations and other entities at the federal, state and municipal levels, worked together to plan the implementation and monitoring of the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program.<sup>4230</sup> At this session, the Chamber of Deputies and the INMUJERES signed a collaboration agreement on promoting and following up on the incorporation of a gendered perspective and principles of gender equality in the Federal Government’s work, public policies and programs.<sup>4231</sup>

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<sup>4224</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4225</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4226</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

<sup>4227</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

<sup>4228</sup> INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

<sup>4229</sup> INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

<sup>4230</sup> INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

<sup>4231</sup> INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

On 12 May 2021, the INMUJERES hosted a virtual panel with the Mexican Center for Philanthropy, Oxfam and the Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias on the National Care System.<sup>4232</sup> This panel aims to highlight the situation that Mexican women face in regard to unpaid work.<sup>4233</sup> The INMUJERES noted an aim to promote legislations and public policies for the social redistribution of care in four ways so that women can participate in the labor market on equal terms.<sup>4234</sup> The INMUJERES will promote the recognition of the right to care in Mexico's legal system, build a broader care agenda in the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program, and ensure that the National Care System includes three key aspects: attention to care; economic autonomy; and peace and security.<sup>4235</sup>

On 22 June 2021, INMUJERES and the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME) signed the General Collaboration Agreement to carry out projects and activities relating to gender equality and the promotion of the elimination of violence against women, adolescents, and girls abroad.<sup>4236</sup> The President of INMUJERES Nadine Gasman Zylbermann reaffirmed the INMUJERES' commitment to defending and promoting the rights of migrant women.<sup>4237</sup> This Agreement was signed at the third meeting of the Interinstitutional Table for Comprehensive Attention on Repatriating and Returning Mexican Families.<sup>4238</sup>

On 9 July 2021, the Social Council of INMUJERES hosted a forum titled "Territory in a Feminist Key: Cities, Communities and Safe and Health Environments for All," in which proposals for advancing women's autonomy, well-being, security and rights in both urban and rural areas were shared.<sup>4239</sup> This forum focused on the need to manage challenges faced by women living in unsafe environments such as violent crime.<sup>4240</sup>

On 26 July 2021, the Social Council of INMUJERES met to discuss progress reports for the prevention of violence against women and girls and how efforts by the Government of Mexico have

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<sup>4232</sup> System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

<sup>4233</sup> System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

<sup>4234</sup> System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

<sup>4235</sup> System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

<sup>4236</sup> INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

<sup>4237</sup> INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

<sup>4238</sup> INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

<sup>4239</sup> Social Council of INMUJERES opens dialogue for the reconstruction of safe and healthy environments for women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/consejo-social-del-inmujeres-abre-dialogo-por-la-reconstruccion-de-entornos-seguros-y-saludables-para-las-mujeres>

<sup>4240</sup> Social Council of INMUJERES opens dialogue for the reconstruction of safe and healthy environments for women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/consejo-social-del-inmujeres-abre-dialogo-por-la-reconstruccion-de-entornos-seguros-y-saludables-para-las-mujeres>

made a significant impact in Mexico City.<sup>4241</sup> The Social Council of INMUJERES made further commitments to help mitigate violence against women and girls with goals such as starting conversations on violence against women and girls and ensuring that by 2024, there are spaces to help women in regards to shelters, justice centers and individuals who are at risk of victimization.<sup>4242</sup>

On 5 August 2021, INMUJERES organized and participated in a summit called the Observatory of Political Participation of Women in Mexico.<sup>4243</sup> The goal of this summit was to help assist in finding ways to help increase women's participation in politics to promote gender equality in politics.<sup>4244</sup> The summit discussed the current equality issues faced by women and discussed actions that need to be taken to help encourage a stronger presence of gender parity in Mexico.<sup>4245</sup> Summit participants discussed the importance of legislating new spaces and ways to address the violation of women in the media and recognized that it is urgent to help guarantee the rights of women in regards to political rights and general freedoms.<sup>4246</sup>

On 19 August 2021, the National Institute for Federalism and Municipal Development (INAFED) and the INMUJERES held a virtual dialogue about the National System of Care and its main challenges.<sup>4247</sup> Some of the main topics included the uneven and unbalanced distribution of care work to women, limiting their autonomy as well as personal development.<sup>4248</sup> Ferreyra Beltrán, general director of the National Policy of Equality and Rights of Women of INMUJERES, said that “[Mexico is] the country with the least incorporation of women at the labor level, therefore it is important to rethink unpaid tasks as essential for a substantial transformation.”<sup>4249</sup> For now, a reform of the fourth constitutional article on care has been sought.<sup>4250</sup> This reform would entail the promotion of co-responsibility, and freedom to care as well as decide on the distribution of one's

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<sup>4241</sup> INMUJERES present in the progress report of the Alert for Violence against Women in Mexico City, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-presente-en-el-informe-de-avances-de-la-alerta-por-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>4242</sup> INMUJERES present in the progress report of the Alert for Violence against Women in Mexico City, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-presente-en-el-informe-de-avances-de-la-alerta-por-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>4243</sup> Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4244</sup> Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4245</sup> Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4246</sup> Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

<sup>4247</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

<sup>4248</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

<sup>4249</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

<sup>4250</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

time.<sup>4251</sup> According to INMUJERES, "with radical changes that promote cultural and social change; greater equality will be generated in homes and consequently less violence."<sup>4252</sup>

On 26 August 2021, the INMUJERES held a meeting of "governors, federal and local deputies, municipal presidents and mayors elected in 2021" with the purpose of creating an agenda with concrete commitments to "close inequality gaps."<sup>4253</sup> Some of the commitments were towards gender-based violence and the overload of care as well as household work on women.<sup>4254</sup> The agenda also included the promotion of "effective and equal" female participation in decision making across the political, social, community and private spheres; and the provision of tools to promote women's economic independence.<sup>4255</sup>

On 13 September 2021, the Government of Mexico included the "gender perspective" in the income policy of the Economic Package 2022 and made an investment of more than 232 billion pesos in Annex 13 "Expenditures for Equality between Women and Men."<sup>4256</sup> In total, the expenditures for equality include 12 priority programs of the Government of the Fourth Transformation and 21 strategic programs to promote gender equality and women's human rights.<sup>4257</sup> These programs include initiatives to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women (Conavim), measures to promote sexual and reproductive health, and support for the well-being of the children of working mothers.<sup>4258</sup> Another relevant aspect of the 2022 Economic Package refers to the financial inclusion of women through financial programs, the promotion of women's employment as a central and strategic element for the growth and productivity of the country (with a focus on their access to more productive jobs and with better wages) and the promotion of a zero rate for sanitary products such as feminine pads.<sup>4259</sup>

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<sup>4251</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: "National Care System," Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

<sup>4252</sup> Dialogues we are all municipalities: "National Care System," Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

<sup>4253</sup> Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

<sup>4254</sup> Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

<sup>4255</sup> Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

<sup>4256</sup> With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

<sup>4257</sup> With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

<sup>4258</sup> With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

<sup>4259</sup> With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

Mexico has taken strong actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Gender-Based Violence and Economic Security, through programs aimed at female poverty, wage inequality, and cooperation with other countries. Furthermore, Mexico has taken strong actions in the Health sphere through new policies supporting women's sexual and reproductive rights.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jennifer Lam*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 2 December 2020, the Russian Embassy in Guatemala hosted a bilateral meeting between representatives of the Russian Embassy and Guatemala country representatives to United Nations Women to discuss the topic of gender-based violence.<sup>4260</sup> Both parties discussed the possibility of “exchanging experience and best practices in this area, not only in the bilateral, but also in the multilateral format of the Eurasia-Central America axis.”<sup>4261</sup> The representatives from both countries concluded that this initial meeting would lead to future discussions and joint action to prevent gender-based violence in both respective countries in the future.<sup>4262</sup>

On 7 December 2020, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Galina Karelova, announced at the meeting of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum that the Third Eurasian Women's Forum would be focused on “Women: Global Mission in the New Reality” and will be held in-person from 13 to 15 October 2021.<sup>4263</sup> The Forum discussions will be focused on the role and the mission of women in ensuring global security, social progress, public health development, achieving a balance in the context of global digitalization, addressing environmental challenges and climate change and transition to new models of economic growth.<sup>4264</sup> Deputy Speaker Karelova stated that twenty of the projects announced at the past Forum, aimed at supporting the empowerment of women, have been implemented and focus on holding space for women in politics, science and innovation and leadership roles.<sup>4265</sup> The forthcoming Forum will be an opportunity to discuss the

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<sup>4260</sup> Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset\\_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133](https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133)

<sup>4261</sup> Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset\\_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133](https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133)

<sup>4262</sup> Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset\\_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133](https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133)

<sup>4263</sup> New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New\\_Projects\\_of\\_Eurasian\\_Womens\\_Forum\\_Presented\\_in\\_Moscow](https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow)

<sup>4264</sup> New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New\\_Projects\\_of\\_Eurasian\\_Womens\\_Forum\\_Presented\\_in\\_Moscow](https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow)

<sup>4265</sup> New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New\\_Projects\\_of\\_Eurasian\\_Womens\\_Forum\\_Presented\\_in\\_Moscow](https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow)

impacts of COVID-19 on women, and to implement new projects focused on women empowerment.<sup>4266</sup>

On 22 December 2020, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Dmitry Chumakov signed an agreement on the new contribution of USD10 million by the Russian Federation for United Nations Development Program projects supporting youth employment, wellbeing and innovation potential.<sup>4267</sup> This funding aims to create and support employment opportunities, to offer quality social services, and to improve access to education and health for youth, particularly girls and young women, through projects across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.<sup>4268</sup>

On 25 January 2021, the Ministry of Health published the third version of guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women, women in labour, parturient women and newborns with COVID-19.<sup>4269</sup> These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation.<sup>4270</sup>

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Russia attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.<sup>4271</sup> The project coordinator of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum Angelica Khaperskaya presented the "Russian experience in achieving gender balance in science and technology during the meeting."<sup>4272</sup> Russia will continue to play a role in increasing the number of women in the nuclear industry by joining the international working group on this matter, as well as by attracting women to the nuclear industry through discussions at the Third Eurasian Women's Forum in October 2021.<sup>4273</sup>

On 4 March 2021, the Club of Women Parliamentarians held a joint meeting to discuss problems of demography in the regions, social measures to support large families, legislative counteraction to

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<sup>4266</sup> New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

[https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New\\_Projects\\_of\\_Eurasian\\_Womens\\_Forum\\_Presented\\_in\\_Moscow](https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow)

<sup>4267</sup> Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

<sup>4268</sup> Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

<sup>4269</sup> The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

<sup>4270</sup> The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

<sup>4271</sup> Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

<sup>4272</sup> Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

<sup>4273</sup> Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

domestic violence, problems of regional health care, and hot meals for school children.<sup>4274</sup> The issues discussed in this meeting will form the agenda that the women parliamentarians will advocate for in Parliament, including the projects of the Eurasian Women's Forum's Council, social support for families, healthcare and the prevention of domestic violence.<sup>4275</sup>

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine launched the ReForma social project in partnership with the Responsible for the Future foundation, which focuses on helping mothers on maternity leave to engage in healthy lifestyles.<sup>4276</sup> This project offers 50 webinars with doctors and 26 online training sessions over three months and focuses on nutrition, health, physical activity, and psychological support.<sup>4277</sup>

On 6 April 2021, Russia announced that regions will be able to receive subsidies for the modernization of primary health care, which includes the construction and modernization of buildings for polyclinics, feldsher-obstetric centers and general practice departments in both urban and rural areas.<sup>4278</sup> At least RUB500 billion will be allocated for this program until 2025 and of which RUB90 billion is solely for 2021.<sup>4279</sup>

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced new support measures to aid single-parent families and pregnant women during his annual address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow.<sup>4280</sup> In his speech, President Putin stated that he has instructed the government to develop, by 1 July 2021, a comprehensive system of support for families with children, including a new benefit for all children in single-parent households aged between eight and 16 years old, which will total up to approximately RUB5,650 yearly, per family.<sup>4281</sup> He also announced support for pregnant women with financial difficulties, through a monthly subsidy of RUB6,350 for women who register at a maternity centre during early pregnancy.<sup>4282</sup> Finally, President Putin announced that parents who are forced to leave work to care for a sick child, which is oftentimes the mother, will now be able to continue to receive 100 per cent of their salary, while caring for their child, up to seven years old.<sup>4283</sup> These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families

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<sup>4274</sup> A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

<sup>4275</sup> A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

<sup>4276</sup> ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

<sup>4277</sup> ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

<sup>4278</sup> The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

<sup>4279</sup> The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

<sup>4280</sup> Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

<sup>4281</sup> Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

<sup>4282</sup> Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

<sup>4283</sup> Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

in order to minimise the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.<sup>4284</sup>

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova hosted a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on a draft governmental decree on a program for organizing vocational training and education for certain Russian citizens until 2024 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.<sup>4285</sup> The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.<sup>4286</sup> The plan is for at least 168,800 people to undergo vocational training and education in 2021 and at least 125,000 people annually from 2022 to 2024.<sup>4287</sup>

On 22 June 2021, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Galina Karelova and other Russian representatives attended the Global Summit of Women Political Leaders to discuss possible systemic changes that could be initiated by women leaders during and after the pandemic for social and economic recovery, and the formation of more inclusive societies.<sup>4288</sup> In her speech, Deputy Speaker Karelova highlighted the benefits of partnerships between the government, private and non-profit sector to promote projects designed to promote the interests of women and women's participation in all economic spheres, and led discussions on how this approach could be expanded to the global level.<sup>4289</sup>

On 6 July 2021, the Ministry of Health published the fourth version of guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women, women in labour, parturient women and newborns with COVID-19.<sup>4290</sup> These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation and this update added a section on planning pregnancies in COVID-19 conditions and vaccinations for pregnant women.<sup>4291</sup>

On 8 July 2021, the Government of Russia announced that as of 1 September 2022, financial literacy will be embedded in the new federal state educational standards of primary and basic general

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<sup>4284</sup> Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

<sup>4285</sup> Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

<sup>4286</sup> Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

<sup>4287</sup> Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

<sup>4288</sup> Women Political Leaders Discuss Social and Economic Initiatives, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/zhenshchiny-politicheskie-lidery-obsudili-initsiativ-po-sotsialnomu-i-ekonomicheskomu-vosstanovleni>

<sup>4289</sup> Women Political Leaders Discuss Social and Economic Initiatives, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/zhenshchiny-politicheskie-lidery-obsudili-initsiativ-po-sotsialnomu-i-ekonomicheskomu-vosstanovleni>

<sup>4290</sup> The fourth version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19 has been released, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/07/06/16936-vypuschna-chetvyortaya-versiya-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

<sup>4291</sup> The fourth version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19 has been released, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/07/06/16936-vypuschna-chetvyortaya-versiya-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

education.<sup>4292</sup> The Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum (EWF) has advocated for the inclusion of financial literacy in education for several years in order to encourage increased financial inclusion for women and girls in Russia.<sup>4293</sup> The introduction of the foundations of financial literacy in educational school curricula is aimed at generating interest in finance among girls and women, help them gain necessary financial competences and “ensure their financial stability in the future.”<sup>4294</sup>

On 20 July 2021, the Chairwoman of the Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko virtually participated and delivered a video message at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among women, which discussed the impacts of the pandemic on education and economic status for women and girls.<sup>4295</sup> Chairwoman Matviyenko shared some of the Government of Russia's on-going and future national-level projects designed to advance gender equality, through the development of women's entrepreneurship and the involvement of women in the technological field.<sup>4296</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades, including high-level political meetings that demonstrate a willingness to discuss and address some of the issues facing women and girls, the announcement of new financial supports for pregnant women and single-parent families, and the work of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, with support from the government, to increase women's Economic Security. However, Russia has not taken any concrete actions to reduce the gender inequalities caused by COVID-19 in the Health sphere, nor has Russia implemented any tangible policies that address the prevention of Gender-Based Violence or offer support to women and girls who have survived such violence.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Delaney Murphy*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Saudi Public Prosecution Office announced new penalties for abuse against women, which includes any physical, psychological or sexual assaults against women.<sup>4297</sup>

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<sup>4292</sup> Teaching financial literacy to become mandatory in primary and secondary schools, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=11027>

<sup>4293</sup> New educational standards will help girls master the necessary financial competencies, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/novye-obrazovatelnye-standarty-pomogut-devushkam-osvoit-neobkhodimye-finansovye-kompetentsii>

<sup>4294</sup> New educational standards will help girls master the necessary financial competencies, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/novye-obrazovatelnye-standarty-pomogut-devushkam-osvoit-neobkhodimye-finansovye-kompetentsii>

<sup>4295</sup> V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

<sup>4296</sup> V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

<sup>4297</sup> Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

Penalties include a minimum jail sentence between one month to one year for the act of attacking a woman as well as a minimum fine of SAR5,000 up to SAR50,000.<sup>4298</sup>

On 16 December 2020, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) and the World Health Organization launched a new project to support the delivery of essential health services in Yemen.<sup>4299</sup> The project provides support through the Minimum Service Package, which includes reproductive and maternal health services for up to 1.8 million people.<sup>4300</sup>

On 2 January 2021, the Ministry of Interior's Department of Civil Affairs announced that Saudi women no longer need a guardian's permission to change personal data.<sup>4301</sup> This would allow Saudi Arabian women to change their family name, name of children, marital status and more through an online booking with the Department of Civil Affairs.<sup>4302</sup>

On 2 February 2021, the KSRelief and the Islamic Development Bank signed a financial contribution memorandum to support the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children on two projects with a total investment of USD9.16 million.<sup>4303</sup> One project, in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, focuses on providing health and nutritional services for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.<sup>4304</sup> This project aims to provide primary health services to 20,000 pregnant women or women who have just given birth, and health services for 150 childbirth cases.<sup>4305</sup>

On 8 February 2021, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced new legal reforms to remove inconsistencies, speed up verdicts and boost the Saudi legal system's efficiency.<sup>4306</sup> The reforms include four new laws: the Personal Status Law, the Civil Transactions Law, the Penal Code for Discretionary Sanctions, and the Law of Evidence.<sup>4307</sup> These reforms are focused on removing legal discrepancies and providing a system of checks and balances to avoid painful consequences imposed on women.<sup>4308</sup> The

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<sup>4298</sup> Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

<sup>4299</sup> New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

<sup>4300</sup> New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

<sup>4301</sup> Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

<sup>4302</sup> Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

<sup>4303</sup> KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

<sup>4304</sup> KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

<sup>4305</sup> KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

<sup>4306</sup> Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

<sup>4307</sup> Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

<sup>4308</sup> Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

Personal Status Law, focused on provisions relating to family matters, wills and inheritance, will be the first of the four laws to be referred to the Council of Ministers for study and review.<sup>4309</sup>

On 21 February 2021, the Ministry of Defense announced that women will be able to sign up online to join the Saudi Arabian Army, Royal Saudi Air Defense, Royal Saudi Navy, Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force, and Armed Forces Medical Services as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants.<sup>4310</sup> This is a part of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 Agenda, which includes introducing reforms to advance Saudi Arabian women in a variety of fields.<sup>4311</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the KSRelief inspected the progress of a project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund to provide emergency services to women and girls affected by gender-based violence in Yemen.<sup>4312</sup> This project aims to enhance mechanisms of protecting women and girls from gender-based violence and empower victims through professional and vocational training programs to reintegrate them into Yemeni society.<sup>4313</sup>

As of 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Culture stated that the Ministry has reached a new gender balance of 50 per cent in the workplace, which aligns with Saudi Arabia's mission of empowerment for the Vision 2030 agenda.<sup>4314</sup> The Ministry of Culture's top positions are held by women such as chief executive officers, managing directors as well as operational managers.<sup>4315</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Commerce and Investment Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi launched a new program to encourage Saudi women to join the accounting profession.<sup>4316</sup> Organized by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants, the program includes training, qualification, entrepreneurship and employment streams in order to empower women and increase female participation in the national economy.<sup>4317</sup>

On 26 March 2021, Secretary General of the Family Affairs Council Hala bint Mazyad Al-Twajjri affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to enact legislative and procedural measures to protect women's rights at the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>4318</sup> Secretary General Al-Twajjri noted that this included the elimination of discrimination against women and the

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<sup>4309</sup> Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

<sup>4310</sup> Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

<sup>4311</sup> Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

<sup>4312</sup> KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4313</sup> KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4314</sup> Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4315</sup> Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4316</sup> Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4317</sup> Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4318</sup> Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

protection of women from violence.<sup>4319</sup> Secretary General Al-Twajri noted that these actions are aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, including the National Transformation Program, which aims to increase Saudi women's participation in the labour market.<sup>4320</sup>

On 29 March 2021, Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission and the Mawaddah Charitable Association signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen coordination in protecting human rights and spread awareness to reduce domestic violence.<sup>4321</sup> Under this memorandum, an independent body will be established to manage the issue of domestic violence and to support efforts to develop specialized centers to rehabilitate victims of domestic abuse.<sup>4322</sup>

On 22 April 2021, the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund introduced a new initiative to boost female employment in the private sector by subsidizing transport costs in partnership with vehicle for hire company, Careem.<sup>4323</sup> This initiative allows women to receive an 80 per cent discount on the cost of each journey, with the ceiling of support increased to SAR1,100 a month for those with a monthly wage of SAR6,000 or less, and SAR800 for those earning between SAR6,001 to SAR8,000 per month.<sup>4324</sup> This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.<sup>4325</sup>

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health introduced a blueprint for women's right to health, which includes sexual and reproductive healthcare services.<sup>4326</sup> The blueprint notes that women are entitled to assistance in childbearing in case of delayed pregnancy, physical and moral support, and receiving clinical examinations in order to prevent cancer and fragility diseases, especially if risk factors are present.<sup>4327</sup> The blueprint also notes that women are entitled to maternity care appropriate to her cultural and religious background, and to receive information in a language that she understands.<sup>4328</sup>

On 9 June 2021, Saudi Arabia introduced a legal amendment to allow single, divorced or widowed women to live independently in a house without needing approval from male guardians.<sup>4329</sup> Saudi judicial authorities scrapped Paragraph B under Article no. 16 of the Law of Procedure before Sharia

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<sup>4319</sup> Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4320</sup> Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4321</sup> Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

<sup>4322</sup> Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

<sup>4323</sup> Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4324</sup> Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4325</sup> Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4326</sup> Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

<sup>4327</sup> Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

<sup>4328</sup> Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

<sup>4329</sup> Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

Courts, which stated that “an adult single, divorced, or widowed woman shall be handed over to her male guardian.”<sup>4330</sup> This article was replaced with a recognition that “an adult woman has the right to choose where to live” and that women can only be reported by their guardians if there is evidence to prove that she is committing a crime.<sup>4331</sup>

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance started recruiting female staffers to provide services to female pilgrims in various mosques at the holy sites and meeqats during the Hajj season.<sup>4332</sup> The services include manning women’s prayer areas, applying health protocols, distributing meals, and participating in awareness and guidance programs.<sup>4333</sup> This effort is in line with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance’s mission to empower Saudi women in various fields that accomplish the ministry’s mission and general objectives.<sup>4334</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken strong concrete actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through legislative changes to support women’s rights, introducing plans to support women’s reproductive and sexual health, funding international projects supporting victims of gender-based violence, and expanding initiatives to support women’s participation in the labour market.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

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### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender equalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 27 November 2020, the Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu relaunched the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) in Pretoria, which will be expanded in order to accommodate sufficient resources.<sup>4335</sup> The GBVCC functions 24 hours a day and victims of gender-based violence can contact GBVCC to speak with a social worker for assistance and counselling through a toll-free phone number or text message or Skype.<sup>4336</sup>

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<sup>4330</sup> Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

<sup>4331</sup> Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

<sup>4332</sup> Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

<sup>4333</sup> Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

<sup>4334</sup> Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

<sup>4335</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunches Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

<sup>4336</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunches Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

On 11 January 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa deemed gender-based violence and femicide to be the country's second pandemic.<sup>4337</sup> South Africa is addressing gender-based violence and femicide by collaborating with civil society to create behavioural change in taxi drivers and taxi marshals.<sup>4338</sup> Further actions include sensitizing religious leaders to issues with the patriarchal system and gender-based violence.<sup>4339</sup> President Ramaphosa's address also presents actions to economically empower women such as training for business women in order for them to access public procurement opportunities.<sup>4340</sup>

On 4 February 2021, President Ramaphosa launched the first Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund.<sup>4341</sup> In one day, the private sector pledged ZAR128 million for the GBVF.<sup>4342</sup> This fund is for the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.<sup>4343</sup> The National Strategic Plan has six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership; Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion; Justice, Safety and Protection; Response, Care, Support and Healing; Economic Power; and Research and Information Management.<sup>4344</sup>

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa discussed South Africa's commitment to further financial and economic inclusion of African women with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.<sup>4345</sup> President Ramaphosa underscored the four main challenges of African women to financial inclusion, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4346</sup> President Ramaphosa also conveyed the tangible actions South Africa has taken to include women financially.<sup>4347</sup> For example, South Africa is developing the Financial Inclusion Policy.<sup>4348</sup> This is a national policy that ensures 40 per cent of

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<sup>4337</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

<sup>4338</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

<sup>4339</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

<sup>4340</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

<sup>4341</sup> Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>4342</sup> Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>4343</sup> Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>4344</sup> Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>4345</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

<sup>4346</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

<sup>4347</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

<sup>4348</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

public procurement favours women.<sup>4349</sup> This meeting with Queen Máxima solidified the mutual desire to continue to work towards the shared goal of the economic empowerment of women.<sup>4350</sup>

As of 2 March 2021, South Africa assigned district coordinators to fight gender-based violence in each district, created a multi-sectoral Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Technical Committee, provided 167 women shelter and 3,811 victims of gender-based violence psychosocial support.<sup>4351</sup> In addition, South Africa allocated around ZAR3 million for women's shelters supporting victims of GBVF.<sup>4352</sup> These implementations were taken in accordance with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030.<sup>4353</sup>

As of 3 March 2021, the National Development Agency and the Department of Social Development granted funds for community service organizations as part of the Victim Empowerment Programme.<sup>4354</sup> The Victim Empowerment Programme aims to strengthen preventative and support services for survivors of gender-based violence and femicide.<sup>4355</sup> The National Development Agency received approval to fund 312 civil society organizations with ZAR85.6 million.<sup>4356</sup> As part of this funding, ZAR36.75 million has been distributed to approved community service organizations.<sup>4357</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor called on post-pandemic leadership to focus on the discrimination that women face at The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit.<sup>4358</sup> For example, women face discrimination for unpaid care work, unequal pay, unemployment, and barriers to accessing employment, which have all

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<sup>4349</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

<sup>4350</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

<sup>4351</sup> Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4352</sup> Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4353</sup> Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4354</sup> National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

<sup>4355</sup> National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

<sup>4356</sup> National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

<sup>4357</sup> National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

<sup>4358</sup> Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4359</sup> Government emergency relief measures only pertain to women in formal sectors, meaning that there was unequal access to financial support.<sup>4360</sup>

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane introduced the Tourism Recovery Plan which prioritizes the inclusion and economic empowerment of women and girls using the approach of gender mainstreaming.<sup>4361</sup> This comes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4362</sup> Gender mainstreaming equally considers the interests and concerns of women and men in order to promote inclusivity.<sup>4363</sup> This acknowledges that women and men have different access and need for resources, power, rights and institutions, which became particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4364</sup> Minister Kubayi-Ngubane recognized how the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted women-owned businesses, which led to the introduction of the approach of gender-mainstreaming in policy-making.<sup>4365</sup>

On 17 March 2021, the National Development Agency's Men's GBVF Dialogue rallied pledges from men in the Lejweleputswa District.<sup>4366</sup> The GBVF Dialogue is a platform for conversations that bring about social change.<sup>4367</sup> The National Development Agency is engaging cross-sectoral organizations and community stakeholders, pledging zero tolerance to gender-based violence.<sup>4368</sup> The National Development Agency also funds seven GBVF organizations in the Lejweleputswa District with

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<sup>4359</sup> Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

<sup>4360</sup> Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

<sup>4361</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4362</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4363</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4364</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4365</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

<sup>4366</sup> National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

<sup>4367</sup> National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

<sup>4368</sup> National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

programming that supports those affected by GBVF.<sup>4369</sup> This work is especially relevant as the COVID-19 pandemic has increased reports of violence against women and girls.<sup>4370</sup>

On 18 March 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.<sup>4371</sup> At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.<sup>4372</sup>

On 19 March 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu led the human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide in Diepsloot, a hotspot for gender-based violence.<sup>4373</sup> This walk raised awareness about gender-based violence and engaged community organizations and victim-empowerment services.<sup>4374</sup>

On 19 March 2021, South Africa co-organized the event "Ensuring migrant women's effective participation in public life and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence" with Germany, Bangladesh, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Women in Migration Network for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>4375</sup> The event highlights the specific needs and barriers migrant women and girls face, emphasizing the urgency of responding to gender-based violence against women migrants, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4376</sup>

On 31 March 2021, South Africa and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.<sup>4377</sup> This group aims at centralizing

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<sup>4369</sup> National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

<sup>4370</sup> National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

<sup>4371</sup> Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

<sup>4372</sup> Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

<sup>4373</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

<sup>4374</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

<sup>4375</sup> Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>4376</sup> Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>4377</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>4378</sup>

On 22 April 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality presented its review of the first six months of the Government's Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on GBVF.<sup>4379</sup> The ERAP on GBVF was first introduced in 2019 as a ZAR1.6 billion plan to address GBVF.<sup>4380</sup> This review, which is an implementation report, contains instructive findings for civil society, policymakers, the private sector, the development sector, the government, and other relevant actors.<sup>4381</sup> It highlights positive interventions and those that did not achieve its intended goal, shaping future efforts to address gender inequalities.<sup>4382</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande announced the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) in response to the exacerbated social inequities from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4383</sup> PSETA is a partnership with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Microsoft South Africa and Afrika Tikkun Services that aims to equip unemployed women and youth with digital skills.<sup>4384</sup> This creates more opportunities for the economic inclusion of women.<sup>4385</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza introduced the commitment to prioritize women in land ownership under the Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy and the Land Tenure Rights Act Amendment Bill.<sup>4386</sup> This emphasizes the prominent role women play in society and the importance of tackling the discrimination women face.<sup>4387</sup>

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<sup>4378</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>4379</sup> Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

<sup>4380</sup> Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

<sup>4381</sup> Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

<sup>4382</sup> Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

<sup>4383</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

<sup>4384</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

<sup>4385</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

<sup>4386</sup> Parliament on Freedom Day, South African Government (Cape Town) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-freedom-day-28-apr-2021-0000>

<sup>4387</sup> Deputy President David Mabuza: Covie community land handover ceremony, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-covie-community-land-handover-ceremony-30-apr-2021-0000>

On 30 June 2021, President Ramaphosa attended the Generation Equality Forum: Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition.<sup>4388</sup> The Generation Equality Forum is a global gathering hosted by United Nations Women.<sup>4389</sup> President Ramaphosa used this forum to reaffirm South Africa's commitment to promote economic justice and rights for women.<sup>4390</sup> President Ramaphosa presented South Africa's intention to adopt the Protocol and Programme of Action on Women in Trade in order to encourage the participation of women in the African Continental Free Trade Area.<sup>4391</sup>

On 20 July 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Nomalungelo Gina welcomed the assessment report Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry Policy.<sup>4392</sup> This report was conducted by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women, and the Government of Germany.<sup>4393</sup> This report helps inform the development of a policy framework for women in green entrepreneurship.<sup>4394</sup> Minister Gina emphasized how sustainable development is intertwined with gender equality.<sup>4395</sup> Minister Gina also emphasized the government's commitment to women empowerment and inclusion.<sup>4396</sup>

On 30 July 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane officially launched the Women's Month 2021 to recognize the role of women in shaping South Africa, the progress made for gender equality, and the continued challenges in achieving gender equality.<sup>4397</sup> Minister Nkoana-Mashabane highlighted the increasing social and economic insecurity of women because of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4398</sup>

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<sup>4388</sup> President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

<sup>4389</sup> President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

<sup>4390</sup> President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

<sup>4391</sup> President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

<sup>4392</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4393</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4394</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4395</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4396</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4397</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4398</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

On 3 August 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality hosted a webinar “Removing Barriers to Women’s Economic Empowerment” with several financial institutions to discuss the challenges of women accessing financial support.<sup>4399</sup> The panel of executives from the webinar represent institutions such as the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and Mastercard South Africa.<sup>4400</sup> This is part of the Commission for Gender Equality’s monitoring of gender equality programmes by the private sector.<sup>4401</sup>

On 12 August 2021, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza hosted a webinar on the role of women in agriculture that addresses the land reform issues women face, and opportunities for women to access land and resources.<sup>4402</sup> This webinar highlights and normalizes the contributions of women to the South African agricultural sector.<sup>4403</sup>

On 19 August 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition’s Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Commission announced a virtual Women Economic Empowerment webinar to be held on 25 August 2021.<sup>4404</sup> This webinar aims to interrogate accountability systems and mechanisms by the Government of South Africa that focus on economic empowerment of women.<sup>4405</sup>

On 27 August 2021, the Department of Government Communication and Information System hosted a panel discussion in partnership with the Gertrude Shope Women Mediator Network and I AM South African on the importance of women in rebuilding South Africa.<sup>4406</sup> The discussion bolsters the message on national cohesion and unity.<sup>4407</sup>

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<sup>4399</sup> Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4400</sup> Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4401</sup> Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>4402</sup> Minister Thoko Didiza hosts a webinar on the role of women in agriculture as part of Women’s Month celebrations, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-hosts-webinar-role-women-agriculture-part-women%E2%80%99s-month-celebrations>

<sup>4403</sup> Minister Thoko Didiza hosts a webinar on the role of women in agriculture as part of Women’s Month celebrations, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-hosts-webinar-role-women-agriculture-part-women%E2%80%99s-month-celebrations>

<sup>4404</sup> Gender Equality hosts Women Economic Empowerment Webinar, 25 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-equality-hosts-women-economic-empowerment-webinar-25-aug-19-aug-2021-0000>

<sup>4405</sup> Gender Equality hosts Women Economic Empowerment Webinar, 25 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-equality-hosts-women-economic-empowerment-webinar-25-aug-19-aug-2021-0000>

<sup>4406</sup> Government hosts panel discussion on role of women in rebuilding South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-panel-discussion-role-women-rebuilding-south-africa-27-aug-23-aug-2021>

<sup>4407</sup> Government hosts panel discussion on role of women in rebuilding South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-panel-discussion-role-women-rebuilding-south-africa-27-aug-23-aug-2021>

On 30 August 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030.<sup>4408</sup> At the forum, the Year One Report and its recommendations were examined to inform the priorities for Year Two as well as to consider ways to strengthen accountability, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.<sup>4409</sup> The National Strategic Plan aims to create a “South Africa free from gender-based violence directed at women, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) persons.”<sup>4410</sup>

On 31 August 2021, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality (WEGE) Strategy to support women in becoming active participants in the energy industry in South Africa.<sup>4411</sup> The five-year strategy contains four strategic pillars: enabling environment, equality of opportunities, gender mainstreaming, and barrier free workplaces.<sup>4412</sup>

On 1 September 2021, Acting Deputy Director-General of Industrial Financing at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Susan Mangole participated in the panel discussion of the Women in Public Sector Webinar.<sup>4413</sup> This panel discussion’s theme was “tackling gender boundaries and changing the narrative on women in leadership.”<sup>4414</sup> Acting Deputy Director-General Mangole rallied women to build the economy, take advantage of interest-free loans and grants and also emphasized the importance of providing supports to empower women.<sup>4415</sup>

South Africa has taken strong concrete actions in reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Gender-Based Violence sphere with new technical committees, funding for support services and increased security measures for women, but South Africa has only taken limited actions in regard to the Health and Economic Security spheres.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Isabella Li*

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<sup>4408</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

<sup>4409</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

<sup>4410</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

<sup>4411</sup> Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

<sup>4412</sup> Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

<sup>4413</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

<sup>4414</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

<sup>4415</sup> Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

## Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services hosted seminars on “Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment” over radio programs and online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4416</sup> The seminars reached 440,000 people and focused on raising awareness to women on issues like money management, investment instruments, complaint mechanisms and other financial literacy tools.<sup>4417</sup>

On 18 February 2021, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services Zehra Zumrut Selçuk announced that the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services will aim to include over 450,000 more workplaces through İŞKUR, a public employment service.<sup>4418</sup> In order to reduce the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce, there are plans to provide job and vocational counseling to over 2.2 million people, especially women, youth and disabled people.<sup>4419</sup>

On 9 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Ankara University signed a cooperation protocol to support steps in combating violence against women.<sup>4420</sup> This protocol aims to conduct academic studies to investigate violence against women by criminal perpetrators in order to identify causes of violence and establish preventive measures on gender-based violence.<sup>4421</sup>

On 20 March 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a presidential decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe treaty on preventing domestic violence and combating violence against women.<sup>4422</sup> Minister Selçuk stated that women’s rights will continue to be guaranteed in domestic legislation like the Constitution and that the Turkish legal system is “dynamic and strong enough to implement new regulations according to need.”<sup>4423</sup>

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<sup>4416</sup> Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

<sup>4417</sup> Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

<sup>4418</sup> Minister Selçuk: “We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-igucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

<sup>4419</sup> Minister Selçuk: “We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-igucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

<sup>4420</sup> Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-isbirligi>

<sup>4421</sup> Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-isbirligi>

<sup>4422</sup> Turkey withdraws from Istanbul Convention, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-withdraws-from-istanbul-convention/2182168>

<sup>4423</sup> Minister Selçuk: “The Guarantee of Women’s Rights is the Current Arrangements in Our Internal Legislation, Being Our Constitution First,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-haklarinin-teminati-anayasamiz-basta-olmak-uzere-ic-mevzuatimizdaki-mevcut-duzenlemelerdir/>

On 22 March 2021, Turkey allocated TRY56 billion to the Social Protection Shield Program.<sup>4424</sup> The goal of this program is to provide women services for working life, social security, social services and social assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4425</sup>

On 9 April 2021, Minister Selçuk attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women hosted by Minister of the Interior Suleyman Soylu at the Security and Emergency Situations Coordination Center.<sup>4426</sup> At the meeting, Minister Selçuk emphasized that the Fourth National Action Plan covering 2021 to 2025 will focus on implementing more legislation combating all types of violence against women, increasing accessibility of services for women, and supporting victims of violence.<sup>4427</sup>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced a new initiative to help increase women employment by training 8,000 individuals.<sup>4428</sup> This initiative will train women on establishing cooperatives and provide training to women and men already involved in cooperatives.<sup>4429</sup> This initiative will also establish a consultant pool and provide consultancy service training for 1,000 women.<sup>4430</sup>

On 29 April 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanik announced that private supervised nurseries, daycare centers and children's clubs affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services will continue to operate for those working in essential public services exempt from restrictions implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4431</sup> These childcare services will continue

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<sup>4424</sup> Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadinlarin-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

<sup>4425</sup> Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadinlarin-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

<sup>4426</sup> Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantisina-katildi/>

<sup>4427</sup> Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantisina-katildi/>

<sup>4428</sup> Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

<sup>4429</sup> Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

<sup>4430</sup> Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

<sup>4431</sup> Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

to operate despite full closure of non-essential businesses in order to support those working in the sectors of production, security, health and social services.<sup>4432</sup>

On 17 June 2021, Minister Yanik announced that nine more women's guesthouses will be converted into specialized establishments that take into account women's needs such as security and shelter.<sup>4433</sup> The nine women's guesthouses will be located in Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Istanbul, Kocaeli, Malatya, Mersin and Samsun, on top of the four women's guesthouses already converted into specialized establishments in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.<sup>4434</sup>

On 1 July 2021, President Erdogan pledged to continue to combat violence against women through a new action plan.<sup>4435</sup> The new plan's first goal is to review Turkey's legislation on combating gender-based violence and its effectiveness.<sup>4436</sup> The action plan's main purpose is to raise awareness, change public views on violence against women and increase public sensitivity to the issue.<sup>4437</sup>

On 7 July 2021, Minister Yanik attended the eighth Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Egypt.<sup>4438</sup> This conference addressed the "Protection of Gains for Women's Empowerment in the Environment of the Coronavirus Epidemic," which will help make a difference for the lives of women after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4439</sup>

On 10 July 2021, Minister Yanik announced that the concept of "non-violent university campuses" will be expanded in efforts to combat violence against women.<sup>4440</sup> As part of the road map from the Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) will work to ensure female students feel "more comfortable and peaceful" at university campuses by encouraging studies on gender-based

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<sup>4432</sup> Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

<sup>4433</sup> 9 more women's guesthouses are specialized according to security and accommodation needs, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/guvenlik-ve-barinma-ihityaclarina-gore-9-kadin-konukevi-daha-ihityaslastiriliyor/2276893>

<sup>4434</sup> 9 more women's guesthouses are specialized according to security and accommodation needs, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/guvenlik-ve-barinma-ihityaclarina-gore-9-kadin-konukevi-daha-ihityaslastiriliyor/2276893>

<sup>4435</sup> Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

<sup>4436</sup> Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

<sup>4437</sup> Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

<sup>4438</sup> Our Minister Derya Yanik will attend the OIC 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakanimiz-derya-yanik-iit-8-kadindan-sorumlu-bakanlar-konferansina-katilacak>

<sup>4439</sup> Our Minister Derya Yanik will attend the OIC 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakanimiz-derya-yanik-iit-8-kadindan-sorumlu-bakanlar-konferansina-katilacak>

<sup>4440</sup> The concept of "non-violence campus" will be expanded in universities, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/universitelerde-siddetsiz-kampus-anlayisi-yayginlastirilacak/2300207>

violence in women's studies departments and supporting student-run seminars, panels and workshops on gender-based violence to spread awareness.<sup>4441</sup>

On 24 August 2021, Minister Yanik announced that TRY93 million will be allocated for five cash social assistance programs: the Cash Assistance for Widowed Women (EVEK), Assistance to the Families of Soldiers in Need (MAAY), Assistance to the Children of Soldiers in Need (MAÇY), Orphan's Assistance (ÖYY) and the Chronic Disease Assistance.<sup>4442</sup>

On 26 August 2021, Minister Yanik attended the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.<sup>4443</sup> At the conference, Minister Yanik spoke at the session titled "Work and Economic Empowerment and Work-Life Balance" and emphasized the need for the international community to support the struggle of Diyarbakir mothers.<sup>4444</sup>

On 8 September 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of the Interior hosted a training workshop for 5,113 police academy students on combating violence against women.<sup>4445</sup> The trainings focused on services given to women exposed to violence, legal services, and information on institutions and organizations providing services to victims of gender-based violence.<sup>4446</sup> This training was a part of the Ministry of Family and Social Services' plan to raise awareness on combating violence against women with an initial focus on law enforcement officers.<sup>4447</sup>

Turkey has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through funding programs and establishing international partnerships to increase women's labour market participation as well as constructing new guesthouses and introducing new strategies to combat gender-based violence. On the Health sphere, Turkey has only taken some limited steps such as supporting female victims of violence.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of +1.

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<sup>4441</sup> The concept of "non-violence campus" will be expanded in universities, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/universitelerde-siddetsiz-kampus-anlayisi-yayginlastirilacak/2300207>

<sup>4442</sup> Approximately 93 million lira will be paid through social assistance programs, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/sosyal-yardim-programlariyla-yaklasik-93-milyon-lira-odeme-yapilacak-603836.html>

<sup>4443</sup> Minister Yanik's call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-toplumadiyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

<sup>4444</sup> Minister Yanik's call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-toplumadiyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

<sup>4445</sup> Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

<sup>4446</sup> Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

<sup>4447</sup> Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 1 December 2020, the UK announced GBP7 million in humanitarian and remittance funding to provide support to almost 750,000 people living in eight Southern African countries, including Madagascar, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4448</sup> This funding includes water, hygiene and sanitation services, food security assistance and gender-based violence protection measures, including mental health care, behavior change campaigns and access to protection networks.<sup>4449</sup>

On 9 December 2020, Minister for Africa James Duddridge announced that the UK would contribute GBP21.8 million for Somalia's long-term security and stability wherein GBP8 million would be specifically for supporting Somalia's health services like antenatal care and vaccinations for women and children.<sup>4450</sup>

On 10 December 2020, the UK launched a 10-week call for evidence including knowledge, opinions and experiences of victims and support organizations, in order to tackle violence against women and girls.<sup>4451</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock published the Gender Pay Gap in Medicine Review, highlighting the structural barriers in medicine for women.<sup>4452</sup> According to which, the Government has committed to tackle the gap by dismantling barriers, making senior roles more accessible to women, improving pay transparency and promoting cultural changes.<sup>4453</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss addressed the UK's new approach to tackle inequality across the UK.<sup>4454</sup> The three-way approach involves "delivering fairness through modernization, increased choice and openness," "concentrating on data and research" and "taking [a] big[er] and broad[er] look...at the challenges."<sup>4455</sup> In addition, Minister Truss announced the discontinuation of unconscious bias training in government and civil service, as it is shown to have reinforced stereotypes and exacerbated biases.<sup>4456</sup>

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<sup>4448</sup> UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

<sup>4449</sup> UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

<sup>4450</sup> UK Minister reiterates UK commitment to Somalia and the region's response to the threat of Al-Shabaab, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-minister-reiterates-uk-commitment-to-somalia-and-the-regions-response-to-the-threat-of-al-shabaab>

<sup>4451</sup> Nationwide call for views on tackling violence against women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationwide-call-for-views-on-tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls>

<sup>4452</sup> Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

<sup>4453</sup> Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

<sup>4454</sup> Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

<sup>4455</sup> Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

<sup>4456</sup> Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

On 11 January 2021, Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety Nadine Dorries introduced the Safer Medicines in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Consortium, which brings together 16 leading organizations including the National Health Service under a united pledge to fulfill information needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women and healthcare professionals through accessible and consistent advice.<sup>4457</sup> This new initiative aims to ensure pregnant and breastfeeding women are able to make informed decisions about their own healthcare.<sup>4458</sup>

On 14 January 2021, the UK launched the Ask for ANI codeword scheme with independent pharmacies and Boots to allow victims of domestic abuse to ask for help discreetly.<sup>4459</sup> Trained staff in participating pharmacies will offer victims a safe and private space where the situation can be understood.<sup>4460</sup> The launch of the codeword scheme is committed in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, as to provide a further lifeline for victims who are trapped by their perpetrators.<sup>4461</sup>

On 14 January 2021, Home Secretary Priti Patel announced new laws to reform pre-charge bail in order to provide better protection for victims and witnesses in cases of violent and sexual offences.<sup>4462</sup> The full package of reforms will be called “Kay’s Law” and will enable police to impose strict conditions on suspects in high-harm cases including most cases of domestic and sexual violence.<sup>4463</sup>

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the New Health and Wellbeing Fund, which focuses on mothers living in black, Asian or minority ethnic communities or deprived areas of the UK.<sup>4464</sup> This new fund will aid 19 projects to promote nutrition, learning, language development and mental health during pregnancy and post-birth for women with each

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<sup>4457</sup> New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

<sup>4458</sup> New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

<sup>4459</sup> Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

<sup>4460</sup> Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

<sup>4461</sup> Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

<sup>4462</sup> Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

<sup>4463</sup> Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

<sup>4464</sup> Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

project receiving a share of up to GBP7.6 million across three years.<sup>4465</sup> This fund aims to reduce health inequalities in the UK.<sup>4466</sup>

On 1 February 2021, the UK confirmed an additional GBP40 million to a previously GBP99.5 million funding commitment to help victims of rape and domestic abuse during the pandemic and beyond.<sup>4467</sup> Out of the GBP40 million funding, GBP20.7 million will go to local, community-based services, GBP16 million to adviser recruitment, GBP2 million to small specialist organizations and GBP1.3 million to remote and online services.<sup>4468</sup> In addition, the UK Government also launched the #ItStillMatters campaign that aims to “raise awareness amongst victims and survivors [of domestic abuse] of the support available.”<sup>4469</sup>

On 12 February 2021, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes announced an allocation of GBP125 million to councils across England to support domestic abuse victims and their children.<sup>4470</sup> The fund will go to ensure access to life-saving support, including “therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation.”<sup>4471</sup> This funding is for a new legal duty on councils to ensure victims and their children are able to access adequate support in safe accommodation as part of the government’s Domestic Abuse Bill to come into effect in several months.<sup>4472</sup>

On 23 February 2021, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) granted employers a six-month extension to 5 October 2021 to report their gender pay gap information.<sup>4473</sup> The gender pay gap regulation enforcement is aimed to encourage employers to ‘demonstrate the steps they are taking to reduce long-term pay gaps through detailed action plans.’<sup>4474</sup> If employers fail to report their gender pay gap data, the EHRC has the power to investigate and impose unlimited fines on

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<sup>4465</sup> Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

<sup>4466</sup> Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

<sup>4467</sup> Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

<sup>4468</sup> Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

<sup>4469</sup> Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

<sup>4470</sup> £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

<sup>4471</sup> £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

<sup>4472</sup> £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

<sup>4473</sup> Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

<sup>4474</sup> Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

employers after court action.<sup>4475</sup> The gender pay gap regulation enforcement was suspended in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.<sup>4476</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Home Office announced the allocation of GBP500,000 to successful organisations that will research domestic abuse perpetrators.<sup>4477</sup> It is to develop a stronger understanding of the issue and strengthen the evidence base for existing works.<sup>4478</sup>

On 5 March 2021, Minister Truss called for flexible working to be a standard option for employees to help level-up the UK, boost opportunities for women and reduce geographic inequality as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4479</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the UK launched the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) to empower women and girls across the world as countries recover from the pandemic.<sup>4480</sup> The GEAC will focus on supporting action on education, economic empowerment and ending violence against women.<sup>4481</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the House of Commons debated about the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which aims to have an impact on victims of crimes, perpetrators and the safety of the wider community.<sup>4482</sup> The Bill was criticized for its insufficiency in addressing violence against women amid the controversy of the policing of the Sarah Everard vigil in London, which “ended with women being handcuffed on the floor and removed from the gathering.”<sup>4483</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson chaired a meeting of the Criminal Justice Taskforce to provide immediate reassurance of safety for women and girls after the death of Sarah Everard.<sup>4484</sup> The UK will double the size of the Safer Streets fund in order to provide neighbourhood

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<sup>4475</sup> Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

<sup>4476</sup> Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

<sup>4477</sup> New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

<sup>4478</sup> New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

<sup>4479</sup> Government says in the interest of employers and employees to make offer of flexible working standard, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-says-in-the-interest-of-employers-and-employees-to-make-offer-of-flexible-working-standard>

<sup>4480</sup> Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

<sup>4481</sup> Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

<sup>4482</sup> Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill House of Commons, Second Reading, 15 March and 16 March 2021, Local Government Association (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-house-commons-second>

<sup>4483</sup> PM defends policing bill amid criticism it fails to protect women, BBC (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56399860>

<sup>4484</sup> Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

measures like better lighting and video surveillance.<sup>4485</sup> The UK will also launch pilots of Project Vigilant across the country, which includes measures such as police officers attending areas surrounding nightclubs and bars both in uniform and plain clothes in order to better ensure the safety of women, with increased patrols near closing times.<sup>4486</sup>

On 31 March 2021, the UK and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.<sup>4487</sup> This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.<sup>4488</sup>

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Justice announced that the new Victims’ Code has entered into force with better support from the police, courts and other criminal justice agencies for victims of crimes.<sup>4489</sup> The new Victims’ Code enables victims of rape and sexual violence to choose the sex of their police interviewer and provides clearer advice on when they can have their evidence pre-recorded before trial instead of suffering the stress of cross-examination in a courtroom.<sup>4490</sup>

On 29 April 2021, the House of Commons and the House of Lords passed the Domestic Abuse Bill and signed it into law.<sup>4491</sup> The Domestic Abuse Act will protect victims of domestic abuse and clamp down perpetrators further.<sup>4492</sup> It includes a wider definition of domestic abuse that extends beyond physical violence, prohibition of cross-examination from abusers in the courtroom, access to special measures for victims in the courtroom, provision of immediate protection from abusers and new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders that aim to change perpetrators’ behaviour.<sup>4493</sup> The newest amendments include new or extended offence of non-fatal strangulation, controlling or coercive behaviour and threats to share intimate images.<sup>4494</sup> Under this new Act, those who are homeless due

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<sup>4485</sup> Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

<sup>4486</sup> Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

<sup>4487</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>4488</sup> Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

<sup>4489</sup> New Victims’ Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

<sup>4490</sup> New Victims’ Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

<sup>4491</sup> Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

<sup>4492</sup> Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

<sup>4493</sup> Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

<sup>4494</sup> New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

to domestic abuse will receive priority in accommodations found by councils in order to ensure victims do not stay with their abuser in fear of being homeless.<sup>4495</sup>

On 17 June 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) launched a new online tool to help expectant parents access and understand the Shared Parental Leave and Pay scheme.<sup>4496</sup> This scheme helps working women exercise greater choice about when to return to work and encourages men or partners to take greater roles in child care if desired.<sup>4497</sup> This online tool allows parents to check their eligibility for the scheme, calculate what pay they would be entitled to, and notify their employer through the tool.<sup>4498</sup>

On 4 July 2021, Minister of Maternity Safety Nadine Dorries announced GBP2.45 million in funding to benefit National Health Service (NHS) maternity staff and to improve the safety of the women and babies cared for by NHS staff.<sup>4499</sup> This funding will be used to survey maternity staff and parents to find best practices for monitoring and responding to a baby's wellbeing during labor and also used to develop a new workforce planning tool for maternity medics to ensure patients receive the medical support they require.<sup>4500</sup> This funding support the Government of the UK's plans to halve the 2010 rates of stillbirth, neonatal and maternal death and brain injuries that occur during or soon after birth by the year 2025.<sup>4501</sup>

On 21 July 2021, Home Secretary Patel published the government's new strategy of protecting women and girls from violence at home, online and on the streets both with immediate steps and steps in the long term.<sup>4502</sup> Building on previous actions that aim to criminal justice response, including the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, the Safer Streets Fund and the government's call for evidence, the new strategy further increases support for victims, strengthens preventative measures and enforces laws that pursue after perpetrators.<sup>4503</sup>

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launched the Respite Rooms Trial Programme with GBP3.7 million in funding for 12 local areas across England

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<sup>4495</sup> More support for domestic abuse victims and their children as Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children-as-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royal-assent>

<sup>4496</sup> New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

<sup>4497</sup> New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

<sup>4498</sup> New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

<sup>4499</sup> Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

<sup>4500</sup> Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

<sup>4501</sup> Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

<sup>4502</sup> Tackling violence against women and girls strategy launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-launched>

<sup>4503</sup> Tackling violence against women and girls strategy launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-launched>

to fund accommodation and support services for victims of domestic abuse, exploitation, rape or sexual assault, as well as sex workers.<sup>4504</sup> This funding will create a total of 140 bed spaces and support over 1,100 people across a 12-month trial period.<sup>4505</sup> This program provides single gender spaces for victims as well as support services from charities specializing in homelessness, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls.<sup>4506</sup>

On 19 August 2021, the UK allocated GBP20 million in additional funding to improve the Family Hubs programme.<sup>4507</sup> Half of the funding will be used for the Family Hubs Transformation Fund to support local authorities to open family hubs in 10 new areas of England.<sup>4508</sup> The other half of the funding will go towards expanding the Growing Up Well digital project to enhance information sharing between professionals working with vulnerable families and children at these Family Hubs.<sup>4509</sup> The Family Hubs provide vulnerable or low-income families in England with access to early education, health and care services including counselling and advice for victims of domestic violence.<sup>4510</sup>

On 26 August 2021, the BEIS joined the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) as a Beacon member in order to increase support for employees who have been victims of or at risk of domestic abuse, and to raise awareness and training among staff.<sup>4511</sup> By joining the EIDA, employers receive access to a suite of training and development and specific account management to implement human resources processes and procedures to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.<sup>4512</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence that affect women disproportionately such as providing funding for maternal health initiatives,

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<sup>4504</sup> Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

<sup>4505</sup> Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

<sup>4506</sup> Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

<sup>4507</sup> £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

<sup>4508</sup> £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

<sup>4509</sup> £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

<sup>4510</sup> £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

<sup>4511</sup> Government department champions new support for victims of domestic abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-department-champions-new-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

<sup>4512</sup> Government department champions new support for victims of domestic abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-department-champions-new-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

creating new programs and legislation to support victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, and increasing accessibility of schemes in support of working mothers.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo released a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, affirming the United States' commitment to end violence against women, stand with and empower survivors, and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than before.<sup>4513</sup> Pompeo acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women in the fields of gender-based violence and job insecurity, and pledged to improve circumstances for women in this regard.<sup>4514</sup>

On 4 January 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD4 million in grant funding to the International Labor Organization “to improve worker rights in rural sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a focus on women’s rights.”<sup>4515</sup> The project “seeks to improve compliance with labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, and to address wage inequality and workplace discrimination against women in targeted rural sectors in the Philippines and other Indo-Pacific countries.”<sup>4516</sup>

On 14 January 2021, the Department of State announced the launch of the United Women’s Economic Development Network, which will “advance women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, a major facet of US foreign policy, in line with the White House-led Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative.”<sup>4517</sup> The network will focus on providing entrepreneurship, networking and cross-country partnership opportunities for businesswomen.<sup>4518</sup>

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Justice announced a grant of USD5.3 million for “Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities.”<sup>4519</sup> The grant seeks to support groups and organizations involved in response to disabled women who are victims of gender-based

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<sup>4513</sup> Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

<sup>4514</sup> Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

<sup>4515</sup> US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

<sup>4516</sup> US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

<sup>4517</sup> Launch of United Women’s Economic Development Network, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/launch-of-united-womens-economic-development-network/index.html>

<sup>4518</sup> Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

<sup>4519</sup> Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

violence including sexual assault and domestic violence.<sup>4520</sup> This grant will provide training and resources to improve the capacity of and collaboration between these organizations.<sup>4521</sup>

On 28 January 2021, President Joseph Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum allocating USD32.5 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which helps protect vulnerable women and girls.<sup>4522</sup> Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that the UNFPA will “help improve the lives of women and children around the world by expanding the base of partners implementing US health assistance and increasing access to critical health services, including HIV/AIDS care for key populations, family planning information and services, and effective tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment.”<sup>4523</sup> Secretary of State Blinken particularly highlighted the importance of increasing women’s access to healthcare in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which he noted has disproportionately affected women.<sup>4524</sup>

On 25 February 2021, the Department of Labor awarded a USD5 million grant to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere for their efforts to “reduce child labor in Ethiopia’s coffee fields using a gender-focused approach.”<sup>4525</sup> It pledges to “work with vulnerable women and girls in the country’s coffee sector to challenge community social norms and traditions that promote child labor and gender inequality, and transform structures such as laws, policies and institutions to be more gender equitable and help reduce child labor there.”<sup>4526</sup> The project focuses on women’s labour rights and improved economic outcomes for women and girls.<sup>4527</sup>

On 26 February 2021, the Department of Defense announced an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military.<sup>4528</sup> The commission will focus on holding those who committed acts of sexual violence in the military accountable as well as reviewing the “climate [and] culture” of the

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<sup>4520</sup> Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

<sup>4521</sup> Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

<sup>4522</sup> Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

<sup>4523</sup> Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

<sup>4524</sup> Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

<sup>4525</sup> US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

<sup>4526</sup> US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

<sup>4527</sup> US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

<sup>4528</sup> Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

military and discussing strategies to prevent further sexual violence.<sup>4529</sup> The commission intends to present its initial recommendations within 60 days and began its investigation on 24 March 2021.<sup>4530</sup>

On 3 March 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) promoted their Hear Her campaign, which seeks to bring attention to pregnancy-related health issues.<sup>4531</sup> The promotion involved an announcement that American Olympic athlete Allyson Felix would be joining the campaign.<sup>4532</sup> In doing so, the CDC says it hopes to bring greater attention to pregnancy-related health risks women face, especially women of color in the United States.<sup>4533</sup>

On 3 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) committed to “undertake a robust national outreach campaign to ensure that eligible families know about the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children’s (WIC) benefits and offer new easy ways for them to enroll.”<sup>4534</sup> Through the American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden has called on Congress to commit large investments into the WIC.<sup>4535</sup> The investments should reach eligible mothers and children and support innovation in WIC such as waivers and demonstration projects in order to improve service delivery.<sup>4536</sup> The investments should also increase access to fruits and vegetables in grocery stores and farmers markets for WIC participants by temporarily increasing the amount given to each participant to USD35 per person, per month.<sup>4537</sup> The WIC program aims to support the health of new mothers and young children with nutritious diets and better healthcare.<sup>4538</sup>

On 10 March 2021, the House of Representatives passed HR 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD880 million to mothers and their children in expanded access to fruits and

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<sup>4529</sup> Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

<sup>4530</sup> Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

<sup>4531</sup> Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

<sup>4532</sup> Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

<sup>4533</sup> Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

<sup>4534</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

<sup>4535</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

<sup>4536</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

<sup>4537</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

<sup>4538</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

vegetables.<sup>4539</sup> This is part of an initiative to ensure Americans – in particular those in vulnerable communities, such as women – have access to food, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to which the USDA acknowledges has exacerbated existing inequalities in food access.<sup>4540</sup>

On 17 March 2021, the House of Representatives renewed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which added firearm restrictions for convicted domestic abusers and expanded protections for gay, bisexual and transgender people.<sup>4541</sup> VAWA builds upon programs such as violence prevention and housing assistance for domestic abuse victims, reaffirms legal protections for victims and their families, and will more aggressively focus resources on minority communities.<sup>4542</sup>

On 18 March 2021, the US along with Chile, Germany and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make their voices count?”<sup>4543</sup> The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.<sup>4544</sup> The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.<sup>4545</sup>

On 6 April 2021, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights announced they would be undertaking a “comprehensive review” of the Department’s regulations regarding the implementation of Title IX (gender equality) law.<sup>4546</sup> The action will be “gathering the public’s views and insights on the issue of sexual harassment in school environments, including sexual violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” and determine what changes, if any, need to be made based on this feedback.<sup>4547</sup>

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<sup>4539</sup> FACT SHEET: United States Department of Agriculture Provisions in H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-004221>

<sup>4540</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

<sup>4541</sup> House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

<sup>4542</sup> House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

<sup>4543</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>4544</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>4545</sup> Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

<sup>4546</sup> Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

<sup>4547</sup> Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

On 12 April 2021, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra announced USD12 million would be made available over the next four years for Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies.<sup>4548</sup> This will expand access to maternal and prenatal health care for women in rural areas, a particularly vulnerable and underserved demographic in the United States, with a focus on Black women.<sup>4549</sup>

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in grant funding to increase the number of women in registered apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.<sup>4550</sup> The program will provide women with pre-apprenticeship skills, ongoing orientation in the apprenticeship and non-traditional occupation career environment, and set up support groups, networks and support services for women in these occupations.<sup>4551</sup> The goal is to address and combat gender disparity in the fields of apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.<sup>4552</sup>

On 11 May 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded USD40 million in American Rescue Plan funding to emergency home visiting funds in order to support children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4553</sup> The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program aids the delivery of high quality, voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant women and children living in communities vulnerable to poor maternal and child health outcomes.<sup>4554</sup>

On 15 June 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD1.5 million funding opportunity “to develop partnerships with community-based organizations and other non-profits to conduct outreach to women workers to help them understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the

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<sup>4548</sup> HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

<sup>4549</sup> HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

<sup>4550</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

<sup>4551</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

<sup>4552</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

<sup>4553</sup> HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>4554</sup> HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

workplace.”<sup>4555</sup> The grants are designed to help low-income women workers with less access to labor rights information.<sup>4556</sup>

On 2 July 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin declared that sexual assault cases in the United States military will no longer be prosecuted by commanders.<sup>4557</sup> Instead, there will be designated officers handling sexual assault cases.<sup>4558</sup> This comes in response to recommendations from an independent review of sexual assault in the United States military completed earlier this year.<sup>4559</sup>

On 25 August 2021, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released a statement celebrating Women’s Equality Day.<sup>4560</sup> Secretary Becerra affirmed the United States’ commitment to women’s health equity, which includes continuing efforts to advance health care services such as maternal health, and to fund programs that expand access to care for women.<sup>4561</sup>

On 9 September 2021, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh announced USD3.3 million in grants “to expand job opportunities for women in apprenticeships [and] nontraditional occupations.”<sup>4562</sup> The grants will be administered by the Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau and Employment Training Administration.<sup>4563</sup> This funding will “support women’s participation in a range of fields in which women have traditionally been underrepresented” by providing “supportive services such as child care, transportation, tuition costs and work-related equipment.”<sup>4564</sup>

On 9 September 2021, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced that the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the state of Texas over Senate Bill Eight, a bill which “effectively bans most

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<sup>4555</sup> US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

<sup>4556</sup> US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

<sup>4557</sup> Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

<sup>4558</sup> Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

<sup>4559</sup> Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

<sup>4560</sup> Statements by HHS Secretary Becerra, Dr. Levine, CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure Celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/25/statements-by-hhs-secretary-becerra-dr-levine-cms-administrator-brooks-lasure.html>

<sup>4561</sup> Statements by HHS Secretary Becerra, Dr. Levine, CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure Celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/25/statements-by-hhs-secretary-becerra-dr-levine-cms-administrator-brooks-lasure.html>

<sup>4562</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

<sup>4563</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

<sup>4564</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

abortion in the state.”<sup>4565</sup> Garland declared that this bill was “clearly unconstitutional” in its depriving women of the right to bodily autonomy with regards to reproductive health.<sup>4566</sup> The lawsuit will seek to have the bill struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States.<sup>4567</sup>

The United States has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to all three spheres of Health, Economic Security, and Gender-Based Violence through funding programs supporting maternal and prenatal healthcare, allocating grants to encourage women’s participation in various labor sectors, and changing administrative processes on cases of sexual assaults.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Rachel Zack*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) published a handbook to help eliminate sexism in the workplace, specifically in EU institutions and agencies.<sup>4568</sup> The aim of this handbook is to help organizations ensure that both women and men employees feel safe, respected and fulfilled in the workplace.<sup>4569</sup>

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy introduced the EU’s new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III), which aims to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in all external actions of the EU.<sup>4570</sup> The GAP III details that at least 85 per cent of all new actions throughout the EU’s external relations will contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment by 2025 with a specific focus on fighting gender-based violence and promoting the socio-economic and political empowerment of women and girls.<sup>4571</sup> The GAP III

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<sup>4565</sup> Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

<sup>4566</sup> Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

<sup>4567</sup> Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

<sup>4568</sup> Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

<sup>4569</sup> Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

<sup>4570</sup> Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2184](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184)

<sup>4571</sup> Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2184](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184)

also places renewed emphasis on universal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls.<sup>4572</sup>

On 9 December 2020, the European Union and the Tony Elumelu Foundation formed a EUR20 million partnership to support more than 2,500 African women entrepreneurs through increased access to finance and venture capital investment.<sup>4573</sup> The initiative addresses barriers such as funding, knowledge, and market constraints through gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for female-run businesses.<sup>4574</sup> The goal of this program is to “help women participate in economic development, realise their full potential and accelerate economic inclusion.”<sup>4575</sup>

On 27 January 2021, the European Commission and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signed a new initiative of EUR14.5 million with the United Nations Capital Development Fund in order to support the potential of digital finance.<sup>4576</sup> This initiative is aimed at increasing access to digital technology and financial literacy tools for more than 600,000 women, youth and entrepreneurs living in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.<sup>4577</sup> The initiative hopes to enhance the capacity of women and youth living in these regions to absorb economic shocks due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4578</sup>

On 8 February 2021, the European Commission launched an open public consultation on a new legislative initiative to better support victims and prosecute perpetrators of gender-based violence.<sup>4579</sup> The European Commission launched this consultation to gather the views of the public on the measures taken by the EU member states to address gender-based violence against women and domestic violence.<sup>4580</sup>

On 4 March 2021, the EU adopted an Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which puts gender equality at its core and establishes, amongst others, targets for women’s

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<sup>4572</sup> Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2184](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184)

<sup>4573</sup> EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2353](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353)

<sup>4574</sup> EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2353](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353)

<sup>4575</sup> EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2353](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353)

<sup>4576</sup> COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_188](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188)

<sup>4577</sup> COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_188](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188)

<sup>4578</sup> COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_188](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188)

<sup>4579</sup> Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combatting-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

<sup>4580</sup> Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combatting-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

participation in the labour market.<sup>4581</sup> The document specifically states that the EU will dedicate an overall budget of EUR1.55 billion to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, which will promote “gender equality, equal treatment and equal rights of all in order to promote more democratic, diverse and open societies.”<sup>4582</sup>

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal on pay discrimination and transparency to ensure that women and men in the EU receive equal pay for equal work.<sup>4583</sup> The legislative proposal introduces enforcement mechanics focusing on two core elements of equal pay: measures to ensure pay transparency for workers and employers as well as better access to justice for victims of pay discrimination.<sup>4584</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission released the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.<sup>4585</sup> The document outlines the European Union’s policy objectives around gender inequality and highlights the available data on the gendered impact of the COVID-19 crisis for each area of the strategy policy.<sup>4586</sup> The document specifically states that the Commission will put forward a Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices against women related to Female Genital Mutilation as announced in the Gender Equality Strategy.<sup>4587</sup> The report also states that the Commission continues to fund projects tackling FGM through the EU’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, and its successor, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program.<sup>4588</sup> To improve monitoring and tracking progress of each of the 27 EU member states on meeting the Gender Equality Strategy, the European Commission launched a Gender Equality Strategy Monitoring Portal, which is accessible to the general public.<sup>4589</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the European Union adopted a EUR130 million assistance package through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis in order to support Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon through social protection and healthcare services.<sup>4590</sup> The support package for Lebanon includes EUR45 million for social protection and assistance of the most vulnerable in Lebanon and the development of a comprehensive national social protection system, EUR29 million to increase access to healthcare services, and EUR10 million to increase

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<sup>4581</sup> The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en)

<sup>4582</sup> The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en)

<sup>4583</sup> Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_881](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881)

<sup>4584</sup> Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_881](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881)

<sup>4585</sup> 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en)

<sup>4586</sup> 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en)

<sup>4587</sup> 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en)

<sup>4588</sup> 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en)

<sup>4589</sup> International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge for gender equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1011](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011)

<sup>4590</sup> EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_986](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986)

access to essential water services.<sup>4591</sup> The support package for Jordan includes EUR8 million for the protection of women and children.<sup>4592</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the EIGE released its report on the COVID-19 outbreak between March 2020 to September 2020 and on cases concerning intimate partner violence against women in the EU.<sup>4593</sup> This report provides recommendations for the EU and its member states on how to better support and protect victims of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4594</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the European Commission, Argentina and Namibia issued a joint statement at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>4595</sup> The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.<sup>4596</sup>

On 24 March 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the exploratory opinion titled, “Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect.”<sup>4597</sup> In this opinion, the EESC focused on the risk of teleworking serving as a double burden of paid and unpaid work and the unequal division of domestic work between women and men.<sup>4598</sup> The EESC urged all EU member states to promptly implement the Work-Life Balance Directive and a “Care Deal for Europe,” which makes available accessible and affordable care services for children and other people with special needs.<sup>4599</sup> This opinion recognizes the need to urgently address the effects of telework on gender inequality in order to better support women’s economic security during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4600</sup>

On 14 April 2021, the European Commission announced a new Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), focusing on preventing human trafficking in general, bringing

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<sup>4591</sup> EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_986](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986)

<sup>4592</sup> EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_986](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986)

<sup>4593</sup> The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

<sup>4594</sup> The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

<sup>4595</sup> Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en)

<sup>4596</sup> Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en)

<sup>4597</sup> Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/challenges-teleworking-organization-working-time-work-life-balance-and-right-disconnect>

<sup>4598</sup> EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

<sup>4599</sup> EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

<sup>4600</sup> EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

traffickers to justice, and protecting and empowering victims.<sup>4601</sup> The Strategy focuses on women and children and seeks to improve early identification of victims, strengthen referrals for additional assistance or protection, enhance victim empowerment programs and facilitate reintegration through gender-specific and child-sensitive training of police officers, social workers, border guards and healthcare staff.<sup>4602</sup> This Strategy recognizes that women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence, and thus, must be prioritized.<sup>4603</sup>

On 11 May 2021, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality approved a report recognizing that the right to health, specifically sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), are fundamental women's rights and cannot be watered down or withdrawn in any manner.<sup>4604</sup> The MEPs called on all EU member states to ensure access to high quality SRHR and to remove all barriers impeding full access to them, which includes the guaranteed access to safe and legal abortion.<sup>4605</sup>

On 24 June 2021, the European Parliament voted in a plenary session to adopt a report calling for EU member states to ensure universal access for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>4606</sup> The report recognizes the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women's health and rights and urges member states to ensure access to safe and legal abortion as well as high-quality contraceptive methods and family counseling.<sup>4607</sup> The report emphasizes the need for comprehensive sexuality education for primary and secondary school children to help reduce sexual violence and harassment.<sup>4608</sup> Members of the European Parliament also endorsed exemptions for value-added tax (VAT) on menstrual products.<sup>4609</sup>

On 2 July 2021, President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the EU will be providing at least EUR4 billion in its 2021-2027 long-term budget for women's and girls' empowerment at the Paris-held Generation Equality Forum, the UN Women-convened summit to accelerate gender equality

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<sup>4601</sup> Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1663](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663)

<sup>4602</sup> Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1663](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663)

<sup>4603</sup> Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1663](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663)

<sup>4604</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

<sup>4605</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

<sup>4606</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

<sup>4607</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

<sup>4608</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

<sup>4609</sup> EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

investments.<sup>4610</sup> President von der Leyen also pledged to propose new legislation by the end of 2021 to combat gender-based violence and hate crimes against LGBTIQ people, as well as adding all forms of hate crimes to the list of crimes in the EU treaties.<sup>4611</sup>

On 10 September 2021, the EU pledged to invest USD8.5 million until December 2022 to the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to end violence against women and girls.<sup>4612</sup> The investment will be used by the Government of Mozambique to fund interventions addressing violence against women and girls in Gaza, Manica and Nampula Provinces of Mozambique.<sup>4613</sup> These interventions will include community engagement to change social norms, improving case management for delivery of essential services to survivors of violence, improving data collection and management, and investment in longer-term recovery services and economic opportunities for women and girls experiencing violence.<sup>4614</sup> The EU Ambassador Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar said “we, the European Union, remain committed to supporting gender equality in Mozambique, through joint efforts with the Government, the United Nations and Civil Society Organizations, in this tireless fight to pass the message that gender-based violence by no means should be accepted and that it can be combated.”<sup>4615</sup>

On 16 September 2021, members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted a legislative initiative with 427 votes in favour, 119 against, and 140 abstentions, demanding targeted legislation and policies to address all forms of violence and discrimination based on gender, whether offline or online.<sup>4616</sup> The legislation would include prevention measures (through gender-sensitive and intersectional education programming), support services, measures to end all forms of gender-based violence, as well as cooperation among EU member states and the exchange of best practices, information, and expertise.<sup>4617</sup> After this session, European Commission President von der Leyen told MEPs that, by the end of the year, the Commission will propose a law to combat violence

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<sup>4610</sup> Speech by President von der Leyen at the Generation Equality Forum via videoconference, EU Monitor (Brussels) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

[https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start\\_tab1=5](https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start_tab1=5)

<sup>4611</sup> Speech by President von der Leyen at the Generation Equality Forum via videoconference, EU Monitor (Brussels) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

[https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start\\_tab1=5](https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start_tab1=5)

<sup>4612</sup> Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

<sup>4613</sup> Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

<sup>4614</sup> Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

<sup>4615</sup> Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

<sup>4616</sup> Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

<sup>4617</sup> Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

against women which will include prevention, protection, and effective prosecution, both online and offline.<sup>4618</sup>

The European Union has taken strong concrete actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence spheres through budgetary re-allocations for women empowerment, adopting plans to ensure universal access to women's sexual and reproductive health, and funding international projects to combat gender-based violence.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Brandon Yih, Rana Al-Fayez and Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

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<sup>4618</sup> Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

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