



RANEPA
THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY
OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Report

Prepared by

Kaylin Dawe, Mary Noh and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Alexander Ignatov and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

From 23 November 2020 to 22 May 2021

29 July 2021

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

We encourage readers to send comments to

G20@utoronto.ca

Contents

Preface.....	3
Research Teams	4
Introduction and Summary.....	6
Methodology and Scoring System.....	6
Commitment Breakdown.....	6
Selection of Commitments.....	6
Interim Compliance Scores.....	7
Interim Compliance by Member.....	7
Interim Compliance by Commitment.....	7
Table 1: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring.....	8
Table 2: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Scores	10
Table 3: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance by Member.....	12
Table 4: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment.....	12
Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008-2020	13
Conclusions	14
Future Research and Reports	14
Considerations and Limitations.....	14
Appendix: General Considerations.....	15
1. Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth.....	16
2. Macroeconomics: Capital Markets.....	84
3. Trade: Investment	107
4. Trade: Open Markets.....	173
5. Digital Economy: Consumer Rights	189
6. International Taxation: Tax Systems.....	221
7. International Taxation: BEPS	254
8. Crime and Corruption: Threats.....	267
9. Labour and Employment: Job Protection.....	293
10. Gender: Inequalities.....	319
11. Gender: Economic Participation	406
12. Development: Debt Relief.....	462
13. Development: COVID-19.....	496
14. Health Preparedness and Response	521
15. Health: Information Sharing	624
16. Health: Vaccine Distribution.....	660
17. Energy: Fossil Fuels.....	683
18. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter.....	705
19. Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy	728
20. Climate Change: Paris Agreement.....	790

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	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.65 (83%)	

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls across numerous spheres, such as health, economics, security and social protection.²¹⁷⁴ 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 2021.²¹⁷⁵ 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.²¹⁷⁶ 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

²¹⁷⁴ 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>

²¹⁷⁵ 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

²¹⁷⁶ 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.²¹⁷⁷ 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.²¹⁷⁸

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.²¹⁷⁹ 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."²¹⁸⁰ 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.²¹⁸¹ 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.²¹⁸² Estimates show that an additional 11 million girls may abandon their education by the end of the COVID-19 crisis.²¹⁸³ They are also more prone to child marriage and other kinds of violence as a means to alleviate their families' economic burdens.²¹⁸⁴ Hence, the pandemic's economic impacts are likely to increase sexual exploitation and disrupt efforts to end child marriage.²¹⁸⁵ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that an additional 3 million child marriages will occur between 2020 and 2030.²¹⁸⁶

Concerning the health response to COVID-19, currently, women represent 70 per cent of the global health workforce.²¹⁸⁷ Nevertheless, they are paid considerably less than their male counterparts.²¹⁸⁸ The gender pay gap in the health sector, at 25 per cent, is higher than the 16 per cent overall gender

²¹⁷⁷ 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>

²¹⁷⁸ 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>

²¹⁷⁹ 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>

²¹⁸⁰ 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>

²¹⁸¹ 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>

²¹⁸² 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>

²¹⁸³ 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>

²¹⁸⁴ 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>

²¹⁸⁵ 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>

²¹⁸⁶ 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>

²¹⁸⁷ 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>

²¹⁸⁸ 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.²¹⁸⁹ 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.”²¹⁹⁰

The outbreak of COVID-19 has also left women vulnerable to a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence.²¹⁹¹ Emerging data and reports have shown a notable surge in domestic abuse.²¹⁹² In numerous countries, violence reports and emergency calls have risen by 25 per cent since distancing measures, quarantine and movement restrictions were enacted.²¹⁹³ 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.”²¹⁹⁴

At the 2009 London Summit, G20 members briefly mentioned building “a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”²¹⁹⁵ They also committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies.”²¹⁹⁶

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.”²¹⁹⁷ In regards to fostering inclusion, G20 leaders recognized the need to encourage and expand economic opportunities for women.²¹⁹⁸ 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.”²¹⁹⁹

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the focus on gender-equality peaked when compared to previous years.²²⁰⁰ G20 leaders focused on endorsing financial education for women and girls, committing to

²¹⁸⁹ 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>

²¹⁹⁰ 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>

²¹⁹¹ 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>

²¹⁹² 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>

²¹⁹³ 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>

²¹⁹⁴ 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>

²¹⁹⁵ 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>

²¹⁹⁶ 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>

²¹⁹⁷ 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>

²¹⁹⁸ 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>

²¹⁹⁹ 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>

²²⁰⁰ 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.”²²⁰¹

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.”²²⁰² 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.”²²⁰³

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.”²²⁰⁴ 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.”²²⁰⁵ 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.”²²⁰⁶ They also committed to “provide women with protection against all forms of violence.”²²⁰⁷

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.”²²⁰⁸ Leaders also recognized the need to promote women’s economic empowerment through “access to quality and affordable care infrastructure and parental leave.”²²⁰⁹ G20 members also committed to encourage and “promote women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions.”²²¹⁰

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.”²²¹¹ They were also resolute to end all forms of discrimination against women, combat stereotypes and

²²⁰¹ 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>

²²⁰² 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>

²²⁰³ 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>

²²⁰⁴ 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>

²²⁰⁵ 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>

²²⁰⁶ 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>

²²⁰⁷ 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>

²²⁰⁸ 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>

²²⁰⁹ 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>

²²¹⁰ 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>

²²¹¹ 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.”²²¹²

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.²²¹³ “Women” is understood to mean female individuals aged 18 years or more.²²¹⁴ “Girls” refers to female individuals below the age of 18 years.²²¹⁵

To “work to ensure” is understood to mean applying international diplomacy to make something certain to happen.²²¹⁶ This can include drafting proposals, encouraging new initiatives or putting forward new ideas.²²¹⁷

“Pandemic” is understood to mean the COVID-19 crisis.²²¹⁸

To “widen” is understood to mean increasing the scope or extent of something.²²¹⁹

“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.²²²⁰ 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.²²²¹ 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.²²²² 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

²²¹² 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>

²²¹³ 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>

²²¹⁴ 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>

²²¹⁵ 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>

²²¹⁶ 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

²²¹⁷ 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

²²¹⁸ 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

²²¹⁹ Widen, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/widen>

²²²⁰ Gender Inequality, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1182>

²²²¹ 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>

²²²² 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.²²²³

“Economic security” is understood to mean the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity.²²²⁴ 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.²²²⁵

“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.²²²⁶ 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.²²²⁷

To “undermine” is understood to mean weakening or ruining something by degrees.²²²⁸ Examples include resisting or impairing efforts put forth by other actors.²²²⁹

“Progress made in recent decades” is understood to mean the relevant UN declarations, processes, and calls to action to empower women and girls.²²³⁰ 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 2015.²²³¹ 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.²²³² As part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 also aims to achieve gender equality and empower all

²²²³ 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>

²²²⁴ 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>

²²²⁵ 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>

²²²⁶ Gender-based Violence, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html>

²²²⁷ 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>

²²²⁸ Undermine, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/undermine>

²²²⁹ 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

²²³⁰ 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>

²²³¹ 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)

²²³² 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.²²³³

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is.²²³⁴ 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.²²³⁵ 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.²²³⁶

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.²²³⁷ 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.²²³⁸

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.

²²³³ 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

²²³⁴ 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

²²³⁵ 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

²²³⁶ 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

²²³⁷ 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

²²³⁸ 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

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.²²³⁹ This campaign aims to eradicate and raise awareness surrounding gender-based violence in the field of production and the workplace.²²⁴⁰

On 10 December 2020, Argentina hosted the Women Economic Forum, an annual global business conference and gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders.²²⁴¹ The purpose of this forum is to promote and pursue initiatives for women’s empowerment and economic entrepreneurship.²²⁴² The conference was attended by over 150 allied countries and global chapters.²²⁴³

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.²²⁴⁴ 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.”²²⁴⁵

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

²²³⁹ 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>

²²⁴⁰ 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>

²²⁴¹ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴² WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴³ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴⁴ 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>

²²⁴⁵ 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.²²⁴⁶ This agreement will also promote greater participation of women in the energy sector through scholarships and other programs.²²⁴⁷

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.²²⁴⁸ The main objective of this Network is to implement prevention and protection policies for people affected by gender-based violence throughout the entire country.²²⁴⁹

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.²²⁵⁰ Both laws aim to support women's reproductive decisions.²²⁵¹ 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.²²⁵²

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."²²⁵³ 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.²²⁵⁴

²²⁴⁶ 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>

²²⁴⁷ 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>

²²⁴⁸ 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>

²²⁴⁹ 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>

²²⁵⁰ 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>

²²⁵¹ 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>

²²⁵² 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>

²²⁵³ 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>

²²⁵⁴ 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.²²⁵⁵ 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.²²⁵⁶

On 24 February 2021, Argentina ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.²²⁵⁷ 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.²²⁵⁸

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.²²⁵⁹ 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.²²⁶⁰ Argentina announced an investment of ARS2.1 billion into this project.²²⁶¹

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.²²⁶² The agreement seeks to prevent and address femicides and gender-based violence, and to strengthen the provincial and municipal gender areas.²²⁶³ 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.²²⁶⁴

²²⁵⁵ 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>

²²⁵⁶ 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>

²²⁵⁷ 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>

²²⁵⁸ 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>

²²⁵⁹ 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>

²²⁶⁰ 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>

²²⁶¹ 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>

²²⁶² 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>

²²⁶³ 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>

²²⁶⁴ 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.²²⁶⁵ 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.²²⁶⁶

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.²²⁶⁷ 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."²²⁶⁸ 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.²²⁶⁹

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.²²⁷⁰ 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.²²⁷¹

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.²²⁷²

²²⁶⁵ 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

²²⁶⁶ 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

²²⁶⁷ 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>

²²⁶⁸ 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>

²²⁶⁹ 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>

²²⁷⁰ 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>

²²⁷¹ 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>

²²⁷² 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.²²⁷³

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.²²⁷⁴ 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.²²⁷⁵ Undersecretary Ares highlighted the need for a maternity and paternity leave regime to promote equality in the labour market.²²⁷⁶

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.²²⁷⁷ 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.²²⁷⁸

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.²²⁷⁹ 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.²²⁸⁰

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

²²⁷³ 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>

²²⁷⁴ 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>

²²⁷⁵ 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>

²²⁷⁶ 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>

²²⁷⁷ 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>

²²⁷⁸ 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>

²²⁷⁹ 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>

²²⁸⁰ 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.²²⁸¹ 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.²²⁸² 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.²²⁸³

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.²²⁸⁴ 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.²²⁸⁵ 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.²²⁸⁶

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).²²⁸⁷ 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.²²⁸⁸

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by demonstrating strong actions in the spheres of gender-based violence and health such as implementing programs to assist survivors of gender-based violence and limited actions in the Economic Security sphere such as implementing gender-sensitive economic programs.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Leena Badri

²²⁸¹ 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>

²²⁸² 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>

²²⁸³ 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>

²²⁸⁴ 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>

²²⁸⁵ 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>

²²⁸⁶ 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>

²²⁸⁷ 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>

²²⁸⁸ 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>

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.²²⁸⁹

On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) endorsed the terms of reference for the Women's Safety Taskforce.²²⁹⁰ 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.²²⁹¹

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.²²⁹² 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."²²⁹³

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 2010-2022.²²⁹⁴ The report stated the completion of 18 initiatives per original schedule and one initiative ahead of schedule.²²⁹⁵

On 8 March 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced an AUD18 million campaign to protect women from family and domestic violence.²²⁹⁶ This is the third in the series of Stop it at the Start campaigns.²²⁹⁷ The series aim to influence young people and intervene before attitudes and behaviours develop that may lead to violence against women and gender inequality.²²⁹⁸

²²⁸⁹ 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>

²²⁹⁰ 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>

²²⁹¹ 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>

²²⁹² 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>

²²⁹³ 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>
²²⁹⁴ 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>

²²⁹⁵ 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>

²²⁹⁶ 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>

²²⁹⁷ 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>

²²⁹⁸ 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>

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.²²⁹⁹ The meeting was focused on identifying and addressing gaps in existing programs on women's issues.²³⁰⁰

On 12 April 2021, Australia released the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.²³⁰¹ This Plan builds on the first National Action Plan to protect women's human rights and increase their participation in peace and security processes.²³⁰² Additionally, the National Action Plan includes tackling increased gender-based violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁰³

On 27 April 2021, Minister Payne attended the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.²³⁰⁴ 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-19.²³⁰⁵ 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.²³⁰⁶

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.²³⁰⁷ 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.²³⁰⁸ 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

²²⁹⁹ 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>

²³⁰⁰ 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>

²³⁰¹ 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>

²³⁰² 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>

²³⁰³ 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>

²³⁰⁴ 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>

²³⁰⁵ 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>

²³⁰⁶ 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>

²³⁰⁷ 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>

²³⁰⁸ 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>

workforce participation, promote women's leadership opportunities, and support women's healthcare.²³⁰⁹

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.

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.²³¹⁰ The meeting focused on women facing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to prevent femicide.²³¹¹

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.²³¹² This investment is a part of Brazil's goals for reducing neonatal infant mortality rates, childhood mortality rates and maternal mortality rates.²³¹³

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.²³¹⁴ This meeting focused on exchanging experiences between nations and aimed to guarantee political rights to women and strengthen inclusive democracy in Brazil.²³¹⁵

²³⁰⁹ 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>

²³¹⁰ 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>

²³¹¹ 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>

²³¹² 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>

²³¹³ 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>

²³¹⁴ 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>

²³¹⁵ 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.²³¹⁶ 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.²³¹⁷

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.²³¹⁸ 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.²³¹⁹

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.²³²⁰

On 14 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL5.2 million to prevent violence against women in the state of Acre.²³²¹ 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.²³²²

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.²³²³ This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.²³²⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation

²³¹⁶ 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>

²³¹⁷ 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>

²³¹⁸ 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>

²³¹⁹ 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>

²³²⁰ 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>

²³²¹ 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>

²³²² 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>

²³²³ 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>

²³²⁴ 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.²³²⁵ More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.²³²⁶

On 28 January 2021, the MJSP launched and coordinated Operation "Resguardo" in 26 states and the Federal District.²³²⁷ The operation's goal is to combat and prevent crimes of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in domestic settings.²³²⁸ As part of this operation, police investigated complaints and surveyed open court orders specific to violence against women.²³²⁹ Complaints from Ligue 180, a free service for reporting human rights violations and violence against women launched by the MMFDH, assisted this operation.²³³⁰ In total, more than 10,300 attackers were arrested.²³³¹

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.²³³² This funding supplements institutional support for managers and healthcare professionals in Primary Health Care units and maternity hospitals.²³³³

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

²³²⁵ 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>

²³²⁶ 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>

²³²⁷ 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>

²³²⁸ 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>

²³²⁹ 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>

²³³⁰ 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>

²³³¹ 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>

²³³² 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-manaus>

²³³³ 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-manaus>

and the need to invest in women's economic autonomy.²³³⁴ At the meeting, the topic of violence against women during the pandemic was also addressed with concern.²³³⁵

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.²³³⁶ The Ministry of Health reallocated BRL13 million to the municipality of Rio de Janeiro in order to support the new Reference Center's operations.²³³⁷

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.²³³⁸ 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.²³³⁹ At the forum, the three countries emphasized their commitment to reduce gender inequality and further encourage mutual cooperation on such issues.²³⁴⁰

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.²³⁴¹ This series includes 10 videos addressing topics such as risk factors for pregnant women with COVID-19, laboratory diagnoses, telemedicine and prenatal care.²³⁴²

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

²³³⁴ 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-acoes-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

²³³⁵ 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-acoes-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

²³³⁶ 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>

²³³⁷ 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>

²³³⁸ 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/acoes-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³³⁹ 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/acoes-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³⁴⁰ 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/acoes-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³⁴¹ 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>

²³⁴² 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.²³⁴³ 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.²³⁴⁴

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.²³⁴⁵ This project was developed by the Commercial, Industrial and Services Association of Goiás and focuses on companies and their employees.²³⁴⁶

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.²³⁴⁷ 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-19.²³⁴⁸ This investment is aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁴⁹

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.²³⁵⁰ 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.²³⁵¹ This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence

²³⁴³ 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>

²³⁴⁴ 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>

²³⁴⁵ 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>

²³⁴⁶ 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>

²³⁴⁷ 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>

²³⁴⁸ 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>

²³⁴⁹ 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>

²³⁵⁰ 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>

²³⁵¹ 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.²³⁵²

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.²³⁵³ 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.²³⁵⁴ 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.²³⁵⁵

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.²³⁵⁶ 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.²³⁵⁷

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.²³⁵⁸ 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.²³⁵⁹

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

²³⁵² 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>

²³⁵³ 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>

²³⁵⁴ 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>

²³⁵⁵ 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>

²³⁵⁶ 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>

²³⁵⁷ 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>

²³⁵⁸ 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>

²³⁵⁹ 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.²³⁶⁰ This new law provides protection for pregnant women by mandating that pregnant women cannot be working in person near other people.²³⁶¹

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 Dial 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.

Analyst: Isabella Li

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.²³⁶² 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.²³⁶³ 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.²³⁶⁴ 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.²³⁶⁵

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,

²³⁶⁰ 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>

²³⁶¹ 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>

²³⁶² 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>

²³⁶³ 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>

²³⁶⁴ 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>

²³⁶⁵ 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>

persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine.²³⁶⁶ 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.²³⁶⁷

On 15 December 2020, Canada invested in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors.²³⁶⁸ This funding will support these organizations in identifying and counselling survivors of trafficking, providing transition and second stage housing, mental health services, and employment services and supports, as well as training and tools to gain financial independence.²³⁶⁹ 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.”²³⁷⁰

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.²³⁷¹ 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.²³⁷² This funding towards these frontline organizations is in recognition of their increased demand, due to the high rates of gender-

²³⁶⁶ 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>

²³⁶⁷ 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>

²³⁶⁸ 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>

²³⁶⁹ 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>

²³⁷⁰ 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>

²³⁷¹ 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>

²³⁷² 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>

based violence against women and girls, that has intensified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁷³

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).²³⁷⁴ 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.²³⁷⁵

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 to Respond to COVID-19.²³⁷⁶ 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.²³⁷⁷ 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.²³⁷⁸

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.²³⁷⁹ 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

²³⁷³ 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>

²³⁷⁴ 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>

²³⁷⁵ 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>

²³⁷⁶ 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>

²³⁷⁷ 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>

²³⁷⁸ 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>

²³⁷⁹ 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>

roles.²³⁸⁰ 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.²³⁸¹

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 2021.²³⁸² 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.²³⁸³ 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 Yemen.²³⁸⁴ 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.²³⁸⁵

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.²³⁸⁶ 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."²³⁸⁷

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.²³⁸⁸ This funding aims to support the economic

²³⁸⁰ 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>

²³⁸¹ 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>

²³⁸² 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>

²³⁸³ 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>

²³⁸⁴ 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>

²³⁸⁵ 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>

²³⁸⁶ 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>

²³⁸⁷ 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>

²³⁸⁸ 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>

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.²³⁸⁹

On 8 March 2021, Canada hosted a two-day summit titled “Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery” to mark International Women’s Day.²³⁹⁰ 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.²³⁹¹ 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.²³⁹²

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced investments in two women’s organizations.²³⁹³ The ministry will provide CAD250,000 in funding to the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto and CAD205,752 to support the North York Women’s Centre.²³⁹⁴ The purpose of these investments is to continue advancing the gender equality initiatives of the aforementioned organizations in their communities.²³⁹⁵

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.²³⁹⁶ 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.²³⁹⁷

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.²³⁹⁸ This group aims at centralizing public

²³⁸⁹ 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>

²³⁹⁰ 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>

²³⁹¹ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹² Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹³ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁴ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁵ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁶ 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-chairest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

²³⁹⁷ 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-chairest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

²³⁹⁸ 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>

policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²³⁹⁹

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.²⁴⁰⁰ 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.²⁴⁰¹

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 women's economic recovery.²⁴⁰² 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.²⁴⁰³ These sustained investments will work towards building a post-pandemic recovery that is inclusive of women and that addresses systemic gender inequality issues.²⁴⁰⁴

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.²⁴⁰⁵ This investment is aimed at helping organizations that

²³⁹⁹ 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>

²⁴⁰⁰ 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>

²⁴⁰¹ 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>

²⁴⁰² 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>

²⁴⁰³ 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>

²⁴⁰⁴ 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>

²⁴⁰⁵ 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>

empower women entrepreneurs with tools they need to maintain or expand their businesses, and offset the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁰⁶

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: –1

China has failed to comply 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 March 2020, 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.²⁴⁰⁷ President Xi stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.²⁴⁰⁸ He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women's undertakings.²⁴⁰⁹ These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women's rights.²⁴¹⁰

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).²⁴¹¹ At the symposium, participants provided suggestions on solving inadequacies faced by women and children in relation to economic development, livelihoods and social participation.²⁴¹² This symposium also focused on

²⁴⁰⁶ 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>

²⁴⁰⁷ 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>

²⁴⁰⁸ 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>

²⁴⁰⁹ 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>

²⁴¹⁰ 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>

²⁴¹¹ 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>

²⁴¹² 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>

targets to eliminate gender discrimination in employment and to improve rural maternal and child health services.²⁴¹³

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.”²⁴¹⁴ 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 colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.²⁴¹⁵ Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.²⁴¹⁶

On 9 April 2021, the Office of the State Council approved China’s Action Plan Against Human Trafficking for the period of 2021 to 2030.²⁴¹⁷ 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.²⁴¹⁸ The government also aims to strengthen exchanges and cooperation for anti-trafficking work with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Women.²⁴¹⁹

China has not taken sufficient action or made any 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 gender-based violence).

²⁴¹³ 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>

²⁴¹⁴ 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

²⁴¹⁵ 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

²⁴¹⁶ 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

²⁴¹⁷ 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

²⁴¹⁸ 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

²⁴¹⁹ 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

Thus, China receives a score of -1 .²⁴²⁰

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.²⁴²¹ 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.²⁴²²

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.²⁴²³ 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.²⁴²⁴ The additional funds brings the total budget for fighting menstrual insecurity to EUR5 million.²⁴²⁵

On 16 February 2021, the National Assembly passed an anti-radicalism bill focused on tackling Islamist extremism and separatism.²⁴²⁶ 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,

²⁴²⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gov.cn/english/>, <http://search.mof.gov.cn/>, <http://www.moj.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mca.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mps.gov.cn/>, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/, <http://en.moe.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/>, <http://en.nhc.gov.cn/>, <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/>, <http://www.ilo.org>, <https://en.unesco.org/>, <http://www.womenofchina.cn/>, <https://newssearch.chinadaily.com.cn/>, <https://chinadigitaltimes.net/china-news/main/law/>, <http://www.china.org.cn/>, <http://www.wsic.ac.cn/>, <http://en.people.cn/>, <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/governmentandpolicy/>, <http://www.cnwomen.com.cn/>, <http://www.nwccw.gov.cn/>, and <https://www.cwdf.org.cn/en/>

²⁴²¹ 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>

²⁴²² 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>

²⁴²³ 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>

²⁴²⁴ 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>

²⁴²⁵ 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>

²⁴²⁶ 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>

forced marriages and banning virginity certificates and tests.²⁴²⁷ 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.²⁴²⁸

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.²⁴²⁹ The aim of this is to improve gender equality, class attendance and subsequently lead to improved employment and education for women and girls.²⁴³⁰

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.²⁴³¹ 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.²⁴³² 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.²⁴³³ 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.”²⁴³⁴

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

²⁴²⁷ 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>

²⁴²⁸ 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>

²⁴²⁹ 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>

²⁴³⁰ 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>

²⁴³¹ 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>

²⁴³² 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>

²⁴³³ 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>

²⁴³⁴ 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>

international standard on gender equality.²⁴³⁵ 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.²⁴³⁶ 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.²⁴³⁷

On 29 March 2021, France and Mexico co-chaired the first portion of the Generation Equality Forum.²⁴³⁸ 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.²⁴³⁹ 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.²⁴⁴⁰ The purpose of the forum is to develop partnerships that will allow countries to swiftly implement large scale actions addressing gender equality.²⁴⁴¹

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.²⁴⁴² This group aims at centralizing public

²⁴³⁵ 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>

²⁴³⁶ 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>

²⁴³⁷ 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>

²⁴³⁸ 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>

²⁴³⁹ 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>

²⁴⁴⁰ 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>

²⁴⁴¹ 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>

²⁴⁴² 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.²⁴⁴³

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.²⁴⁴⁴ 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.²⁴⁴⁵ The legislation was introduced as a way of preventing future instances of sexual assault.²⁴⁴⁶

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.²⁴⁴⁷ 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.²⁴⁴⁸ The law was passed by the German Parliament on 11 June 2021.²⁴⁴⁹

²⁴⁴³ 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>

²⁴⁴⁴ 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>

²⁴⁴⁵ 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>

²⁴⁴⁶ 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>

²⁴⁴⁷ 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>

²⁴⁴⁸ 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>

²⁴⁴⁹ 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>

On 14 January 2021, Germany donated EUR1 million to the Rapid Response Window initiative.²⁴⁵⁰ 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.²⁴⁵¹ This donation makes Germany the initiative's biggest donor to date.²⁴⁵²

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.²⁴⁵³ 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 abroad.²⁴⁵⁴ 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.²⁴⁵⁵

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."²⁴⁵⁶ 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.²⁴⁵⁷ This is the first strategy with strictly binding indicators in order to measure progress.²⁴⁵⁸

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

²⁴⁵⁰ 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>

²⁴⁵¹ 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>

²⁴⁵² 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>

²⁴⁵³ 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-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁴ 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-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁵ 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-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁶ 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>

²⁴⁵⁷ 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>

²⁴⁵⁸ 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>

Structure of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum.²⁴⁵⁹

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.²⁴⁶⁰ During the event, panelists presented possible strategies to improve the digital participation and empowerment of women online and to eradicate online gender based violence.²⁴⁶¹ 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.²⁴⁶²

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 their voices count?”²⁴⁶³ 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.²⁴⁶⁴ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.²⁴⁶⁵

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.”²⁴⁶⁶ 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.²⁴⁶⁷

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

²⁴⁵⁹ 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>

²⁴⁶⁰ 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>

²⁴⁶¹ 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>

²⁴⁶² 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>

²⁴⁶³ 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>

²⁴⁶⁴ 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>

²⁴⁶⁵ 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>

²⁴⁶⁶ 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>

²⁴⁶⁷ 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>

of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁴⁶⁸ 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.²⁴⁶⁹

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation.²⁴⁷⁰ The foundation will work by showing where more equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality with citizens.²⁴⁷¹ 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.²⁴⁷²

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.²⁴⁷³ This is part of the Online Access Act, which stipulates that all administrative services must be available online by the end of 2022.²⁴⁷⁴ Online services would include daycare service registration, applications for benefits for abortion, applications for benefits due to pregnancy, and application for parental allowances.²⁴⁷⁵ The Federal Government of Germany will invest EUR134 million to increase digital access to family benefits.²⁴⁷⁶

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

²⁴⁶⁸ 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>

²⁴⁶⁹ 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>

²⁴⁷⁰ 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>

²⁴⁷¹ 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>

²⁴⁷² 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>

²⁴⁷³ 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>

²⁴⁷⁴ 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>

²⁴⁷⁵ 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>

²⁴⁷⁶ 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>

India: 0

India has partially 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.

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.²⁴⁷⁷ 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.²⁴⁷⁸

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.²⁴⁷⁹ The goal of this scheme is to protect “weaker and vulnerable sections” of Indian society during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁸⁰

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment’s Employees’ State Insurance Corporation announced policy changes to improve services for insured women.²⁴⁸¹ One policy change is a relaxation in contributory conditions covering sickness and maternity benefits between January to June 2021.²⁴⁸² 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.²⁴⁸³

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, 1971.²⁴⁸⁴ 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

²⁴⁷⁷ 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>

²⁴⁷⁸ 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>

²⁴⁷⁹ 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>

²⁴⁸⁰ 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>

²⁴⁸¹ 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>

²⁴⁸² 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>

²⁴⁸³ 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>

²⁴⁸⁴ 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>

of 12 weeks on one doctor's advice and 12-20 weeks on two doctors' advice.²⁴⁸⁵ This bill also increases access to abortion for women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault.²⁴⁸⁶

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 the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.²⁴⁸⁷ 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.²⁴⁸⁸

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.²⁴⁸⁹ 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.²⁴⁹⁰ These guidelines also include a long term plan of improving infrastructure such as video surveillance technology and light masts.²⁴⁹¹ 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.²⁴⁹²

On 21 March 2021, India achieved its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres by 31 March 2021.²⁴⁹³ 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.²⁴⁹⁴

On 2 April 2021, India allocated USD300,000 in funding to UN Women in support for gender equality and women empowerment.²⁴⁹⁵

²⁴⁸⁵ 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>

²⁴⁸⁶ 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>

²⁴⁸⁷ 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>

²⁴⁸⁸ 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>

²⁴⁸⁹ 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>

²⁴⁹⁰ 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>

²⁴⁹¹ 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>

²⁴⁹² 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>

²⁴⁹³ 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>

²⁴⁹⁴ 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>

²⁴⁹⁵ 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>

While India has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the sphere of Economic Security through welfare schemes and policy changes, India has taken limited actions in the other two spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

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.²⁴⁹⁶ The Hub is meant to support the improvement of maternal and child health, family planning, and reproductive health in Indonesia.²⁴⁹⁷

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.²⁴⁹⁸ These Guidelines are aimed at governmental ministries and agencies, local governmental organizations and program or service providers related to women.²⁴⁹⁹ 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.²⁵⁰⁰

On 16 December 2020, PPPA implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Family Equality.²⁵⁰¹ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human

²⁴⁹⁶ 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>

²⁴⁹⁷ 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>

²⁴⁹⁸ 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>

²⁴⁹⁹ 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>

²⁵⁰⁰ 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>

²⁵⁰¹ 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>

trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁰² The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.²⁵⁰³

On 29 December 2020, the PPPA signed a memorandum of understanding with Permodalan Nasional Madani to strengthen women's empowerment in entrepreneurship.²⁵⁰⁴ The memorandum is on the "Participation of Women in Ultra Micro and Micro Business Actors in Women's Empowerment and Child Protection."²⁵⁰⁵

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 development for Indonesian women and children with disabilities.²⁵⁰⁶ 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.²⁵⁰⁷

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.²⁵⁰⁸

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

²⁵⁰² 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>

²⁵⁰³ 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>

²⁵⁰⁴ 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>

²⁵⁰⁵ 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>

²⁵⁰⁶ 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/>

²⁵⁰⁷ 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/>

²⁵⁰⁸ 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>

for women and children.²⁵⁰⁹ 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.²⁵¹⁰

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia signed a decree that banned abusive dress codes for female students and teachers in Indonesia's state schools.²⁵¹¹ This is meant to end discrimination and to give women and children their agency back.²⁵¹²

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).²⁵¹³ This Draft Bill was removed from the 2020 Prolegnas ("National Legislation Program") and the PPPA has pushed for the Draft Bill's re-inclusion in the 2021 Prolegnas.²⁵¹⁴ The House of Representative included RUU PKS into the 2021 Prolegnas at a plenary session.²⁵¹⁵

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).²⁵¹⁶ 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.²⁵¹⁷ This dial service can also be accessed through WhatsApp in order to further increase access to the SAPA 129 service.²⁵¹⁸

²⁵⁰⁹ 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>

²⁵¹⁰ 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>

²⁵¹¹ 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>

²⁵¹² 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>

²⁵¹³ 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>

²⁵¹⁴ 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>

²⁵¹⁵ 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>

²⁵¹⁶ 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>

²⁵¹⁷ 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>

²⁵¹⁸ 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>

While Indonesia has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence through international partnerships, national programs, and policy changes, Indonesia has only taken limited steps in the sphere of Economic Security.

Thus, Indonesia has received 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.²⁵¹⁹ The main goal of the program is to raise awareness, training and information on combating gender-based violence.²⁵²⁰

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 violent behaviour and indifference.²⁵²¹ 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.²⁵²²

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.”²⁵²³

²⁵¹⁹ 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-unic-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-oppportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

²⁵²⁰ 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-unic-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-oppportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

²⁵²¹ 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>

²⁵²² 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>

²⁵²³ 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/>

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.²⁵²⁴

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 2023.²⁵²⁵ The budget allocates EUR50 million to support and enhance organizational measures favouring working mothers' return after childbirth.²⁵²⁶ The Ministry of Economic Development has also forecasted a budget of EUR20 million for 2021 and 2022 to strengthen, promote and support female entrepreneurship.²⁵²⁷ Additionally, the budget allocates expenditures of EUR2 million per year to guarantee and implement the presence and institution of psychological professionals in penitentiaries.²⁵²⁸ The psychologists should have expertise in intensified cognitive-behavioural treatments for perpetrators of crimes against women, which would be applied to prevent recidivism.²⁵²⁹

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies announced the Second Circolare, 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 2020.²⁵³⁰ 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.²⁵³¹

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published a breakdown of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.²⁵³² 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;

²⁵²⁴ 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/>

²⁵²⁵ 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>

²⁵²⁶ 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>

²⁵²⁷ 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>

²⁵²⁸ 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>

²⁵²⁹ 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>

²⁵³⁰ 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>

²⁵³¹ 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>

²⁵³² 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/>

inclusion and cohesion; and health.²⁵³³ 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.²⁵³⁴ 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.²⁵³⁵

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation.²⁵³⁶ 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.²⁵³⁷

On 19 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio reaffirmed Italy's commitment to promoting women's empowerment.²⁵³⁸ 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 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.²⁵³⁹

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

²⁵³³ 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/>

²⁵³⁴ 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/>

²⁵³⁵ 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/iredominioni/2021/03/08/italy-celebrates-women-but-its-a-long-road-to-gender-parity/?sh=333ae8083b20>

²⁵³⁶ 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

²⁵³⁷ 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

²⁵³⁸ 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

²⁵³⁹ 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

to G20 members.²⁵⁴⁰ During Minister Bonetti's address to the Women20 group, she remarked the importance of empowering women as a fundamental element for gender equality.²⁵⁴¹

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the National Institute of Social Security issued the 32nd Circolare.²⁵⁴² 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."²⁵⁴³

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.²⁵⁴⁴ 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.²⁵⁴⁵ This service will target health care but also recognize and promote women's rights.²⁵⁴⁶

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 minor children in distance learning or quarantine.²⁵⁴⁷ The decree detailed the possibilities of "smart working," temporary leaves and a babysitting bonus for working parents.²⁵⁴⁸

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).²⁵⁴⁹ They discussed the strategies and action plans of their

²⁵⁴⁰ 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/>

²⁵⁴¹ 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/>

²⁵⁴² 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>

²⁵⁴³ 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>

²⁵⁴⁴ 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>

²⁵⁴⁵ 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>

²⁵⁴⁶ 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>

²⁵⁴⁷ 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/>

²⁵⁴⁸ 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/>

²⁵⁴⁹ 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/>

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.²⁵⁵⁰

On 19 March 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the general debate during the CSW65.²⁵⁵¹ 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.²⁵⁵²

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.²⁵⁵³ The state has dedicated a budget of EUR23 billion for this initiative, with payments planned to begin in July 2021.²⁵⁵⁴ This initiative aims to support parents, favour birth rates, and promote employment, especially among women.²⁵⁵⁵ 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.²⁵⁵⁶

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.²⁵⁵⁷ The research aims to produce results with an explicit applicative orientation for the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.²⁵⁵⁸ This research will target a women's health issue that affects at least three million Italian women.²⁵⁵⁹

²⁵⁵⁰ 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/>

²⁵⁵¹ 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-intervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

²⁵⁵² 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-intervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

²⁵⁵³ 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>

²⁵⁵⁴ 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>

²⁵⁵⁵ 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>

²⁵⁵⁶ 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>

²⁵⁵⁷ 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

²⁵⁵⁸ 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

²⁵⁵⁹ 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

On 29 March 2021, Minister Bonetti joined the first event of the Generation Equality Forum, which took place in Mexico City with UN Women.²⁵⁶⁰ She addressed participants through videoconference and reaffirmed Italy's commitment to national gender equality.²⁵⁶¹ 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.²⁵⁶²

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 2021.²⁵⁶³ The event will be aimed at enhancing women's talent and leadership as well as promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence.²⁵⁶⁴ The results of the discussion will be brought to the attention of G20 Leaders before the summit in October 2021.²⁵⁶⁵

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.²⁵⁶⁶ 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.²⁵⁶⁷ The program will also offer the possibility for women who are identified to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.²⁵⁶⁸ 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.²⁵⁶⁹

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

²⁵⁶⁰ 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/>

²⁵⁶¹ 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/>

²⁵⁶² 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/>

²⁵⁶³ 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-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁴ 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-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁵ 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-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁶ 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>

²⁵⁶⁷ 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>

²⁵⁶⁸ 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>

²⁵⁶⁹ 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>

and in representative assemblies.²⁵⁷⁰ 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.²⁵⁷¹

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.²⁵⁷² During the meeting, Minister Bonetti outlined the actions planned to strengthen the government's interventions on the anti-violence front.²⁵⁷³ In particular, she discussed the allocation of EUR30 million for resources for anti-violence centers and shelters in 2021.²⁵⁷⁴

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 G20.²⁵⁷⁵ The event promotes inclusive growth and gender equality and supports commitments to strengthen women's leadership in the private sector.²⁵⁷⁶ 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.²⁵⁷⁷

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.

²⁵⁷⁰ 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>

²⁵⁷¹ 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>

²⁵⁷² 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>

²⁵⁷³ 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>

²⁵⁷⁴ 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>

²⁵⁷⁵ 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/>

²⁵⁷⁶ 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/>

²⁵⁷⁷ 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 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.²⁵⁷⁸ 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.²⁵⁷⁹

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.²⁵⁸⁰ Minister Marukawa announced that based on these ideas, the Cabinet formed the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality in December 2020.²⁵⁸¹ The plan aims to implement measures to increase women’s participation in leadership positions and to create a gender-equal society within the 2030s.²⁵⁸²

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 the Commission on the Status of Women.²⁵⁸³ Minister Marukawa stated that Japan drafted the 2020 Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality with these considerations in mind.²⁵⁸⁴

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.²⁵⁸⁵ This Group of Friends aims to foster cooperation among like-minded countries striving towards gender equality and women’s empowerment.²⁵⁸⁶ At this meeting, Minister Uto announced that the Government of Japan has decided to participate in the Actions Coalitions focusing on gender-based violence.²⁵⁸⁷

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

²⁵⁷⁸ 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

²⁵⁷⁹ 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

²⁵⁸⁰ 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

²⁵⁸¹ 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

²⁵⁸² 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

²⁵⁸³ 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>

²⁵⁸⁴ 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>

²⁵⁸⁵ 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

²⁵⁸⁶ 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

²⁵⁸⁷ 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

Guinea that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁸⁸ 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.²⁵⁸⁹ 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.²⁵⁹⁰ 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.²⁵⁹¹

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.²⁵⁹² 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.²⁵⁹³ 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.²⁵⁹⁴ 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.²⁵⁹⁵

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.²⁵⁹⁶ These measures focus on providing responsive and preventive care to vulnerable children and women covering issues like gender-based violence and primary healthcare.²⁵⁹⁷

²⁵⁸⁸ 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>

²⁵⁸⁹ 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>

²⁵⁹⁰ 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>

²⁵⁹¹ 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>

²⁵⁹² 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>

²⁵⁹³ 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>

²⁵⁹⁴ 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>

²⁵⁹⁵ 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>

²⁵⁹⁶ 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>

²⁵⁹⁷ 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>

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.²⁵⁹⁸ The Government of Japan is providing over USD2.8 million to support this project from April 2021 to March 2022.²⁵⁹⁹ 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.²⁶⁰⁰

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 in support of women's Health and Economic Security as well as efforts to combat Gender-Based 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."²⁶⁰¹ The conference specifically discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual violence in conflicts and plans to support survivors after the pandemic.²⁶⁰²

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.²⁶⁰³ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-

²⁵⁹⁸ 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>

²⁵⁹⁹ 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>

²⁶⁰⁰ 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>

²⁶⁰¹ 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

²⁶⁰² 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

²⁶⁰³ 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>

19 pandemic.²⁶⁰⁴ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.²⁶⁰⁵

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.²⁶⁰⁶ 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.²⁶⁰⁷ MOGEF will also provide anti-epidemic materials to childcare workers visiting households such as masks and hand 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.²⁶⁰⁸

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.²⁶⁰⁹ These guidelines aim to encourage public institutions to improve their organizational culture and prevent violence against women at workplaces.²⁶¹⁰ The guidelines highlight preventive measures and education institution chiefs and members should take, punishment for perpetrators, and measures to handle complaints.²⁶¹¹

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.²⁶¹² On work-life balance, Korea announced an expansion of childcare infrastructure such as

²⁶⁰⁴ 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>

²⁶⁰⁵ 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>

²⁶⁰⁶ 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

²⁶⁰⁷ 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

²⁶⁰⁸ 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

²⁶⁰⁹ 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

²⁶¹⁰ 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

²⁶¹¹ 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

²⁶¹² 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

introducing and expanding pilot programs of community childcare.²⁶¹³ 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.²⁶¹⁴

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.²⁶¹⁵ 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 of a subsidy paid to businesses hiring women.²⁶¹⁶ The new measures are expected to create more than 780,000 women’s jobs.²⁶¹⁷

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.²⁶¹⁸ 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.²⁶¹⁹ This includes KRW50,000 a day for up to 10 days during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶²⁰

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.”²⁶²¹ His remarks aimed to encourage the prioritization of gender equality initiatives, and subsequently lead to improved employment for women and girls.²⁶²²

²⁶¹³ 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

²⁶¹⁴ 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

²⁶¹⁵ 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

²⁶¹⁶ 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

²⁶¹⁷ 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

²⁶¹⁸ 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

²⁶¹⁹ 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

²⁶²⁰ 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

²⁶²¹ 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>

²⁶²² 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>

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.²⁶²³ 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.²⁶²⁴

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, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁶²⁵ 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.²⁶²⁶

Korea has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through increasing access to affordable childcare services, enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks, and introducing national plans to eliminate violence against women. Korea has only taken some limited actions in the Health sphere.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rana Al-Fayez

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

²⁶²³ 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=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTEIMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0ZwYyWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpZGVuV3JkU2VxJTNEJTI2cmdzQmduZGVVdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmIzVmld01pbmUIM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2

²⁶²⁴ 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=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTEIMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0ZwYyWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpZGVuV3JkU2VxJTNEJTI2cmdzQmduZGVVdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmIzVmld01pbmUIM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2

²⁶²⁵ 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>

²⁶²⁶ 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>

Legislative Power.²⁶²⁷ 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.²⁶²⁸ 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.²⁶²⁹ 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.²⁶³⁰

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.²⁶³¹ 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.²⁶³² 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.²⁶³³ The promulgation of the aforementioned decree makes the examination of PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 measures mandatory for Federal Public Administration’s agencies and entities.²⁶³⁴

On 27 January 2021, Mexico extended the Second Change Programme, which allows women to learn empowerment, leadership skills and entrepreneurship by running a greenhouse.²⁶³⁵ This initiative aims to help decrease poverty and help increase female empowerment.²⁶³⁶

²⁶²⁷ 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>

²⁶²⁸ 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>

²⁶²⁹ 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>

²⁶³⁰ 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>

²⁶³¹ 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>

²⁶³² 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>

²⁶³³ 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>

²⁶³⁴ 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>

²⁶³⁵ 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.²⁶³⁷ 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.²⁶³⁸ 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.²⁶³⁹

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.²⁶⁴⁰ 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.²⁶⁴¹

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.²⁶⁴² 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.²⁶⁴³ 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

²⁶³⁶ 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>

²⁶³⁷ 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>

²⁶³⁸ 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>

²⁶³⁹ 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>

²⁶⁴⁰ '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>

²⁶⁴¹ '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>

²⁶⁴² 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>

²⁶⁴³ 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.²⁶⁴⁴

On 18 March 2021, Mexico joined Bolivia in strengthening legal sanctions against violence around women in politics.²⁶⁴⁵ This initiative aims at amending eight national laws to prevent violence against women in politics.²⁶⁴⁶ This reaffirms a greater emphasis in decreasing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶⁴⁷

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.”²⁶⁴⁸ 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.²⁶⁴⁹ The INMUJERES also committed to work towards the independence and prevention of violence against women and girls with disabilities.²⁶⁵⁰ The purpose of the webinar was to discuss the importance of recognizing and increasing the visibility of reproductive rights of females with disabilities.²⁶⁵¹ The program also aimed to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding disabled females and the exercise of their sexuality.²⁶⁵²

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

²⁶⁴⁴ 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>

²⁶⁴⁵ 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>

²⁶⁴⁶ 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>

²⁶⁴⁷ 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>

²⁶⁴⁸ 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>

²⁶⁴⁹ 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>

²⁶⁵⁰ 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>

²⁶⁵¹ 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>

²⁶⁵² 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.”²⁶⁵³ 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.²⁶⁵⁴

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.²⁶⁵⁵ 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.²⁶⁵⁶ 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.”²⁶⁵⁷

On 14 April 2021, the INMUJERES held the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men.²⁶⁵⁸ 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.²⁶⁵⁹ 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.²⁶⁶⁰

²⁶⁵³ 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>

²⁶⁵⁴ 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>

²⁶⁵⁵ 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>

²⁶⁵⁶ 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>

²⁶⁵⁷ 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>

²⁶⁵⁸ 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>

²⁶⁵⁹ 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>

²⁶⁶⁰ 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.²⁶⁶¹ This panel aims to highlight the situation that Mexican women face in regard to unpaid work.²⁶⁶² 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.²⁶⁶³ 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.²⁶⁶⁴

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 actions regarding sexual and reproductive rights.

Thus, Mexico has received 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.²⁶⁶⁵ 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.”²⁶⁶⁶ 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.²⁶⁶⁷

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-

²⁶⁶¹ 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>

²⁶⁶² 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>

²⁶⁶³ 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>

²⁶⁶⁴ 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>

²⁶⁶⁵ 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/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

²⁶⁶⁶ 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/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

²⁶⁶⁷ 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/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

person from 13 to 15 October 2021.²⁶⁶⁸ 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.²⁶⁶⁹ 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.²⁶⁷⁰ The forthcoming Forum will be an opportunity to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on women, and to implement new projects focused on women empowerment.²⁶⁷¹

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.²⁶⁷² 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.²⁶⁷³

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-19.²⁶⁷⁴ These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation.²⁶⁷⁵

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

²⁶⁶⁸ 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

²⁶⁶⁹ 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

²⁶⁷⁰ 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

²⁶⁷¹ 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

²⁶⁷² 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>

²⁶⁷³ 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>

²⁶⁷⁴ 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-metodrekommendatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

²⁶⁷⁵ 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-metodrekommendatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.²⁶⁷⁶ 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."²⁶⁷⁷ 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 2021.²⁶⁷⁸

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 domestic violence, problems of regional health care, and hot meals for school children.²⁶⁷⁹ 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.²⁶⁸⁰

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.²⁶⁸¹ 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.²⁶⁸²

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, field obstetric centers and general practice departments in both urban and rural areas.²⁶⁸³ At least RUB500 billion will be allocated for this program until 2025 and of which RUB90 billion is solely for 2021.²⁶⁸⁴

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.²⁶⁸⁵ In

²⁶⁷⁶ 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-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁷ 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-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁸ 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-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁹ 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/>

²⁶⁸⁰ 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/>

²⁶⁸¹ 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/>

²⁶⁸² 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/>

²⁶⁸³ 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/>

²⁶⁸⁴ 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/>

²⁶⁸⁵ 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>

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.²⁶⁸⁶ 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.²⁶⁸⁷ 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.²⁶⁸⁸ These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families in order to minimise the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.²⁶⁸⁹

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.²⁶⁹⁰ The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.²⁶⁹¹ 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 2024.²⁶⁹²

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 has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Delaney Murphy

²⁶⁸⁶ 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>

²⁶⁸⁷ 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>

²⁶⁸⁸ 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>

²⁶⁸⁹ 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>

²⁶⁹⁰ 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/>

²⁶⁹¹ 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/>

²⁶⁹² 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/>

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.²⁶⁹³ 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 SAR50,000.²⁶⁹⁴

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.²⁶⁹⁵ The project provides support through the Minimum Service Package, which includes reproductive and maternal health services for up to 1.8 million people.²⁶⁹⁶

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.²⁶⁹⁷ 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.²⁶⁹⁸

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.²⁶⁹⁹ 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.²⁷⁰⁰ 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.²⁷⁰¹

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.²⁷⁰² The reforms include

²⁶⁹³ 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>

²⁶⁹⁴ 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>

²⁶⁹⁵ 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>

²⁶⁹⁶ 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>

²⁶⁹⁷ 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>

²⁶⁹⁸ 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>

²⁶⁹⁹ 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>

²⁷⁰⁰ 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>

²⁷⁰¹ 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>

²⁷⁰² Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

four new laws: the Personal Status Law, the Civil Transactions Law, the Penal Code for Discretionary Sanctions, and the Law of Evidence.²⁷⁰³ These reforms are focused on removing legal discrepancies and providing a system of checks and balances to avoid painful consequences imposed on women.²⁷⁰⁴ The 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.²⁷⁰⁵

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.²⁷⁰⁶ 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.²⁷⁰⁷

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.²⁷⁰⁸ 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.²⁷⁰⁹

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.²⁷¹⁰ The Ministry of Culture's top positions are held by women such as chief executive officers, managing directors as well as operational managers.²⁷¹¹

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.²⁷¹² 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.²⁷¹³

²⁷⁰³ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁴ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁵ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁶ 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-/>

²⁷⁰⁷ 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-/>

²⁷⁰⁸ 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>

²⁷⁰⁹ 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>

²⁷¹⁰ 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>

²⁷¹¹ 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>

²⁷¹² 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>

²⁷¹³ 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>

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.²⁷¹⁴ Secretary General Al-Twajjri noted that this included the elimination of discrimination against women and the protection of women from violence.²⁷¹⁵ Secretary General Al-Twajjri 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.²⁷¹⁶

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.²⁷¹⁷ 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.²⁷¹⁸

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.²⁷¹⁹ 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.²⁷²⁰ This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.²⁷²¹

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health introduced a blueprint for women's right to health, which includes sexual and reproductive healthcare services.²⁷²² 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.²⁷²³ 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.²⁷²⁴

²⁷¹⁴ 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>

²⁷¹⁵ 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>

²⁷¹⁶ 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>

²⁷¹⁷ 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/>

²⁷¹⁸ 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/>

²⁷¹⁹ 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>

²⁷²⁰ 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>

²⁷²¹ 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>

²⁷²² 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>

²⁷²³ 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>

²⁷²⁴ 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>

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.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Annabelle Bourzeix

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.²⁷²⁵ 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.²⁷²⁶

On 11 January 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa deemed gender-based violence and femicide to be the country's second pandemic.²⁷²⁷ South Africa is addressing gender-based violence and femicide by collaborating with civil society to create behavioural change in taxi drivers and taxi marshals.²⁷²⁸ Further actions include sensitizing religious leaders to issues with the patriarchal system and gender-based violence.²⁷²⁹ 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.²⁷³⁰

On 4 February 2021, President Ramaphosa launched the first Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund.²⁷³¹ In one day, the private sector pledged ZAR128 million for the GBVF.²⁷³² This fund is for the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.²⁷³³ The National Strategic Plan has six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership; Prevention

²⁷²⁵ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunched 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>

²⁷²⁶ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunched 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>

²⁷²⁷ 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>

²⁷²⁸ 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>

²⁷²⁹ 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>

²⁷³⁰ 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>

²⁷³¹ 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>

²⁷³² 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>

²⁷³³ 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>

and Rebuilding Social Cohesion; Justice, Safety and Protection; Response, Care, Support and Healing; Economic Power; and Research and Information Management.²⁷³⁴

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.²⁷³⁵ President Ramaphosa underscored the four main challenges of African women to financial inclusion, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷³⁶ President Ramaphosa also conveyed the tangible actions South Africa has taken to include women financially.²⁷³⁷ For example, South Africa is developing the Financial Inclusion Policy.²⁷³⁸ This is a national policy that ensures 40 per cent of public procurement favours women.²⁷³⁹ This meeting with Queen Máxima solidified the mutual desire to continue to work towards the shared goal of the economic empowerment of women.²⁷⁴⁰

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.²⁷⁴¹ In addition, South Africa allocated around ZAR3 million for women's shelters supporting victims of GBVF.²⁷⁴² These implementations were taken in accordance with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030.²⁷⁴³

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.²⁷⁴⁴ The Victim Empowerment Programme aims to strengthen preventative and support

²⁷³⁴ 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>

²⁷³⁵ 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>

²⁷³⁶ 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>

²⁷³⁷ 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>

²⁷³⁸ 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>

²⁷³⁹ 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>

²⁷⁴⁰ 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>

²⁷⁴¹ 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>

²⁷⁴² 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>

²⁷⁴³ 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>

²⁷⁴⁴ 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>

services for survivors of gender-based violence and femicide.²⁷⁴⁵ The National Development Agency received approval to fund 312 civil society organizations with ZAR85.6 million.²⁷⁴⁶ As part of this funding, ZAR36.75 million has been distributed to approved community service organizations.²⁷⁴⁷

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.²⁷⁴⁸ For example, women face discrimination for unpaid care work, unequal pay, unemployment, and barriers to accessing employment, which have all been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁴⁹ Government emergency relief measures only pertain to women in formal sectors, meaning that there was unequal access to financial support.²⁷⁵⁰

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.²⁷⁵¹ This comes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁵² Gender mainstreaming equally considers the interests and concerns of women and men in order to promote inclusivity.²⁷⁵³ 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.²⁷⁵⁴ 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.²⁷⁵⁵

²⁷⁴⁵ 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>

²⁷⁴⁶ 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>

²⁷⁴⁷ 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>

²⁷⁴⁸ 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>

²⁷⁴⁹ 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>

²⁷⁵⁰ 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>

²⁷⁵¹ 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>

²⁷⁵² 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>

²⁷⁵³ 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>

²⁷⁵⁴ 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>

²⁷⁵⁵ 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>

On 17 March 2021, the National Development Agency's Men's GBVF Dialogue rallied pledges from men in the Lejweleputswa District.²⁷⁵⁶ The GBVF Dialogue is a platform for conversations that bring about social change.²⁷⁵⁷ The National Development Agency is engaging cross-sectoral organizations and community stakeholders, pledging zero tolerance to gender-based violence.²⁷⁵⁸ The National Development Agency also funds seven GBVF organizations in the Lejweleputswa District with programming that supports those affected by GBVF.²⁷⁵⁹ This work is especially relevant as the COVID-19 pandemic has increased reports of violence against women and girls.²⁷⁶⁰

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.²⁷⁶¹ 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.²⁷⁶²

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.²⁷⁶³ This walk raised awareness about gender-based violence and engaged community organizations and victim-empowerment services.²⁷⁶⁴

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.²⁷⁶⁵ The event highlights the specific

²⁷⁵⁶ 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>

²⁷⁵⁷ 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>

²⁷⁵⁸ 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>

²⁷⁵⁹ 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>

²⁷⁶⁰ 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>

²⁷⁶¹ 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>

²⁷⁶² 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>

²⁷⁶³ 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>

²⁷⁶⁴ 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>

²⁷⁶⁵ 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>

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.²⁷⁶⁶

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.²⁷⁶⁷ 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.²⁷⁶⁸

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.²⁷⁶⁹ The ERAP on GBVF was first introduced in 2019 as a ZAR1.6 billion plan to address GBVF.²⁷⁷⁰ 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.²⁷⁷¹ It highlights positive interventions and those that did not achieve its intended goal, shaping future efforts to address gender inequalities.²⁷⁷²

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.²⁷⁷³ PSETA is a partnership with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Microsoft South Africa and Afrika

²⁷⁶⁶ 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>

²⁷⁶⁷ 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>

²⁷⁶⁸ 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>

²⁷⁶⁹ 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>

²⁷⁷⁰ 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>

²⁷⁷¹ 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>

²⁷⁷² 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>

²⁷⁷³ 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>

Tikkun Services that aims to equip unemployed women and youth with digital skills.²⁷⁷⁴ This creates more opportunities for the economic inclusion of women.²⁷⁷⁵

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.²⁷⁷⁶ This emphasizes the prominent role women play in society and the importance of tackling the discrimination women face.²⁷⁷⁷

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, 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

Turkey: 0

Turkey 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 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.²⁷⁷⁸ 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.²⁷⁷⁹

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.²⁷⁸⁰ In order to reduce the

²⁷⁷⁴ 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>

²⁷⁷⁵ 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>

²⁷⁷⁶ 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>

²⁷⁷⁷ 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>

²⁷⁷⁸ 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/>

²⁷⁷⁹ 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/>

²⁷⁸⁰ 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-iscucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

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.²⁷⁸¹

On 9 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Ankara University signed a cooperation protocol to support steps in combating violence against women.²⁷⁸² 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.²⁷⁸³

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.²⁷⁸⁴ 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."²⁷⁸⁵

On 22 March 2021, Turkey allocated TRY56 billion to the Social Protection Shield Program.²⁷⁸⁶ 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.²⁷⁸⁷

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.²⁷⁸⁸ 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.²⁷⁸⁹

²⁷⁸¹ 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-iscucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

²⁷⁸² 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-ibirligi>

²⁷⁸³ 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-ibirligi>

²⁷⁸⁴ 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>

²⁷⁸⁵ 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/>

²⁷⁸⁶ 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-kadınların-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁷ 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-kadınların-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁸ 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-toplantısına-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁹ 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-toplantısına-katildi/>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced a new initiative to help increase women employment by training 8,000 individuals.²⁷⁹⁰ This initiative will train women on establishing cooperatives and provide training to women and men already involved in cooperatives.²⁷⁹¹ This initiative will also establish a consultant pool and provide consultancy service training for 1,000 women.²⁷⁹²

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.²⁷⁹³ These childcare services will continue 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.²⁷⁹⁴

Turkey has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the sphere of Economic Security through programs to increase women's labour market participation. However, Turkey has only taken some limited steps to reduce gender inequalities in the Gender-Based Violence sphere and limited steps in the Health sphere.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Jennifer Lam

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.²⁷⁹⁵ 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.²⁷⁹⁶

²⁷⁹⁰ 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/>

²⁷⁹¹ 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/>

²⁷⁹² 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/>

²⁷⁹³ 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/>

²⁷⁹⁴ 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/>

²⁷⁹⁵ 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>

²⁷⁹⁶ 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>

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.²⁷⁹⁷

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.²⁷⁹⁸

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.²⁷⁹⁹ 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.²⁸⁰⁰

On 17 December 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss addressed the UK's new approach to tackle inequality across the UK.²⁸⁰¹ 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."²⁸⁰² 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.²⁸⁰³

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.²⁸⁰⁴ This new initiative aims to ensure pregnant and breastfeeding women are able to make informed decisions about their own healthcare.²⁸⁰⁵

²⁷⁹⁷ 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>

²⁷⁹⁸ 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>

²⁷⁹⁹ 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>

²⁸⁰⁰ 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>

²⁸⁰¹ 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>

²⁸⁰² 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>

²⁸⁰³ 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>

²⁸⁰⁴ 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>

²⁸⁰⁵ 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>

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.²⁸⁰⁶ Trained staff in participating pharmacies will offer victims a safe and private space where the situation can be understood.²⁸⁰⁷ 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.²⁸⁰⁸

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.²⁸⁰⁹ 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.²⁸¹⁰

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.²⁸¹¹ 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 project receiving a share of up to GBP7.6 million across three years.²⁸¹² This fund aims to reduce health inequalities in the UK.²⁸¹³

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.²⁸¹⁴ 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.²⁸¹⁵ In addition, the UK Government also launched the

²⁸⁰⁶ 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>

²⁸⁰⁷ 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>

²⁸⁰⁸ 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>

²⁸⁰⁹ 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>

²⁸¹⁰ 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>

²⁸¹¹ 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>

²⁸¹² 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>

²⁸¹³ 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>

²⁸¹⁴ 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>

²⁸¹⁵ 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>

#ItStillMatters campaign that aims to “raise awareness amongst victims and survivors [of domestic abuse] of the support available.”²⁸¹⁶

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.²⁸¹⁷ The fund will go to ensure access to life-saving support, including “therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation.”²⁸¹⁸ 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.²⁸¹⁹

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.²⁸²⁰ 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.’²⁸²¹ If employers fail to report their gender pay gap data, the EHRC has the power to investigate and impose unlimited fines on employers after court action.²⁸²² The gender pay gap regulation enforcement was suspended in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.²⁸²³

On 1 March 2021, the Home Office announced the allocation of GBP500,000 to successful organisations that will research domestic abuse perpetrators.²⁸²⁴ It is to develop a stronger understanding of the issue and strengthen the evidence base for existing works.²⁸²⁵

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.²⁸²⁶

²⁸¹⁶ 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>

²⁸¹⁷ £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>

²⁸¹⁸ £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>

²⁸¹⁹ £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>

²⁸²⁰ 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>

²⁸²¹ 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>

²⁸²² 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>

²⁸²³ 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>

²⁸²⁴ 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>

²⁸²⁵ 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>

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.²⁸²⁷ The GEAC will focus on supporting action on education, economic empowerment and ending violence against women.²⁸²⁸

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.²⁸²⁹ 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.”²⁸³⁰

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.²⁸³¹ The UK will double the size of the Safer Streets fund in order to provide neighbourhood measures like better lighting and video surveillance.²⁸³² 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.²⁸³³

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.²⁸³⁴ This group aims at centralizing public policies and

²⁸²⁶ 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>

²⁸²⁷ 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>

²⁸²⁸ 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>

²⁸²⁹ 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>

²⁸³⁰ 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>

²⁸³¹ 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>

²⁸³² 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>

²⁸³³ 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>

²⁸³⁴ 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>

promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁸³⁵

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.²⁸³⁶ 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.²⁸³⁷

On 29 April 2021, the House of Commons and the House of Lords passed the Domestic Abuse Bill and signed it into law.²⁸³⁸ The Domestic Abuse Act will protect victims of domestic abuse and clamp down perpetrators further.²⁸³⁹ 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.²⁸⁴⁰ The newest amendments include new or extended offence of non-fatal strangulation, controlling or coercive behaviour and threats to share intimate images.²⁸⁴¹ Under this new Act, those who are homeless due 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.²⁸⁴²

The United Kingdom has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence that affect women disproportionately. However, the United Kingdom has only taken limited steps to reduce gender inequalities in the sphere of Economic Security.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu

United States: 0

The United States 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.

²⁸³⁵ 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>

²⁸³⁶ 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>

²⁸³⁷ 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>

²⁸³⁸ 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>

²⁸³⁹ 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>

²⁸⁴⁰ 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>

²⁸⁴¹ 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>

²⁸⁴² 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>

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.²⁸⁴³ 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.²⁸⁴⁴

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.”²⁸⁴⁵ 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.”²⁸⁴⁶

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.”²⁸⁴⁷ The network will focus on providing entrepreneurship, networking and cross-country partnership opportunities for businesswomen.²⁸⁴⁸

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.”²⁸⁴⁹ The grant seeks to support groups and organizations involved in response to disabled women who are victims of gender-based violence including sexual assault and domestic violence.²⁸⁵⁰ This grant will provide training and resources to improve the capacity of and collaboration between these organizations.²⁸⁵¹

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

²⁸⁴³ 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>

²⁸⁴⁴ 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>

²⁸⁴⁵ 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>

²⁸⁴⁶ 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>

²⁸⁴⁷ 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>

²⁸⁴⁸ 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>

²⁸⁴⁹ 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>

²⁸⁵⁰ 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>

²⁸⁵¹ 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>

and girls.²⁸⁵² 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.”²⁸⁵³ 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.²⁸⁵⁴

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.”²⁸⁵⁵ 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.”²⁸⁵⁶ The project focuses on women’s labour rights and improved economic outcomes for women and girls.²⁸⁵⁷

On 26 February 2021, the Department of Defense announced an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military.²⁸⁵⁸ 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 military and discussing strategies to prevent further sexual violence.²⁸⁵⁹ The commission intends to present its initial recommendations within 60 days and began its investigation on 24 March 2021.²⁸⁶⁰

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.²⁸⁶¹ The promotion involved an announcement that American Olympic athlete Allyson Felix would be joining the

²⁸⁵² 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/>

²⁸⁵³ 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/>

²⁸⁵⁴ 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/>

²⁸⁵⁵ 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>

²⁸⁵⁶ 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>

²⁸⁵⁷ 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>

²⁸⁵⁸ 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/>

²⁸⁵⁹ 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/>

²⁸⁶⁰ 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/>

²⁸⁶¹ 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>

campaign.²⁸⁶² 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.²⁸⁶³

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.”²⁸⁶⁴ Through the American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden has called on Congress to commit large investments into the WIC.²⁸⁶⁵ 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.²⁸⁶⁶ 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.²⁸⁶⁷ The WIC program aims to support the health of new mothers and young children with nutritious diets and better healthcare.²⁸⁶⁸

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 vegetables.²⁸⁶⁹ 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.²⁸⁷⁰

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.²⁸⁷¹ VAWA builds upon programs such as violence

²⁸⁶² 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>

²⁸⁶³ 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>

²⁸⁶⁴ 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>

²⁸⁶⁵ 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>

²⁸⁶⁶ 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>

²⁸⁶⁷ 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>

²⁸⁶⁸ 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>

²⁸⁶⁹ 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>

²⁸⁷⁰ 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>

²⁸⁷¹ 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>

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.²⁸⁷²

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?”²⁸⁷³ 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.²⁸⁷⁴ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.²⁸⁷⁵

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.²⁸⁷⁶ 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.²⁸⁷⁷

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.²⁸⁷⁸ 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.²⁸⁷⁹

²⁸⁷² 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>

²⁸⁷³ 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.

²⁸⁷⁴ 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.

²⁸⁷⁵ 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.

²⁸⁷⁶ 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>

²⁸⁷⁷ 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>

²⁸⁷⁸ 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>

²⁸⁷⁹ 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>

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.²⁸⁸⁰ 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.²⁸⁸¹ The goal is to address and combat gender disparity in the fields of apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.²⁸⁸²

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.²⁸⁸³ 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.²⁸⁸⁴

While the United States has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Health sphere, the United States has only taken limited and weak actions in regard to both the Gender-Based Violence and Economic Security spheres.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

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.²⁸⁸⁵ The aim of this handbook is to help organizations ensure that both women and men employees feel safe, respected and fulfilled in the workplace.²⁸⁸⁶

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

²⁸⁸⁰ 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>

²⁸⁸¹ 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>

²⁸⁸² 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>

²⁸⁸³ 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>

²⁸⁸⁴ 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>

²⁸⁸⁵ 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>

²⁸⁸⁶ 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>

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.²⁸⁸⁷ 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.²⁸⁸⁸ The GAP III also places renewed emphasis on universal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls.²⁸⁸⁹

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.²⁸⁹⁰ The initiative addresses barriers such as funding, knowledge, and market constraints through gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for female-run businesses.²⁸⁹¹ The goal of this program is to "help women participate in economic development, realise their full potential and accelerate economic inclusion."²⁸⁹²

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.²⁸⁹³ 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.²⁸⁹⁴ 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.²⁸⁹⁵

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.²⁸⁹⁶

²⁸⁸⁷ 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

²⁸⁸⁸ 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

²⁸⁸⁹ 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

²⁸⁹⁰ 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

²⁸⁹¹ 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

²⁸⁹² 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

²⁸⁹³ 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

²⁸⁹⁴ 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

²⁸⁹⁵ 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

²⁸⁹⁶ 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-combating-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

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.²⁸⁹⁷

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 participation in the labour market.²⁸⁹⁸ 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.”²⁸⁹⁹

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.²⁹⁰⁰ 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.²⁹⁰¹

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission released the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.²⁹⁰² 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.²⁹⁰³ 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.²⁹⁰⁴ 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.²⁹⁰⁵ 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.²⁹⁰⁶

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

²⁸⁹⁷ 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>

²⁸⁹⁸ 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

²⁸⁹⁹ 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

²⁹⁰⁰ 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

²⁹⁰¹ 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

²⁹⁰² 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

²⁹⁰³ 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

²⁹⁰⁴ 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

²⁹⁰⁵ 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

²⁹⁰⁶ 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

communities in Jordan and Lebanon through social protection and healthcare services.²⁹⁰⁷ 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 access to essential water services.²⁹⁰⁸ The support package for Jordan includes EUR8 million for the protection of women and children.²⁹⁰⁹

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.²⁹¹⁰ 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.²⁹¹¹

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.²⁹¹² 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.²⁹¹³

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.”²⁹¹⁴ 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.²⁹¹⁵ 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.²⁹¹⁶ This opinion recognizes the need to

²⁹⁰⁷ 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

²⁹⁰⁸ 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

²⁹⁰⁹ 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

²⁹¹⁰ 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>

²⁹¹¹ 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>

²⁹¹² 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

²⁹¹³ 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

²⁹¹⁴ 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>

²⁹¹⁵ 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>

²⁹¹⁶ 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>

urgently address the effects of telework on gender inequality in order to better support women's economic security during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹¹⁷

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 traffickers to justice, and protecting and empowering victims.²⁹¹⁸ 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.²⁹¹⁹ This Strategy recognizes that women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence, and thus, must be prioritized.²⁹²⁰

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.²⁹²¹ 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.²⁹²²

Although the European Union has taken strong concrete actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence spheres, the European Union has only taken limited actions in regard to the Health sphere.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rana Al-Fayez

²⁹¹⁷ 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>

²⁹¹⁸ 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

²⁹¹⁹ 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

²⁹²⁰ 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

²⁹²¹ 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>

²⁹²² 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>