DATA TO ACTION:
Breaking the Cycle of Violence Against Girls
October 11, 2017
#IDG2017
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# Program Schedule

## Welcome
- **Kirsten Hillman**, Canada’s Deputy Ambassador to the United States

## Opening Remarks
- **Michelle Bekkering**, Acting Assistant Administrator & Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, USAID
- **Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director, UN Women
- **Dr. Daniela Ligiero**, CEO & Executive Director, Together for Girls

## Panel 1: Making the Case
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- **Maureen Greenwood-Basken**, Senior Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors
- **Alessandra Guedes**, Pan-American Health Organization
- **Dr. Jim Mercy**, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, CDC
- **Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian**, Executive Director, Know Violence in Childhood

## Keynote Address
- **Sophie Grégoire Trudeau**, Gender Equality Advocate

## Panel 2: Moving from Data to Action & Advocacy
- **Kathy Calvin**, President & CEO, UN Foundation (moderator)
- **Isatou Bittaye**, Youth advocate & Women Deliver Young Leader
- **Lisa Carty**, Director, U.S. Liaison Office, UNAIDS
- **Brisa De Angulo**, Founder & CEO, A Breeze of Hope
- **Alexandra Riginos**, Girl Up Teen Advisor

## Closing Remarks
- **Soré Agbaje**, Spoken word artist and activist
Sophie Grégoire Trudeau
Gender Equality Advocate

Sophie Grégoire Trudeau is an engaged advocate for gender equality and a mother of three young children. Over the past 15 years, she has been involved with a variety of causes as a speaker and mentor, including teenage self-esteem, women and girls’ rights and freedoms, eating disorders and mental health.

As part of her advocacy, she works as an official spokesperson for Plan Canada’s “Because I am a Girl” initiative and the FitSpirit Foundation. Recipient of the 2013 UN Women National Committee Canada Recognition Award for her contribution to human rights, she was recently named as an influencer for the Deliver for Good campaign of Women Deliver.

As a mother, Sophie’s outdoorsy and energetic personality translates into lots of active family time in nature practicing a multitude of sports. She was honoured as the 100th member of Nature Canada’s Women for Nature initiative for her support of nature and the outdoors and continues to be committed to sharing her passion of nature with Canadians by being Honorary Guide for Families for Parks Canada.

Fully bilingual, Sophie studied Commerce at McGill University, and finished her B.A. in Communications at the Université de Montréal. She completed another degree at École de radio et television Promédia in Montreal. After her studies, she worked in sales and advertising before becoming a television and radio reporter.

Her intrinsic curiosity and her willingness to explore spirituality motivated Sophie to study hatha yoga and attain her certification. She has also completed her kundalini yoga teacher certification and offers classes on a volunteer basis at a public school close to her home.
meet the speakers

Soré Agbaje  
Spoken Word Artist & Activist

Soré Agbaje is a 22-year-old Nigerian American story-teller. She uses journalism, playwriting, and poetry to uphold the personal narrative of those who look like her. Soré is an international poet who recently toured Germany and Austria sponsored by the Munich Council of the Arts and performed in Copenhagen for the UN Women Deliver Conference. She has been featured on ABC’s Good Morning America, Button Poetry, For Harriet, All Def Poetry, UN Women, Button Poetry, Rookie Mag and has performed for Adidas in their “Don’t Be Quiet Please” campaign in conjunction with Pharell Williams and the US Open, UNICEF, the United Nations, A World at School, Aspen Ideas Festival, Lincoln Center, Mocada Museum, Yale University, Columbia University, NYU and much more. She performed her self-written one-woman show off-Broadway at New York Live Arts. Her latest play “Countdown” was put up by the Wild Project through the poetic theatre program, “Conscious Language.” She combines her talent in music, art, and writing with her passion for social justice and politics.

Michelle Bekkering  
Acting Assistant Administrator & Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, USAID

Michelle Bekkering joined the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment in July 2017 as a Deputy Assistant Administrator. In this capacity, she oversees the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment portfolio for the Agency. USAID advances gender equality and women’s empowerment by using a cross-sectoral perspective and technical leadership to guide the Agency’s programming and enhance sustainable development outcomes. USAID focuses on reducing gender disparities and gender-based violence, and on increasing the capacity of women and girls to realize their rights, determine their life outcomes, and influence decision-making.

Prior to joining USAID, Bekkering was the Director for Global Initiatives and Senior Gender Advisor at the International Republican Institute (IRI). In that position, Bekkering managed global programs with a focus on parliamentary strengthening, people-to-people exchanges, leadership development initiatives, and the political inclusion of women and youth. Bekkering concurrently served as the Institute’s senior gender advisor, providing strategic leadership, technical assistance and training for IRI’s initiatives to promote women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Bekkering joined IRI in 2005 to provide leadership to Institute initiatives in Washington, D.C. and abroad, including by serving as residential country director for the Institute in Indonesia where she oversaw the Institute’s “Winning with Women” political empowerment program. During her time at IRI, Bekkering represented the Institute as a trainer, speaker and accredited election observer on five continents. She also served as guest lecturer for the Gender Equality Course at the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Service Institute, and as a member of the U.S. State Department’s Speakers and Specialists Program.

Bekkering has also served in numerous positions in the U.S. Government. She worked in the European and Eurasian Affairs Directorate of the National Security Council under President George W. Bush. She also worked on Capitol Hill as an aide to Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46). A native of Iowa, Bekkering graduated from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. As part of her education, she studied at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Isatou Bittaye
Women Deliver Young Leader

Isatou Bittaye is a feminist and human rights advocate with almost a decade of experience working in women and girls’ rights, and young people’s empowerment. She is a Women Deliver Young Leader and is currently interning with them as a Youth Engagement Intern. Prior to joining Women Deliver, Isatou interned at the YWCA of the City of New York where she worked as a Development Intern, supporting in grant proposal writing and fundraising for girls’ initiatives and early childhood education.

She also serves as the Communications Manager of The Girls’ Agenda, a youth-led organization where she is a founding member that empowers young women and girls, and advocating to end FGM, child marriage, promoting sexual and reproductive health rights, life skills and leadership, and girls’ access to education in The Gambia. Previously, she served as the Senior Program Officer at the National Council for Civic Education where she led the programs team and educated Gambian citizens on their constitutional rights and civic duties, and responsibility to hold the government accountable.

She is a trained journalist and has worked for the Foroyaa Newspaper, an independent paper in The Gambia reporting on topics including governance, women and children’s rights, and youth empowerment. Isatou is also a Peace Advocate and volunteers with The Peace Ambassadors – The Gambia as a National Trainer and Gender Focal Person.

She is very passionate about advancing women and girls’ sexual and reproductive rights and strongly believes in meaningfully engaging young people to amplify their voices to build the future they want. Isatou earned her BSc in Political Science from the University of The Gambia and master’s in International Studies from National Chengchi University in Taiwan and wrote her thesis on women’s political participation in Rwanda and The Gambia.

Kathy Calvin
President & CEO, United Nations Foundation

Kathy Calvin is President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation. She is a passionate advocate for multi-sector problem-solving, U.S. leadership on global issues, and the inclusion of women at all levels and in all sectors. The UN Foundation, created in 1998 with entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner’s historic $1 billion gift to support UN causes, advocates for the UN and connects people, ideas and resources to help the UN solve global problems.

Kathy’s career has spanned the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Before joining the UN Foundation as Chief Operating Officer in 2003, she served as President of the AOL Time Warner Foundation. She previously served in senior positions at AOL, Hill and Knowlton, and U.S. News & World Report. From 1976 through 1984 she was Senator Gary Hart’s press secretary.

Kathy was named one of Newsweek’s “150 Women Who Rock the World” in 2011 and listed in Fast Company’s “League of Extraordinary Women” in 2012. Her innovative work in the philanthropy and international development sectors has been featured in the New York Times and the Washington Post, and she has received numerous other awards for philanthropy and leadership. She is a graduate of Purdue University.
**Lisa Carty**  
*Director, U.S. Liaison Office of UNAIDS*

Lisa Carty is the director of the U.S. Liaison Office of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). She has worked for more than three decades at the intersection of foreign policy and global development with a focus on public health, humanitarian relief and international women’s issues. Ms. Carty has had leadership roles in both the public and non-profit sectors including 25 years with the U.S. Department of State with overseas assignments in Asia, the Middle East and Russia. Her UN career has included work with the UN Relief Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, as well as a posting as UNAIDS’ Country Director for the Russian Federation.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Carty helped lead the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Health Program and was a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), co-directing the 2010 CSIS Commission on Smart Global Health Policy. From 2009 to 2011 she served on the U.S. Presidential Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations. She is currently a board member of the George W. Bush Institute’s Global Health Initiative and serves on the CSIS Task Force on Women’s and Family Health. She holds a Master Degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

**Congressman Steve Chabot**  
*Ohio’s 1st Congressional District*

Congressman Steve Chabot has proudly served Ohio’s First Congressional District for 20 years. A lifelong Cincinnatian, Steve previously served as a Cincinnati City Councilman and Hamilton County Commissioner for five years each prior to being elected to Congress in 1994.

Since becoming a Member of Congress, Congressman Chabot has served on the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Congressman Chabot currently serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, a role he began on January 6, 2015. He has also served as: Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution from 2001-2006; Ranking Member on the Small Business Committee from 2007-2008; Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia from 2011-2012; and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific from 2013-2014.

Steve continues to fight wasteful government spending in Congress, where he is one of the leading advocates for fiscal responsibility. He has consistently voted to eliminate wasteful spending and reduce the excessive tax burden on hard-working Americans. Nonpartisan taxpayer advocacy groups such as Citizens Against Government Waste, the Concord Coalition and the National Taxpayers Union have time and again rated him as one of the most taxpayer friendly members of Congress.

While in Congress, Steve has also helped lead efforts to reduce the regulatory burden on America’s small businesses, and to combat the opioid epidemic. He is an outspoken defender of the rights of the unborn, most importantly having authored the ban on the practice of partial-birth abortions. In January 1999, Congressman Chabot served as one of 13 House Managers during the Senate impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, where he received praise for his even-handed and thoughtful approach to the trial.

Steve graduated from LaSalle High School in 1971, and earned his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary four years later. After college, he returned to Cincinnati to teach at St. Joseph’s School in the West End, while studying at Northern Kentucky University’s Salmon P. Chase College of Law in the evening.
Congresswoman Katherine Clark  
*Massachusetts’ 5th District*

Congresswoman Katherine Clark proudly serves the Fifth District of Massachusetts. She was first elected in a special election in December of 2013.

Katherine’s career in public service is driven by her commitment to helping children and families succeed. She is a vocal advocate for ending wage discrimination, protecting women’s health care, access to affordable, high-quality child care, paid family leave, safer schools, and other reforms to address the challenges women and families face. She believes that Congress must work to end the glaring disconnect between the needs of families at home and priorities in Washington.

In Congress, she brings her experience as a state senator, state representative, general counsel for the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services, and policy chief for the state attorney general.

Katherine represents a diverse district comprised of 24 cities and towns that stretch from the coastal communities of Revere and Winthrop through the economic engine of MetroWest.

Katherine serves on the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations. In the House Democratic Caucus she serves as a Senior Whip, and is a member of the Steering and Policy Committee. Katherine is a member of several caucuses in Congress, including the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Women’s Caucus. Katherine, her husband Rodney and their three boys Addison, Jared and Nathaniel live in Melrose.

Brisa De Angulo, JD, MA  
*Founder & CEO, A Breeze of Hope*

Brisa De Angulo is CEO and founder of A Breeze of Hope Foundation/Centro Una Brisa de Esperanza, which is Bolivia’s first center providing free transdisciplinary legal, social and psychological services to child survivors of sexual violence. Brisa is a pioneer in her field, having successfully implemented for 13 years a child-directed service model that focuses on access to justice, personal healing, relational healing, political participation, economic independence, and education. Brisa has used her 17 years of experience working with early childhood education and 13 years of experience working with sexual violence prevention to refine her model and share best practices with advocates throughout her region. Since opening in 2004, Brisa’s center has maintained a 95% conviction rate in the hundreds of criminal cases it has managed, has educated over 85,000 people (including government officials) in sexual violence prevention, and has provided free direct services to over 1,600 child survivors and their supportive family members.

Brisa is also a powerful advocate before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Brisa’s sustained efforts are helping to reshape Bolivia’s justice system and improve its treatment of child survivors. Brisa is also co-author of 10 books on sexual violence and childhood development and has conducted landmark research on sexual violence in Bolivia.
Congresswoman Debbie Dingell
*Michigan’s 12th Congressional District*

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell represents Michigan’s 12th District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has made it a priority to be a voice for the Midwest on issues that matter most to working families.

A member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Debbie is a leader on efforts to grow manufacturing, improve access to quality affordable health care, support seniors and veterans and protect the Great Lakes. Recognized as one of the 25 hardest-working Members of Congress, Debbie is focused on forging bipartisan solutions that support Michigan’s families and economy, including improving long-term care and ushering in the future of the American auto industry.

Before being elected to Congress, Debbie worked in the auto industry for more than three decades, where she was President of the General Motors (GM) Foundation and a senior executive responsible for public affairs. She was also Chairman of the Wayne State University (WSU) Board of Governors, and continues to fight to make education more affordable and accessible in Congress.

Maureen Greenwood-Basken
*Senior Program Officer, International Child Rights, Wellspring Advisors*

A recognized leader in international human rights and development, Maureen Greenwood-Basken has led advocacy-based efforts for global social justice for the past two decades. She currently is a Senior Program Officer at Wellspring Advisors leading the International Child Rights Portfolio. She leads grant-making, donor engagement, and learning processes to advance rights for girls and boys. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership to End Violence and Children. She chairs the East and Southern Africa Working Group of Elevate Children Funder Network and serves on various boards. Prior to joining Wellspring in January 2014, Maureen was the Executive Director, Women, Girls and Population, at the United Nations Foundation and directed other programs for five years. She led the creation of Family Planning 2020, a global multi-stakeholder start-up. Maureen spent 11 years at Amnesty International USA, as the Managing Director of Government Relations and Advocacy Development as well as the Advocacy Director of Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. She has held a number of other positions, including the Union of Council for Jews in the Former Soviet Union in Moscow, Russia. Maureen received her BA in Russian Studies and Psychology from the University of Michigan, and her MA in International Relations at the University of Chicago.
Alessandra Guedes, MA, MSc  
*Regional Advisor, Family Violence Family, Gender and Life Course, PAHO/WHO*

Alessandra Guedes holds an MSc degree in Public Health for Developing Countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK and an MA degree in Art Therapy from the George Washington University, USA. She is currently the Regional Advisor for Family Violence at the WHO Regional Office for the Americas / Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, DC where she oversees the organization’s work in the areas of violence against children and violence against women. She has worked in the area of violence against women for almost 20 years and is particularly interested in the intersections between violence against women and violence against children. She was vice-president of the board of Promundo for several years (Brazil) and is currently the co-chair of the Coordinating Group of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (South Africa).

Kirsten Hillman  
*Canada’s Deputy Ambassador to the United States*

Kirsten is the Deputy Ambassador in Canada’s Embassy to the United States of America in Washington D.C.

Prior to joining the Embassy in 2017, Kirsten held the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of the Trade Agreements and Negotiations Branch at Global Affairs Canada, overseeing Canada’s trade policy and negotiations. She also was Canada’s Chief Negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Kirsten has held various positions at home and abroad including Director General at the Trade Policy Bureau and Senior Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. She represented Canada as lead counsel before panels and the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization, and managed Canada’s international investor-state arbitration under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Before joining Global Affairs Canada, Kirsten practised law in Montreal in the area of commercial litigation and in Ottawa at the Federal Department of Justice.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba and a Bachelor of Civil Law and a Bachelor of Common Law from McGill University.

Theresa Kilbane  
*Senior Advisor, Child Protection, Programme Division at UNICEF*

Theresa Kilbane has led the team responsible for UNICEF’s work in Social Norms and the Protection from Violence and Abuse of Children since 2010. Ms. Kilbane has worked for UNICEF since 1996, supporting work related to child protection and urban programming. She has worked in development programmes in UNICEF headquarters, Mozambique, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and the United States (New York). Ms. Kilbane has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Kent State University, and a Master in Urban Planning with a concentration on International Planning, Columbia University in New York City.
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
California’s 13th Congressional District

Congresswoman Barbara Lee represents California’s 13th Congressional District. She is a senior member of the Appropriations and Budget Committees including the Appropriations’ Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. She currently serves as a Congressional Representative to the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, having also served in the position during the 68th and 70th UNGA.

Lee has been a vocal advocate in the U.S. Congress on issues such as reproductive health and rights, gender equality, food security and global peace and security. Lee co-founded and co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus and has co-authored every major piece of HIV legislation since entering Congress in 1998. She authored legislation establishing the USAID Office for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and co-authored legislation establishing the framework for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and PEPFAR (The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). She is a co-author of the Reach Every Mother and Child Act.

Lee is a former Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, a senior Democratic Whip and a co-chair of the Sudan and South Sudan Caucus, among other leadership roles.

Dr. Daniela Ligiero
CEO & Executive Director, Together for Girls

Dr. Daniela Ligiero is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Together for Girls, a global, public-private partnership dedicated to ending violence against children, especially sexual violence against girls. The partnership includes five UN agencies, the governments of the United States and Canada, several private sector organizations and more than 20 country governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, working together to generate comprehensive data and solutions to this public health and human rights epidemic.

Before she joined Together for Girls, she served as the Vice President of Girls and Women’s Strategy at the UN Foundation and developed the foundation’s gender integration strategy. In addition, she spent over five years at the U.S. Department of State where she led the integration of gender issues into all foreign policy and investments in global health—working with over 70 countries and over 1 billion dollars in investments on issues like preventing gender-based violence and improving the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women. She helped develop the first ever International U.S. Government Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence.

Dr. Ligiero also served in leadership roles at UNICEF, as Chief of HIV and then as Senior Program Officer in the UNICEF Brazil Country Office. In addition, she has held positions at the World Bank and the US Senate, and has worked directly with survivors of sexual assault in a variety of settings. She is also a survivor of sexual violence herself, and has been speaking publically about her story for the last decade. She earned her doctoral degree counseling psychology from University of Maryland, College Park, ranked the #1 program in the US. Dr. Ligiero is fluent in four languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.
Congresswoman Nita Lowey
New York’s 17th Congressional District

Congresswoman Nita Lowey is serving her fifteenth term representing the 17th congressional district of New York. She is the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee as well as the ranking member of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

Lowey has been a tireless advocate for strong development and diplomacy programs. She has also led the effort to repeal the “global gag rule,” which severely restricts the activities of recipients of U.S. global health assistance. She is the author of the Global Health Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act, which would repeal the gag rule and restore the principles of equity and justice to our foreign assistance programs.

Lowey believes strongly that education is the building block for healthy, open societies and has fought both internationally and domestically for funding for basic education. Lowey is credited with scaling up U.S. support for international basic education during her tenure, from $100 million in fiscal year 2001 to $800 million in fiscal year 2017. She is also the author of the “Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act,” legislation to enhance transparency and accelerate the impact of U.S. basic education programs around the program, which was enacted on September 8, 2017.

She was previously New York assistant secretary of state. She earned a bachelor’s in political science from Mount Holyoke College. She and her husband Stephen have three children and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Jim Mercy
Director, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Prevention and Control

James A. Mercy, PhD is the Director of the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) in CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. In this role, he provides leadership to innovative research and science-based programs to prevent violence and reduce its consequences. He received his master’s and doctorate degrees in sociology from Emory University.

Dr. Mercy has worked to develop the public health approach to violence prevention for more than 30 years. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Mercy oversaw global activities in DVP and implemented surveys on violence against children in developing countries as part of a global partnership called Together for Girls with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and others.

As a researcher, Dr. Mercy has authored more than 200 publications that span the areas of child maltreatment, youth and intimate partner violence, homicide, suicide, and assault-related injuries. He has received honors from CDC, the Public Health Service (PHS) and Research America for his sustained outstanding leadership in bringing about the recognition of violence as a public health problem. He also served as a co-editor of the World Report on Violence and Health prepared by WHO and on the Editorial Board of the United Nation’s Secretary General’s Study of Violence Against Children.
Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka  
Executive Director, UN Women

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa’s first democratic government.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women’s rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women’s empowerment and gender equality. She has completed her PhD on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Alexandra Riginos  
Girl Up Teen Advisor

Alexandra Riginos is a current Teen Advisor for Girl Up and a junior at St. Anne Catholic School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She established her club three years ago and ever since, has resided as president. Part of her personal mission as a Teen Advisor is to serve as a mediator between her small community in South Carolina and the international presence of Girl Up. She hopes to one day practice International law and fight for human rights on a global level. For now, Alex spends her time interning in a law firm, serving in various leadership positions at her school, and embracing the world of mathematics.
Congressman Ed Royce
California’s 39th Congressional District

Chairman Ed Royce serves California’s 39th Congressional District. For the 115th Congress, Rep. Royce serves as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a position he has held since January 2013. He is one of our nation’s premier representatives to foreign governments around the world, and is a strong advocate of a foreign policy that keeps the American homeland safe.

In 2015, under the leadership of Chairman Royce, the House Foreign Affairs Committee began an in-depth look at the challenges and opportunities facing women and girls worldwide. Chairman Royce is the author of the Digital GAP Act, which helps expand internet access in developing regions and in turn improves education and opportunities for women. He has also championed additional measures that empower women, like the Women, Peace, and Security Act – which requires the U.S. to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase and strengthen women’s participation in peace negotiations and conflict prevention – and the READ Act – which works to improve quality basic education in developing and war-torn countries.

Royce and his wife Marie have been married for 30 years and are longtime residents of Orange County, California.

Dr. Ramya Subrahmanian
Executive Director, Know Violence in Childhood

Ramya Subrahmanian, Executive Director of Know Violence in Childhood, is an international social policy analyst with extensive experience in research, policy advocacy, training and teaching. She has provided advisory and technical support to governments, donors and civil society organisations on education, child rights, gender and social policy issues. Previously, as social policy specialist for UNICEF India, she led research, policy analysis and advocacy in the areas of child-sensitive social protection, equity and social inclusion, and gender equality.

She has been a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, where she conducted research on issues related to gender mainstreaming, women's rights, child labour and education, and on social policies for children in India. She also co-directed and taught the MA Programme in Gender and Development, and conducted evaluations and trainings for numerous international agencies. Dr Subrahmanian has a PhD in Development Studies and a MA in Gender and Development.
thank you