January 28, 2019

As the Members of Congress in the 116th set their policy priorities for the year ahead, 118 organizations who work on gender equality across the health, economic development, human rights, humanitarian support, and social justice spectrum, released an open letter to Congress outlining core priorities for U.S. foreign policy and assistance that will ensure that global efforts to address the needs of the most marginalized are effective, asking that Congress:

- Support robust funding for global gender equality
- Support evidence-based programming and solutions
- Ensure accountability and U.S. leadership for gender equality at USAID and the U.S. State Department
- Honor our commitments to global gender equality and human rights standards
- Promote the rights of LGBTI people globally
- Oppose efforts to introduce and codify new and existing harmful policies that undermine health and human rights, including the global gag rule
- Support rights-focused U.S. engagement in multilateral fora:

The 118 organizations who sent this letter collectively serve millions of individuals globally and who are committed to advancing the rights and opportunities of women, girls, and LGBTI individuals. The open letter notes that, all too often, the experiences of women, girls, and LGBTI people have been at the margins of U.S. foreign policy. These omissions have not allowed these populations equal ability to access and enjoy economic, educational, social and political opportunities in development or humanitarian settings.

The Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls, along with its partners, hopes to see increased attention to global gender issues in the 116th Congress.

Click here to read the letter to Congress on Gender Priorities for the 116th Congress.