The Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally Coalition is committed to ending the global epidemic of gender-based violence (GBV) that affects millions of women and girls across the globe every year. Violence against women and girls is one specific type of GBV. Though the terms are often used interchangeably, gender-based violence also affects men and boys, as well as those who experience GBV based on their perceived gender identity.

We believe that women and girls are active and powerful agents of change, and we envision a world in which women and girls can enjoy their basic human right to live free from fear and violence. We further believe that governments and communities must be key actors in ensuring women and girls realize their full enjoyment of their rights.

Through the work of our Coalition members, we are constantly reminded that gender-based violence is one of the world’s most pervasive and devastating human rights violations. GBV threatens the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims, and by extension, cuts at the core of every community’s social fabric. When gender itself is a source of insecurity, when women and girls’ well-being is uncertain, their families and communities suffer; and the social, moral, and even economic vitality of society is jeopardized.

We believe that while bold steps have been taken to end gender-based violence, including when perpetrated against women and girls, their ultimate success will require vigilant leadership as well as committed resources. As gender inequality and gender-based violence continue to pervade the public and private spaces of all societies, knowing no demographic or geographic boundaries, we are guided by this understanding. We believe that ending this human rights abuse requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes all survivors and those vulnerable to violence, as well as empowers women through their life cycle. In that advocacy and programmatic work, we affirm the following principles:

**US engagement is critical** – Addressing gender-based violence is a non-partisan, cross-cutting human rights issue that requires cross-government approaches. As a significant donor to foreign assistance, the United States has a critical role to play in ending gender-based violence globally. We advocate for the U.S. Government to commit to eliminating gender-based violence as a priority for U.S. foreign policy. We call for continued political and financial commitments to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to address its impacts on individuals and communities. This requires a robust approach to address the various needs of those who have survived or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence, including their educational, sexual and reproductive health, and economic needs.

**Women have diverse and intersectional identities** – We recognize that “women” as a category is not monolithic and that women are a diverse group of people whose identities are made up of multiple, intersecting aspects. We
also recognize that the category of “women” has often meant a focus on certain women at the exclusion or expense of others, including transgender women. While all people are affected by gender-based violence, how a woman is affected is complicated by other aspects of her identity, including her age, class, ability, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and ethnicity. We believe that work to end violence against women and girls can only be effective if it recognizes the diversity of women’s identities and that does not exclude or marginalize some women at the expense of others.

Engaging women through their life cycle – We understand that violence impacts women and girls from birth until death in a variety of ways and from a variety of actors. We believe in the importance of investing in women and girls throughout their lives and in all aspects of their lives—including empowering them to realize their rights to comprehensive health services, education, and economic and political participation—and to foster their own solutions by ensuring U.S. engagement with women and their communities.

GBV knows no demographic or geographic boundaries – GBV is also present across war and peacetime and during natural and humanitarian disasters. We recognize that no place, group, or gender is immune to GBV. All countries, socio-economic classes, and gender identities face gender-based violence and its impacts. We believe in ensuring that our approaches are inclusive and realize the intersectional nature of this abuse.

GBV is rooted in unjust power relations and structures, not any specific culture or religion – We recognize that GBV exists because gender discrimination persists. We believe in advocating for approaches that recognize and address root causes of violence and commit to changing social norms that support violent behavior.

Men and boys are our allies - Too often, people view violence against women as solely a women’s issue. It is not. GBV is a community issue that requires working with men and boys to disrupt the norms that perpetuate it. We believe in addressing harmful social norms, including toxic masculinity, that impact victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence and recognize that this process of changing norms requires men to be actively engaged.

Data-driven strategies – We believe evidence-based, locally-driven approaches are critical and are the underpinning of effective and sound policy. We advocate for approaches that are based on proven strategies, sound research and evidence, well-tested theories of change, and developed in consultation with impacted communities.

Promises must be met with action – It is not enough to pass a law; laws must be implemented, services must be available, programs must be funded, and we must build a zero-tolerance environment on GBV within our communities.

Intersectional Work –We believe that in order to address GBV, we must look at how our efforts are interrelated to other work to alleviate poverty, create economic growth, improve health outcomes, further educational opportunities, and ensure peace and stability.