



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Permanent Representative
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

As we approach the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 14-25), we hope that the United States will engage in vigorous advocacy to ease the impact of climate change on women and girls. Please see (enclosed) our US Women's Caucus statement on the devastating effects of climate change on women in the US and around the world.

Climate change impacts everyone on the planet but it is hardest on poor women and girls. Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities; those with fewest resources struggle the most to adapt. Devastating fires and floods in the United States, for instance, are hardest on low-income women, especially those from minority groups, who have the fewest savings to draw on. Low-wage women living paycheck to paycheck cannot bounce back easily from the loss of their job, home, and belongings. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, for instance, low-income minority women have fought for years to recover their footing.

Rural women are another vulnerable population hard hit by climate change. In sub-Saharan Africa, droughts and floods destroy female farmers' subsistence crops and force them to walk farther from the safety of home for water and firewood. When a climate crisis dries up family income and intensifies food insecurity, girls are the first to be taken out of school, married off, bear children early, or be trafficked. The harm lasts for generations.

Steps can be taken to mitigate the damage of climate change for women and girls. Women can be fully included in climate decision-making and climate-related occupational training. Comprehensive gender-disaggregated data can inform effective climate interventions. Targeted financing for women and girls can lead to more equitable climate solutions. When women have secure title to land, they are better positioned to respond to disasters.

We urge the United States to take bold action on climate inequalities for women and girls and provide vigorous global leadership for a strong CSW 66 Agreed Conclusions.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. Susan H. Lee, Ph.D.
President
US Women's Caucus at the UN

We are progressive US NGOs in solidarity for the human rights of women and girls.

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