

SEC. 6. REPORT.

The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in the report required under section 7 of the READ Act (division A of Public Law 115-56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) a description of any primary or secondary educational services supported by programs for natural or manmade disaster relief or response that specifically address the needs of displaced girls.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1580, Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, passed the Senate unanimously. It is the Senate version of H.R. 2408, which this body passed last October.

Again, this is a very important bipartisan, bicameral bill that will prioritize ongoing efforts to promote access to education for refugee children, especially girls. It deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure. The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act is a good bill that works to improve access for education for displaced children, especially girls. This bipartisan bill is the Senate version of H.R. 2408, which passed the House by voice vote in October of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me supporting it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1580.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1862) to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to modify the criteria for determining whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1862

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (15) as paragraphs (7) through (17), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) **CONCRETE ACTIONS.**—The term 'concrete actions' means actions that demonstrate increased efforts by the government of a country to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, including any of the following:

"(A) Enforcement actions taken.

"(B) Investigations actively underway.

"(C) Prosecutions conducted.

"(D) Convictions attained.

"(E) Training provided.

"(F) Programs and partnerships actively underway.

"(G) Efforts to prevent severe forms of trafficking, including programs to reduce the vulnerability of particularly vulnerable populations, involving survivors of trafficking in community engagement and policy making, engagement with foreign migrants, ending recruitment fees, and other such measures.

"(H) Victim services offered, including immigration services and restitution.

"(I) The amount of money the government has committed to the actions described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

"(6) **CREDIBLE INFORMATION.**—The term 'credible information' includes all of the following:

"(A) Reports by the Department of State.

"(B) Reports of other Federal agencies, including the Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor and List of Products Produced by Forced Labor or Indentured Child Labor.

"(C) Documentation provided by a foreign country, including—

"(i) copies of relevant laws, regulations, and policies adopted or modified; and

"(ii) an official record of enforcement actions taken, judicial proceedings, training conducted, consultations conducted, programs and partnerships launched, and services provided.

"(D) Materials developed by civil society organizations.

"(E) Information from survivors of human trafficking, vulnerable persons, and whistleblowers.

"(F) All relevant media and academic reports that, in light of reason and common sense, are worthy of belief.

"(G) Information developed by multilateral institutions.

"(H) An assessment of the impact of the actions described in subparagraphs (A) through (I) of paragraph (5) on the prevalence of human trafficking in the country.".

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE ROLE OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should work with the private sector to explore, develop, and use technology that strengthens Federal law enforcement capabilities to combat traffickers and criminal networks; and

(2) private businesses, both domestic and international, should take every reasonable step to prevent and combat child sex trafficking.

(b) **EFFORTS TO END MODERN SLAVERY.**—It is the sense of Congress that any future authorization of appropriations to carry out the grant program authorized under section 1298 of the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) should simultaneously extend the accountability provisions under subsections (c), (d), and (e) of such section.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON PLACEMENT OR RECRUITMENT FEES.

Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively, and moving such paragraphs 4 ems to the left; and

(2) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) through (V) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 4 ems to the left;

(B) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated, by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and moving such clauses 4 ems to the left; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking "unreasonable placement or recruitment fees" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "placement or recruitment fees".

SEC. 5. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 108(b)(7) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7106(b)(7)) is amended by inserting "or enable" after "condone".

SEC. 6. ACTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENTS FAILING TO MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS.

Section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "The report should" and inserting "The report shall, to the extent concurrent reporting data is available, cover efforts and activities taking place during the period between April 1 of the year preceding the report and March 31 of the year in which the report is made, and should";

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "based only on concrete actions taken by the country that are recorded during the reporting period" after "such standards";

(C) in subparagraph (B) by inserting "based only on concrete actions taken by the country (excluding any commitments by the country to take additional future steps during the next year) that are recorded during the reporting period" after "compliance";

(D) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and" at the end;

(E) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

"(H) for each country included in a different list than the country had been placed

in the previous annual report, a detailed explanation of how the concrete actions (or lack of such actions) undertaken (or not undertaken) by the country during the previous reporting period contributed to such change, including a clear linkage between such actions and the minimum standards enumerated in section 108.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by adding “or” at the end;

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subclause (III);

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the last annual report” and inserting “April 1 of the previous year”;

(C) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “2 years” and inserting “1 year”; and

(D) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “PUBLIC” and inserting “CONGRESSIONAL”; and

(ii) by striking “shall provide” and all that follows and inserting the following: “shall—

“i) provide a detailed description of the credible information supporting such determination on a publicly available website maintained by the Department of State; and

“ii) offer to brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on any written plan submitted by the country under subparagraph (D)(ii)(I), with an opportunity to review the written plan.”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the extent to which the government of the country is devoting sufficient budgetary resources—

“(i) to investigate and prosecute acts of severe trafficking in persons;

“(ii) to convict and sentence persons responsible for such acts; and

“(iii) to obtain restitution for victims of human trafficking;

“(E) the extent to which the government of the country is devoting sufficient budgetary resources—

“(i) to protect and support victims of trafficking in persons; and

“(ii) to prevent severe forms of trafficking in persons; and

“(F) the extent to which the government of the country has consulted with domestic and international civil society organizations that resulted in concrete actions to improve the provision of services to victims of trafficking in persons.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ACTION PLANS FOR COUNTRIES UPGRADDED TO TIER 2 WATCHLIST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the release of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, the Secretary of State, acting through the Ambassador-at-Large of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking and the Assistant Secretary of the appropriate regional bureau, in consultation with appropriate officials from the government of each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), and with the assistance of the United States Ambassador or Charge d’Affaires in each country, shall—

“(i) prepare an action plan for each country upgraded from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watchlist to further improve such country’s tier ranking under this subsection; and

“(ii) present the relevant action plan to the government of each such country.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each action plan prepared under this paragraph—

“(i) shall include specific concrete actions to be taken by the country to substantively address deficiencies preventing the country from meeting Tier 2 standards, based on credible information; and

“(ii) should be focused on short-term and multi-year goals.

“(C) BRIEFINGS.—The Ambassador-at-Large of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking and all appropriate regional Assistant Secretaries shall make themselves available to brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives on the implementation of each action plan prepared under this paragraph.

“(D) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as modifying—

“(i) minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking under section 108; or

“(ii) the actions against governments failing to meet minimum standards under this section or the criteria for placement on the Special Watch List under paragraph (2).”.

SEC. 7. COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS TIER 2 WATCH LIST COUNTRIES ON THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than annually, the Secretary of State shall provide, to the foreign minister of each country that has been downgraded to a “Tier 2 Watch List” country pursuant to the Trafficking in Persons report submitted under section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b))—

(1) a copy of the annual Trafficking in Persons report; and

(2) information pertinent to that country’s downgrade, including—

(A) confirmation of the country’s designation to the Tier 2 Watch List;

(B) the implications associated with such designation and the consequences for the country of a downgrade to Tier 3;

(C) the factors that contributed to the downgrade; and

(D) the steps that the country must take to be considered for an upgrade in status of designation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that, given the gravity of a Tier 2 Watch List designation, the Secretary of State should communicate the information described in subsection (a) to the foreign minister of any country downgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List.

SEC. 8. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING INTERVENTIONS IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, acting through the Ambassador at Large for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, shall instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank to initiate discussions with the other executive directors and management of the respective multilateral development bank to—

(1) further develop anti-human trafficking provisions in relevant project development, safeguards, procurement, and evaluation policies;

(2) employing a risk-based approach, require human trafficking risk assessments and integration plans as a routine part of developing projects through existing, forthcoming or new mechanisms and processes;

(3) support analyses of the impact of severe forms of trafficking in persons on key indi-

cators of economic and social development and of the benefits of reducing human trafficking on economic and social development;

(4) support the proactive integration of effective anti-trafficking interventions into projects with the objectives of enhancing development outcomes and reducing the incidence of severe forms of trafficking in project areas;

(5) increase the capacity of multilateral development banks and of recipient governments to conduct human trafficking risk assessments and integrate anti-trafficking interventions into projects;

(6) support the development of meaningful risk mitigation and reduction policies, regulations, and strategies within the multilateral development banks to reduce the incidence and prevalence of severe forms of trafficking in persons and enhance development outcomes that may be improved by reducing the incidence and prevalence of human trafficking; and

(7) support the inclusion of human trafficking risk analysis in the development of relevant country strategies by each multilateral development bank.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make relevant officials available to brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives on the implementation of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1862, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, passed the Senate unanimously. It is part of a package of bipartisan bills negotiated between the House and the Senate to reauthorize, reform, and strengthen our Nation’s efforts to combat human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, it deserves our unanimous support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. This is another good measure to strengthen our government’s response to the horrific practice of human trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1862.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3247) to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3247

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Because women make up the majority of the world's poor and gender inequalities prevail in incomes, wages, access to finance, ownership of assets, and control over the allocation of resources, women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment is important to achieve inclusive economic growth at all levels of society.

(2) Research shows that when women exert greater influence over household finances, economic outcomes for families improve, and childhood survival rates, food security, and educational attainment increase. Women also tend to place a greater emphasis on household savings which improves family financial resiliency.

(3) A 2016 report by the McKinsey Global Institute estimated that achieving global gender parity in economic activity could add as much as \$28,000,000,000,000 to annual global gross domestic product by 2025.

(4) Lack of access to financial services that address gender-specific constraints impedes women's economic inclusion. Roughly 1,000,000,000 women around the world are currently left out of the formal financial system, which causes many women to rely on informal means of saving and borrowing that are riskier and less reliable.

(5) Among other consequences, this lack of access hampers the success of women entrepreneurs, including women who are seeking to run or grow small and medium-sized enterprises. The International Finance Corporation has estimated that 70 percent of women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises in the formal sector are unserved or underserved in terms of access to financial services, resulting in a financing gap of \$300,000,000,000 for women-owned small businesses.

(6) Women's economic empowerment is inextricably linked to a myriad of other wom-

en's human rights that are essential to their ability to thrive as economic actors across the lifecycle, including—

(A) living lives free of violence and exploitation;

(B) achieving the highest possible standard of health and well-being;

(C) enjoying full legal and human rights, such as access to registration, identification, and citizenship documents;

(D) benefitting from formal and informal education;

(E) equal protection of and access to land and property rights;

(F) access to fundamental labor rights;

(G) policies to address disproportionate care burdens; and

(H) business and management skills and leadership opportunities.

(7) Discriminatory legal and regulatory systems and banking practices are obstacles to women's access to capital and assets, including land, machinery, production facilities, technology, and human resources. These barriers are often connected to a woman's marital status, which can determine whether she is able to inherit land or own property in her name. These constraints contribute to women frequently running smaller businesses, with fewer employees and lower asset values.

(8) Savings groups primarily comprised of women are recognized as a vital entry point, especially for poor and very poor women, to formal financial services. There is a high demand for such groups to protect and grow the savings of women with formal financial institutions.

(9) Evidence shows that, once a saving group is linked to a bank, the average savings per member increases between 40 to 100 percent and the average profit per member doubles. Investing in financial literacy, business leadership training, and mentorship are key elements to these outcomes.

(10) United States support for microenterprise and microfinance development programs, which seek to reduce poverty in low-income countries by giving small loans to small-scale entrepreneurs without collateral, have been a useful mechanism to help families weather economic shocks, but many microcredit borrowers largely remain in poverty.

(11) The vast majority of microcredit borrowers are women who would like to move up the economic ladder, but are held back by binding constraints that create a missing middle—large numbers of microenterprises, a handful of large firms or conglomerates, and very few small and medium-sized enterprises in between, which are critical to driving economic growth in developing countries.

(12) According to the World Bank, small and medium-sized enterprises create 4 out of 5 new positions in emerging markets, but approximately 50 percent of formal small and medium-sized enterprises lack access to formal credit. The financing gap is even larger when micro and informal enterprises are taken into account. Overall, approximately 70 percent of all micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in emerging markets lack access to credit.

SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) GENDER ANALYSIS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "gender analysis"—

(1) means a socioeconomic analysis of available or gathered quantitative and qualitative information to identify, understand, and explain gaps between men and women which typically involves examining—

(A) differences in the status of women and men and their differential access to and con-

trol over assets, resources, education, opportunities, and services;

(B) the influence of gender roles, structural barriers, and norms on the division of time between paid employment, unpaid work (including the subsistence production and care for family members), and volunteer activities;

(C) the influence of gender roles, structural barriers, and norms on leadership roles and decision making; constraints, opportunities, and entry points for narrowing gender gaps and empowering women; and

(D) potential differential impacts of development policies and programs on men and women, including unintended or negative consequences; and

(2) includes conclusions and recommendations to enable development policies and programs to narrow gender gaps and improve the lives of women and girls.

(b) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY.—It shall be the international development cooperation policy of the United States—

(1) to reduce gender disparities with respect to economic, social, political, educational, and cultural resources, wealth, opportunities, and services;

(2) to strive to eliminate gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects on individuals and communities including through efforts to develop standards and capacity to reduce gender-based violence in the workplace and other places where women work;

(3) to support activities that secure private property rights and land tenure for women in developing countries, including—

(A) legal frameworks that give women equal rights to own, register, use, profit from, and inherit land and property;

(B) improving legal literacy to enable women to exercise the rights described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) improving the capacity of law enforcement and community leaders to enforce such rights;

(4) to increase the capability of women and girls to fully exercise their rights, determine their life outcomes, assume leadership roles, and influence decision-making in households, communities, and societies; and

(5) to improve the access of women and girls to education, particularly higher education opportunities in business, finance, and management, in order to enhance financial literacy and business development, management, and strategy skills.

(c) ACTIONS.—In order to advance the policy described in subsection (b), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that—

(1) strategies, projects, and activities of the Agency are shaped by a gender analysis;

(2) standard indicators are used to assess such strategies, projects, and activities, if applicable; and

(3) gender equality and female empowerment are integrated throughout the Agency's program cycle and related processes for purposes of strategic planning, project design and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES.

(a) FINDINGS AND POLICY.—Section 251 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "microenterprise" and inserting "micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises";

(B) by striking "and in the development" and inserting "in the development"; and