

# W7 POSITION PAPER

French G7 Presidency:  
Defending and promoting gender  
equality in a difficult context



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# INTRODUCTION

On January 1, 2026, France officially took on the presidency of the G7, following Canada, with the main ambition of addressing “global imbalances”. This presidency is taking place in an international context marked by a questioning of multilateralism and international solidarity, including within the G7 by the U.S. administration, and by a historic decline in global official development assistance funding<sup>1</sup>. France’s historical allies are speaking up less about gender equality, and some G7 member states, such as the United States or Italy, are openly positioning themselves as opponents on girls, adolescents girls, women’s and LGBTQIA+ rights in all their diversity.

The organizations that make up the Women 7 call on G7 member states, allied and progressive on gender equality, to not backtrack on these issues in the face of pressure within the G7, and to find ways to increase collaboration with G7 members and outreach states that are willing to act in favor of gender equality. More specifically, the W7 has three objectives:

**1**

**Promote gender equality as a French political priority, within the G7 and in related spaces.**

**2**

**Achieve recognition of the fundamental role of feminist organizations and the maintenance and/or renewal of their financial support.**

**3**

**Make the French G7 Presidency a moment of renewed mobilization around human rights and multilateralism.**

This W7 positioning note aims to detail the collective’s positions and recommendations regarding gender equality.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the OECD, [in 2024, ODA from DAC member countries decreased for the first time in six years](#), recording a 71% drop in real terms compared to 2023: this does not yet reflect the halt in USAID funding.

# 01

## FOR A SUMMIT AND DELIVERABLES INTEGRATING GENDER EQUALITY AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES




While the official architecture of the French G7 presidency does not include a ministerial track dedicated to gender equality, we recommend that States:

-  **Mainstream gender equality and feminist diplomacy issues across all G7 tracks, at the Evian Summit and in all deliverables**, by adopting an intersectional approach that takes into account how discrimination related to gender, origin, social class, disability, age, or sexual orientation can overlap and reinforce each other;
-  **Establish strong accountability mechanisms for gender equality:** To this end, G7 member states must, on the one hand, ensure accountability for all gender equality initiatives undertaken within previous G7 frameworks, including commitments made during the previous French presidency in 2019, notably the Biarritz Declaration and the “Priorité à l’Egalité” initiative. On the other hand, States must attach operational and robust accountability mechanisms to the commitments and deliverables that will be developed in 2026 under the French presidency;
-  **Ensure the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the shaping and implementation of the G7:** We call on States to unequivocally recognize the key role of civil societies in informing public decision-making. Civil society organizations, both from G7 and non-G7 countries, particularly feminist CSOs and movements, as well as young feminist organizations from the Global South, must be fully and meaningfully integrated and involved at all preparatory stages of the G7, including at the Evian Summit. These organizations also play a crucial role in the monitoring and evaluation processes of the French G7 presidency and beyond;
-  To this end, **it is essential to facilitate and guarantee access to visas**, in particular to enable feminist activists and advocates to access the Schengen area and decision-making spaces related to the French G7 presidency—and beyond, worldwide.

# 02

## PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY, PARTICULARLY THROUGH FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS

Despite their recognized impact, feminist organizations receive only a tiny share of international aid. According to the OECD, in 2024, only 5.7% of bilateral ODA had gender equality as a primary objective, and less than 1% directly reached organizations working for the rights of women, adolescent girls, and girls.<sup>2</sup> In a context marked by shrinking civic space, the growing criminalization of civil society action, and the rise of anti-rights movements, their underfunding directly undermines their capacity to act, to protect, and to support the communities they serve. UN Women<sup>3</sup> reveals that nearly half of women's organizations working in humanitarian contexts could close their doors within the next six months due to budget cuts. We recommend that States:

-  **Return to an upward trajectory of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to reach 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI)**, as recalled in the final declaration of the Seville Conference on Financing for Development, and allocate a significant share to gender equality through ambitious gender-marked ODA targets;
-  **Ensure direct, flexible, pooled and sustainable funding for grassroots feminist movements and organizations defending the rights of girls, adolescents girls, women and LGBTQIA+ persons in all their diversity**, which are among the most effective agents of change. This implies establishing multi-year funding that supports not only activities but also operating costs and the sustainability of structures;
-  **Guarantee funding allocated to feminist organizations. To this end, create and maintain funds for feminist organizations**, such as the French Support Fund for Feminist Organizations, which must be sustained beyond 2027 by allocating sufficient resources, **and promote the creation of similar funds in other G7 countries;**

<sup>2</sup> OECD, Development Finance for Gender Equality, 2025

<sup>3</sup> ON Women At a Breaking Point: The Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts on Women's Organizations in Humanitarian Crises Worldwide, 2025

-  **Remove administrative and regulatory constraints that effectively exclude local groups and structures** that are not formally registered from accessing international funding, by integrating resources dedicated to the protection and security of activists and by supporting linguistic justice and accessibility, in order to enable the effective participation of all actors in the feminist movement;
-  **Strengthen rapid-disbursement feminist emergency funds** to enable feminist organizations to respond effectively to crises and maintain their actions in emergency contexts;
-  **Encourage foundations and companies to take a more active role in building more equal societies.** While private funding cannot and must not replace that of governments or international organizations, it should be mobilized to support actions defined by civil society organizations themselves. Such funding must promote gender equality and human rights;
-  **Implement gender-budgeting across all ministries and apply it to every public policy.** Gender budgeting must be reflected in all public policies and in strong basic social services, whose current shortcomings disproportionately affect women and girls.

## 03

# PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF GIRLS, ADOLESCENT GIRLS, WOMEN, AND LGBTQIA+ PERSONS IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY IN THE FACE OF CONSERVATIVE ATTACKS

Attacks against girls, adolescent girls, women, and LGBTQIA+ persons in all their diversity , as well as against human rights defenders, are systematic and increasing worldwide.<sup>4</sup> In the face of backlash and the rise of conservatism, far-right movements, and populism, we call on States to:

-  **Recognize, anticipate, and actively combat the rollback of rights and of democracy, as well as anti-rights and anti-choice movements,**

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<sup>4</sup> Front Line Defenders, [Global Analysis 2023/2024](#), 2024

-  **Put in place strong strategies to protect and support feminist and LGBTQIA+ activists**, women and girls, human rights defenders, leaders, spokespersons, and their organizations. This includes publicly reaffirming the legitimacy of their work, establishing emergency assistance mechanisms, funding their organizations, as well as applying diplomatic pressure on States that repress civil society and endanger human rights defenders;
  
-  **Guarantee access to and support the full participation of feminist and LGBTQIA+ organizations from the Global Majority in international and multilateral decision-making spaces.** Meaningful consultation with these organisations is key to ensuring that their expertise is heard and taken into account in these forums. In many contexts where civic space is restricted at the national level, these forums sometimes constitute the only spaces allowing organizations to put forward their demands, document violations and make their voices heard;
  
-  **Defend without compromise international commitments and funding in favor of bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons**, and protect normative gains in key multilateral spaces, whether at the United Nations (such as CSW, CPD, or WHA), in regional forums, or in national contexts;
  
-  **Implement feminist foreign policies based on human rights, anti-racism, and intersectionality**, aimed at transforming power relations and addressing the interlocking systems of domination—patriarchy, colonialism, capitalism, ableism, and classism—that perpetuate global inequalities.

# 04

## ENSURE SAFE DIGITAL SPACES FOR WOMEN AND ACTIVISTS, AND FOR DEMOCRACIES






Gender-based violence and masculinist discourse online are growing exponentially. 84% of victims of online violence are women.<sup>5</sup> Girls and adolescent girls are particularly affected by harassment on social media,<sup>6</sup> which peaks between the ages of 14 and 16. These acts have severe psychological and even physical consequences for survivors. They lead to silencing (1 in 5 girls stops engaging on social media) and are part of a continuum of sexist and sexual violence that occurs both online and offline (street harassment, gender-based violence, assault, including rape and femicide). Moreover, disinformation and misinformation, facilitated by AI, limit access for girls and adolescent girls in all their diversity to reliable information.<sup>7</sup> These technologies are not neutral; they reflect patriarchal societies and reproduce, or even exacerbate, the gender biases, inequalities, and violence present within them. We recommend that States:

-  **Strengthen the legal, policy, and budgetary arsenal for combating gender-based and sexual violence (GBV) online and offline**, to address its structural causes, by adopting an intersectional approach, enacting laws against violence against women and girls that hold social media platforms and other third-party online platforms accountable, and ensuring the effective implementation of these laws and policies by all relevant authorities (police, the judiciary, and the public prosecutor's office);
-  **Place comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) at the heart of public policies** to promote equality and respect, to recognize and respect consent, and to combat sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination, school bullying, and inequalities, which exist both in real life and online. Integrate CSE with comprehensive media literacy programs, particularly digital media literacy, to foster the development of critical thinking, address the specific needs of girls and young women, and promote gender equality;

<sup>5</sup> High Council for Equality between Women and Men, Report on the State of Sexism in France, 2026

<sup>6</sup> Plan International, State of the World's Girls Report: Free to be online? 2020





<sup>7</sup> Plan International, Rapport [Entre le vrai et le faux](#), 2021

-  **Continue efforts to regulate Big Tech by ensuring transparency regarding the use of personal data and the algorithms** used for content moderation, as well as initiatives to strengthen fundamental digital freedoms (encryption, online privacy, etc.);
  
-  **Strictly regulate synthetic content generation tools to prevent the creation of non-consented content**, that disproportionately targets women and LGBTQIA+ individuals, whether they produce sexual content (for example: Grok, which allows users to “nudify” photos of women) or not, since the mere dissemination of a manipulated image can expose a person to physical, domestic, or community violence.  
Regarding tools for generating non-consensual synthetic sexual content: ban the future development and marketing of such tools and require AI providers to incorporate technical safeguards preventing these uses from the outset (safety by design), as recommended, for example, by the European Parliament.
  
-  **Tax Big Tech companies based on the “polluter pays” principle** to fund efforts to combat sexist speech and cyberviolence;
  
-  **Establish protective mechanisms to defend freedom of association**, which is under widespread attack through shadow bans, the suppression of feminist or LGBTQIA+ content, and other means...;
  
-  **Strengthen offline and online protection for feminist activists and human rights defenders**, drawing inspiration from the work of feminist networks and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders: documenting online violence against them, building their capacity for digital self-defense, ensuring end-to-end encryption of communications, and strengthening their overall security (physical, digital, financial, freedom of expression, etc.).

# 05


## ENSURE GENDER ECONOMIC JUSTICE


Gender inequalities and the poverty of women and girls are not the result of chance. They stem from political and economic choices made at global, regional, and national levels, within systems dominated by patriarchal structures. These decisions, far from being neutral, have been taken within institutional frameworks that ignore the specific realities and rights of women and girls, while reinforcing dominant forms of power. Inequalities and poverty are structural problems that hamper the sustainable development of individuals and societies. They limit our collective capacity to respond to major global challenges such as climate, health, economic, migration, and food crises, as well as the growing care crisis. We call on States to:

-  **Systematically integrate gender into economic policies and access to resources:** Incorporate gender-responsive analyses into labor markets, services, and value chains to remove the specific barriers faced by women. This also involves ensuring their access to land, credit, decision-making bodies, and non-stereotyped vocational training to foster genuine economic empowerment;
-  **Recognize the care economy by accounting for and redistributing care work (both paid and unpaid).**<sup>9</sup> This requires investment in universal social protection and public care services, in line with ILO recommendations to reach 14.9% of GDP by 2030. It must also include a transformative and intersectional approach to stereotypes associated with this work;
-  **Implement fair and gender-responsive taxation:** Support the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, adopt progressive tax systems, reduce gendered taxes (e.g., on menstrual products), individualize income taxation, and increase funding for essential public services. It is essential to integrate a gender perspective into fiscal policies and strengthen the production of disaggregated data;
-  **Put an end to austerity policies:** Support a permanent and independent multilateral mechanism for debt resolution that incorporates a gender perspective, in order to achieve debt levels compatible with the fulfillment of fundamental rights and essential needs of populations;

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<sup>9</sup> Indicator of the ODD 5.4.1


 **Fully integrate gender equality into the ecological transition:** The green transition must include women in skilled green jobs and emerging sectors through quotas, training, and targeted funding. It is also important to recognize feminized sectors (such as care and social services) as part of “green jobs” and to strongly support initiatives that enable women to benefit from climate investments;

 **Promote women’s entrepreneurship and economic security:** Strengthen women’s skills (management, leadership, finance) and support collective and non-competitive entrepreneurship models, particularly through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and income-generating programs. It is also necessary to combat economic violence and make work environments safer by aligning national legal frameworks with international standards (ILO Convention 190).

# 06





## ADOPT A FEMINIST APPROACH TO FIGHTING HUNGER AND ENSURE NUTRITIONAL SECURITY FOR ALL

Progress on the nutrition of adolescent girls and women remains largely insufficient: 69% suffer from micronutrient deficiencies<sup>10</sup>, and more than one billion are affected by malnutrition, anaemia, or micronutrient deficiencies. In 2024, hunger worsened further, affecting 673 million people, with a widening gender gap, as women report higher levels of food insecurity everywhere.<sup>11</sup> These inequalities are both a consequence and a structural cause of hunger: lack of access to family planning, poorly integrated nutrition services, gender-based violence, and persistent inequalities in access to resources and healthy food. Repositioning nutrition as a feminist issue and placing the nutrition of women and girls at the heart of public policies is essential to understanding how different forms of oppression intersect and fuel these dynamics. We call on States to:

 **Improve access for women and girls to healthy food by supporting local production of nutritious foods,** limiting the marketing of ultra-processed products and making fresh foods more affordable. Acting on the food environment is a rapid and essential measure to reduce gender nutrition inequalities ;

<sup>10</sup> UNICEF, *Undernourished and Overlooked*, 2023

<sup>11</sup> FAO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report*, 2025

-  **Integrate nutrition into health systems and family planning:** Systematically integrate nutrition into primary health care, including family planning: screening, supplementation (MMS, IFA, calcium) and counseling must be accessible to all women and adolescent girls. This integration, supported by community health workers, would help reduce anaemia and provide continuous care, which is currently largely insufficient;
  
-  **Promote women's leadership in food systems:** guarantee women's access to land, credit and value chains, and support women-led agri-food businesses. Women producers remain excluded from resources and decision-making despite their central role. These reforms would increase their economic autonomy and improve household diversity and nutritional quality;
  
-  **Invest in the collection of regular, harmonized and sex-disaggregated data on diet quality, micronutrient deficiencies, and intervention coverage:** Addressing these gaps is essential to effectively guide nutrition policies by making women's needs visible, allocating resources, and strengthening accountability for national and international commitments;
  
-  **Support the implementation of the right to social security as defined in ILO Recommendation 202:** Recognise Care as a collective responsibility and invest in national care systems and public services to redress the imbalance in the burden of care work, which falls disproportionately on girls and women. Support States in adopting policies ensuring access to safe water, sanitation systems, as well as universal childcare services, paid family leave, access to education, and quality health care (including SRHR) in order to support the creation of a universal and feminist social protection system responsive to nutrition-related issues.

# 07

## ADDRESS GENDER INEQUALITIES IN AND THROUGH EDUCATION

Gender inequalities in education<sup>12</sup> have major consequences both for the futures of girls,<sup>13</sup> adolescent girls and young women, and for the social and economic development of their communities and countries. In the face of the explosion of needs<sup>14</sup> among girls, adolescent girls, and young women due to the multiplication of crises, with the education financing crisis<sup>15</sup> and in particular the underfunding of education in crisis contexts, we recommend that States:

-  **Ensure the necessary investment in education, including in crisis contexts,** by prioritizing the most vulnerable countries and populations, including girls, adolescent girls, young women and LGBTQIA+ people: the diversification of resources and the mobilization of innovative financing are useful levers. However, they must not replace public funding and their use must remain strictly regulated (risks of fragmentation, exclusion of the most marginalized populations, particularly the most vulnerable girls). Their mobilization must be based on clear ethical standards grounded in inclusion, gender equality, transparency and accountability;
-  **Support the priority given by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to gender issues and allocate the necessary funding** to this priority in the context of the upcoming GPE replenishment;
-  **Guarantee education that transforms gender relations:** continue and expand to other countries the “Priorité à l’Egalité” initiative adopted by the G7 in 2019, enabling sectoral education planning that integrates an approach promoting gender equality at all levels (curricula and teaching materials, safety on the way to, around and within schools, training of teachers and the broader education community, separate toilets, water points, etc.);

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<sup>12</sup> 133 million girls worldwide are still deprived of their right to education at the primary and secondary levels. Girls with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ youth, Indigenous girls or those from ethnic minorities, as well as those living in contexts of conflict, crisis or in poor and remote regions - are the first victims of inequalities in terms of education. UNESCO, GEM report, 2023

<sup>13</sup> The global cost of inaction in education is estimated at US\$ 10,000 billion for the global economy (UNESCO, 2025). Conversely, each year a girl spends in school increases her future income by 10 to 20% (UN Women, the Gender Snapshot 2022)

<sup>14</sup> More than 234 million children living in crisis contexts need urgent educational support; among them, 85 million are out of school, 52% of whom are girls (Education Cannot Wait, Global Estimates 2025 Update)

<sup>15</sup> UNESCO reports an annual shortfall of US\$ 97 billion to achieve SDG4 (UNESCO, 2023).



**Support comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in and outside school:**

Comprehensive sexuality education must help create a culture of equality, consent, the promotion of SRHR, and the fight against violence and against disinformation widely used by anti-choice movements. G7 countries must ensure: a) dedicated funding and links with specialized organizations; b) integration of CSE into European social policy; c) implementation of CSE, in accordance with the Directive on violence against women and its recital 742; d) the establishment of an accountability framework for the implementation of CSE; e) consultation of experts and organizations following the publication of monitoring reports;



**Earmark funding for non-formal education** for members of feminist organizations led by girls, adolescent girls and young women.

# 08

## PLACE GENDER EQUALITY AT THE HEART OF CRISIS RESPONSE

With the multiplication of crises and conflicts that specifically impact girls, adolescent girls, young women and LGBTQIA+ persons,<sup>16</sup> with insufficient consideration of the specific needs of adolescent girls in international frameworks such as the UN Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security agendas, and insufficient participation in peace and conflict resolution processes,<sup>17</sup> we recommend that States:



**Develop gender-transformative programs and/or at minimum gender-responsive programs** aimed at changing harmful stereotypes, structural discrimination, and the exclusion of women, girls, and non-binary persons;

prioritize the specific needs and rights of girls and young women in humanitarian aid by funding multisectoral programmes focused on protection and the fight against gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and socio-economic empowerment;

<sup>16</sup> Today, approximately 400 million children live in or are fleeing conflict zones (OCHA, global Humanitarian Overview 2025. Girls, adolescent girls, young women and LGBTQIA+ people face specific risks: more than 1 in 4 girls feels exposed daily to the risk of sexual assault (Plan International, Still we dream, 2024) and they are 2 times more likely to be out of school than boys (UNICEF, Girls Education: Gender equality in education benefits every child, 2022)

<sup>17</sup> UN, The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, 2021

- **Place girls, adolescent girls and young women at the center of humanitarian actions and programs:** they must be considered as agents and drivers of change, and their participation (notably through the institutionalization of participatory processes) and leadership must be promoted at all stages of projects, in a safe and meaningful way; more resources must be allocated to organizations and networks led by girls and young women working on peace and conflict resolution; equitable partnerships with local feminist organizations or organizations defending girls' rights, including those directly led by girls and young women, must be established;
- **Strengthen education for conflict prevention and peacebuilding,** notably by funding programs that promote education for peace and citizenship from primary and secondary levels, including human rights and gender equality;
- **Fully implement the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas through political leadership and dedicated funding,** with better integration of gender, including in data collection (at a minimum by sex and age);
- **Join and fund the Call to Action on GBV:** Gender-based violence remains one of the main obstacles to the health, autonomy, and security of women and girls, particularly in crisis contexts. By committing to it, States and organizations strengthen a collective response capable of preventing violence, protecting survivors, and ensuring essential services based on their rights.

## 09

# ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GENDER ISSUES

By 2050, up to 158 million women and girls could fall into extreme poverty due to the effects of climate disruption – that is 16 million more than men in the same situation.<sup>19</sup> Yet, women are not only the first victims: they are irreplaceable actors of resilience, adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and the protection and management of natural resources. Their voices must be at the heart of G7 decisions. We recommend that States:

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<sup>18</sup> Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies, 2022.

<sup>19</sup> ONU Femmes, Gender Snapshot 2024 / Feminist Climate Justice Framework, 2023

- **Systematically take climate change into account as an aggravating factor of gender inequalities:** Climate change is not neutral : it increases the amount of unpaid work women do and harms their health, particularly physical and mental health. Women, girls, and adolescent girls in all their diversity are on the front line of environmental crises and, simultaneously, the guardians of solutions. The degradation of the environment, biodiversity, and the depletion of resources directly harm the social fabric and therefore the rights and the future of girls;
- **Call on States to respect their commitments and highlight the collection and sharing of tangible field data:** Climate, biodiversity, desertification, and food sovereignty issues transcend borders and concern all societies. Their effects on the rights of all women and girls, as well as on gender inequalities in countries of the Global South, are documented by the communities themselves, are measurable, and must be addressed urgently. Supporting data collection would improve the quality of public policies, strengthen gender justice, and develop more effective responses to environmental crises;
- **Ensure the full and meaningful participation of women and legitimize their expertise in all decision-making bodies for climate, environment and biodiversity:** It is essential to guarantee a central place for women citizens within multilateral bodies, systematically excluded from circles of power. Many solutions to address climate change are held by local women, guardians of ancestral environmental knowledge and pioneers of adaptation. The role of the G7 is to support them, recognize them, and integrate them into multilateral mechanisms;
- **Implement transformative gender programmes - and/or at a minimum gender-responsive ones - in the fight against climate change:** girls, adolescent girls, women, and LGBTQIA+ persons are not only victims of this change or actors of resilience and adaptation: they also play a crucial role in mitigating climate change, through forest preservation, biodiversity protection, the transition to sustainable agricultural practices, a just energy transition and the reduction of emissions linked to chemical inputs;
- **Establish measurable accountability mechanisms for States addressing the intersection of gender and climate.**

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