



March 8, 2022

Statement of Esta Soler,

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Violence Prevention Leader Calls Biden Administration’s Proposed Investment in Advancing Gender Equity Worldwide a ‘Meaningful, Momentous Move’

“The Biden/Harris administration’s unprecedented, historic proposal to invest \$2.6 billion in foreign assistance programs that promote gender equality worldwide is a meaningful, momentous move that holds the promise to make our world more equitable, safe and secure. This request in the President’s FY2023 budget proposal is double the amount proposed for gender programs last year and includes a substantial investment in addressing gender-based violence. This is the largest amount ever requested. We agree with President Biden that we all ‘have a better future when women and girls can reach their full potential’ and commend his administration’s commitment to advancing dignity and equality for all.

The International Women’s Day announcement, coming at a time of massive violence and instability across the globe, aligns with the Biden administration’s National Strategy for Gender Equity and Equality. The funds the administration is proposing would advance gender equity and equality through foreign assistance, allowing USAID to put local women and girls at the center of global development and humanitarian work and in doing so, support safer, healthier, and more prosperous communities.

We will do everything possible to work with Congress to appropriate the full amount the Biden/Harris administration is proposing. Nothing is more important than advancing the status of women and girls, which will advance peace and stability worldwide.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.