



Statement of Esta Soler,
President and Founder, Futures Without Violence
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‘Historic, Inspired, and Urgently Needed’

Soler Lauds Biden/Harris National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

“We applaud the *National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action*, released by the Biden/Harris administration today. It is the comprehensive, focused, whole-of-government approach we need at this time when gender-based violence is a national crisis that in some way harms every family and every community. This crisis demands the kinds of solutions the Biden/Harris administration is proposing today. Why? Because we see horrifying reports of sexual assault and domestic violence every day. Because misogyny, bigotry, and hate are on the rise. Because the Internet is not safe for women and girls. Because homicide is the leading cause of death during pregnancy and after childbirth. And because our country now has more guns than people.

We especially applaud the fact that the new *National Plan* leads with prevention, which holds so much promise for stemming the tide of violence that is traumatizing so many women and children and undermining the health and wellbeing of families and communities. Throughout our 35-year history, Futures Without Violence has pioneered many of the strategies included here – including engaging with men and boys; addressing the trauma so many children experience; creating safe, supportive workplaces; and training health care providers to screen and respond effectively to people experiencing violence. We are grateful that our recommendations in those and other areas have been included.

We commend, as well, the focus on economic security and housing stability, which is essential to health and wellbeing; and on online safety, which is an urgent national priority. And we applaud the emphasis on research, which can help ensure that we continue to utilize lessons learned and invest in the tactics and strategies with the most promise.

The *National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence* is unprecedented, historic, inspired, and urgently needed. This is what strong, responsive leadership produces. We thank President Biden, Vice President Harris, and every administration official who worked on it – and we pledge to work tirelessly to help mobilize our communities to help the government implement it.”

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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.