

# GENDER AND CORRUPTION

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## RELEVANT G20 COMMITMENTS

*“The ACWG will continue to deepen its understanding of the linkages between gender and corruption, and discuss possible actions. The ACWG will also discuss how the gender dimension could be included in anti-corruption programming and policies.”* **G20 Anti-Corruption 2019-2021 Action Plan**

## CORRUPTION DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS WOMEN

The G20 has recognized that “gender equality is crucial for economic growth and fair and sustainable development (...)”<sup>1</sup>. However, corruption represents a major obstacle to achieving this goal. [It hampers economic growth, increases poverty and undermines the quality and quantity of public services](#), depriving the most marginalized groups, including women, of equitable [access to vital services such as healthcare, education and water and sanitation](#).

While many forms of corruption affect both women and men, corruption [disproportionately](#) affects vulnerable populations and hits the poor the hardest, especially women, who represent a higher share of the world’s poor.

In their traditional role as caregivers in many parts of the world, women experience corruption in their daily lives—from interactions with school officials to health care providers. Corruption presents a barrier for women to gain full access to their civic, social and economic rights. Furthermore, there are **specific forms of corruption, such as sexual extortion (sextortion), where sex is the currency of the bribe, that disproportionately affect women**.

Economically, the gendered impact of corruption has effects at both the global and local levels. To reduce and redistribute women’s unpaid or underpaid work and care, we need more investment in infrastructure, including schools, water, sanitation and energy and, once again, corruption represents a barrier in order to achieve this goal.

Vast amounts of money that could be used for investments in infrastructure are being lost to corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency. By some [estimates](#), close to US\$6 trillion could be lost annually to corruption by the year 2030. Furthermore, the IMF [estimates](#) that US\$1 trillion in additional public revenues could be available globally each year if countries took more effective actions against corruption.

This money represents badly needed public services like education, health, and childcare, as well as infrastructure development like roads and sanitation, that could help reduce unpaid work and care done by women. Investing in women would have a dramatic effect: [closing gender gaps will actually lead to an increase in global GDP](#) and help, as the G20 leaders have recognized, to achieve economic growth and sustainable development.

## TIME TO TAKE ACTION

As an initial response, in 2018 the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, for the first time since its creation in 2010, included a specific, and welcome, commitment about gender and corruption in their Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

In order to implement the G20 commitment of deepening its understanding on gender and corruption and including the gender perspective in its anti-corruption programs and policies; and following the B20, C20 and W20 2018 [joint recommendations](#) on gender and corruption, we call on G20 countries to:

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<sup>1</sup> G20 2018 Communiqué, <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000424877.pdf>

- **Collect, analyze and disseminate gender disaggregated data.** Timely access to sufficient, accurate and up-to-date information is essential in order to better understand the impact of anti-corruption policies on men and women and design, implement and monitor effective public policies, and to better integrate gender into anti-corruption policies.
- **Support women's participation in public and political life.** Women are not only victims of corruption but can and should be part of the solution. While women have a key role to play in anti-corruption, they have fewer opportunities to participate in public life and largely rely on policies designed by men to address their specific needs. Applying capacity building and institutional support and reducing women's unpaid and underpaid work are ways to improve women's participation in public and political life.
- **Recognize and address specific gendered forms of corruption.** Sextortion is not always recognized as corruption and is less likely to be reported due to a culture of shaming and victim blaming. Countries should ensure their judicial systems have the necessary tools and awareness to address sextortion cases.
- **Include women in anti-corruption decision making.** To ensure fairer access to political rights, women have to be part of the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption policies.
- **Empower women to report abuse and create gender sensitive reporting mechanisms.** Women are less likely to report abuse, as they are often unaware of their rights and entitlements, which makes them easier targets for corruption. Governments, international organizations, businesses and civil society organizations can and should play a key role to help ensure women have full knowledge of their rights through campaigns and information on gendered forms of corruption.

It is important to strengthen women's voice and empower them to report wrongdoing and specific forms of corruption that disproportionately affects them, such as sextortion. In doing so, safe, accountable, accessible and, most importantly, gender sensitive mechanisms that take into account cultural<sup>2</sup> and gender issues that might hinder reporting, should be created.

We call on all **G20 members to take concrete measures towards implementation in these areas during the remaining of the current G20 Anti-corruption working plan, and report publicly on the progress they have made no later than the end of 2021.**

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Delia Ferreira Rubio, UNDP, Gender and Corruption in Latin America: Is there a link?, [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rblac/docs/Research%20and%20Publications/Democratic%20Governance/Gender and Corruption in Latin America Is There a Link Final 10july.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rblac/docs/Research%20and%20Publications/Democratic%20Governance/Gender%20and%20Corruption%20in%20Latin%20America%20Is%20There%20a%20Link%20Final%2010july.pdf)

Marie Chêne, Transparency International, Topic Guide on gender and corruption, [https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/topic guide on gender and corruption](https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/answer/topic%20guide%20on%20gender%20and%20corruption)

Ortun Merkle, Mainstreaming gender and human rights in anti-corruption programming, <https://www.u4.no/publications/mainstreaming-gender-and-human-rights-in-anti-corruption-programming>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<sup>2</sup> cultural context should be taken into account as for example, in some cultures, women maybe more reluctant to hand in their complaint to a man.