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Human Rights Groups Welcome Congressional Resolution Condemning Abuses against Haitian Women and Girls and Demanding Immediate Action Consistent with the Policy Framework for an Effective and Equitable Transition

January 22, 2026 — 48 members of the U.S. House of Representatives stepped up to support the rights of Haitian women and girls and to stand in solidarity with Haitian civil society today. The bodies of Haitian women and girls have become the battle grounds for Haiti's complex crisis, even as they are marginalized in critical decisions regarding peacebuilding and governance for their country. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09) and 47 co-sponsors have introduced a [Resolution](#) that forcefully condemns this unlawful status quo and calls for urgent actions consistent with longstanding demands by Haitian civil society - including the [Policy Framework for an Effective and Equitable Transition](#).

The proposed [Resolution](#) minces no words. It “condemns the systematic sexual violence and other gender-based harms directed at women and girls in Haiti and the accompanying lack of protection, services, and accountability,” as well as “the persistent exclusion and marginalization of women in Haiti’s transitional government and in other leadership and decision-making positions.” And it explicitly calls out Haiti’s international partners as equally complicit. The consequences the Resolution identifies are dire: “the failure to center women’s leadership and women-specific needs and protections in Haiti’s transition threatens the effectiveness of the transition and the long-term security, democracy, and socioeconomic development of Haiti.”

“[P]olicies, programs, and corresponding budgetary allocations must be urgently implemented,” according to the 48 Congressional Representatives sponsoring the Resolution, and implemented in a manner that centers the demands and perspectives of Haitian civil society - particularly Haitian feminist and women’s rights organizations, especially those working at the grassroots. The listed priorities include:

- ensuring women’s empowered participation in all decision-making, including government positions and elections;
- preventing and addressing sexual and other forms of gender-based violence;
- “adopt[ing] a feminist policy that places the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at its center, and in particular, [committing] to base policies, programs, and planning on the Policy Framework for an Effective and Equitable Transition promulgated by civil society in Haiti”; and

- “tangibly invest[ing] in the long-term equality of Haiti’s women and girls by implementing forward-looking plans, policies, and programs concerned with legislative, institutional, and policy changes to that end.”

“The proposed Resolution represents an extraordinary measure of solidarity with Haitian women and girls and with Haitian civil society,” said **Sasha Filippova, Senior Staff Attorney for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti**. “48 Members of Congress are saying that the U.S. government, Haiti’s international partners, and Haiti’s transitional government are violating women’s rights, and in the process undermining their own efforts to establish peace and stable democracy in Haiti. The Representatives have also aligned their calls for immediate measures with those that have been urged by Haitian women’s rights and other civil society leaders - including what almost 200 organizations have put forward through the [Policy Framework for an Effective and Equitable Transition](#).”

“The BAI works with victims of sexual violence every day; and we are seeing horrific abuses and an absence of effective responses, which violate the rights of women and girls who are the primary victims,” said **Me Kattia Dorestant-Lefruy, lawyer and Co-Director of the Haiti-based Bureau des Avocats Internationaux**. “We applaud the Resolution’s strong language calling for the prevention of sexual violence and for effective responses and adequate services for any victims, including meaningful investigations and prosecutions. I hope that Representative Clarke and her Congressional colleagues will next use their political power to secure more funding and improved measures for tackling gender-based violence in Haiti - and to advance the long-term equality of Haitian women and girls.”

“Securing women’s empowerment, addressing women’s distinct needs, and confronting all forms of gender-based violence are not marginal to tackling Haiti’s security and governance crises,” said **Pascale Solages, co-director of Haiti-based Nègès Mawon**. “They are central and indispensable to securing lasting peace and prosperity in Haiti. But we are instead seeing women left out of leadership; we are seeing women’s distinct needs and safety being treated as marginal or ignored altogether; and we are seeing elections being planned without consideration of gendered political violence and structural exclusions that, if unaddressed, will entrench and deepen inequality and instability in Haiti. This Resolution recognizes the urgent imperative to change course and promises the weight of 48 U.S. Congress Members behind our advocacy.”

“Working with women-led organizations throughout Haiti has taught us the importance of ensuring that women are engaged as equal partners in the ongoing development of Haiti,” said **Carine Jocelyn, founder of the Haitian Women’s Collective and the Fund for Haitian Women**. “For Haiti to secure a peaceful and prosperous future, Haitian women must be among policy makers, government leaders, civic leaders, and agents of change, and they must have

equitable access to financing. We applaud Congresswoman Clarke and the 47 co-sponsors of this Resolution for uplifting the rights of Haitian women and girls.”

“The dire conditions faced by Haitian women and girls today are difficult to put into words. From widespread sexual and gender-based violence, to their near-total exclusion from the political power they need to overcome their desperate situation, the daily devastation they are experiencing cannot be overstated, and must not be ignored. As we stand on the brink of Haiti’s TPS expiration on February 3rd that would condemn hundreds of thousands more to the same chaotic environment too many are already suffering, my colleagues and I are proud to introduce this resolution that makes our humanitarian and moral obligations clear. In a just and decent nation, these words would not have to pass through the halls of Congress to be accepted as a universal truth. But that is not what America is today under the brutal thumb of the Trump administration. And so, we will continue to call for justice for our Haitian sisters, and we will continue to demand the immediate extension of TPS for our Haitian neighbors. This president should know that the longer our calls go unanswered, the louder they will become,” said

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09).

“Inclusive security is the key to lasting security, but too often, international interventions in Haiti have sidelined Haitian women’s leadership,” said **Yifat Susskind, MADRE Executive Director**. “This isn’t just ineffective security policy: it is an erosion of Haiti’s sovereignty. Haitian women have a right, guaranteed under national and international law, to shape the future of their country. International efforts at stabilization - including the U.S.-backed Gang Suppression Force - must reinforce the self-determination of Haiti and reflect, instead of ignore, commitments to women’s political leadership.”

Members of Congress co-sponsoring the Resolution alongside Representative Clarke (47):
Joyce Beatty (OH-03); Wesley Bell (MO-01); Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (GA-02); Shontel M. Brown (OH-11); Salud Carbajal (CA-24); Andre Carson (IN-07); Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20); Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05); Jasmine Crockett (TX-30); Shomari C. Figures (AL-02); Maxwell Frost (FL-10); Sylvia Garcia (TX-29); Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC); Steven Horsford (NV-04); Jonathan L. Jackson (IL-01); Pramila Jayapal (WA-07); Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. (GA-04); Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37); Robin L. Kelly (IL-02); Summer L. Lee (PA-12); Zoe Lofgren (CA-18); John Mannion (NY-22); Sarah McBride (DE-At-Large); Jennifer L. McClellan (VA-04); James P. McGovern (MA-02); LaMonica McIver (NJ-10); Gregory W. Meeks (NY-05); Grace Meng (NY-06); Kweisi Mfume (MD-07); Stacey Plaskett (USVI); Ayanna Pressley (MA-07); Delia C. Ramirez (IL-03); Jan Schakowsky (IL-09); Terri Sewell (AL-07); Lateefah Simon (CA-12); Darren Soto (FL-09); Shri Thanedar (MI-13); Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02); Rashida Tlaib (MI-12); Ritchie Torres (NY-15); Lauren Underwood (IL-14); Marc Veasey (TX-33); Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07); Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-25); Maxine Waters (CA-43); Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12); Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24)

Organizations endorsing the Resolution (20): Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, Nègès Mawon, Haitian Women's Collective, MADRE, American Jewish World Service, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Haitian Bridge Alliance, UndocuBlack Network, Amnesty International USA, African Communities Together, Roots of Development, Variant Strategies, UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab-People of African Descent, Òganizasyon Feminis Dantò, Faith in New Jersey, OE Consulting, Congregations of St. Joseph, Black Diaspora Voices, Assured Quality Homecare

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