

## UNITED STATES

I want to thank Viviana and her colleagues on the GQUAL Campaign for inviting us here tonight and for drawing attention on such an important issue.

I would also like to thank Judit and the International Development Law Organization for their role in tonight's event. IDLO is a valuable implementing partner of the United States in many countries around the world.

If there were ever any question about the critical roles of researchers and civil society activists, this campaign is a powerful answer. It takes a tremendous amount of effort to launch a campaign like this, especially one that has both strong data and an inspiring call to action. So congratulations on getting this far, and thank you for your leadership.

While this may be the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, I can't think of a country that doesn't need a campaign like GQUAL. Women remain sorely underrepresented in the justice sector at every level and in every country.

This is certainly true here in the United States. And yet our experience has shown us that when women take their place on the bench, women on the other side receive better treatment.

For example, a U.S. study found that three-judge panels trying sexual assault cases were much more likely to find for the plaintiff if at least one of the judges was a woman.

And the best part is that the woman on the panel didn't only change the outcome. She changed the minds of her male colleagues. And that's one of the most important things we can do to achieve gender equality.

So we've seen first hand that more women in justice settings are substantively important.

But their presence is important for another reason.

I've traveled as part of U.S. delegations to other countries, and when the two delegations meet, it sometimes happens that the other side is full of men. And when they see that the U.S. delegation has women, it sends a message about who we are and what we care about. It shows that we don't just say gender equality matters. We're also working to achieve it.

I know the United States isn't perfect when it comes to women in leadership. No country is. But the United Nations is in a unique place to rise to this challenge.

For the UN to credibly and effectively promote social progress and the equal rights of women, it has to demonstrate that progress itself. More than any other organization on the planet, the UN must, to paraphrase Gandhi, be the change it wishes to see in the world.

That's why the United States is working to help meet this challenge. According to data supplied by the GQUAL Campaign itself—and by the way, we wouldn't have this data if it weren't for the Campaign—more than 40 percent of American citizens currently serving on these bodies are women. That number is encouraging, but short of our goal.

And so my office will work within our government to increase that percentage and to institutionalize a commitment to parity wherever possible.

We will also work to promote equality elsewhere in the UN. Far too few women serve as UN mediators or in the senior echelons of the UN staff. Far too many women who could serve in these positions are passed over along the way. These issues deserve to be front and center in New York and in capitals around the world - and they will need to stay front and center so there's no backsliding on progress made.

This will take a group effort. I'm proud to say that the United States is committed to being a part of that effort. We look forward to working with the UN, fellow member states, and the civil society community to achieve these goals.