



**Winter 2018 Campaign #1: Protecting funding for women and girls  
February 5 - March 12, 2018**

## THE ISSUE

Everyone should have an equal opportunity to thrive. We can start by ensuring girls and women living in extreme poverty overseas are educated, protected, and respected. In too many countries, being born poor and female means a life sentence of inequality, oppression, and poverty – and in many cases it’s also a death sentence. Simply put, **poverty is sexist** and we won’t end it until girls and women everywhere are able to reach their full potential. By fully funding the International Affairs Budget, we fully fund development programs that make things more equal for girls and women in the poorest countries which helps end extreme poverty faster.

## THE CAMPAIGN

With International Women’s Day (March 8th) fast approaching, we are asking our lawmakers to empower girls and women around the world by protecting the foreign aid budget. As President Trump releases his new budget, we need you to continue to mobilize your campus community to protect the international affairs budget that helps empower women, puts girls in school, and saves the lives of millions of people living in extreme poverty--all for less than 1 percent of the federal budget. You will be contacting your school’s Representatives and Senators, and asking them to oppose cuts to the International Affairs Budget. By educating and activating your community, you can ensure that your Members of Congress know that their constituents care about this issue and will hold them accountable to making sure that foreign aid is not cut in the federal budget.

For now, we’re asking you to ask your school’s Representative and Senators to oppose cuts to the International Affairs Budget broadly. Once President Trump releases his new budget proposal in mid February, we will send you an updated ask and sample letter with a specific dollar amount we are requesting.

## THE ADVOCACY ACTION

### **Handwritten messages to Congress**

Mobilize people on your campus to write a handwritten letter to one of your school’s U.S. Representative and/or Senators (one letter each), asking him/her to oppose cuts to the International Affairs Budget using the sample letter in this toolkit. As International Women’s Day approaches, we’ll also give you the opportunity to request pre-printed constituent cards with stats about women and girls on them so that you can have people write their handwritten message on those. Use the sample letter

at the end of this toolkit, and be sure to submit [a data spreadsheet](#) with the name and email of each person who wrote a letter on the [Report Actions page](#) of the ONE Campus website within **48 hours**.

\*Tip: Have folks complete one letter/card for your school's U.S. Representative and each of your school's U.S. Senators (3 total), and then have them fill two more out for their home state Senators if they're feeling really ambitious.\*

## THE CAMPAIGN TACTICS

We are asking you to host an **Advocacy in Action event on International Women's Day, March 8th!** **Advocacy in Action** is a signature ONE event that gives people on your campus the opportunity to learn about our issues, why they matter, and how they can be effective advocates in the fight against extreme poverty. Your Advocacy in Action event is an opportunity to recruit new team members and educate partners within your campus community about this issue and get them to take action by writing personalized messages to Congress.

Your event should center around the ready-made presentation we will send you closer to the date, but the style of event you choose is up to you! You can partner with another on-campus organization to host an event, too. Just be sure that all attendees take action at your event by writing a handwritten message to your school's Member of Congress. Make sure to track all your actions using [this data spreadsheet](#). Report your actions on using the "[Report Actions](#)" page of the ONE Campus website. Show off your event on social media by taking photos and tagging ONE Campus on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Follow all of the IWD excitement by using #ONECampus, #PovertyisSexist, and #IWD.

Some event ideas below:

### 1. Host a "Lunch and Learn" on your college campus

We know you all have a busy schedule and it can be hard to find time in the day to advocate. Meeting over lunch can be a great way to learn about the International Affairs Budget and take action too! Supply the sample letter, pens, and paper, provide pizza or ask attendees to bring a bag lunch or grab something at the food court, and meet up for a letter writing party!

**2. Give a classroom presentation.** Ask professors in relevant courses to allow you 15 minutes of class time to present your Advocacy in Action PowerPoint and get people to write a quick handwritten message to Congress at the end.

### 3. Host *Mama Rwanda* on your college campus

Hosting a film screening on campus is a great way to partner with other clubs, engage with new members and generate action. [MAMA RWANDA](#) is a short documentary that examines a new generation of women in post-genocide Rwanda whose passion for entrepreneurship is transforming their nation into one of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world. You should open the night by introducing yourself and your chapter, showing your powerpoint presentation, and ask folks to write a quick letter

to their Member of Congress before the film starts while you have a captive audience. To screen Mama Rwanda, fill out [this form](#).

>>Tip: Ask professors to give extra credit for attending your film screening!

**4. Host an International Women’s Day coffee house.** Provide coffee and tea and get members of your campus community to perform music and spoken word on the theme of women’s empowerment. Give your Advocacy in Action presentation at the coffeehouse using the PowerPoint we’ll send you, and get attendees to write a handwritten message to Congress.

**5. Table and give cookies, cupcakes or candy etc. in exchange for a letter**

Take the idea of a traditional bake sale and instead of asking for money, give away sweet treats in exchange for a card to their Member of Congress. Table in a high-traffic area on campus and use these technique to recruit new members, educate your campus community on the issue of the international affairs budget, and generate handwritten messages to your lawmakers.

Our ONE Campus website has lots of resources for you to [host an event](#) of your own. And remember, you can always ask friends, classmates, and professors to write a letter on the fly!

## SAMPLE LETTER

**\*\*Note\*\* Once President Trump releases his new budget proposal in mid-February, we will send you an updated ask and sample letter with a specific dollar amount we are requesting.**

*Dear Senator/Representative [NAME],*

*In honor of International Women’s Day on March 8, I am writing to ask that you support and protect the international affairs budget that empowers women around the globe, works to get education to the more than 130 million girls out of school around the world, and saves the lives of millions of people living in extreme poverty.*

*For just 1% of the federal budget, U.S. development aid supports programs that are both the smart thing to do, and the right thing to do. I care about this because [INSERT PERSONAL REASON OR ISSUE-SPECIFIC TALKING POINT HERE].*

*U.S. foreign aid is a proven investment in our nation’s security, supports jobs here in America, and saves lives, all for less than 1% of the budget. Please oppose cuts to the international affairs budget.*

[NAME]

[EMAIL]

[SCHOOL]

[SCHOOL ADDRESS]

## TALKING POINTS

### **About the International Affairs Budget, or “The 150 Account”**

“The 150 Account” is the shorthand way of referring to the U.S. international affairs budget – the part of the budget that Congress uses to fund the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and nearly all other international programs carried out by the U.S. government. The funds in the 150 account pay for things like the operating budgets of State and USAID, as well smaller agencies such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Peace Corps, and trade promotion agencies. The 150 account also funds virtually all of the programs these agencies carry out overseas, including global health, food security, humanitarian relief and economic development programs.

#### **Broadly speaking, funds in the 150 account fall into three major categories:**

- 1. *Poverty Alleviation:*** ONE fights to protect the 150 account because a significant amount of its funding goes to programs that are focused on poverty alleviation and development. These include programs that promote economic growth, advance global health, improve nutrition, strengthen child survival, and empower women. The U.S. also provides significant funding for humanitarian response each year. This includes money to feed people facing acute food insecurity, including famine, to support refugee response around the world, and to deal with disease outbreaks, which often occur in conflict or refugee settings.
- 2. *Security Assistance:*** Through the 150 account the United States also provides security assistance that enhances the ability of our allies to work with us to meet global threats. It pays for things like training to professionalize militaries in developing countries. It also funds programs that are aimed at countering weapons of mass destruction and fighting terrorism.
- 3. *Agency Operations:*** The operating budgets support the personnel at the State Department, USAID, MCC and Peace Corps who make all of these critical programs happen. Without the people on the ground to carry out these activities, there would be no U.S. foreign assistance.

### **The 150 Account – Why We Have to Protect It**

- **For just 1% of the federal budget**, the 150 account supports programs that empower women and girls around the world and saves lives– just a few examples: it gives vital support to refugees driven from their homes, it combats human trafficking, and it helps countries deal with outbreaks of infectious diseases before they reach our shores.
- The number of people living in extreme poverty around the world has been cut in half with the help of development activities funded by the 150 account. Programs to strengthen good governance, provide access to education and energy, advance the role of women and girls, and improve the health of millions all come from 150 account resources.

- Everyone should have an equal opportunity to thrive. We can start by ensuring girls and women living in extreme poverty overseas are educated, protected, and respected. In too many countries, being born poor and female means a life sentence of inequality, oppression, and poverty – and in many cases it’s also a death sentence. We can’t break the cycle of inequality if we turn our backs on girls and women living in extreme poverty.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, seven in 10 people do not have access to electricity, forcing many women to give birth in under-equipped hospitals, and putting childhood vaccines that require refrigeration at risk. The lack of electricity also forces families to cook meals over open flames, and students to study beside kerosene lamps, filling their homes with toxic fumes. Sustaining America’s ‘Power Africa’ partnership will save lives and create new economic opportunities on the continent, especially for women and girls.

**Educating girls is one of the most effective tools in the fight against extreme poverty.**

- When we educate girls, we empower them to transform their communities and break the cycle of intergenerational extreme poverty.
- Educating all women in sub-Saharan Africa through secondary school would save 1.2 million lives each year.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, investing in girls’ education can boost agricultural output by 25 percent.
- A dollar invested in an additional year of schooling generates earnings and health benefits of \$10 in low-income countries.
- Some studies even suggest that more education can reduce a country’s risk of conflict by 20 percent.
- Girls who complete secondary education are more likely to protect themselves against diseases such as HIV, less likely to die from childbirth, less likely to be a child bride.
- For every year a girl goes to school, her income goes up by nearly 12 percent.
- If every girl in school completed her primary education, the number of mothers dying in childbirth globally would fall by two-thirds.