

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2015

The Honorable Samantha Power
Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Power:

Promoting the rights of women and girls has been a goal of successive United States administrations. Consistent with these efforts, we urge the United States to lead the way in supporting the inclusion of a global indicator of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By prioritizing this indicator and ensuring that it applies globally, we can make great strides toward ending FGM worldwide.

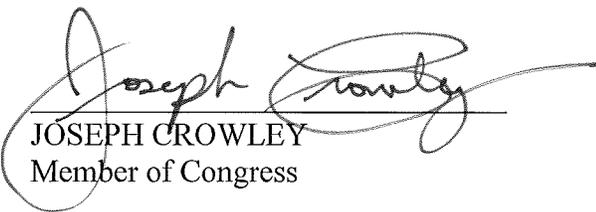
As you know, Target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals seeks to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.” This is an important and welcome approach to the broader goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. One of the indicators that has been proposed for this target is the “percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM/C by age group.” This indicator will be critical to measuring the achievement of the target and to ensuring the success of the Sustainable Development Goals, and we urge you to prioritize including the FGM indicator alongside measurements of child, early and forced marriage.

Additionally, we would like to stress how important it is that the FGM indicator be applied globally. We understand that proposed language would limit the indicator to only certain countries. This would be a mistake, and would leave out all too many girls who are impacted by FGM. The practice of FGM has been found in countries far beyond those commonly known, including in the U.S., and as international migration continues to increase, clear evidence has demonstrated that a girl’s risk is not limited to her home country. Wherever girls are at risk for FGM, there must be the tools in place to move forward the fight against this harmful practice.

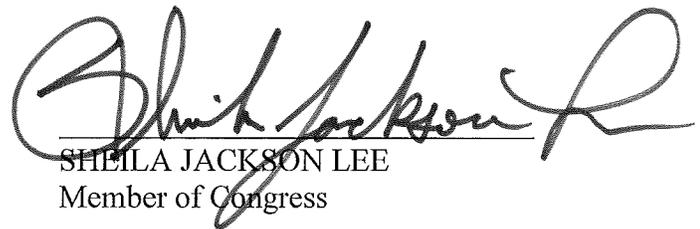
A global indicator on FGM sets a standard of accountability, putting forward a framework to develop comprehensive strategies for monitoring and addressing FGM. It will not only send a powerful message, but also help drive resources and political efforts that are needed to end FGM –by both building upon efforts in countries that are making progress and increasing efforts in countries where more must be done.

The message has gone out around the world, from numerous countries and from the U.N. General Assembly – FGM must be eliminated within a generation. The Sustainable Development Goals will bring attention to important worldwide missions like ending FGM, and we are pleased to see the attention paid to FGM in the development of the targets. We now hope to see a global indicator on FGM included, so that we can fully achieve this target, and the dream of making the world safer for girls. We welcome the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with you throughout this process, and look forward to your response.

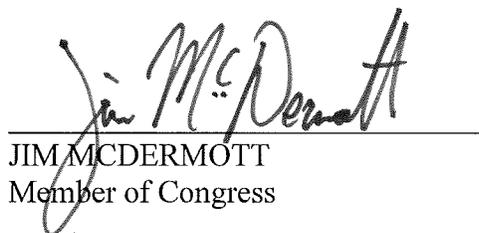
Sincerely,



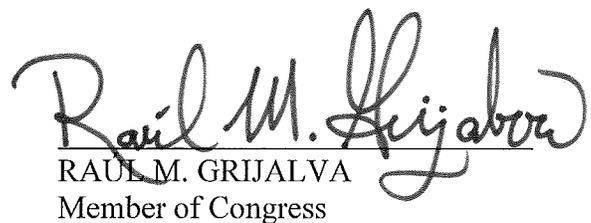
JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



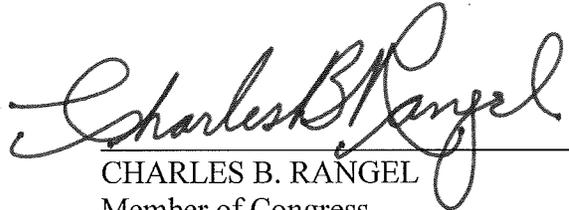
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress