

## CODEBOOK

Policy Activity in the Office of Global Women's Issues, US Department of  
State, 1995-2015

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## Code Book

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#### 1. Introduction: Purpose

The purpose of this project is to measure the volume of policy activity emanating from the Office of Global Women's Issues (OGWI) as part of a larger project on the emergence and evolution of women's rights as a priority in American foreign policy.<sup>1</sup>

We do not claim that a measure of the policy output of one office provides a complete picture of the government's commitment to women's rights in foreign policy. That will require a fuller study of the budgetary resources and personnel that are committed to the policy, together with a qualitative assessment of the depth and persistence with which the policy is pursued.

Nonetheless, the OGWI is the US government's primary implementing office in the pursuit of global women's rights, and we believe that a description of the volume of its policy activity and its programmatic and geographic priorities represent important tools for tracing the evolution of an important policy priority.

#### 2. Source

All data in this collection were taken from the webpage of the OGWI. The current year's webpage always appears here:

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/index.htm>

Archives for prior years are linked on the page above and are also listed at the end of this codebook.

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<sup>1</sup>As documented below, the name of the office has changed over the years. A companion collection for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is also underway.

### 3. What is "Policy Activity," and How is it Counted?

We define policy activity as **any action that is publicly announced or otherwise reproduced on the OGWI website**. The steps to locate these actions are as follows: navigate to the main page of the [Office of Global Women's Issues](#) and choose (click) on the "Releases" link on the left sidebar. This brings you to a page containing links to the following two categories: "Remarks, Testimony" and "Other Releases."

Within the two categories above, we counted (tabulated) any occurrence of the following two types of actions:

#### *Remarks, Testimony:*

- Involves a person speaking in public
- Includes remarks, testimony, speeches, roundtable discussions, interviews, public appearances

#### *Publications:*

- Involves the publication of a document
- Includes press releases, reports, fact sheets, newsletters, op-eds, legislation, blog posts

### 3.1 Elaboration/Refinement of Counting Rules for Actions

- Double counting (i.e., counting both a remark and a publication about the same thing) **was avoided**. The rationale for this was to avoid the impression that a certain area of focus was highlighted when it was not. The disadvantage of this method was that the additional emphasis placed on an issue indicated by, for instance, both a remark and a publication, was ignored.
  - If there is a remark and a publication about the same event, only the remark is counted. The rationale for this was that a remark is more significant than a publication, and the former also includes a person, which provides additional data about the actions of the people in the administration.
- Generally, a remark/publication was evaluated based on its title. The actual document was examined in detail only if the title was prohibitively vague
- Some remarks/publications were not included because they were not deemed relevant. (for example: <http://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ei/wh/rem/10648.htm>)

- A press release announcing the travel of an official is not coded if a remark or publication associated with the trip has already been coded (ie, we do not double count a speech and travel to deliver that speech).
- If no other remark, publication, or statement made by the travelling person is coded, a US official's travel to a place is included and coded as a "general" action. The actor is also coded (see 6 below), but the region or country where the speech is given is not (because not all speeches are targeted on the "host" location).
- The deciding factor in whether or not to count a remark/publication is if it represents a unique event.

#### 4. Categorizing and Counting the Programmatic Focus of Policy Actions

Each action counted was further categorized (if possible) by its programmatic focus. The following categories are included in the data collection:

- Health
  - disease
  - HIV/AIDS
  - disability
- Business and Economics
  - nutrition/food security/agriculture
  - entrepreneurship
  - financial independence
  - small business
  - micro-finance
  - corporate leadership
  - globalization
  - economics
  - development
  - Poverty
- Politics/Government
  - democracy
  - leadership in government
  - public service
  - political participation
  - media
- Education
  - STEM
  - literacy
- General support for women/women's issues

- Violence (of war, civil war, conflict etc) and peace building
- Human trafficking
- Rape or other sexual and domestic violence

#### 4.1 Further Elaboration/Refinement of rules for categorizing programmatic focus:

- If no specific programmatic focus is mentioned, the remark/publication is placed in the “general/other” category.
- Remarks/Publications may be counted under more than one subject category (a common overlap is sex trafficking and domestic violence)

### 5. Categorizing and counting the region or country that is the target or location of the action

Each action counted was further categorized and counted according to the region or country that is the target or location of the action. The following regions and countries are included in the data collection:

- Asia (other than Afghanistan)
- Africa
- Middle East (other than Iraq)
- Iraq
- Afghanistan and Taliban
- Americas
- Europe
- Oceanic/Pacific

#### 5.1 Further elaboration/refinement for coding target region or country

- If no specific country/region of focus is mentioned, it is not counted in any geographic category
- The target of the action/event/statement must be about a topic in the context of a particular place, or about women in the place in general. If the remark is just given in the location, the location is not counted (ie, a speech about sexual violence given in London is not coded as targeted on the UK)
- Foreign officials visiting US are included as a place

## 6. Coding the Actor Who Carried out the Action

When the action is associated with or carried out by an individual, that actor is coded. If two people give a joint statement, **both are counted**.

The following actors are coded in the data collection:

- William J. Clinton Administration
  - William Clinton
  - Hillary Clinton
  - Warren Christopher, Secretary of State 1993-1997
  - Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State 1997-2000
  - Theresa Loar, Director, President's Interagency Council on Women
- George W. Bush Administration
  - George W. Bush
  - Laura Bush
  - Colin Powell, Secretary of State 2001-2005
  - Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State 2005-2009
  - Andrea G. Bottner, Director, Office of International Women's Issues (DOS) 2006-2009
  - Paula Dobrianski, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs [Democracy and Global Affairs after 2005] 2001-2009
  - April Palmerlee, Senior coordinator, Office of International Women's Issues (DOS) 2002- ?
  - Charlotte Ponticelli, Senior Coordinator, Office of International Women's Issues (DOS) 2003-2006
- Barack Obama Administration
  - Barack Obama
  - Michelle Obama
  - Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State 2008-2012
  - John Kerry, Secretary of State 2012 - present
  - Melanne Vermeer, Ambassador-at-Large, Global Women's Issues (DOS) 2009-2013 (August 5)
  - Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large, Global Women's Issues (DOS) 2013 (August 5) – present

## List of Current and Archived OGWI Webpages

OGWI webpage for current year:

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/index.htm>

OGWI webpages for archived years:

### **Clinton:**

[http://1997-2001.state.gov/www/picw/archives\\_ind.html](http://1997-2001.state.gov/www/picw/archives_ind.html)

<http://1997-2001.state.gov/www/global/women/index.html>

### **Bush:**

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/c14404.htm>

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/c6322.htm>

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/c16710.htm>

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/c11272.htm>

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/rls/index.htm>

### **Obama:**

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2009/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2009/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2010/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2011/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2011/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2012/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2012/index.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/c55720.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2013/index.htm>