

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 4790

To establish, at the Department of State, the Esther Coopersmith Award in recognition of a distinguished diplomat advancing sustainable peace and security.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2026

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish, at the Department of State, the Esther Coopersmith Award in recognition of a distinguished diplomat advancing sustainable peace and security.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Esther Coopersmith  
5 Award Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United Nations Secretary General’s  
9 2025 Report on Women, Peace and Security notes

1 an estimated 676,000,000 women and girls lived  
2 within 50 kilometers of a deadly conflict event dur-  
3 ing 2024, which is the highest number since the  
4 1990s.

5 (2) The meaningful participation of women in  
6 conflict prevention and conflict resolution proc-  
7 esses—

8 (A) promotes more inclusive and demo-  
9 cratic societies; and

10 (B) is critical to the long-term stability  
11 and security of those countries and regions.

12 (3) In 2017, President Trump signed the bipar-  
13 tisan Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017  
14 (Public Law 115–68), which codified decades’ long  
15 efforts to strategically address material threats to  
16 United States national security by supporting  
17 United States leadership in improving the participa-  
18 tion of women in peace and security processes, con-  
19 flict prevention, peacebuilding, and decision-making  
20 institutions.

21 (4) In 2018, President Trump signed the bipar-  
22 tisan Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Em-  
23 powerment Act (Public Law 115–428) to recognize  
24 the vital contribution women’s full and unfettered

1 economic participation and inclusion plays in fos-  
2 tering global growth, prosperity, and stability.

3 (5) In October 2023, President Biden released  
4 the United States Strategy and National Action  
5 Plan on Women, Peace and Security to better equip  
6 United States national security agencies with the  
7 tools to address shifts in geopolitical challenges and  
8 advancements in technology.

9 (6) Executive Order 13595 (76 Fed. Reg.  
10 80205 (December 19, 2011); instituting a National  
11 Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security)—

12 (A) institutionalized a United States Gov-  
13 ernment-wide effort promoting women’s partici-  
14 pation in conflict prevention, management and  
15 resolution, and post-conflict recovery; and

16 (B) noted the responsibility of all nations  
17 to protect their populations from genocide, war  
18 crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against hu-  
19 manity, including when implemented by means  
20 of sexual violence.

21 (7) For 70 years, the late United States dip-  
22 lomat Esther Coopersmith leveraged creativity and  
23 innovation to build bridges and forge common un-  
24 derstanding, which contributed invaluablely to United  
25 States peace and security.

1 **SEC. 3. ALIGNMENT OF AWARD RECOGNIZING UNITED**  
2 **STATES DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITHIN**  
3 **UNITED STATES LAW.**

4 Section 614 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22  
5 U.S.C. 4013) is amended by inserting “and the rights of  
6 women and girls” after “freedom of religion”.

7 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ESTHER COOPERSMITH**  
8 **AWARD FOR ADVANCING PEACE AND SECUR-**  
9 **RITY.**

10 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State shall  
11 establish an annual individual or group performance  
12 award, which shall be known as the “Esther Coopersmith  
13 Award”.

14 (b) **RECIPIENTS.**—Recipients of the Esther  
15 Coopersmith Award shall—

16 (1) be members of the Civil Service or of the  
17 Foreign Service who have made meaningful con-  
18 tributions advancing the purposes of the Women,  
19 Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–  
20 68) or the Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic  
21 Empowerment Act 2018 (Public Law 115–428) to  
22 sustainably prevent, mitigate, or resolve conflict, vio-  
23 lence, or instability;

24 (2) include one honorable mention recipient an-  
25 nually; and

26 (3) meet with the Secretary of State.

1 (c) EFFORTS TO BE RECOGNIZED.—Recipients of  
2 the Esther Coopersmith Award shall be recognized for ac-  
3 tions promoting women’s leadership in efforts, such as—

4 (1) integrating the perspectives and interests of  
5 affected women into conflict-prevention activities and  
6 strategies;

7 (2) encouraging partner governments to adopt  
8 plans to improve the meaningful participation of  
9 women in peace and security processes and decision-  
10 making institutions;

11 (3) promoting the physical safety, economic se-  
12 curity, and dignity of women and girls;

13 (4) supporting the equal access of women to aid  
14 distribution mechanisms and services; and

15 (5) supporting foreign capacity to collect or  
16 analyze data for the purpose of developing and en-  
17 hancing early warning systems of conflict and vio-  
18 lence.

19 (d) REPRESENTATION.—In accordance with section  
20 5(a)(1) of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017  
21 (22 U.S.C. 2152j–1(a)(1)), the Secretary of State shall  
22 support recipients’ official travel to attend a major global  
23 security conference to support the alignment of global ef-  
24 forts advancing peace and security.

1 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of State  
2 shall—

3 (1) designate the Office of Global Women’s  
4 Issues to administer the Esther Coopersmith Award;  
5 and

6 (2) receive input regarding award recipients  
7 through an award review panel composed of Assist-  
8 ant Secretaries of State and Chiefs of Missions.

9 **SEC. 5. MANDATORY TRAINING.**

10 In accordance with section 6(a) of the Women, Peace  
11 and Security Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 2152j–2(a)), award  
12 recipients and honorable mentions shall present their work  
13 virtually to—

14 (1) the Chiefs of Mission Conference; and

15 (2) at least 1 entry level training course (such  
16 as the A–100 class) for incoming Foreign Service of-  
17 ficers.

18 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
20 Secretary of State selects recipients pursuant to section  
21 4, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee  
22 on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee  
23 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that  
24 describes the efforts undertaken by the recipients to pro-  
25 mote women’s roles in supporting peace and security.

1 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-  
2 quired under subsection (a) shall—

3 (1) describe United States interests in resolving  
4 the conflict, instability, or violence addressed by the  
5 recipients;

6 (2) describe the recipients' actions and resulting  
7 outcomes, including those taken by a United States  
8 Mission, Department of State bureau, foreign gov-  
9 ernment, or other stakeholders;

10 (3) assess areas for potential further action and  
11 lessons learned; and

12 (4) identify steps to be taken by the Depart-  
13 ment of State to replicate or carry forward work ini-  
14 tiated by the award recipient, if applicable.

15 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

16 This Act, and the amendment made by this Act, shall  
17 cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date  
18 that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this  
19 Act.

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