

girlsecurity.

Girl Security Statement on Misogyny

Misogyny is defined as “hatred of women.” While highlighting recent instances of misogyny might make this statement more current, misogyny has always been an impetus for or expression of many types of violence (domestic, digital, and terrorism) against girls and women and a threat to our democracy and national security.

Misogyny - and the people and platforms that permit it to fester - contribute to a broader cultural context in which violent language, behavior, and representations against girls and women are normalized, gamified, and glorified.

At Girl Security, we recognize misogyny as a national security threat. Misogyny smothers the aspirations of girls and incessantly threatens women’s advancement. It hampers our nation’s ability to forge a good governance model at home and project those same ideals abroad. It impedes our ability to fully cultivate and train future generations of girls and women in the skills we know are required to maintain an inclusive, equitable, and competitive national security community in the areas of policy, military, law, private sector/industry, STEM/tech/cyber, academia, and many other sectors. The poisonous effects of systemic misogyny, which weaponizes women’s race, gender and identity, are multi-generational.

So long as misogyny is minimized, overlooked, or even worse - endorsed - the United States will never be secure. So long as the United States exports those same ideals abroad, the world will never be secure. We will never be a Great Power so long as power structures pose risks to girls' and women's security.



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At Girl Security, we see the aspirations and commitment of girls across the nation to fulfill an ever important purpose: national security. We are committed to highlighting those misogynistic behaviors, policies, and practices across industries that risk girls' empowerment and advancement in national security. We call on allies to do the same. We are committed to ensuring girls have access to opportunities in male-dominated spaces in a safe and supportive environment. We are committed to working with male allies to foster a more secure environment for girls and young women to advance.

This is not an 'us v. them' moment. This is a moral imperative.

- **Lauren Bean Buitta**, Founder, Girl Security