

25 July 2017

Dear Ms. Robinson,

We are writing to you today with urgency regarding the World Bank's Global Task Force to Tackle Gender-Based Violence, launched in October 2016.

As part of the World Bank's response to the Inspection Panel report on the Uganda Transport Sector Development Project, the Task Force was assigned the critical work of strengthening the institution's response in its projects on issues involving sexual exploitation and abuse. Specifically, the Task Force was asked to develop a set of actionable recommendations in a report for the President and the Bank's management detailing steps the Bank should take to prevent and respond to gender-based violence within the context of its operations by the end of July 2017.

The Task Force's [Terms of Reference](#) specify that its report will be made public, after which Bank management has committed to preparing and implementing an Action Plan based on the recommendations of the Task Force.

As civil society organisations concerned with ensuring the Bank is fulfilling its development mandate and is accountable to its shareholders, stakeholders and the communities it intends to serve, we ask that the Task Force's recommendations be made public and available for civil society review and input by the end of July 2017, when the mandate of the Task Force expires, so that civil society expertise can be used to inform the development of the Bank's Action Plan.

With the limited information available to us, we understand proposals have been made to only make the report available upon completion of the accompanying Action Plan, later in the year. This raises a number of concerns within our civil society community. The process by which World Bank staff develops the Action Plan based on these recommendations should be transparent and open to civil society engagement, in accordance with the Terms of Reference's explicit focus on identifying "effective ways for the Bank to increase coordination with multiple stakeholders – locally, nationally, and internationally – to prevent and respond to gender-based violence" and in particular due to the highly-sensitive and high-risk nature of the issues addressed in the report.

Publishing these documents simultaneously only upon completion of the Action Plan limits opportunities for engagement for local communities and does not meet the standards of transparency the World Bank is dedicated to. This approach also seems contrary to the Task Force's emphasis on ensuring that Bank management make use of important outside expertise.

We sincerely believe opening this process in a participatory and transparent manner, starting with publishing the Task Force's recommendations, will support the World Bank in strengthening its response to gender based violence taking place within the context of its operations and hope you will support us in achieving that objective.

We, the undersigned organisations, thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

1. ActionAid UK
2. Bank Information Center Europe
3. Bretton Woods Project
4. Christian Aid
5. Gender and Development Network – VAWG Working Group
6. International Planned Parenthood Federation
7. Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme
8. London Mining Network
9. Trades Union Congress
10. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
11. Womankind Worldwide
12. 28 Too Many