

Tracking sustainable  
peace through  
inclusion, justice,  
and security  
for women

Inclusion

Justice

Security

Women  
Peace and  
Security  
Index  
2019/20

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY INDEX 2019/20



PRIO Centre on  
Gender, Peace  
and Security



GIWPS Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

GIWPS

#USAindex

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# The Best and Worst States to Be a Woman

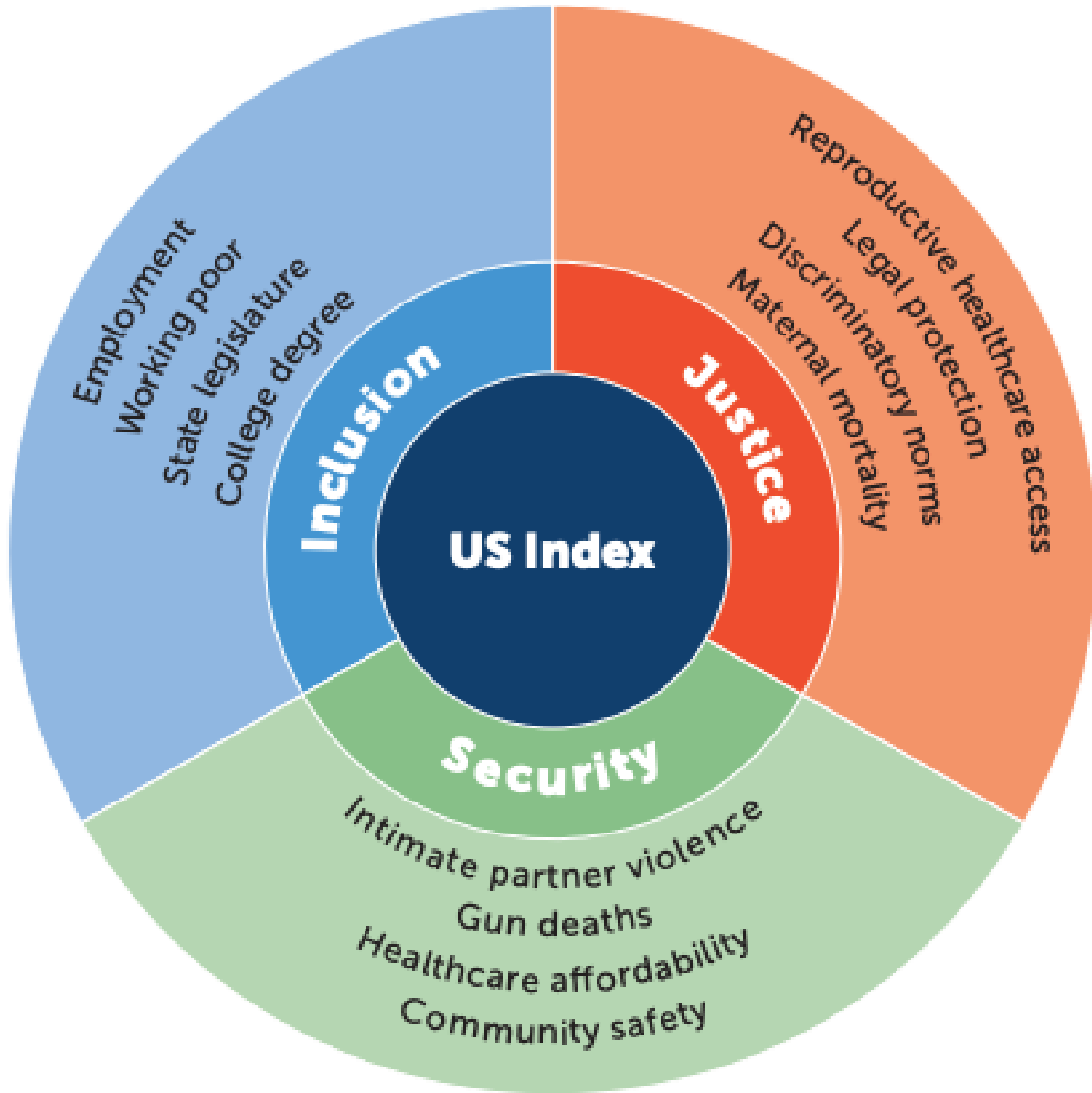
Introducing the U.S. Women,  
Peace, and Security Index 2020



GIWPS

Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

**FIGURE 1 The US Women, Peace, and Security Index: Three dimensions and 12 indicators**



# Structure of the report

**Chapter 1: Introducing the US Women, Peace, and Security Index**

**Chapter 2: Key results and highlights**

**Chapter 3: Understanding disparities and behind the dimensions**

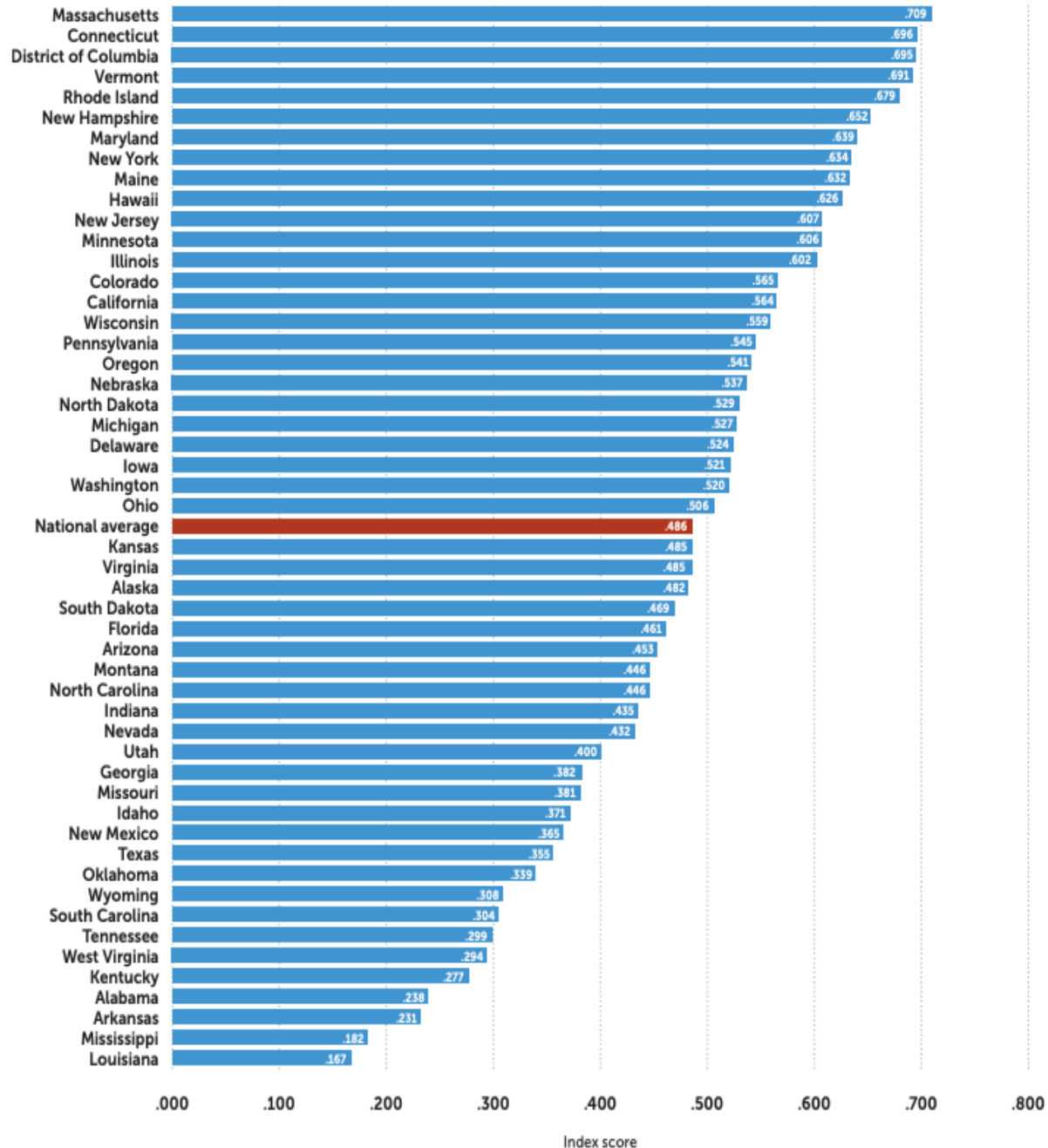
**Statistical Tables – Full set of indicators, available data on racial disparities and gender gaps**

Data for the index drawn from existing sources, including:

- US Census Bureau
- CDC
- Guttmacher Institute
- Center for American Women in Politics

Complemented by a new nationally representative survey of 2600 adults, conducted with YouGov and PerryUndem in August, covering gender, racial inequalities, and the effects of COVID-19.

FIGURE 2 State rankings on the US index, 2020



Vast disparities  
across states

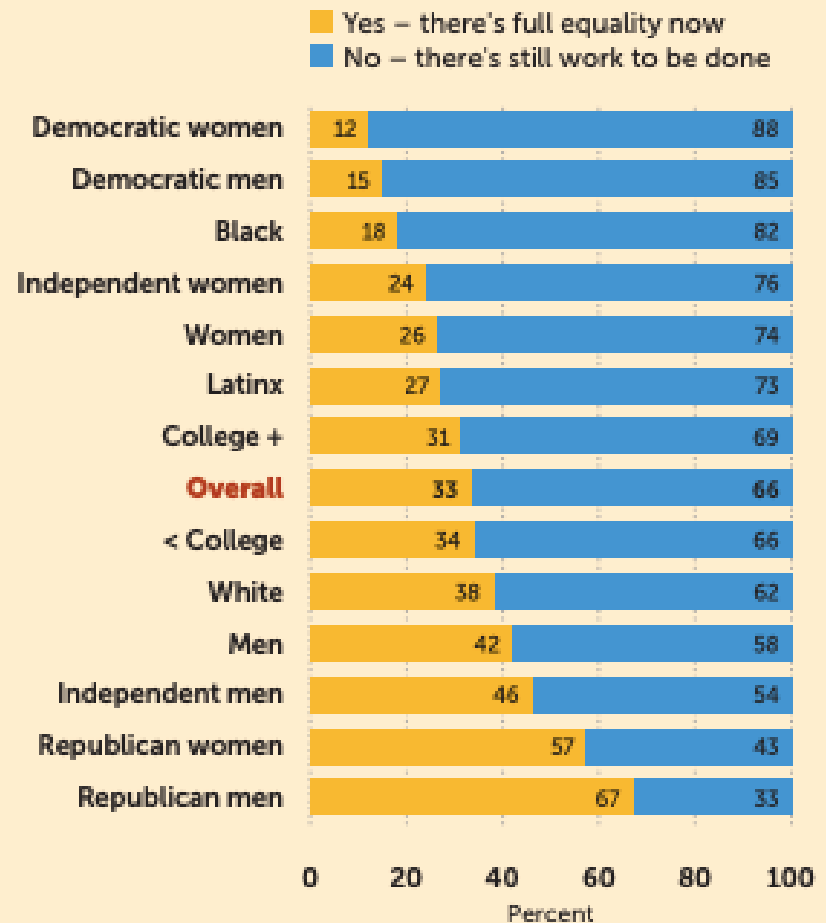
Top ranked  
Massachusetts  
scores almost four  
times higher than  
bottom ranked  
Louisiana

# Insights from our new survey

Overall, two-thirds of Americans think that more work has to be done to achieve full equality in the United States.

Democrats and Black Americans are much more likely to say that there is more to do.

**Figure S2.1 In the United States, do you think there is full equality for women in work, life, and politics —or is there still work to be done?**

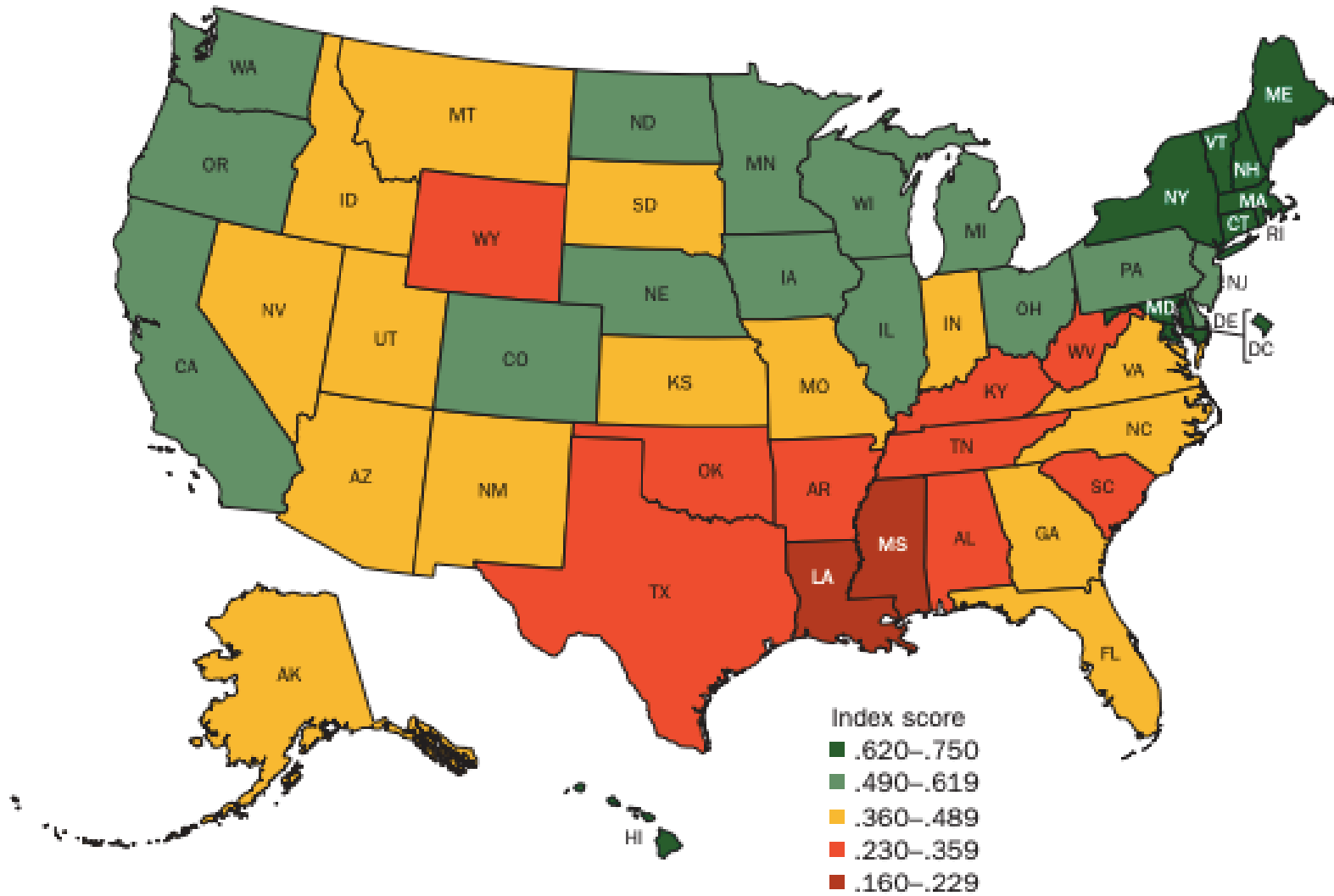


### FIGURE 3 What does gender equality look like to you?

Responses to the question: What does gender equality look like to you? In other words, how would you know that we've reached full gender equality in our country?



# Clear regional patterns in performance



**FIGURE 2.5 Traffic lights highlight uneven performance across the index indicators, 2020**

Performance by quintile for overall rank and individual indicators

| Rank | State                | Overall score | Inclusion  |               |                   |                | Justice             |                  |                       |                     | Security                   |             |                          |                  |
|------|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|
|      |                      |               | Employment | Working poor* | State legislature | College degree | Reproductive access | Legal protection | Discriminatory norms* | Maternal mortality* | Intimate partner violence* | Gun deaths* | Healthcare affordability | Community safety |
| 1    | Massachusetts        |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 2    | Connecticut          |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 3    | District of Columbia |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 4    | Vermont              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 5    | Rhode Island         |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 6    | New Hampshire        |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 7    | Maryland             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 8    | New York             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 9    | Maine                |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 10   | Hawaii               |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 11   | New Jersey           |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 12   | Minnesota            |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 13   | Illinois             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 14   | Colorado             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 15   | California           |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 16   | Wisconsin            |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 17   | Pennsylvania         |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 18   | Oregon               |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 19   | Nebraska             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 20   | North Dakota         |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 21   | Michigan             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 22   | Delaware             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 23   | Iowa                 |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 24   | Washington           |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 25   | Ohio                 |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 26   | Kansas               |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 26   | Virginia             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 28   | Alaska               |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 29   | South Dakota         |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 30   | Florida              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 31   | Arizona              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 32   | Montana              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 32   | North Carolina       |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 34   | Indiana              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 35   | Nevada               |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 36   | Utah                 |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 37   | Georgia              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 38   | Missouri             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 39   | Idaho                |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 40   | New Mexico           |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 41   | Texas                |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 42   | Oklahoma             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 43   | Wyoming              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 44   | South Carolina       |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 45   | Tennessee            |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 46   | West Virginia        |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 47   | Kentucky             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 48   | Alabama              |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 49   | Arkansas             |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 50   | Mississippi          |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |
| 51   | Louisiana            |               |            |               |                   |                |                     |                  |                       |                     |                            |             |                          |                  |

■ First (top) quintile ■ Second quintile ■ Third quintile ■ Fourth quintile ■ Fifth quintile



# Women face serious security and justice constraints

Nearly 80 percent of men feel safe walking within a mile of their neighborhood at night, but only 56 percent of women

University of Chicago's General Social Survey.

"Just walking down the street because I'm a woman makes me feel unsafe. Men stare and whistle to get my attention, when clearly I'm just minding my own business and I want to be left alone."

—Hispanic woman from Texas, age 44, on a time she experienced discrimination or felt unsafe because she is a woman

## FIGURE 3.9 Stories of discrimination and insecurity

Responses to the question: "Do you have a story about a time when you felt discriminated against or unsafe because you are a woman?"



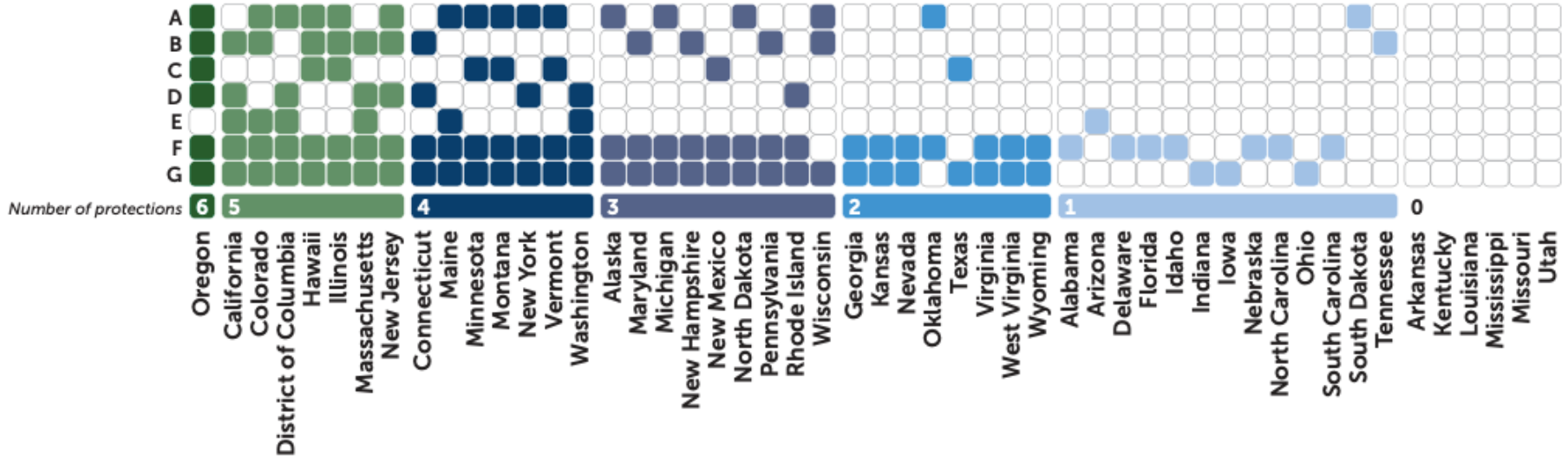
# Gaps in legal protection

The state in which a woman lives determines her ability to file a workplace sexual harassment claim, her level of protection from an abusive partner, and whether she can take paid time off for caregiving.

**FIGURE 1.4 No state offers full legal protections of women's rights; some offer none**

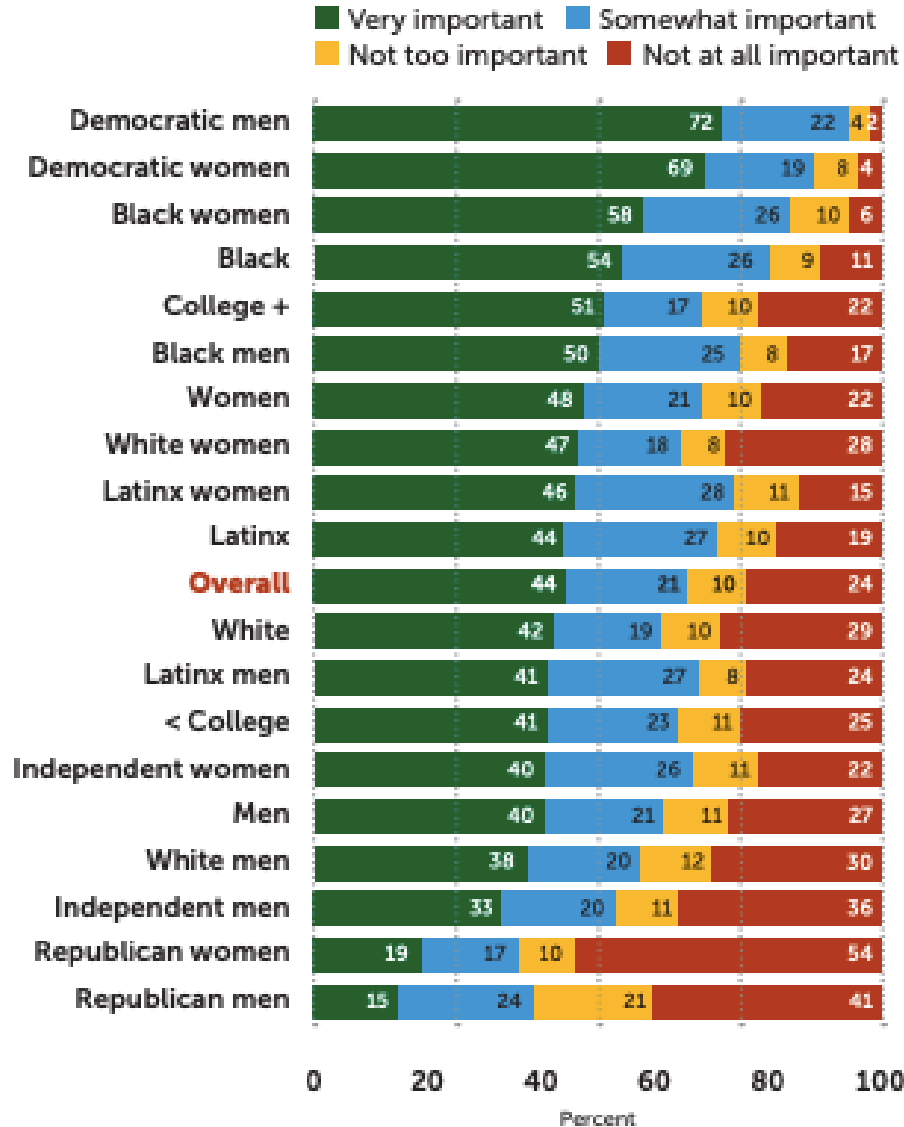
Does state law:

- A. Protect workers from sexual harassment, regardless of company size?
- B. Require the relinquishment of firearms from abusers subject to domestic violence protective orders?
- C. Guarantee unemployment benefits to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking?
- D. Mandate paid parental leave?
- E. Set minimum wage above the low-income threshold of \$12/hour?
- F. Allow abortion without state-mandated in-person counseling?
- G. Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?



### FIGURE 3.6 Two-thirds of adults believe that access to abortion is important to women's rights

Responses to the question: "In your view, is access to abortion an important part of women's rights and equality, or not?"



Overall support for women's sexual and reproductive healthcare is strong, with 65 percent of adults believing that access to abortion is important to women's rights.

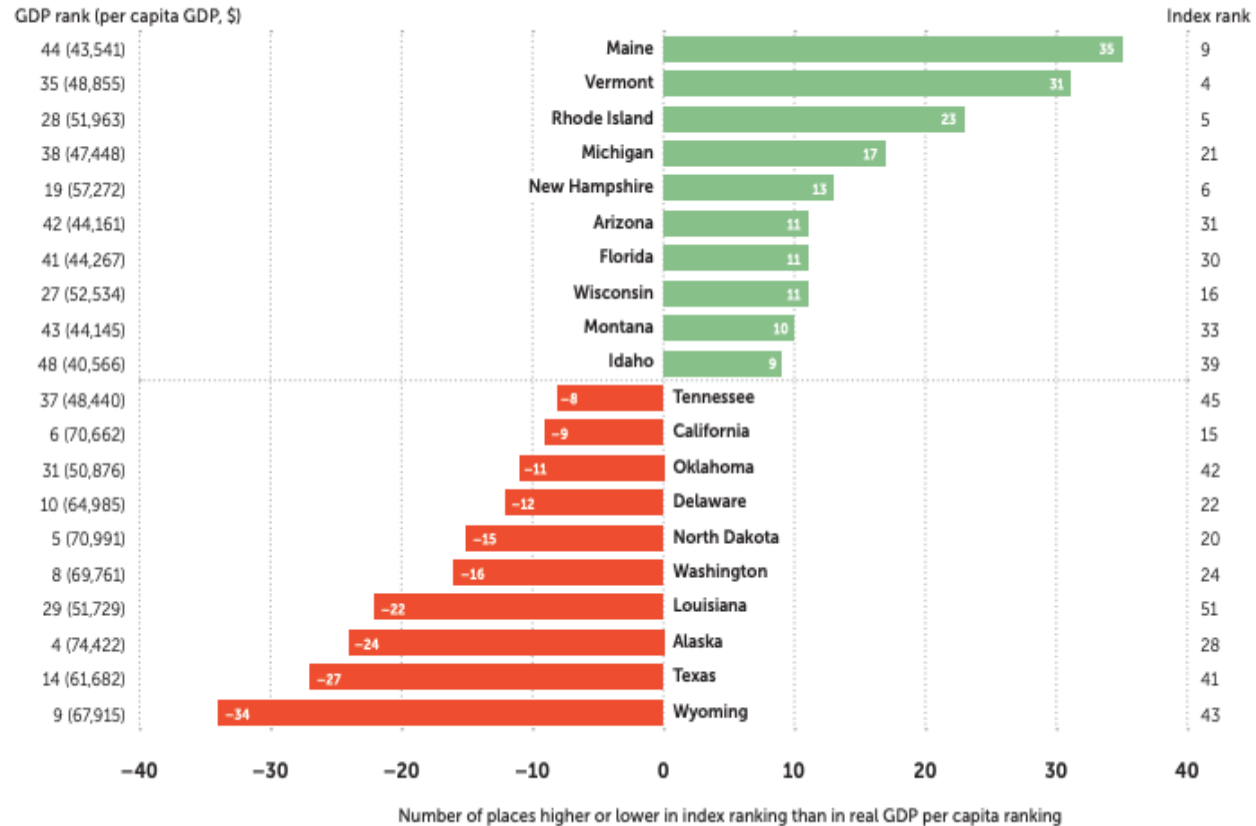
However, support is much lower among Republicans.

# Key factors explaining performance

Multivariate analysis finds that states which do better tend to be :

- More urban
- Controlled by the Democratic party for more years
- Less racially diverse
- Richer

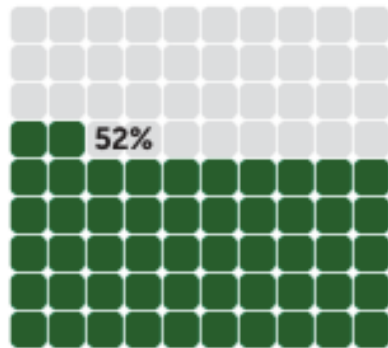
**FIGURE 2.4 Some states fare much better and others much worse in their index rank compared with their rank on per capita income, 2020**



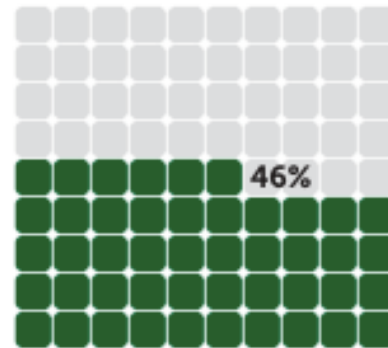
# Only one state currently has gender parity in political representation

**FIGURE 3.3 The best and worst states for women's representation in the state legislature, 2020**

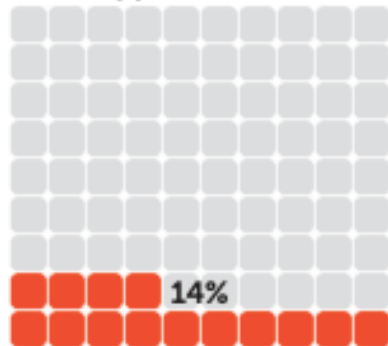
**Best**  
Nevada



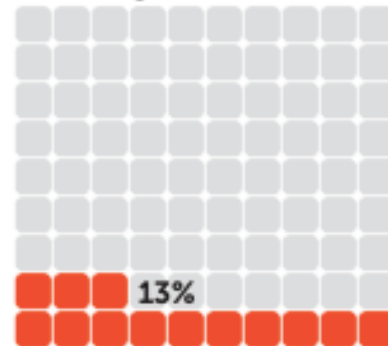
**Colorado**



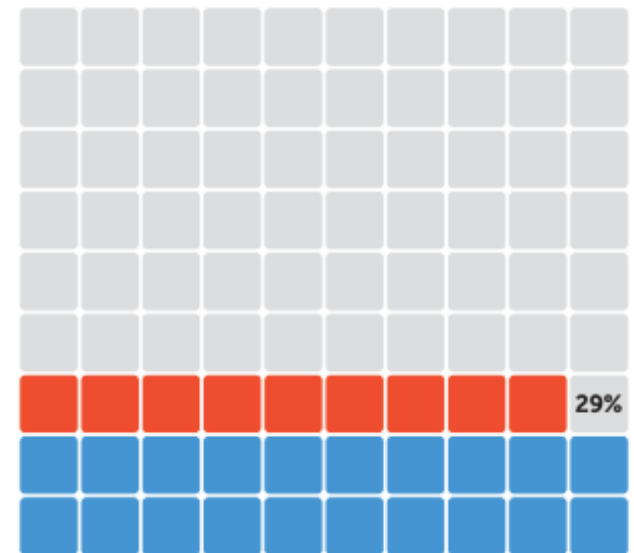
**Worst**  
Mississippi



**West Virginia**

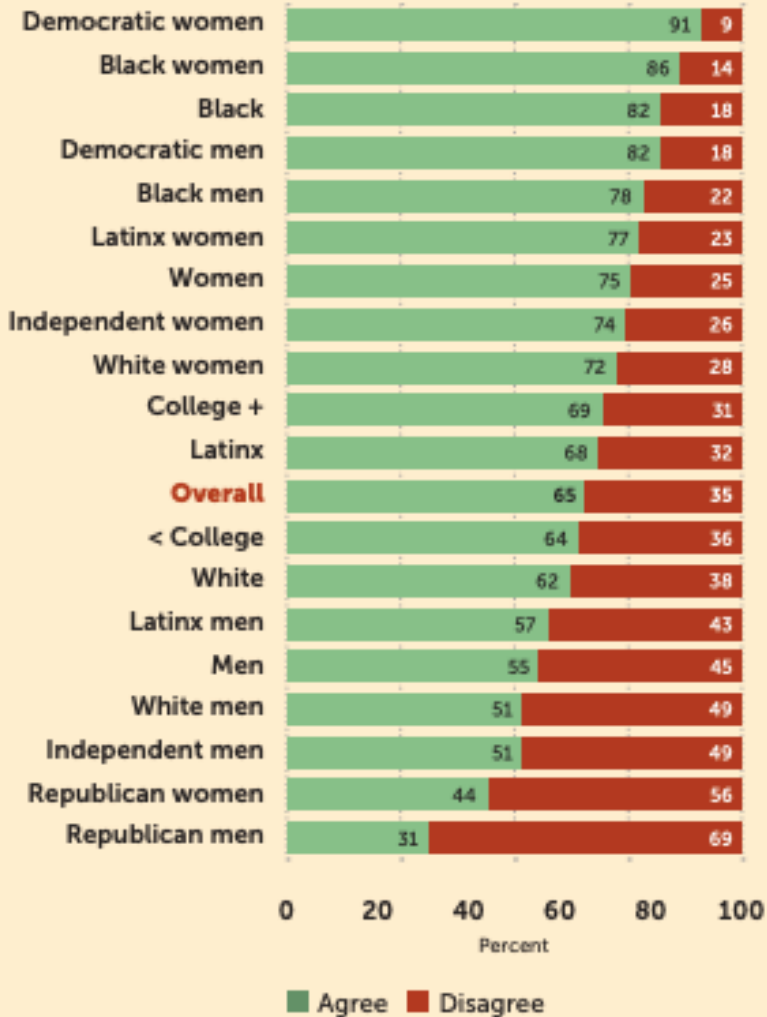


**FIGURE 3.4 Democratic women hold twice as many state legislature seats as Republican women, 2020**



# Overall support for more women in political office

Figure S2.6 Views differ on whether the country would be better off with more women in political office



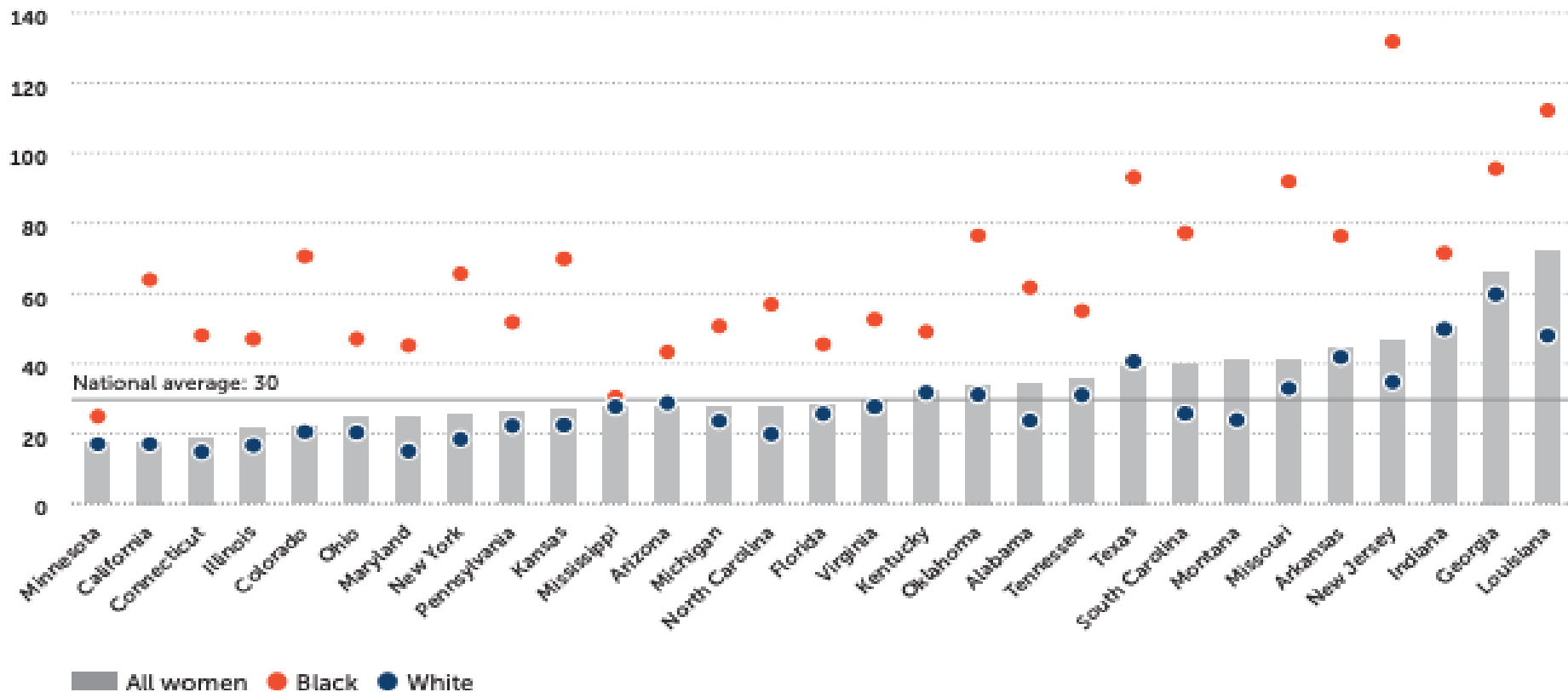
Support is strongest among Democrats and Black Americans.

Least support among Republicans and white men.

# Major racial gaps among women in the US

**FIGURE 3.7 Rates of maternal mortality are higher for Black women across all states, 2018**

Deaths per 100,000



# Spotlight on Louisiana

## Louisiana—last place





# Ways forward

Tackle overlapping disadvantage – and especially constraints facing women of color. More important than ever amidst COVID-19.

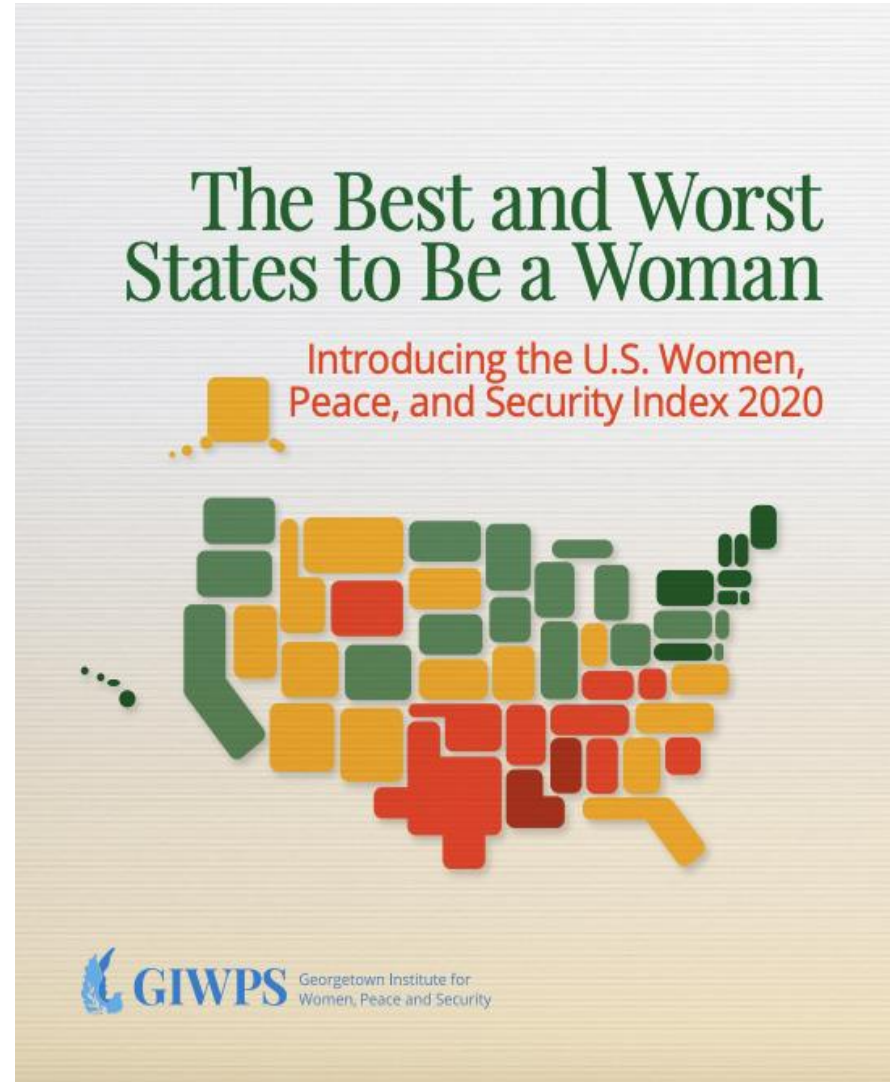
Close gaps in legal protection – from economic protections to ensuring abusers do not have access to firearms.

Ensure access to the full range of reproductive health services

Promote women's voices – boost political representation

Improve the data – including on intimate partner violence and financial inclusion and ensure that data are racially disaggregated.

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