

Gender Equality Solutions

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Principal & Owner



Dr. Suzanne Petroni founded the consultancy, Gender Equality Solutions, LLC, in September 2017 to support donors, governments, UN agencies and civil society to design and implement high-quality and gender-equitable global health and development programs. Suzanne brings nearly 30 years of experience in foreign policy and global development, having worked in the governmental, philanthropic, nonprofit and research sectors.

Prior to starting her own business, Suzanne served as Senior Director for Global Health, Youth and Development at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), where she led the organization's work to expand the evidence base on gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescence, and demographic and socioeconomic outcomes. Before joining ICRW in 2012, she served as Vice President for Global Health at the non-profit Public Health Institute, where she expanded global programs covering issues as diverse as climate change and health, tobacco control, disabilities, leadership development, and reproductive health and rights.

From 2001 to 2010, Suzanne was a Senior Program Officer at the Summit Foundation, responsible for the design and oversight of grantmaking on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and youth leadership. During her tenure, she also served on the board of directors of the Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights, including as Chair for two years. In the decade before joining the Summit Foundation, she served in a variety of roles in the U.S. government, including at the U.S. Department of State as Program Officer in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Global Affairs.

Suzanne's work has spanned dozens of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the Balkans and the Caucasus. Her clients at Gender Equality Solutions include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Girls Not Brides, Overseas Development Institute, Grand Challenges Canada, Girls First Fund, UC Berkeley/UNICEF, Institute for Reproductive Health, and University of Melbourne, among others. She holds a doctorate in Gender and Social Policy from The George Washington University, a master's in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a bachelor's in International Relations from the University of California at Davis, and a certificate from Columbia University in Public Health in Complex Emergencies. She has published and spoken widely, served as a member of the [Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing](#), and was [profiled by The Lancet](#) for her career-long commitment to youth leadership and gender equity.