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Statement submitted by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for women and their families globally through community service, civic engagement, and social action. Our mission is to foster progress in education, health awareness, and leadership development. With the support of members, affiliates, staff, and community partners, we work to advance initiatives that align with our vision of a world where all women and families realize their full potential and create opportunities for future generations.

Founded in 1922 by seven visionary educators, Sigma Gamma Rho continues to promote the goals outlined in the 1995 Beijing Declaration. Through our chapters in the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates, we uphold our motto: Greater Service, Greater Progress.

Our strategic partnerships focus on health, safety, and well-being for women globally. Key initiatives include:

Education

- In 2022, we built six schools in Haiti, Senegal, Ghana, and Malawi as part of our centennial celebration.
- Operation Big Book Bag provides school supplies to vulnerable children, ensuring full participation in their education.

Strengthening Women & Families

- Money Mondays, in partnership with JP Morgan Chase, promotes personal financial growth through workshops on budgeting, debt reduction, and home ownership.
- Access a Will, presented in collaboration with the American Mayors Association, provides free estate planning resources.
- The BOSS Leadership Network connects entrepreneurs with funding and resources, including a \$10,000 Entrepreneur Impact Grant awarded in 2024 through a partnership with Hello Alice and Sage and Sigma Gamma Rho.
- Partnership with Small Business Administration in collaboration with NPHC to connect entrepreneurs with lenders and funding to help them plan, start, and grow their businesses.
- Rhock The Vote - Voter education and outreach programs empower communities to engage in the political process.
- Partnered with When We All Vote with a commitment to register 22,000 voters across the battleground states for 2020 Election.
- Sponsored fellows and interns to focus on social justice at John Jay College and the Office of Robin Kelly.
- Created training platforms to encourage and support members seeking public office, demonstrating how to raise funds, gain supporters, etc.
- Our political and social advocacy initiatives and Day on the Hill programs, held in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus and/or state and local organizations, promote civic engagement.

- The Philo Affiliate, established in 1954, fosters unity among women who have not yet attained a higher education degree or are members of Greek Letter Organizations and contributes to community service and fundraising efforts.

Health & Safety

- Project Cradle Care improves outcomes for premature babies and those born to teen mothers.
- A3 for Life, funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, raises HIV/AIDS awareness and offers prevention training.
- Women’s Wellness Initiatives encourage healthy lifestyles and empower informed health decisions, while increasing African American representation in health studies.
- Good Health WINS, in partnership with the National Congress of Negro Women, promotes immunizations and wellness in communities of color.
- All of Us Research – partnership with All of Us is a historic effort to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health.
- Swim 1922, a collaboration with USA Swimming, provides wet and dry clinics to promote water safety, contributing to a 5% reduction in drowning deaths in the Black community.

Youth

- Our annual Youth Symposium, held by alumnae chapters on the second Saturday of March, addresses pressing issues affecting youth, such as drugs, violence, low self-esteem, and human trafficking.
- The Leadership and Development Empowering Our Sisters (LADES) Program, offered through the Sigma Public Education and Research Foundation (SPEAR), provides life skills training and workshops focused on health, education, financial literacy, and self-esteem.
- The Rhoer Club Affiliate, for girls aged 12-18, fosters leadership and service, helping young women grow into impactful community members.

Through these initiatives, Sigma Gamma Rho continues to empower women and girls, fostering their full potential and creating lasting change in communities.
