

WHY WOMEN

30-Point Readiness Assessment

1. If you think about the biggest issues that your organization is facing, those challenges that “keep you up at night,” how can you better leverage an Integrated Women’s Leadership Strategy as a potential solution?
2. As you look at the leadership team around you, does this group think, act, and truly represent the mindset of the majority of your employees and customers?
3. How is your organization moving from a conceptual conversation regarding women to strategies and programs that help to internalize and operationalize a women’s leadership strategy for all employees?
4. Does your organization have a framework targeted to women that is designed to grow revenue, improve operating profits, and enhance company reputation?
5. Discuss the concept of Male Gender Blindness in your organization. As you look around the organization, what roles are the women in and how did they get there? One out of two women believes gender bias is still present in companies. What are you doing to combat gender bias in your organization?
6. Male leaders are uncomfortable having conversations regarding gender as they may be seen as insensitive, patronizing, or sexist. What is your organization doing to improve the ability of men to do a better job in providing feedback to women?
7. Regarding revenue, can your organization at all levels articulate your baseline and incremental revenue and profit goals of its women’s strategy? What is the current total revenue pie available to you with a focus on women? What percentage are we capturing and what is the revenue/opportunity gap?
8. Regarding talent, what does your organization look like from top to bottom regarding gender, age, and ethnicity? What will your organization look like in five years? How are you capturing the intellectual knowledge of the Boomers who will be retiring shortly?
9. Regarding engagement, does your organization currently have an engagement strategy in place? Are you measuring engagement by gender, race, tenure, and ethnicity? How are we holding managers accountable for increasing engagement?

10. Does your organization, its marketing department, your agency, and your sales force, truly grasp and understand women at a deep level? Does your organization see women as the majority driver of your business or are they classified as a niche?
11. Examine your advertising agency. Do they truly understand and demonstrate expertise in the converging macro-trends of millennials, multicultural employees, and women? What is the composition of your account team including the creative director?
12. Does your sales force know how to sell, prospect, and acquire new customers who are women? Can your sales force clearly articulate the female benefits of your company's products to women?
13. What does your talent pipeline for women look like in the Field? What are the challenges and barriers that you can identify and do you have a plan to address them?
14. As you examine the leadership competency model for your company, how are you developing leaders to evaluate talent that doesn't think, look, and act like they do?
15. Is your leadership prepared to tackle real life issues that impact all talent and are present in organizations today such as The Baby Penalty and new models of work/life responsibilities?
16. Regarding Recruitment, are all of your HR programs and processes both fair and equitable? If you examine job descriptions, are the words used gender neutral? Is your compensation strategy equitable to women?
17. Regarding retention, what are the processes in place to eliminate subjectivity in your performance management system? Are you conducting ongoing diagnostics to insure equitable ratings by gender and race? What elements of diversity training are driving true culture change? Are you leveraging your Business Resource Groups to drive bottom line results?
18. Is your women's development strategy focused on an approach of "fix the women" versus an approach of holding both men and women accountable? Is your leadership engaged in true succession planning and looking at least two levels down in the organization?
19. Does your organization have a sense of urgency regarding its women's leadership strategy and how is it being demonstrated? What elements are contained on your scorecard and at what level of the organization is the scorecard held accountable? How is it being pushed down to the middle management/operating units of your company?
20. Does your organization have hard metrics that it tracks regarding the recruitment, advancement, and retention of women and minorities? Do you publish the numbers to insure organizational transparency? Do the majority of your promotions still go to the largest majority employee population and is this being communicated to minimize backlash? Is compensation tied to a women's/diversity scorecard?

21. Do you and your leadership team understand the significant role that advocates and sponsors play in moving women into the most senior levels of the organization? What is your leadership doing to insure connections and exposure is being given to high potential women?
22. How prepared is your senior leadership team for a public relations nightmare? Do they understand the need for expertise and empathy? Does your website communication pass the connection test of your senior leadership team matching the representation of your diversity pages?
23. Women are using social media to talk about your company and its products and services. What are they saying and what actions are they taking and are these positives or negatives? What are people saying on glassdoor.com about your company?
24. Chances are your company is already doing something in regards to supporting women and communities through its philanthropic and CSR endeavors. Have you ensured that all of your efforts are connected back to your broader Integrated Women's Leadership Strategy?
25. Are you creating a culture that supports your Integrated Women's Leadership Strategy by talking about the business case daily, holding managers accountable, maniacally managing your talent, deepening your cultural competency, and displaying your own commitment? What steps are you taking to insure middle management ownership and engagement?
26. There are four male cultural norms that comprise the "Man Code:" avoid all things feminine, be a winner, show no chinks in the armor, and be a man's man. How do they play themselves out in your organization and how are they inhibiting the growth of women (and male champions)?
27. If you are a father of a daughter, have you made the connection that by not advocating for women today that no one will be advocating for your daughter in the future? What actions are you prepared to take to become an advocate for women within your corporation?
28. Do women in your organization hold other women to higher standards, and have you engaged in a discussion around the challenges and sensitivities that may arise between white women and women of color?
29. Sexual harassment and bullying is a real concern for organizations yet it is rarely talked about or discussed. Is your organization conducting focus groups, feedback sessions, and training sessions to discuss the impact of sexual harassment and bullying and the impact it is having on your organization.
30. Can your organization and its leaders articulate, in financial terms, what the investment is in the company's Integrated Women's Leadership Strategy? If women are truly a priority, how are you staffing against opportunity? Is this a part-time responsibility or do you have full-time dedicated staff as you would with any other business imperative?