



YOUTH IN ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

AGENCY! LEADERSHIP! ACTIVISM!



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

YOUTH IN ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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UN WOMEN

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HRC	Human Rights Council
IANYD	Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LELT	Learn, Earn, Lead and Transform
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
PSH	Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UN GA	United Nations General Assembly
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WPE	Women's Political Empowerment

FOREWORD

The context for the realization of the rights of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality has significantly shifted since 1995. There has been progress, however, no country has achieved gender equality. Over the past decade, feminism has acquired a new dynamic and visibility because of the activism of young people. A new generation of young women are actively involved in different issues that affect their lives personally, reflecting an acute awareness of the limits of legal and social change that has taken place. Young feminist advocacy, activism and mobilization has increased worldwide, gaining momentum, force and support from public and private spheres. Yet, feminist gains are experiencing reversals in many contexts. Young leaders, activists and advocates of gender equality cherish a dream of a better world. Therefore, UN Women's Youth Plan of Action (2019 - 2021) seeks to empower young women and young men through an intergenerational, intersectional approach, focusing on shifting social norms, supporting policy change, fostering girls' leadership and amplifying their voices through effective partnerships.



Above: Youth for Gender Equality ©UN Women Asia and the Pacific.

1.

BACKGROUND

Today, young people aged 10 to 24 make up one quarter of the world's population. The aspirations and achievements of these 1.8 billion young people are shaping the future. Approximately 87 percent of them live in developing countries.¹ Of these, 600 million are adolescent girls and young women. They face multiple barriers that include violence and limited and unequal access to resources, knowledge, information, networks and markets. These multiple forms of discrimination are due to persistent inequalities, discriminatory laws, stereotypical cultural norms and unequal gendered social roles that are attributed to them within their communities and families. In a global context of shrinking civil society space and rising conservative governments, the voice of young women and girls is at greater risk of being silenced than ever before.

Despite the challenges, young feminists are mobilizing and challenging implicit hierarchies of power, by fighting for equality and justice. They are pushing policymakers to recognize the multiplicity of young women's roles, identities and their intersections and calling for their needs, interests, and priorities to be incorporated into policies that can transform social and economic structures. They are a driving force in accelerating change for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. UN Women recognizes the unique capabilities, innovation and dynamic ideas and solutions young people bring to the table.

UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy is a critical response, enabling increased youth engagement to strengthen gender equality and young women's empowerment. The Youth Plan of Action (YPoA) describes how UN Women intends to address the increased push back on gender equality while creating bridges between older and young generations in a more effective way; harness youth energy, creativity and critical thinking to challenge the status quo; and bring together the next generation of gender equality activists contributing to a stronger feminist movement.

¹ UNFPA. 2014. "The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future", The 2014 State of the World Population Report.

2.

UN WOMEN'S YOUTH PLAN OF ACTION

UN Women is uniquely placed to serve as both a source of support for young people and a platform through which their voices, needs and power can be communicated and amplified. The YPoA pursues the engagement of youth in a coordinated, coherent and holistic manner complementing the UN guidelines on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). It also takes an intergenerational, transformative and intersectional approach that facilitates innovative forms of youth engagement. However, to ensure that the promise to “leave no one behind” is realized, gender-responsive implementation should address the needs of all young women and girls, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization, including, but not limited to: sexual and gender diversity, disability, HIV status, rural location, ethnic minority status, class and income, and living in conflict and post-conflict settings.

In accordance with Youth2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy² and UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy,³ the YPoA will ensure youth's participation and engagement as equal partners in UN Women's coordinated efforts to achieve gender equality. UN Women's joint inter-agency priority areas of Women's Political Empowerment (WPE), Women's

Economic Empowerment (WEE), the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (PSH) dovetail not only with the United Nations Youth2030 strategy but also work within the principles of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind.

YOUTH PLAN OF ACTION'S ALIGNMENT WITH YOUTH2030

UN Youth2030 Strategy

UN Women's Youth Plan of Action

Engagement, Participation
and Advocacy

Promoting a shift in social norms, supporting policy change, fostering youth leadership and meaningful engagement

Informed and Healthy

Supporting quality education and access to youth-friendly health and reproductive services

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_21929

