

# 17

Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women  
 Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales  
 Dias Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales  
 Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum

1-17 October



Edition 2021



## Call to Action!

### WWSF -17 Days of Activism - Kit 2021 for rural women leaders & their communities

Beijing+26 - SDGs+6

*How long must rural women wait for their right to sustainable development, peace and equality to become a reality?*



Supporting  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



woman.ch

#17DaysWWSF #CallToActionWWSF



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## WWSF 17 Days Empowerment Kit

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WWSF, a Swiss Foundation and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, world days and prize awards the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030

WWSF has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations:  
ECOSOC, UNFPA and DPI

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## FOR NEWCOMERS TO 17 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

1991 Creation of Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) in Geneva  
1994 Launch of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life  
1995 Launch World Rural Women's Day – 15 October (declared UN Day in 2007)  
1994-2014 20th Anniversary of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life  
2015 Launch 1st edition 17 Days Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities: Main Theme: Violence against Women  
2016 Launch 2nd edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Climate Change  
2017 Launch of 3rd edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Right to Peace  
2018 Launch 4th edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Hold Leaders to account  
2019 Launch 5th edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Right to development  
2020 Launch 6th edition: Main theme: Right to Health and Wellbeing  
2021 Launch 7th edition: Main theme: Right to Adequate Standard of Living

# Introduction by WWSF President / CEO

## Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

### 17 Days Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities

1-17 October 2021



July 2021

**Dear Campaign Partners and Friends, Dear Sisters living in rural areas,**

We wish to inform you that our annually updated campaign Kit « **17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October 2021** » is now published online <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/> for you to download, consult and be empowered into creative collaboration for the building of a more just, prosperous and peaceful future for all. Please share it with your members, partners and networks to create change in rural communities. We count on your creative collaboration and local contributions to leave no one behind. Nothing else will do the job to accomplish the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

We also wish to acknowledge the participation of coalition partners who shared with us their 2020 activities and events in spite of the pandemic which we shared in our annual Activity Report 2020 published online. We are touched by your solidarity, creativity and compassion of so many among you who work to expressing daily to reduce the suffering and hardships of the covid pandemic stricken members in your communities. Our thoughts are with you and we mourn those that have lost their lives to COVID-19. Link: <https://www.woman.ch/wwsf-annual-activity-reports/>

While some countries are gradually recovering from this horrific challenge, many countries are still afflicted with daily increases of positive cases and death. We must and learn the lesson this pandemic is bringing to the world and to work together in solidarity, sharing and supporting each other, end conflicts, wars and defence budgets to rise that eat up financial resources needed to protect humanity from such pandemics and provide courageous solutions in times like this.

In our 2021 Kit, we have selected to share with you excerpts from different reports, highlighting relevant information regarding the 17 themes presented in the Kit. We look forward to learning again about your activities this year, remain in partnership, albeit in a humble manner, to make your work visible via our advocacy network, social media alerts during the 17 days campaign, with the aim to increase interest and support for rural communities around the world that continue to struggle in these challenging times.

We wish to thank our sponsors, staff and interns who helped prepare the bulk of our annual campaign programs and especially acknowledge Deborah Marolf and Ségolène Davister for their assistance in research and communication skills.

#### **In solidarity and partnership,**

Elly Pradervand, WWSF President / CEO / UN Representative  
In collaboration with the WWSF Campaign Team.



**How to register your campaign program for 2021** New link to create  
<https://www.woman.ch/registration-form-for-the-campaign-17-days-of-activism-for-the-empowerment-of-rural-women-leaders-and-their-communities-1-17-october/>

« Today, 740 million women globally work in the informal sector, where job insecurity, low earnings and harsh working conditions and hours are prevalent. »

« Economic fallout of COVID-19 predicts that 47 million women will fall into extreme poverty. »

« Young women (15-29) are 3 times more likely to be outside the labor force and not in school than young men ». (Source: Generation Equality Forum)

#### **Objectives of the WWSF 17 Days Campaign**

The Campaign aims to build a movement for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities and empower them to demand from their state leaders urgent action to implement the universal adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the unfinished business of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Resolution on Women, Peace and Security/UNSCR 1325, and the newly adopted post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. By mobilizing local actors who work for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, WWSF hopes that the campaign will increase linkages with other groups, the formation of new platforms for action and strong advocacy for a powerful civil society participation. **Stronger rights for women can increase power, voice, and status, leading to greater opportunity, safety, equality and dignity.**



# Excerpts from the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

## The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/#sdg-goals>

Foreword by António Guterres,  
Secretary-General, United Nations

### Excerpt :

*"The global community is at a critical moment in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More than a year into the global pandemic, millions of lives have been lost, the human and economic toll has been unprecedented, and recovery efforts so far have been uneven, inequitable and insufficiently geared towards achieving sustainable development. The current crisis is threatening decades of development gains, further delaying the urgent transition to greener, more inclusive economies, and throwing progress on the SDGs even further off track..."*

### View from the pandemic: stark realities, critical choices

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/view-from-the-pandemic/>



"As we enter the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is abundantly clear that this is a crisis of monumental proportions, with catastrophic effects on people's lives and livelihoods and on efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Historically, pandemics have served as catalysts for political, economic and social change, and that still holds true today. The year 2021 will be decisive as to whether or not the world can make the transformations needed to deliver on the promise to achieve the SDGs by 2030 – with implications for us all.

*The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* uses the latest available data and estimates to reveal the devastating impacts of the crisis on the SDGs and point out areas that require urgent and coordinated action. The report was prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with more than 50 international agencies.

**Years, or even decades, of progress have been halted or reversed.** In 2020, the global extreme poverty rate rose for the first time in over 20 years. Hundreds of millions of people were pushed back into extreme poverty and chronic hunger. The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted one or more essential health services and poses major health threats beyond the disease itself. It has wreaked havoc worldwide on children's learning and well-being, and women have suffered a disproportionate share of job losses and increased care work at home.

**The pandemic has exposed and intensified inequalities within and among countries.** The poorest and most vulnerable people have a greater risk of becoming infected by the virus, and bear the brunt of the economic fallout. The crisis has threatened the livelihoods of 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy. The collapse of international tourism disproportionately affects small island developing States. And vast inequities exist in vaccine distribution: as of 17 June 2021, around 68 vaccines were administered for every 100 people in Europe and Northern America compared with fewer than 2 in sub-Saharan Africa.

**The climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis and the pollution crisis persist, despite the pandemic.** Concentrations of major greenhouse gases continue to increase despite the temporary reduction in emissions in 2020 related to lockdowns and other COVID-19 response measures. The world remains woefully off track in meeting the Paris Agreement. Biodiversity is declining, and terrestrial ecosystems are being degraded at alarming rates. Around the world, 1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, and 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are thrown away each year.

**The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a mirror for the world.** It reflects deeply rooted problems in our societies: insufficient social protection, weak public health systems and inadequate health coverage, structural inequalities, environmental degradation and climate change.

### Resilience, adaptability and innovation bring us optimism.

In the face of tremendous challenges, many Governments, the private sector, academia and communities have demonstrated quick responses, remarkable creativity and new forms of collaboration. Between 1 February and 31 December 2020, Governments around the world announced more than 1,600 new social protection measures in response to the crisis. Scientists across the globe have been working together to develop life-saving vaccines and treatments in record time. The pandemic has sped up the digital transformation of Governments and businesses, profoundly changing the ways in which we interact, learn and work.

**Transformational changes are needed, and the SDGs provide the road map.** The crisis demonstrates the interdependency and interlinkages among the various dimensions of sustainability – from health, well-being, and social and economic prosperity to climate and ecosystems. To address the vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic, Governments and the international community should make structural transformations and develop common solutions guided by the SDGs. These include significantly strengthening social protection systems and public services (including health systems, education, water, sanitation and other basic services); increasing investments in science, technology and innovation; creating fiscal space in developing countries; taking a green-economy approach and investing in clean energy and industry; and transitioning to sustainable food systems. Investing in data and information infrastructure is critical. The pandemic has taught us that weaknesses in data and information systems present an added and enormous challenge to decision makers. A year into the pandemic, only about 60 countries had data on COVID-19 infection and death rates that could be disaggregated by age and sex and that were publicly accessible. These data deficiencies have serious consequences for people's lives. Policies, programmes and resources aimed at protecting people during this challenging time will inevitably fall short without the evidence to focus and hone interventions.

**Investing in data and information systems is not money wasted.** Statistical offices around the world have embraced innovative approaches and forged partnerships, improving the availability of data for evidence-based decisions. Increased investments in national data and statistical systems and the mobilization of additional international and domestic resources will be imperative if we are to build back better from the crisis and accelerate implementation of the SDGs. (...)"

To read more: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/view-from-the-pandemic/>

# Excerpts from the 2021 UN CSW65 Agreed Conclusions



## UN Commission on the Status of Women 56th session

15-26 March 2021 - New York, NY

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021>

"The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC [in resolution 1996/6 \(see page 20\)](#) expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work. We also facilitate the participation of civil society representatives. A new multi-year programme of work for the years 2021-2024 is contained in ECOSOC resolution [ECOSOC resolution 2020/15](#).

Based on the resolutions from 2018 and 2020, priority and review themes for 2020–2024 are:

- 2020: Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 2021: Priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).
- 2022: Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session).
- 2023: Priority theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session).
- 2024: Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. Review theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session)."

# Generation Equality Forum concludes in Paris - 2 July 2021



## Introduction

"Gender equality is not just a goal: it is critical to the survival of the planet, the realization of the rights of all girls and women, and to building new economic and social systems that include, and work for everyone. COVID-19 has laid bare critical gaps in equality that have left millions of women and girls, particularly those who are most marginalized, behind."

## Executive Summary

"The Generation Equality Action Coalitions are mobilizing governments, women's, feminist and youth-led organizations, international organizations, and the private sector to: catalyze collective action; spark global and local conversations among generations; drive increased public and private investment; and deliver concrete progress on gender equality across generations for girls and women."

Six specific themes are being addressed by the Action Coalitions:

i) Gender Based Violence; ii) Economic Justice and Rights; iii) Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); iv) Feminist action for climate justice; v) Technology and innovation for Gender Equality; vi) Feminist movements and leadership.

Each Action Coalition is led by a group of partners or leaders who have been working together to design Blueprints for action. Each blueprint articulates an ambitious agenda that will accelerate progress towards gender equality in this UN decade of Action."

## Press Release 2 July 2021

### Generation Equality Forum concludes in Paris with Announcement of Revolutionary Commitments and Global Acceleration Plan to Advance Gender Equality by 2026.

"Paris, France, 2 July 2021 – The Generation Equality Forum Paris concluded today with the announcement of bold gender equality commitments and launch of a global 5-year action journey to accelerate gender equality by 2026. The Forum's bold, action-oriented agenda will be under-written by nearly USD 40 Billion of confirmed investments as well as ambitious policy and programme commitments from governments, philanthropy, civil society, youth organizations and the private sector. The monumental conclusion comes at a critical moment as the world assesses the disproportionate and negative impact that COVID-19 has had on women and girls. Gender equality advocates have pressed for gender-responsive stimulus and recovery plans to ensure that women and girls are not left behind as the world re-builds."

"The Generation Equality Forum marks a positive, historic shift in power and perspective. Together we have mobilized across different sectors of society, from south to north, to become a formidable force, ready to open a new chapter in gender equality," said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women. "The Forum's ecosystem of partners – and the investments, commitments and energy they are bringing to confront the greatest barriers to gender equality – will ensure faster progress for the world's women and girls than we have seen before." UN Women will maintain a critical role driving the Forum's 5-year action

journey, overseeing the implementation of commitments to ensure accountability and progress over the next five years.

Speaking to mark the close of the Forum for the Government of France, the host of the Paris Forum, Ambassador and Secretary General of the Generation Equality Forum Delphine O said, "After two years of collective work with Member States, civil society and philanthropic and private organizations, we succeeded in raising the largest amount of investment to advance gender equality and women's rights ever. By implementing a new way of tackling global issues through efficient multilateralism, the Generation Equality Forum reversed the priorities on the international agenda and made gender equality, for too long underestimated, a long-term issue for the international community, along with climate, education and health. France will continue to be at the forefront to accelerate gender equality progress."

The USD 40 Billion of investments confirmed at the Forum's close represent a major step-change in resourcing for women's and girls' rights. Lack of financing is widely understood to be a major reason for slow progress in advancing gender equality and in enacting the women's rights agenda of the milestone 1995 Beijing Conference. By the close of the Forum, governments and public sector institutions had committed to USD 21 Billion in gender equality investments, the private sector USD 13 Billion, and Philanthropy USD 4.5 Billion. UN entities, international and regional organizations committed an aggregate of USD 1.3 Billion. In addition to these bold investments, many organizations made strong policy and program commitments, including 440 civil society organizations and 94 youth-led organizations. Forum organizers expect that the approximately 1,000 commitment-makers confirmed to date will be joined by many others over the next five years.

In addition to the significant commitments unveiled at the opening ceremony, the final two days of the Forum saw the unveiling of a wide range of commitments from every sector, with examples including:

- The Government of Burkina Faso's work with Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Togo to develop shared commitments related to family life education; free care for pregnant women and children under five years; and pursuing legal and social change to end gender-based violence, including FGM and child marriage.
- The United States Government's commitment to a range of significant policies and investment requests including an investment of USD 1 Billion to support programmes to end violence against women, and USD 175 Million to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally
- The expansion of the Global Alliance for Care, initiated by the Government of Mexico and UN Women. This now includes over 39 countries; for example, the Government of Canada's commitment of USD 100 Million to address inequalities in the care economy globally, as a parallel to significant investment in its own care system."

To read more: <https://forum.generationequality.org/news/generation-equality-forum-concludes-paris-announcement-revolutionary-commitments-and-global>



# Ideas for Action

The 17 Days Kit includes information and definitions, facts and figures, and resources for each of the 17 themes, with a special focus on a main theme, which is this year “**Claim your right to an adequate standard of living - END POVERTY.**”



## Mobilizing

rural women leaders, organizations and grassroots groups to RISE and claim their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic



## Creating

new synergies at many levels between diverse actors (youth and faith-based leaders included) to empower communities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic



## Raising

awareness of the multi-faceted problems still facing rural women communities during the COVID-19 pandemic



## Understanding

that rural women provide a context for positive change in the COVID-19 response



## Showing

the inequalities in numerous rural communities which have worsened with the current pandemic, and the need to solicit from your government support for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas during and after COVID-19

## Strengthening

local/national initiatives in rural communities and creating new women's groups for compliance

## Educating

for advocacy and providing empowerment tools

## Lobbying

governments to implement UN declarations and recommendations for rural women and their communities

## Linking

rural women and their communities to the CEDAW Convention

## Integrating

the UN SDG Agenda 2030 platform into everyday life in order to create a world of peace and equality

## How to register and participate in the 17days Campaign (1-17 Oct.)

- **Register** your organization or rural women's group online (<http://www.woman.ch>) Your activity plans will be included on our website under committed actors creating change in rural communities, and will be shared with all other registered active members.
- **Build** broad alliances with grassroots groups and networks to campaign with you on a given topic or several of them
- **Arrange** meetings with government representatives and advocate for legislative changes necessary **for compliance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Post - 2015 Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.**

## What is a Coalition?

Coalitions are often the main advocates for women's rights acting on behalf of or with women and young people in the realization of their rights. Credibility and authority gained from a collective membership or group generally outweigh individual action. Coalitions provide a focus for human rights work by acting for change and share concerns for the advancement of women's wellbeing, outlined in the CEDAW Convention and the General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

## What is Activism?

It is quite simply put taking action to effect social change. It's the action that counts, not the individual that does the action. Often we ask ourselves “how to change the world?” through social, political, economic and environmental change. This can be led by individuals but is often done collectively through social movements. **It's not who we are, but what we do or don't do that creates our world.**

# Reminder of the Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 12 years.

For your information, SDG 1 and SDG 5 are the most important themes we focus on in the 17 days Empowerment Kit.

## SDG # 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”

(<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>)



### Targets 1.2 and 1.4

**Reduce** at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to regional definitions.

**Ensure** that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access.

## SDG # 5 Gender Equality



### Target 1: “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”

Link: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

**Target 2: Eliminate all forms of violence** against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**Target 3: Eliminate all harmful practices** such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

**Target 4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work** through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

**Target 5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation** and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

**Target 6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health** and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the Intl. Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences

**Target 7: Undertake reforms** to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

**Target 8: Enhance the use of enabling technology** in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**Target 9: Adopt and strengthen** sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



# Six things you should know about the state of the SDGs

Beijing+26 - SDG+6

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/un-desavoice/things-you-need-to-know/2021/07#1950>



"As we enter the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, how devastating are its impacts on the global goals? Can the SDGs guide the global community to a brighter future? We are at a critical juncture, where the tragedy of COVID-19 must serve as the wake-up call for the world to work together to achieve the global goals. As UN DESA prepares to launch the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 at the High-level Political Forum, here are 6 things you need to know about the state of the SDGs.

## 1. COVID-19 halted or reversed years, or even decades of development progress

Global poverty rose for the first time in over 20 years. Over 100 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty and chronic hunger. The equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost, and an additional 101 million children have fallen below the minimum reading proficiency level.

## 2. The pandemic has exposed and intensified inequalities

The poorest and most vulnerable are at greater risk of becoming infected by the virus and have borne the brunt of the economic fallout. Vaccine distribution has been a mirror of global inequities: as of 17 June 2021, around 68 vaccines were administered for every 100 people in Europe and Northern America compared with less than 2 in sub-Saharan Africa.

## 3. The economic slump did not slow down the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises

Concentrations of major greenhouse gases continue to increase. The world fell short on 2020 targets aimed at halting biodiversity loss while 5 trillion single-use plastic bags continue to be thrown away each year.

## 4. Governments, the private sector, academia and communities have shown remarkable resilience and action

Governments announced more than 1,600 new social protection measures. Scientists across the globe have worked together to develop life-saving vaccines in record time. And a worldwide digital transformation has changed how we interact, learn, work and conduct business.

## 5. Our future is in our hands and the next months will be critical

Our collective response over the coming 18 months will determine whether the COVID-19 crisis serves as a much-needed wake-up call to spur a decade of truly transformative action that delivers for people and planet.

## 6. Better data guide us in fighting COVID-19 and achieving the SDGs

Timely and high-quality data are more essential than ever before. Decision makers should treat data as a strategic asset and a priority in building back better and increase data financing from both international and domestic resources."

The annual 17 Days WWSF Campaign poster 2021 can be used for your local events and for the announcement of your activities for the empowerment of Rural Women leaders & groups in your country

# 1-17 Octobre 2021

## 17 Jours d'activisme

Pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales & de leurs communautés



Pour le changement  
#17DaysWWSF

Organisation  
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
Section Femmes Rurales  
Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF  
CP 1504 - 1211 Genève 1 - Suisse  
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<http://www.woman.ch>

**17** Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities  
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales et leurs communautés  
Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales y sus comunidades  
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum und  
in ihren Gemeinden

1-17 October



# Claim your right to sustainable development as a woman's right

1st day of the Campaign  
(6 pages)

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

"The United Nations Sustainable Development report 2021 shows devastating impact of COVID, ahead of 'critical' new phase.

6 July 2021

Link: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095362>



**Excerpt: "The world was not on track to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before COVID-19 struck, and now the challenge has been magnified many times over, according to a new flagship UN report that indicates countries must take "critical" steps on the road out of the pandemic, during the next 18 months..**

## Gains rolled back

"In addition to the almost four million deaths due to the coronavirus, between 119-124 million people were pushed back into poverty and chronic hunger, and the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost, the report indicates.

"The pandemic has halted, or reversed, years, or even decades of development progress. Global extreme poverty rose for the first time since 1998," said UN Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, during the launch.

Moreover, disruptions to essential health services have threatened years of progress in improving maternal and child health, increasing immunization coverage, and reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases. Around 90% of countries are still reporting one or more significant disruptions to essential health services."

## Acute inequalities

The report also indicates that the pandemic has "exposed and intensified inequalities within and between countries.

"As of 17 June 2021, around 68 vaccine shots were administered for every 100 people in Europe and Northern America - compared with fewer than two, in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Millions of children risk never returning to school; while rising numbers have been forced into child marriage and child labour. With trillions of tourist dollars lost during the pandemic shutdowns, the collapse of international tourism has disproportionately impacted struggling Small Island Developing States.

"The poorest and most vulnerable continue to be at greater risk of becoming infected by the virus and have borne the brunt of the economic fallout," highlighted Mr. Liu from China.

While an economic recovery is under way, led by China and the United States, in many other countries, economic growth is not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels before 2022 or 2023."

## Climate and biodiversity challenges

"The report also confirms what UN agencies such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have been sounding the alarm over: the economic slowdown in 2020 did little to slow the climate crisis, which continues largely unabated.

Concentrations of major greenhouse gases continued to increase, while the global average temperature was about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, dangerously close to the 1.5°C threshold, established in the Paris Agreement.

The world fell short as well on 2020 targets to halt biodiversity loss and a reversal of the 10 million hectares of forest which was lost each year, between 2015-2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has also adversely affected progress towards gender equality.

Violence against women and girls has intensified, child marriage is expected to increase, and women have suffered a disproportionate share of job losses and increased care responsibilities at home. Meanwhile, global flows of foreign direct investment fell by 40% in 2020 compared to 2019. The document shows the pandemic has brought immense financial challenges, especially for developing countries – with a significant rise in debt distress."

## Brighter future still possible

"This report paints a worrying picture regarding the state of the SDGs. Yet, it also highlights stories of resilience, adaptability and innovation during the crisis, which indicate a brighter future is possible," underscored Mr. Liu.

He added that there are signs that countries are taking steps under their recovery plans, that could improve SDG action, and that the next 18 months are critical. According to the report, to get the SDGs back on track, governments, cities, businesses and industries have to use the recovery to adopt low-carbon, resilient and inclusive development pathways that will reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, create better jobs, advance gender equality and tackle growing inequities

"We are at a critical juncture in human history. The decisions and actions we take today will have momentous consequences for future generations. Lessons learned from the pandemic will help us rise to current and future challenges," Mr. Liu urged."

To read more: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095362>

**750 million adults are illiterate. 2/3 of them are women.<sup>1</sup>**

**In developing countries, women and children have to walk an average distance of 6 kilometers every day to find water. <sup>2</sup>**

**Only 10% of the total aid for agriculture, forestry and fishing goes to women.<sup>4</sup>**



**On average women carry out at least 2.5 times more unpaid household and care work than men.<sup>5</sup>**

## Selected SDG Targets



**Target 16.7:** "Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory decision-making at all level"

**Target 16.8:** "Broaden and strengthen the participation of

developing countries in the institutions of global governance"

**Target 16.10:** "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms in accordance to national legislation and international agreements"

1 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf> 2 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/womens-crisis/> 3 - <https://www.thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/> 4 - <http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/infographics/the-female-face-of-farming/en/> 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw61/redistribute-unpaid-work> 6 - <http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/infographics/the-female-face-of-farming/en/>

**A 10 \$ increase in women's income achieves the same improvements in children's nutrition and health as a 110 \$ increase in a man's income.<sup>6</sup>**





# Claim your right to sustainable development as a woman's right

cont'd.



## SDG Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

*Excerpt : from the High-level political forum on sustainable development  
Progress towards the SDGs - Report of the UN Secretary-General*

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG_SDG_Progress_report_2020.pdf)

### Summary :

"In accordance with General Assembly decision 70/1, this report provides a global overview of the current situation of the Sustainable Development Goals, based on the latest available data (as of April 2021) on the global indicator framework for the SDGs. It was prepared with inputs from over 50 international and regional organizations. "

### Selected excerpt :

« **62. The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19** have adversely affected progress made in recent years in relation to gender equality: violence against women and girls has intensified; child marriage, on the decline in recent years, is also expected to increase; whilst increased care work at home is affecting women disproportionately. The pandemic has highlighted the need to act swiftly to address existing gender inequality that remains pervasive globally and get back on track to achieve the goal of gender equality. Women have played a critical role in the response to COVID-19, as frontline health providers, care providers and as managers and leaders of the response and recovery efforts. Yet, they remain under-represented in critical leadership positions and their rights and priorities are often not explicitly addressed in response and recovery measures. The crisis presents the opportunity to re-shape and rebuild systems, laws, policies and institutions to advance gender equality.

**63. Discriminatory laws and legal gaps** continue to prevent women from enjoying their human rights. Based on 2020 data from 95 countries and territories, more than half of them lacked quotas for women in national parliament; while 83% of the countries included budgetary commitments to implement legislation addressing violence against women, 63% continued to lack rape laws based on the principle of consent; although over 90% of countries and territories mandate nondiscrimination on the basis of gender in employment, almost half of them continued to restrict women from working in certain jobs or industries; and almost a quarter of countries and territories, did not grant women equal rights with men to enter marriage and initiate divorce.

**64. New estimates based on surveys from 2000 to 2018** confirm that nearly 1 in 3 women, that is 736 million women, have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner at least once in their lifetime since the age of 15 – a number that has remained largely unchanged over the past decade. Intimate partner violence starts early with nearly 24% of adolescent girls 15-19 years old and 26% of young women aged 20-24 years who have ever had a partner or been married being subjected already to this violence.

**65. Over the past decade**, the practice of child marriage has declined significantly, with the global proportion of young women who were married as children decreasing by 15%, from nearly 1 in 4 in 2010 to 1 in 5 in 2020.

Thanks to this progress, the marriages of some 25 million girls have been averted. However, the profound effects of COVID-19 are threatening this progress, with up to 10 million additional girls at risk of child marriage in the next decade as a result of the pandemic.

**66. Based on data from 31 countries** where the practice is concentrated, at least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). Despite progress, there are still countries where FGM is almost universal – where at least 9 in 10 girls and women aged 15 to 49 years have been cut. 13

**67. On an average day**, women spend about 2.5 times as many hours on unpaid domestic work and care work as men, according to the latest data from 90 countries and areas collected between 2001 and 2019.

**68. As of 1 January 2021**, the global average of women in the single or lower chamber of parliaments reached 25.6%, continuing a slow upward trend that will allow achieving gender parity no sooner than in 40 years, and 36.3% in local deliberative bodies (in 135 countries and territories with data). Only 23 countries have 40% or more women in their lower or single chambers, and 20 countries in local government, most of them through the use of gender quotas.

**69. By 2019**, women, accounted for nearly 39% of the global labour force, but occupied only 28.3% of managerial positions. This share rose by 3 percentage points since 2000. The pandemic's disproportional impact on women in the workforce, and especially on female entrepreneurs, threatens to roll back the little progress that has been made in reducing the global gender gap in managerial positions.

**70. Data for 2020 from 36 countries** show substantial improvement has been achieved in equal inheritance rights (69%) and to a lesser extent in spousal consent for land transactions (61%), while areas pertaining to land registration, customary law and women's representation in land governance, among others, are lagging behind.

**71. Empowering more women with mobile phones** has been shown to accelerate social and economic development. However, in the 66 countries and territories with data for 2017 to 2019, mobile phone ownership among women was on average 8.5 percentage point lower than for men.

**72. In 2018**, 81% of 69 countries with data required improvements to track budget allocations for gender equality. In the COVID-19 context, strengthening these systems, through comprehensive use of gender budgeting tools, will contribute to better targeting of resources for gender responsive recovery. "

# Claim your right to sustainable development as a woman's right

cont'd.



## Women's Major Group\* 2021 - High level Political Forum - Position Paper

<https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WMG-HLPF-2021-Sectoral-Position-Paper-Full-1.pdf>

### Excerpts from the Position Paper 2021:

"... Without systemic change, these structural inequalities will continue to shape our pandemic responses, derailing us further from achieving gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). States should heed the call of feminist advocates and place economic, racial, climate, and gender justice at the center of pandemic recovery and SDGs implementation.

"The Women's Major Group continues to believe in a multilateral system grounded in human rights. Not a multilateralism that races to the lowest common denominator, but one that fosters global solidarity and learning. Multilateralism not as the arena for geopolitical skirmishes, but for cooperation. Multilateralism not as another space for the dominance of multinational corporations, but as a space for the people, especially those most marginalized.

« The HLPF could play a key role in ensuring accountability & pushing for transformational implementation of the SDGs by:

1. Focusing on the systemic barriers to achieving the SDGs;
2. Abandoning the siloed approach to SDGs review;
3. Meaningfully engaging civil society;
4. Emphasizing policy coherence, especially with human rights bodies;
5. Becoming a space to review and act; and
6. Improving linkages between the national, regional, and global levels.

### Cross-Cutting Recommendations for States and other actors

« In order to achieve the SDGs and realize the human rights of women and girls States and other actors must take steps to accelerate action across the full spectrum of SDGs including:

- 1. Take a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related crises.** Respect, protect and fulfill the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including sexual and reproductive rights, and realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- 2. Protect and expand the space for feminist and social justice movements to mobilize and demand action.** End the practice of punitive legislation targeting environmental and women human rights defenders, activists, and social leaders, especially Indigenous and Afrodescendant leaders. End impunity for forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, threats, harassment, intimidation, and violence against environmental and women human rights defenders, activists, and social leaders.
- 3. Actively seek out and support the participation of women and girls in all our diversity in the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs that impact us and our communities.** We are the experts in our own lives and contexts. Policies and programs that do not include our voices will never meet our needs and rights, leaving the most marginalized behind.
- 4. Dismantle the unjust economic systems that perpetuate and deepen inequalities between and within countries,** and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Challenge and end privatization and commodification of public goods and services; exploitation of biodiversity and natural resources; endless cycles of unsustainable debt; and trade agreements that undermine labor rights, lead to environmental degradation, and perpetuate colonial dynamics. In its place, create a new development paradigm which prioritises the well-being/thriving of humans, animals and nature. In doing so, ending the primacy of economic growth (as measured by GDP) and the poverty and inequality it brings in its wake."

**To read the additional points:** <https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WMG-HLPF-2021-Sectoral-Position-Paper-Full-1.pdf>

\* The Women's Major Group (WMG) was created as one of nine Major Groups after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development held in Rio. This list serves the WMG provides information on Agenda 2030 & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Organizing Partners (OPs) rotate periodically every 2 years. The current WMG OPs for Sustainable Development are the African Women's Network for Community management of Forests (REFACOF) based in Cameroon, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) based in New York, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) based in Germany, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (FEIM) based in Argentina, Equidad de Género based in Mexico, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD) based in Thailand, Kenana Association for Sustainable Development and Women Empowerment based in Egypt, and ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy based in Botswana.

# UN Declaration on the Right to Development

(4 December 1986)

*cont'd*

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom,

Considering that under the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in that Declaration can be fully realized,

Recalling the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling further the relevant agreements, conventions, resolutions, recommendations and other instruments of the United Nations and its specialized agencies concerning the integral development of the human being, economic and social progress and development of all peoples, including those instruments concerning decolonization, the prevention of discrimination, respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the maintenance of international peace and security and the further promotion of friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling the right of peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Recalling also the right of peoples to exercise, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, full and complete sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources,

Mindful of the obligation of States under the Charter to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Considering that the elimination of the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of the peoples and individuals affected by situations such as those resulting from colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity and threats of war would contribute to the establishment of circumstances propitious to the development of a great part of mankind,

Concerned at the existence of serious obstacles to development, as well as to the complete fulfilment of human beings and of peoples, constituted, inter alia, by the denial of civil, political, economic, social and

cultural rights, and considering that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that, accordingly, the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of certain human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot justify the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that international peace and security are essential elements for the realization of the right to development,

Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the developing countries,

Recognizing that the human person is the central subject of the development process and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development,

Recognizing that the creation of conditions favourable to the development of peoples and individuals is the primary responsibility of their States,

Aware that efforts at the international level to promote and protect human rights should be accompanied by efforts to establish a new international economic order,

Confirming that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations,

Proclaims the following Declaration on the Right to Development:

## Article 1

1. The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

2. The human right to development also implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources.

Cont'd.

## Article 2

1. The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development.

2. All human beings have a responsibility for development, individually and collectively, taking into account the need for full respect for their



# 1 UN Declaration on the Right to Development

(4 December 1986)

cont'd

human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as their duties to the community, which alone can ensure the free and complete fulfilment of the human being, and they should therefore promote and protect an appropriate political, social and economic order for development.

3. States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.

## Article 3

1. States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development.

2. The realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States, as well as to encourage the observance and realization of human rights.

## Article 4

1. States have the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development.

2. Sustained action is required to promote more rapid development of developing countries. As a complement to the efforts of developing countries, effective international co-operation is essential in providing these countries with appropriate means and facilities to foster their comprehensive development.

## Article 5

States shall take resolute steps to eliminate the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of peoples and human beings affected by situations such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression, foreign interference and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, threats of war and refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination.

## Article 6

1. All States should co-operate with a view to promoting, encouraging and strengthening universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

2. All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3. States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

## Article 7

All States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries.

## Article 8

1. States should undertake, at the national level, all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and shall ensure, inter alia, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. Effective measures should be undertaken to ensure that women have an active role in the development process. Appropriate economic and social reforms should be carried out with a view to eradicating all social injustices.

2. States should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.

## Article 9

1. All the aspects of the right to development set forth in the present Declaration are indivisible and interdependent and each of them should be considered in the context of the whole.

2. Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as being contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, or as implying that any State, group or person has a right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the violation of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

## Article 10

Steps should be taken to ensure the full exercise and progressive enhancement of the right to development, including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures at the national and international levels.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>

## UNDERWAY

**UN Legally binding instrument on the right to development**  
 "The North-South divide is once again evident in the debates on the **draft Convention on the Right to Development**. Despite opposition from the West, Southern countries are committed to an instrument that could orient the international order towards greater equity."

# Claim your right to development as a woman's right (Cont'd)



## General Ideas for Action

### 1 Lobby

your national government and local authorities to fulfill the promises made in the declaration on the Right to Development and to develop and implement policies that follow the guidelines set by the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality

### 2 Educate

others on their human right to development and let them know that they deserve access to all essential services

### 3 Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to push for gender mainstreaming in development policies.

### 4 Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to ensure universal access to essential services like water and hygiene

### 5 Regularly remind

your local and national leaders to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the new Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030. Rural Women of the World are waiting for their basic human rights to development, equality and peace. **The time is now!**

### 6 Respect

and strengthen the right of peasants and other people working in rural areas. This includes access to a sustainable use of natural resources, the right to food and adequate living conditions and the elimination of all forms of discrimination  
Source: <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/UN%20Declaration%20on%20the%20rights%20of%20peasants.pdf>



### Identify

how COVID-19 is affecting local development in your communities and find solutions to still achieve sustainable development despite the pandemic



### Establish

a think tank where you can exchange ideas for development during and after COVID-19



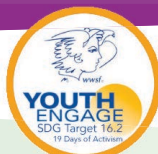
### Develop

new work forms in light of the current situation which promote local development



### Engage

a discussion with your government to boost development financing as a COVID-19 response



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media in times of COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by stories of organizations such as the Road to Rights, Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup>, which are youth based organizations that work hard towards education, empowerment and advocating for human rights

**Information** is the path to emancipation. Know what the status of rural women is in your society and more importantly, know which institutions and policies can help empower them. Spread the information to them too!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.roadtorights.org/www>



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Help** your partner, daughter or sister with the task of collecting water. Share the responsibility and give her more time to focus on her overall development



**Taking care** of the household, the elderly and the sick is not her responsibility alone. Especially now that the COVID-19 has changed our everyday lives

**Ensure** for your partner the maternal health she needs! Keep her and your children safe from COVID-19!



## WHAT MEN CAN DO

#17daysWWSF #SDG8

### 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble (UN MINISTERIAL REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT)

"Peace: There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development."

### ICPD Program of Action (1994) Principle 4

"Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programs. The human rights of women and the girl child are inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, are priority objectives of the international community."

2021 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 1504 - 1211 Geneva 1 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Theme 2 Claim your right to education for you and your children

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Goal #4** of the SDGs ensures equal, inclusive and quality education for both men and women.

*If one rural woman demands the equal, accessible, and fair education she is entitled to, she can energize her community to do the same. In doing so, she promotes the needs and concerns of women everywhere. If many women within their rural communities do the same, they can begin to transform their communities, and societies to demand equality in all aspects of life!*

"Because of **COVID-19**, the right to education has been disrupted for more than 1.5 billion children around the world, as 188 countries have imposed countrywide school closures. Girls are likely to be hit the hardest, as they will in many cases be expected to balance caregiving responsibilities with education, have unequal access to remote learning opportunities, and are at particular risk of leaving schools entirely, which has had particular long-term impacts on their education, health and economic opportunities." <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID19Guidance.aspx>

**Excerpt from Ms Koumbou Boly Barry, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education at the 44th Session of the Human Rights Council, 20 July 2020** <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/SREducation/Pages/EducationWaterSanitation.aspx>

## Summary

"States are required to ensure that educational facilities within their jurisdictions meet human rights standards. This requires a clear understanding of the synergies between the right to education and other human rights, and ways of further promoting the integration of those rights into practices.

In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education focuses on the interrelations between the right to education and the rights to water and sanitation, including hygiene and menstrual health and hygiene. She explores situations where the failure to respect, protect and fulfil the rights to water and sanitation in education institutions impedes the realization of the right to education. She also underlines that the rights to water and sanitation, like many other human rights, cannot be fully implemented unless the right to education is realized. This enables people's understanding, agency and autonomy in those areas.

The report contains guidelines for the provision of water and sanitation in educational settings, for the realization of the right to education. The final section of the report contains recommendations for stakeholders."



## 2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

Excerpts:

42. « The Commission reaffirms the right to education for all women and girls, and stresses that equal access to inclusive, equitable and high-quality education significantly contributes to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by providing them with opportunities, knowledge, capacity, aptitudes, skills, ethical values and understanding to enable women's full and effective participation in public life.

"43. The Commission remains deeply concerned by the persistence of high female illiteracy rates and gender-stereotyped roles of women and men, which inhibit women's equal participation in employment, leading to occupational segregation, including the widespread underrepresentation of women and girls in many fields of science and technology, which represents a loss of talent and perspectives, hinders economic development and women's economic empowerment and can contribute to the gender pay gap."

"44. The Commission underlines the importance of leveraging education, including digital competencies, science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technologies, bolstering key dimensions such as creativity, entrepreneurship, critical thinking and soft skills, strengthening adequate access to education, training and skill development opportunities for women and girls and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all."

## Selected SDG Targets - Agenda 2030



**Target 4.1** "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes."

**Target 4.5** "By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."

**Target 4.7** "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."



According to UNESCO, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the closure of

**schools in 188 countries, affecting more than 1.5 billion students.<sup>1</sup>**

Every additional year of primary school increases girls' eventual wages by **10-20%**. It also encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, and leaves them less vulnerable to violence.<sup>3</sup>

According to global statistics, just 39 percent of rural girls attend secondary school. This is far fewer than rural boys (**45%**), urban girls (**5%**) and urban boys (**6%**).<sup>4</sup>

One third of girls in the developing countries are married before the age of 18 and **1 in 9** are married before the age of 15.<sup>5</sup>

**258 million** children, adolescents and youth are out of school. This represents **1/6** of the global population of this age group.<sup>6</sup>

**1 out of 3** adolescent girls from the poorest households has never been to school.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://en.unesco.org/news/take-survey-covid-19-and-early-childhood-education-workforce> 3 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures> 4 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures> 5 - <https://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures/> 6 - <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/new-methodology-shows-258-million-children-adolescents-and-youth-are-out-school.pdf> 7 - <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/1-3-adolescent-girls-poorest-households-has-never-been-school>



# 2 Claim your right to education for you and your children

## General Ideas for Action



### 1 Lobby

your government to provide rural women and their children equal access to quality and sufficient education and school facilities

### 2 Inform

others of their human right to education

### 3 Ensure

that young girls are not kept from school due to early marriage or pregnancy, unsafe travel conditions, violence, or traditional practices

### 4 Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level

### 5 Develop and implement

policies, strategies and programs that will promote and provide safe and inclusive education programs

### 6 Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand to have your rights realized. Also hold meetings to pass on literacy and other skills to women in your community!

### 7 Raise

awareness within your community on the gender gaps in education, and help young women understand the importance of education and literacy

### 8 Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss adequate school facilities and quality education systems with leaders in your community



### Encourage

your children to keep studying while governments mandate to stay home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Losses in learning should be mitigated as much as possible



### Demand

from public authorities to assure remote learning for all children during phases of Coronavirus lockdowns. Education should be a common good, accessible to everybody, also during the pandemic. Where access to online courses is limited, students have to be provided by the necessary alternative materials. In education as in health, we are safe when everybody is safe; we flourish when everybody flourishes

Source: <https://en.unesco.org/news/education-post-covid-world-nine-ideas-public-action>



### Ensure

educational equality between girls and boys while COVID-19 stay home policies are in place. Provide them with equal opportunities and resources for school. For example, advocate for equal participation in domestic tasks for boys and girls to leave them enough study time



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Be Creative!** Create street plays help create awareness about the social issues faced by women



**Volunteer** and help educate rural women and children who lack access to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Feel inspired** by stories of the women's movement in Pakistan that is working very hard to advocate for education for girls in rural communities

**Start small!** Take a field trip to the rural neighbourhood closest to you



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours! <sup>1</sup> <https://in.reuters.com/article/pakistan-women-education-idINKCNOVB0B8>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



**Help** ensure that all the daughters and sisters you know, especially your own, study even while COVID-19 lockdowns are in place

- **Take** a stand against child marriage! Do your part by condemning the practice and creating awareness about the problems associated with it
- **Rally** against gender stereotypes! Education is a basic human right that needs to be guaranteed to members of all sexes equally. Help create a more conducive environment for female education!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2E #SDG4

### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education.

### International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

"...Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms... Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups..."

2021 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 1504 - 1211 Geneva 1 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

# Theme 3

## Claim your right to safe water

"Water is critical to deliver nearly all of the other 16 Sustainable Development Goals"

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

Today, we call upon rural women to defend their right to safe water. Water is the resource upon which all life relies.

Agriculture, health and hygiene depend on the provision of water supply that is adequate both in terms of quantity and quality.

As general comment No. 15 in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights asserts, access to water "is a prerequisite to the realization of other human rights".

This is to say that a host of fundamental human rights hinge on this most basic necessity, without which the rights to adequate housing, education, and health—among others—cannot be attained.

*Rural women of the world, we urge you to demand action and inclusion in efforts to reform water and sanitation systems. Not only do you have much to gain from access to safe water, but you possess the power to improve your communities, countries, and the world.*

*According to UN-Water, "with the same access to productive resources as men, including water, women could increase yields on their farms by 20-30% and lift 150 million people out of hunger."*

### Statistics:

(source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf>)

- **2.2 Billion** people lack safely managed drinking water (2017)
- **4.2 Billion** people lack safely managed sanitation (2017)
- **3 Billion** people worldwide lack basic handwashing facilities at home (the most effective method for **COVID-19** prevention).
- Water scarcity could displace **700 million** people by 2030.
- In **2018, 60% of 172 countries** reported 'very low,' 'low' and 'medium-low' levels of integrated water resources management implementation and are unlikely to meet the target of implementation by 2030.

### The United Nations World Water Development Report 2021 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

link: <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789214030140c005/read>

Excerpt:

#### "Perspectives, Challenges and Opportunities

The current status of water resources highlights the need for improved water resources management. Recognizing, measuring and expressing water's worth, and incorporating it into decision-making, are fundamental to achieving sustainable and equitable water resources management and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Those who control how water is valued control how it is used. Values are a central aspect of power and equity in water resources governance. The failure to fully value water in all its different uses is considered a root cause, or a symptom, of the political neglect of water and its mismanagement. All too often, the value of water, or its full suite of multiple values, is not prominent in decision-making at all.

Differences in the way water is valued occur not only between stakeholder groups but are widespread within them. These divergent perspectives on water value and the best ways to calculate and express it, coupled with limited knowledge of the actual resource, present a challenging landscape for rapid improvements in valuing water. It is, for example, futile to attempt to quantitatively compare the value of water for domestic use, the human right to water, customary or religious beliefs, and the value of maintaining flows to preserve biodiversity. None of these should be sacrificed for the sake of achieving consistent valuation methodologies."

### Selected SDG Targets - Agenda 2030



#### Target 6.1

"By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all."

#### Target 6.6 b

"Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management."

In low-income countries, only **8%** of the municipal and industrial wastewater undergoes treatment of any kind.<sup>1</sup>

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in **8 out of 10** households with water supply off premises.<sup>2</sup>

Women and girls living without a toilet spend in total **266 million hours** each day finding a place to go.<sup>3</sup>



**2 out of 5** people worldwide do not have a basic handwashing facility with soap and water at home.<sup>4</sup>

By 2050 **4.8 - 5.7 billion** people could live in potential water-scarce areas at least one month per year.<sup>5</sup>

**673 million** people still practice open defecation.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/247153e.pdf> 2 - <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/gender/> 3 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/womens-crisis/> 4 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf> 5 - <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261424> 6 - <https://www.unicef.org/eca/press-releases/21-billion-lack-water-sanitation> 7 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf> 8 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>

Every year, **361 000 children** under 5 years die due to diarrhea, as a result of poor access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.<sup>6</sup>

**1 in 3** people lack access to a toilet. More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.<sup>8</sup>

# 3 Claim your right to safe water

## General Ideas for Action



### 1 Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat barriers to safe water acquisition

### 2 Train

yourselves in operating and maintaining village-level water systems

### 3 Participate

in designing water and sanitation programs that are relevant, appropriate, and sustainable for your community

### 4 Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level

### 5 Address

and work to eliminate sanitation practices that threaten the quality of your water, such as open defecation

### 6 Create

powerful coalitions to protect your water sources, resist privatization, and demand adequate disposal of industrial waste by corporations

### 7 Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to improve access to water.

### 8 Denounce

unsuitable farming techniques that use pesticides and chemicals that pollute your water.



### Set up

creative campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of handwashing. Handwashing is one of the most effective actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/#:~:text=3%20in%2010%20people%20lack,continue%20to%20practice%20open%20defecation.>



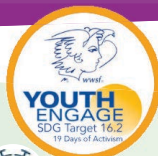
### Organize

a program with volunteers who help delivering water to people who are most at risk of COVID-19 or for the ones who are infected by COVID-19 and need to self-isolate.



### Develop

community projects which demand to public authorities affordable access to safe water and soap for all. This is crucial for the mitigation of COVID-19.



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media in times of COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by stories of other volunteers<sup>1</sup> who worked hard to restore access to clean water for a rural community in Ghana.



**Find** innovative ways to generate awareness about the importance of regular washing hands with soap.

**Be a Researcher!** Gather information about water systems in any particular rural area and spread the information: how the system functions, where does the water come from, where does it go.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vsointernational.org/news/blog/youth-volunteers-restore-access-to-clean-water-for-community-in-rural-ghana>



## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



**Become inclusive!** Help ensure that women's voices are present in the process of creating water projects, which is now during COVID-19 more important than ever.

- **Ensure** that farming practices are compatible with the water system in your area.
- **Help** reduce the distance to the water source in your community ! It will go a long way in helping your partners, sisters and daughters free-up time wasted in water collection, which can then be used judiciously.
- **Denounce** unhealthy practices such as open defecation that make the environment around you unhygienic resulting in the spread of various infectious diseases!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2W #SDG6

### Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2003) General Comment 15

"Water is a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights... The continuing contamination, depletion and unequal distribution of water is exacerbating existing poverty. State parties have to adopt effective measures to realize, without discrimination, the right to water..."

### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure... that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

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# Theme 4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

(4 pages)

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

Rural women of the world, it is time to exercise your full right to health. While it is important to lobby governments and hold them accountable through UN processes such as Goal #3 within the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the fact that governments have signed a document will not in itself guarantee women's and girls' rights. **The shift from policy to individuals, families and communities respecting women's rights must also be led by women's rights leaders and advocates, in alliance with other constituencies.**

## Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/48>

"There is no health without mental health. The rich links between mind, body and the environment have been well-documented for decades. As the third decade of the millennium begins, nowhere in the world has achieved parity between mental and physical health and this remains a significant human development challenge.

(...) The right to health is an inclusive right, extending not only to timely and appropriate health care, but also to the underlying determinants of health, such as access to safe and potable water and adequate sanitation, healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and access to health-related education and information, including on sexual and reproductive health.

The right to health contains both freedoms and entitlements. Freedoms include the right to control one's health, including the right to be free from non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation. Entitlements include the right to a system of health protection (i.e. health care and the underlying determinants of health) that provides equality of opportunity for people to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

"The right to physical and mental health is a broad concept that can be broken down into more specific entitlements such as the rights to:

- maternal, child and reproductive health;
- informed consent, bodily integrity and freedom from torture, ill-treatment and harmful practices;
- healthy natural and workplace environments;
- the prevention, treatment and control of diseases, including access to essential medicines; and
- access to safe and potable water.

For more information on the definition of the right to health, please refer to General Comment No. 14 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

## Excerpts from General Comment No. 14

### "Women and the right to health

21. To eliminate discrimination against women, there is a need to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy for promoting women's right to health throughout their life span. Such a strategy should include interventions aimed at the prevention and treatment of diseases affecting women, as well as policies to provide access to a full range of high quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive services. A major goal should be reducing women's health risks, particularly lowering rates of maternal mortality and protecting women from domestic violence. The realization of women's right to health requires the removal of all barriers interfering with access to health services, education and information, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health. It is also important to undertake preventive, promotive and remedial action to shield women from the impact of harmful traditional cultural practices and norms that deny them their full reproductive rights.

### Children and adolescents

22. Article 12.2 (a) outlines the need to take measures to reduce infant mortality and promote the healthy development of infants and children. Subsequent international human rights instruments recognize that children and adolescents have the right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health and access to facilities for the treatment of illness.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child directs States to ensure access to essential health services for the child and his or her family, including pre- and post-natal care for mothers. The Convention links these goals with ensuring access to child-friendly information about preventive and health-promoting behaviour and support to families and communities in implementing these practices. Implementation of the principle of non-discrimination requires that girls, as well as boys, have equal access to adequate nutrition, safe environments, and physical as well as mental health services. There is a need to adopt effective and appropriate measures to abolish harmful traditional practices girls, including early marriage, female genital mutilation, preferential feeding and care of male children. Children with disabilities should be given the opportunity to enjoy a fulfilling and decent life and to participate within their community.(...)

To read more about **Children and adolescents, Older persons and Persons with disabilities in the General Comment 14:** <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4538838d0.pdf>

Worldwide, **10%** of women of reproductive age (15-49%) have an unmet need for family planning.<sup>1</sup>



In Latin America and the Caribbean it is estimated that an additional

**18 million women will lose regular access to modern contraceptives, given the current context of COVID-19 pandemics.**<sup>2</sup>

At least **10 million** unintended pregnancies occur each year among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years in low- and middle-income countries, and complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death globally for girls aged 15 to 19 years.<sup>3</sup>

Around **25 million** unsafe abortions were estimated to have taken place worldwide each year, almost all in developing countries.<sup>4</sup>

Globally, it is estimated that at least **200 million** girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation.<sup>6</sup>

## Selected SDG Targets



### Target 3.1

"By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births."

**Target 3.7** "By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs."

1 - [https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/files/documents/2020/Jan/un\\_2019\\_contraceptiveusebymethod\\_databooklet.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/files/documents/2020/Jan/un_2019_contraceptiveusebymethod_databooklet.pdf) 2 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406> 3 - [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/2020\\_global-aids-report\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2020_global-aids-report_en.pdf) 4 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preventing-unsafe-abortion> 6 - [https://www.who.int/health-topics/female-genital-mutilation#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/female-genital-mutilation#tab=tab_1)

# 4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

cont'd.



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Feel inspired** by reading about organizations like the Youth Coalition<sup>1</sup> that works creatively by holding panels on research done towards difficult subjects like including abortions in Comprehensive Sexuality Education for developing countries

**Volunteer** for organizations that help rural women with family planning. Educate yourself and also find creative ways to spread the information!

**Fight against** female genital mutilation. Advocate against this practice by lobbying not only your local and national government but also the communities themselves<sup>1</sup>

**Operationalize** the full force of social media during COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Follow** the guidelines to stop the Coronavirus: Wash your hands properly and more often, avoid crowded spaces and handshaking, if you are sick wear a mask and see a doctor. Stay safe and calm<sup>2</sup>

**Volunteer** in your community: Help older and vulnerable people who are at risk of COVID-19. For example, look after the children of healthcare workers and teach younger children who cannot go to school anymore<sup>2</sup>

**Educate** your families, friends and community: Inform yourself about the Coronavirus, the related risks and solutions. Spread the word online and offline<sup>2</sup>

**Stop the spread** of fake news about the Coronavirus. Fake news circulate fast in times of uncertainty and create panic. Therefore, verify the source of every information before sharing  
Source: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2020/03/5-things-young-people-can-do-against-coronavirus/>

**Start** your own community project. Get creative and find new ideas of how to help your community during the Coronavirus pandemic

**Be the change.** Young people are an important driver to help overcome the Coronavirus pandemic. Your innovations can make the world a better place

**Use the power of communication!** Make posters on which you outline the wrong myths that exist about Coronavirus and why they are wrong

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.youthcoalition.org/un-processes/without-abortion-not-comprehensive-sexuality-education-rural-youth/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2020/03/5-things-young-people-can-do-against-coronavirus/>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Feel inspired** by stories such as that of Sileshi Deguale<sup>2</sup>, from Ethiopia, who proves that family planning is not just a women's issue
- **Fight against** female genital mutilation. Practices that damage the body of your daughter, your sister or your partner are not practices that are beneficial to anyone, including and especially to you
- **Help** in ensuring that women have access to services that allow them to understand their bodies and choices better and stay in good health
- **Create** networks of practitioners and experts that would help disseminate useful information about women's well being. Educate yourself and educate others!<sup>1</sup>

**Circulate** reliable information on COVID-19 which come from official sources such as the World Health Organization or national departments of health. Talk to your family members, friends and other people about it

**Assure** that the voice of women is heard during the Coronavirus pandemic. Support their ideas and initiatives. Collaborate together in order to tackle the health crisis

**Spread** solutions which help to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. Innovative ideas are necessary to go through and recover from this public health emergency<sup>2</sup>

**Stand up** for people who are infected by COVID-19. Make sure that their essential needs (housing, food and water) are met while they have to self-isolate for 14 days

**Support** the members of your community who are at strong risk of COVID-19 so that they have the possibility to protect themselves as much as possible from the virus

**Hold your Government accountable** and advocate for free testing, reliable information, paid sick leave, investments in science and Universal Health Coverage<sup>2</sup>

**Organize** personal protective equipment for healthcare workers

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/fr/news/men-rural-ethiopia-show-family-planning-not-just-women%E2%80%99s-issue>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2020/03/5-things-young-people-can-do-against-coronavirus/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2H #SDG3

# Theme 4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing *cont'd.*

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021



## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Link: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-03/>

"Many health indicators were moving in the right direction before the threat of COVID-19 emerged. Maternal and child health had improved, immunization coverage had increased and communicable diseases had been reduced, although not fast enough to meet those 2030 targets. The pandemic has halted or reversed progress in health and poses major threats beyond the disease itself. About 90 per cent of countries are still reporting one or more disruptions to essential health services, and available data from a few countries show that the pandemic has shortened life expectancy. Not surprisingly, the virus is disproportionately affecting disadvantaged groups. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of universal health coverage and multisectoral coordination for health emergency preparedness. Moreover, to design effective pandemic policy interventions, Governments will need to improve and strengthen basic demographic and epidemiological data collection."

### « Beyond millions of deaths worldwide, the full toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on health is not yet known

As of June 2021, total reported deaths from COVID-19 reached 3.7 million globally. Europe and Northern America experienced the largest loss at close to 1.7 million, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean at about 1.2 million, and Central and Southern Asia at slightly under half a million. For those who survived the virus, COVID-19 may have lingering health effects, including long-term disability due to lung scarring and heart damage, along with mental health issues that could affect individuals for a prolonged period. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics during the pandemic could further increase antimicrobial resistance. Although it is still too early for existing data to reflect this impact, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse years of progress towards improved worldwide health. Evidence from countries with reliable and timely vital statistics indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has sharply shortened life expectancy. »

### "A decade of progress in reproductive, maternal and child health could be stalled or reversed by the pandemic

Substantial progress has been made towards ending preventable child deaths. The global under-5 mortality rate was halved from 2000 to 2019 – falling from 76 to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births. 5.2 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2019, with almost half of these deaths (2.4 million) occurring in the first month of life."

To read more: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-03/>

## "The obligations of States

The nature of the legal obligations of State parties are set out in article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in General Comment No. 14 also defines the obligations that State parties have to fulfill in order to implement the right to health at the national level. These are as follows:

### "1. The obligation to respect

The right to health requires States to, inter alia, refrain from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, including prisoners or detainees, minorities, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, to preventive, curative and palliative health services; abstain from enforcing discriminatory practices as a State policy; and abstain from imposing discriminatory practices relating to women's health status and needs."

2. The obligation to protect includes, inter alia, the duties of States to adopt legislation or to take other measures ensuring equal access to health care and health-related services provided by third parties. States should also ensure that third parties do not limit people's access to health-related information and services.

3. The obligation to fulfil requires States parties, inter alia, to give sufficient recognition to the right to health in the national political and legal systems, preferably by way of legislative implementation, and to adopt a national health policy with a detailed plan for realizing the right to health. This obligation entails also the state to take positive measures that enable and assist individuals and communities to enjoy the right to health.

While all the rights under the Covenant are meant to be achieved through progressive realization, States have some minimum core obligations which are of immediate effect. These immediate obligations include the guarantees of non-discrimination and equal treatment, as well as the obligation to take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps towards the full realization of the right to health, such as the preparation of a national public health strategy and plan of action. Progressive realization means that States have a specific and continuing obligation to move as expeditiously and effectively as possible towards the full realization of the right to health.

For more on the obligations of States, please refer to the [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment No. 3 on the nature of States parties' obligations \(art.2 \(1\)\)](#).

## Need ideas for campaign activities:

<http://bit.ly/may282021>

- Solidarity teachings  
Organize online and offline events to examine the health situation of women and girls and related issues.
- Create safe spaces for discussions about your experiences. Develop strategies to mobilize and organize locally to discuss how COVID-19 exacerbated unequal access to health and to document the violations you have experienced.
- Occupy virtual spaces and platforms. Record podcasts, organize Twitter rallies, be visible on Facebook. Use the hashtags #WomensHealthMatters #EndInequalityPandemic #SRHRisEssential
- Utilize channels such as community radios to reach those who have no access to the internet and mobile technology.
- Be Creative! Organize art contests, virtual galleries, and online concerts!
- Hold virtual media forums and public meetings to raise awareness about the urgent need to address inequalities and ensure access to SRHR remains essential.



## General Ideas for Action

**1 Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women equal access to necessary health information needed to live a healthy and full life

**2 Educate**  
others on their human right to health and let them know that they deserve timely and appropriate health care


**3 Ensure**  
that you have the proper information to make your own decisions regarding your sexual and reproductive health


**4 Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level


**5 Create**  
care alliances to allow care providers to share knowledge, skills, and resources on health-related topics


**6 Encourage**  
other women to talk about health, preventing unwanted pregnancies and childcare


**7 Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables in order to discuss health-related issues concerning rural women and to hold your leaders accountable


 **Identify**  
the people in your community who need assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Connect with them, find out about their specific needs and organize support


 **Care**  
for the vulnerable who are most at risk of COVID-19: the elderly, the homeless and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer. Leave no one behind


 **Motivate**  
other people from your community to offer support to others during COVID-19. Especially young people and people in good health can help others


 **Create**  
posters and creative campaigns to pass on correct and clear information about the COVID-19 to your communities. This can make people aware about the causes, protections, risks and consequences of COVID-19.  
Source: [https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2020/05/empower%20on%20gender%20and%20climate%20in%20the%20covid-19%20context\\_final.pdf?la=en&vs=1108](https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2020/05/empower%20on%20gender%20and%20climate%20in%20the%20covid-19%20context_final.pdf?la=en&vs=1108)


 **Restore**  
the access to contraceptives to those women who have lost it due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Set up a safe supply of contraceptives and make sure that also women who live in remote areas are reached

 **Generate**  
compassion for the ones who are infected by COVID-19. People who are infected with COVID-19 should not be stigmatized nor marginalized

 **Assure**  
that people who are infected with COVID-19 can self-isolate during 14 days in order to stop the virus from spreading. Organize the necessary provision of food and water for them during their self-isolation

 **Rise for all!**  
Become the source of change to address COVID-19. Suggest actions in order to mitigate the impacts of the virus on your community

 **Make a plan for action!**  
Detect the most pressing issues for your community during the Coronavirus pandemic. Define the strategy which is most beneficial to solve the problems related to COVID-19. Share your plan with public authorities as well as with other institutions and associations in your community. Involve as many people as possible and create a movement of support and change

 **Call for solidarity!**  
Inspire the members from your community to share and care for others. Together you can be strong and overcome the pandemic

# Theme 5 Claim your right to adequate housing

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

## Dear Partners and Friends,

In the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every person is guaranteed the right to "an adequate standard of living," which includes "adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions."

These elements constitute the foundation of the right to live a life with dignity. **Yet 1.6 billion live in inadequate shelter around the world**, and an additional 100 million or more are homeless. How do we begin to make sense of the violation of this fundamental principle?

**20 years of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal: 14 June 2021**

## Excerpt:

"The report highlights that the mandate has since it was established contributed to the development of important guidelines on forced evictions, security of tenure and for the implementation of the right to adequate housing. In addition the mandate contributed to the awareness raising through more than 30 thematic reports, 34 country visits and the participation in numerous international events and other activities. More than 380 communications to States and non-state actors led to the prevention of some violations of the right to adequate housing or provided increased public scrutiny of forced evictions, homelessness, inadequate housing conditions and other violations of the right to adequate housing.

"... progress towards realizing the right to adequate housing globally has been limited. During recent decades, the percentage of the urban population living in informal settlements with insufficient security or tenure has grown. Homelessness has been on the increase and the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increasing housing insecurity for many. Many cities have become increasingly segregated along social, racial, ethnic and other lines, undermining equal access to the right to adequate housing, public services and other rights. Home ownership has become stronger concentrated, and housing has become increasingly a tool for investment and enrichment of large real estate investors, while more and more people struggle to find affordable housing in our cities.

"In response to these trends the Special Rapporteur highlights seven priorities that will guide his work: (1) The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the right to adequate housing; (2) discrimination and spatial segregation; (3) climate change and rights-compliant resilient housing; (4) conflict, displacement, and the humanitarian response to housing; (5) the

development of guidelines on resettlement and relocation; (6) land governance, eminent domain, and solidarity economy; and (7) the role of public and private actors in ensuring affordable and accessible housing.

The report concludes with recommendations for enhancing the capacity of the Special Rapporteur for follow-up and for responding to communications and making use of new virtual communications with States and other stakeholders in addition to in person meetings."

Read more: [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/CFI\\_20years\\_SR\\_adequate\\_housing.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/CFI_20years_SR_adequate_housing.aspx)



**Excerpt: Report of the UN Secretary General - Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals** [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final\\_SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_Report\\_14052020.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf)

"Rapid urbanization is resulting in a growing number of slum dwellers, inadequate and overburdened infrastructure and services, and worsening air pollution.

**The COVID-19 pandemic will hit hardest the more than one billion slum dwellers worldwide**, who suffer from a lack of adequate housing, no running water at home, shared toilets, little or no waste management systems, overcrowded public transport and limited access to formal health care facilities. Many of these populations work in the informal sector and are at high risk of losing their livelihoods as cities shut down. Urgent response plans are needed to prepare for and respond to outbreaks in informal settlements and slums."

"The number of slum dwellers reached over 1 billion in 2018, which represents 24% of the urban population, up slightly from 23% in 2014. Numbers of people living in urban slums are highest in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (370 million), sub-Saharan Africa (238 million) and Central and Southern Asia (226 million)."

## Selected SDG Targets - Agenda 2030



### Target 11.1

"By 2030, ensure access for all adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums."

### Target 11.c

"Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials."

**1.8 billion people around the world are living in homelessness and inadequate shelter.<sup>1</sup>**

**About 24% of the global urban population live in slums and informal settlements, with multiple basic-needs deprivations.<sup>2</sup>**

**Women aged 15 to 49 are overrepresented in urban slums and slum-like settings in 80% of the developing countries.<sup>3</sup>**

**621 million urban residents do not have access to basic sanitation facilities worldwide.<sup>4</sup>**

**About 15 million people forcefully are evicted every year, which has noted an alarming rise in homelessness in the last 10 years.<sup>6</sup>**

**Limited access to property rights, which limits their economic and personal autonomy is a frequent case of women's homeless.<sup>7</sup>**

**Women and the right to adequate housing**  
link: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/housing/pages/womenandhousing.aspx>

**Housing is a right, not a commodity**  
link: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/AboutHRandHousing.aspx>

1 - <https://unhabitat.org/housing-is-both-a-prevention-cure-for-covid-19> 2 - <https://unhabitat.org/covid-19/key-facts-and-data>

3 - <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/06/harsh-realities-marginalized-women-in-cities-of-the-developing-world-en.pdf>

4 - <https://unhabitat.org/covid-19/key-facts-and-data> 6 - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/58-session-committee-for-social-development.html> 7 - [http://osgf.ge/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Housing\\_Eng\\_WEB\\_1542897567.pdf](http://osgf.ge/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Housing_Eng_WEB_1542897567.pdf)



## 1 Lobby

your local and national government to provide women access to adequate housing units that are sanitary, secure, and proximate to resources by directing more resources towards the right to housing

## 2 Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding adequate housing

## 3 Address and work

to eliminate forced evictions

## 4 Demand

your government to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate housing

## 5 Ensure

accountability of those who threaten women's right to adequate housing through land deprivation, violence, or other means

## 6 Educate

rural women about their right to adequate housing for themselves and their families

## 7 Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss rights to housing and adequate living with local leaders and hold them accountable



## Ensure

that no one will lose their home during the COVID-19 pandemic, whether from foreclosure, eviction, or inheritance issues. Create assistance and support for people at risk of homelessness



## Provide

temporary shelter and sanitary facilities for the homeless. Housing is both a prevention and cure for COVID-19 and homeless people are particularly vulnerable to the virus, as they are often suffering from multiple health issues  
Source: <https://unhabitat.org/housing-is-both-a-prevention-cure-for-covid-19>



## Call for action

in informal settlements. Their spatial features make social distancing difficult, increase COVID-19 spread risk and complicate crisis management. Communicate to public authorities about the specific needs in informal settlements



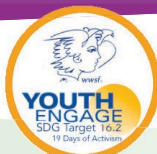
## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Help** in building projects that work towards providing housing to women that are homeless
- **Ensure** that women know there is a place where they can go in cases of emergency. Create a local network of emergency helpers or start a helpline!
- **Hold** the perpetrators accountable. If women are facing situations of force evictions, help them get in touch with the local authorities to ensure that complaints can be filed against the perpetrators and action is taken against them
- **Make sure** your sister, daughter and/or your partner know of their right to adequate housing so that they know that there is a support system in place for their safety and wellbeing



**Build shelter** and handwashing facilities for the homeless people. This can help to protect them from the Coronavirus - it can save lives



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media in times of COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives such as the Civil Society Futures<sup>1</sup> that create spaces on gathering information and starting dialogues between all forms of organizations that might be involved in civic action from charities to faith-based organizations on topics including homelessness



**Volunteer** with organizations that help build shelters, especially shelters that take in victims of domestic abuse

**Find work** at places like the People's Emergency Center. If such Centers are not established where you live, create a network that might substitute it!

<sup>1</sup> <https://civilsocietyfutures.org/nowhere-call-home-englands-hidden-homeless/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2Housing #SDG11

### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right... (h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

### International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent."



# Theme 6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

**Dear Partners and Friends,  
We wish to share with you the  
World Environment Day 5 June:  
Ban on child-harming pesticide urged**

- "PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) today urged regulatory authorities to ban cypermethrin, a Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) still widely used in Asia. This call comes at the heels of the European Union's (EU) recent decision to withdraw the approval of cypermethrin, compelling Member States to no longer approve products containing the active substance by December 2021 at the latest.

*Cypermethrin is among the Highly Hazardous Pesticides used in floriculture farms where children work in Tamil Nadu, according to a PANAP study. Photo credit: SRED*



Link: <https://panap.net/2021/06/world-environment-day-ban-on-child-harming-pesticide-urged/>

- "Cypermethrin is part of the PANAP's Terrible Twenty pesticides that are especially toxic to children. Cypermethrin is a pyrethroid that is linked to long term behavioural problems in children. It is immunotoxic and an endocrine disruptor. Other potential hazards to children include acute poisoning, developmental disorders, as well as breast cancer, male reproductive problems, and Parkinson's disease later in life.

- "In Asia, cypermethrin is still widely used as a household insecticide and in farms. In Malaysia, for instance, the use of cypermethrin is allowed; while in India, cypermethrin is restricted and can only be used for pest control by a licensed operator.

- "However, a study by PANAP, PAN India, and Society for Rural Education and Development in floriculture farms in Tamil Nadu, India revealed the common use of cypermethrin. It was identified as an active ingredient in four products used by farmers and to which children working as informal labourers in flower farms are exposed to. In the study, children exposed to pesticides experienced dizziness, fatigue,

vomiting and skin lesions. They were facing difficulties in concentrating at school, among other symptoms of poisoning.

"Meanwhile, in a separate study by PANAP, CGFED, and Centre for Sustainable Rural Development entitled Schoolchildren's Exposure to Pesticides in Vietnam, cypermethrin was among the pesticides identified by teachers as commonly sprayed in agricultural fields, which are located less than one kilometer away from schools. The study shows that Vietnamese schoolchildren exhibit symptoms of poisoning whenever they are exposed to pesticides inside homes and schools.

"To protect our children from toxic pesticides, we are advocating for a minimum one-kilometer pesticide-free buffer zone around schools. That is an initial step. In the long run, we must ban Highly Hazardous Pesticides that have been proven to cause irreparable harm to children, especially in rural communities," said Deeppa Ravindran, PANAP's campaign coordinator.

"The EU has taken a positive step with regards to cypermethrin. But we should be aware that double standards exist, wherein pesticides banned in their countries of origin are still exported to the Global South. Therefore a global ban of HHPs—which PANAP has been calling for—is the only lasting solution to address the poisoning of children, along with the promotion of agroecological alternatives".

"PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) is one of five regional centres of Pesticide Action Network, a global network dedicated to the elimination of harm upon humans and the environment by pesticide use. It is based in Penang, Malaysia."

## Selected SDGs Targets - Agenda 2030



**Target 7.1** "By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services."

**Target 12.5** "By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse."

**Target 12.8** "By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature."

1 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2017/10/11/time-to-insure-developing-countries-against-natural-disasters>

2 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-climate-and-security-en.pdf?la=en&vs=215> 3 - <https://feature.undp.org/plastic-tidal-wave/> 4 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/health-crisis/>

5 - <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/gender> 6 - <https://www.iucn.org/news/gender/202001/gender-and-environment-what-are-barriers-gender-equality-sustainable-ecosystem-management> 7 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/02-05-2018-9-out-of-10-people-worldwide-breathe-polluted-air-but-more-countries-are-taking-action> 8 - [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic\\_sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

Every year, natural disasters trap some

**26 million people in extreme poverty.**<sup>1</sup>

In 2018, **28 million people were newly internally displaced due to conflict or disaster, including 16.1 million people displaced due to storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides and extreme temperatures.**<sup>2</sup>

Every year, up to

**13 million tonnes of plastic reaches the ocean. That is equivalent to dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean every minute.**<sup>3</sup>

Women disproportionately suffer the impacts of climate change and other environmental hazards, especially in developing countries.<sup>5</sup>

**90% of people worldwide breathe polluted air. 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air.**<sup>7</sup>

Plastic bags and Styrofoam containers can take up to **1,000 years to decompose.**<sup>8</sup>

Women hold only 12% of top ministerial positions in environment-related sectors worldwide, as well as in district or community level committees, where women are generally underrepresented.<sup>6</sup>

**Every 120 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease.**<sup>4</sup>

## General Ideas for Action



1

### Lobby

governments to ensure that the needs for both women and men are included in environmental policies, plans and budgets

2

### Put pressure

on your local and national officials to consider and integrate rural and indigenous perspectives, knowledge and needs in environmental policies

3

### Demand

your government to recognize the right to a clean environment as a fundamental human right

4

### Provide and disseminate

information to educate others about the right to a clean environment

5

### Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to demand environmental rights to be delivered on local, national, and international levels

6

### Insist

that your government instill and observe guidelines prohibiting pollution by corporations

7

### Implement

local programs to protect and conserve natural resources

8

### Advocate

to your government, through rallies, conferences and events, that you demand to have your rights realized for a clean environment

9

### Collect

and use women's local knowledge to protect, sustain and manage biodiversity



### Inform

your communities about the connections between the COVID-19 pandemic and the environment. For example, talk about the risks associated with eating wild animals or environmental degradation



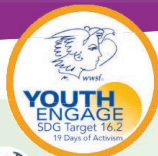
### Create

a dialogue with governments with the aim to improve and enforce animal welfare and wildlife legislations and ecosystem protections in order to protect human health and prevent similar pandemic spreading in the future



### Strengthen

the role of women in environmental movements, campaigns and organizations also during the COVID-19 pandemic. As countries slowly start moving from response to recovery, the creation of green job and women's access to them should become a priority



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media in times of COVID-19. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!



**Learn** about the connection between the spread of pandemics and environmental issues such as deforestation<sup>2</sup>

**Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives such as the YOUTH-लकि<sup>1</sup> by Clean India which is an initiative that gives urban youth leaders a chance to do an excursion in the rural community of Bundelkhand and work on issues related to creating a clean environment, particularly water

**Gather information** about environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and find creative ways to spread it to the rural community

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cleanindia.org/index.php/what-we-do/?page\\_id=421](http://www.cleanindia.org/index.php/what-we-do/?page_id=421)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/deforestation-and-pandemics>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



- **Feel inspired** by reading about men like Mr. Bunker Roy, founder of the Barefoot College<sup>2</sup>, who helps grandmothers from villages in Africa become trained solar engineers, who then return to their villages and help make them more environmentally sustainable<sup>3</sup>

- **Find creative ways** to clean the local waterways. Go to the rivers with a group of volunteers and join the women of the community in ridding the lakes and rivers of plastic!

- **Gather information** about environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and find creative ways to spread the information



**Advocate** to prevent deforestation and the protection of natural resources. Experts have confirmed that the destruction of nature increases the likelihood of pandemics. A green and healthy recovery of forests is urgently needed<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.barefootcollege.org/about/where-we-work/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ciel.org/renewable-energy-technologies-for-rural-development-1/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/17/pandemics-destruction-nature-un-who-legislation-trade-green-recovery>

### Paris Agreement (2015)

"Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of 'climate justice.'"

# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

## Dear Partners and Friends,

Clean and sustainable energy should be at the heart of the COVID-19 response and fight against climate change.



« Biological hazards such as COVID-19, along with other hazards such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and wildfires, cause disasters and worsen poverty. Based on the latest reporting under the Sendai Framework monitoring process from 80 countries in 2018, 23,458 deaths and 2,164 persons missing were attributed to disasters. Direct economic losses of \$23.6 billion were reported by 63 countries, of which 73 per cent (\$17.1 billion) were recorded in the agricultural sector and 16 per cent (\$3.8 billion) in the housing sector. »

Read more : <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/goal-01/>

### Mike Baillie (avaaz@avaaz.org)

"This isn't global warming anymore. It's global scorching. Our world is hotter now than any time in recorded history, unleashing a firestorm of heatwaves, megadroughts, and acidifying seas. We are shattering the temple of life, with a million species on the edge of extinction. Within 50 years, 1.5 billion people could be forced to flee temperatures as hot as the Sahara desert -- already 20 million are forced to run every year. It's one of the greatest upheavals of life on earth, and it's caused by a global rise of just 1°C. We're on track for 3°C. Just imagine the hostile and desolate planet our children will inherit. But here's the most important bit: We CAN still turn this around -- we may be the last generation who can."

"For millions of people across Africa, Asia and Latin America, climate change means more frequent and intense floods, droughts and storms, accounting each year for up to 90 percent of all climate-related disasters. These can quickly spiral into full-blown food and nutrition crises. In the last decade, almost half of the World Food Programme (WFP)'s emergency and recovery operations have been in response to climate-related disasters, at a cost of US\$ 23 billion."<sup>1</sup>



### 2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

"56. The Commission also recognizes the special needs of all women and girls living in areas affected by humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism, and recognizes that global health threats, the adverse impacts of climate change, more frequent and intense natural disasters, armed conflicts, violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and related humanitarian emergencies and the forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades and have particular negative impacts on women and girls, especially in developing countries, that need to be duly assessed and addressed.

It is deeply concerned that women and girls living in these areas face particular barriers in gaining access to water and sanitation, as well as menstrual hygiene management, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and of care responsibilities, including those arising from waterborne diseases, in many parts of the world."

"(ff) Support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to and recover from the adverse impacts of climate change, natural disasters and extreme weather events, through the provision of essential infrastructure and services, social protection and decent work for women as well as appropriate financing, including public and private climate finance, capacity-building, technology, humanitarian relief and disaster preparedness to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change; and further increase the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to strengthening the capacity of women."

Children are becoming important human rights defenders today. It is key that children participate in discussions focusing on climate change and find solutions.

### Selected SDG Targets



**13.1 Strengthen** resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

**13.2 Integrate** climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

**13.3 Improve** education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

1 - <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action> 2 - <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/qaef3516.doc.htm> 3 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf> 4 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf> 5 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf> 6 - <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30798/EGR19ESEN.pdf?sequence=13> 7 - <https://www.who.int/heli/risks/ehindevcoun/en/index1.html> 8 - [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsdg\\_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsdg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27) 9 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf>

Developing countries are disproportionately burdening the impacts of climate change.<sup>2</sup>

Between 2006 and 2016, 30% of the agricultural losses caused by disasters were due to drought.<sup>3</sup>

26% of the total damage and loss resulting from climate-related disasters was suffered by the agricultural sector in developing countries.<sup>4</sup>

To this date, 189 of the 195 signatory governments have ratified the Paris Agreement.<sup>8</sup>

Improved management of agricultural land can remove up to 63 gigatonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.<sup>5</sup>

While it contributes around 24% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the agriculture sector has great potential to offer emissions efficiency gains, absolute reductions and carbon sinks, while supporting resilience-building and socio-economic development.<sup>9</sup>

Climate change-related health impacts, which currently are responsible for an estimated **150,000 deaths** annually, can be expected to increase in the future.<sup>7</sup>

GHG emissions have risen at a rate of **1.5% per year** in the last decade. Total GHG emissions, including from land-use change, reached a record high of **55.3 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>** in 2018.<sup>6</sup>



# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

## General Ideas for Action



### 1 Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to adopt sustainable agricultural techniques

### 2 Raise

awareness in your local or national government about rural women's unique role and indigenous knowledge and expertise in conserving and protecting the earth and its resources

### 3 Educate

yourself and others about the 2015 Paris Agreement, climate change and the need to mitigate and adapt to its effects

### 4 Ensure

equitable representation of women in all decisions relating to climate change, and that a gender perspective is adopted in development and environment policies and programs

### 5 Seek

training in methods for increasing productivity in a changing climate, and share this knowledge with others in your community

### 6 Advocate

to your government the need for efficient and green technologies in your communities, such as fuel-efficient stoves, which require fewer resources

### 9 Identify

opportunities to adopt and scale-up green policies, practices, and sustainability initiatives

### 10 Hold rallies

conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand climate change be acknowledged and accounted for in local & national legislation

### 11 Brainstorm

national climate change strategies so that they are inclusive of the capabilities, rights and vulnerabilities of all women, especially older women

### 12 Organize

*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss issues of climate change and how to combat it



### Continue

to raise awareness for climate change also during the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change remains an issue, which urgently needs to be addressed



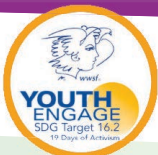
### Inform

your communities why climate change makes the world more vulnerable to new viruses spreading



### Talk

to public authorities and express the need to address climate change just as urgently as the Coronavirus. Suggest possible solutions to reduce the Greenhouse gas emissions of agriculture



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Feel inspired** by reading about groups such as the Young Volunteers for the Environment<sup>1</sup>, based in The Gambia, who focus on climate change in Africa and advocate for energy access in rural communities

**Start** a seminar series on the local radio like the Climate Youth Initiative<sup>2</sup>! Lobby for a segment on air where you can talk to the local community about climate change and the connection to the Coronavirus

**Lobby** your local and national government to start an initiative that combines education, information and public awareness and climate change! Especially by looking into reports such as the UNICEF publication about Youth in Action on Climate Change<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2012/10/31/the-african-youth-group-driving-climate-adaptation-in-rural-communities/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.icccad.net/climate-youth-initiative/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/education/files/Publication\\_Youth\\_in\\_Action\\_on\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Inspirations\\_from\\_Around\\_the\\_World\\_English.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/education/files/Publication_Youth_in_Action_on_Climate_Change_Inspirations_from_Around_the_World_English.pdf)

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Advocate** for women to have equitable representation at the local and national level when it comes to making decisions about climate change

- **Lobby** for the creation of Green Jobs, especially for rural women, to make your economy more sustainable during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Fund** dedicated gender equality programming as a priority
- **Keep** global warming below 1.5 degrees

- **"All actors must** take responsibility for Agenda 2030, noting that States are duty bearers and the private sector adhere to human rights obligations!"

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2CC #SDG13

### Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) Principle 20

"Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

2021 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 1504 - 1211 Geneva 1 - Switzerland

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# Theme 8 Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy and work

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

Women spend twice as many hours each day as men do, cooking, cleaning, collecting water and firewood, and four times as many hours caring for the ill, elderly, and children, yet they do not get paid for it. It is estimated that if such care work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10-39% of GDP, depending on the country.<sup>2</sup>



**"More than 1.3 billion women don't have an account at a formal financial institution"**

« In Building Forward Fairer: Women's rights to work and at work at the core of the COVID-19 recovery, the International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights that between 2019 and 2020, women's employment declined by 4.2 per cent globally, representing 54 million jobs, while men suffered a three per cent decline, or 60 million jobs. »

This means that there will be 13 million fewer women in employment this year compared to 2019, but the number of men in work will likely recover to levels seen two years ago.

This means that only 43 per cent of the world's working-age women will be employed in 2021, compared to 69 per cent of their male counterparts. The ILO paper suggests that women have seen disproportionate job and income losses because they are over-represented in the sectors hit hardest by lockdowns, such as accommodation, food services and manufacturing. »

The COVID-19 pandemic has set off a global economic recession, exacerbating pre-existing socio-economic disparities and intensifying hunger, poverty, unemployment, and indebtedness for billions of people. Those who are already marginalized by systemic injustice and based on their identities - gender, class, race, ethnicity or others - have been hardest hit.

The world of work has been significantly reshaped, marked by increasing precariousness and insecurity. At the same time, there is an unprecedented opportunity to create dignified employment in the transition to a more ecologically-friendly economy.

Link: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2021doc/2021-ECOSOC-HLS-Written-Statements-by-NGOS-in-ECOSOC-Consultative-Status.pdf>

**"Making decent work a reality for domestic workers: Progress and prospects ten years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 2021.** Link: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/dgreports/-/dcomm/-/publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_802551.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/dgreports/-/dcomm/-/publ/documents/publication/wcms_802551.pdf)



2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

6. "The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work which are critical for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and notes the importance of their effective implementation.

40. "The Commission also recognizes that women's full and effective participation in public life depends on enabling factors such as economic independence and full and equal access to quality education, training, decent work and equal pay for work of equal value, universal health coverage, prioritizing the availability, accessibility and acceptability of health services, social protection, including for those in non-standard or informal employment and self-employment, sustainable infrastructure and public services, affordable and quality care services, as well as the reduction, recognition and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work. It further recognizes the need to promote social inclusion in domestic policies and to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws.

53. « The Commission stresses the need to promote women's full participation in the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and their equal access to full and productive employment, decent work and social protection, ensuring that women and men enjoy equal treatment in the workplace, as well as equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and access to power and decision-making. It reaffirms the importance of investing in women in all sectors in the economy, including by supporting women-led businesses and facilitating the access of women to finance, training, technology, markets, sustainable and affordable energy and transport and trade."

## Selected SDGs Targets - Agenda 2030



### Target: 1.4

"By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control

over land and other forms of poverty, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance."



### Target 8.5

"By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value."

Over **40%** of the wage gap (the ratio of the wage of a woman to that of a man in a similar position) and over **50%** of the income gap (the ratio of the total wage and non-wage income of women to that of men) are still to be bridged.<sup>5</sup>

On average, only **55%** of adult women are in the labour market, versus **78%** of men.<sup>6</sup>

Women spend **3X** as many hours as men in unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their access to decent work. Women's unpaid contribution to all types of care equates to **11 trillion USD**.<sup>7</sup>

In developing economies, **70%** of women's employment is in the informal economy with few protections against dismissal or for paid sick leave and limited access to social protection.<sup>8</sup>

Women make up to or even more than **50%** of the agricultural workforce in developing countries.<sup>9</sup>

Globally, **65%** of women had an account at a financial institution compared to **72%** of men.<sup>10</sup>

The COVID-19 crisis reversed years of progress in women's economic and political participation and exacerbated pre-existing gender gaps. Women have to wait 135.6 years – up from 99.5 in 2020 – to be on equal footing with men, the World Economic Forum warns.

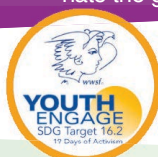
2 - [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument).

5 - <https://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2020/key-findings/> 6 - <https://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2020/key-findings/> 7 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406> 8 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406> 9 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2678EN/ca2678en.PDF> 10 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406>



- 1 Put pressure**  
on your local and national officials to implement gender-responsive budgeting at all levels and in all policy domains
- 2 Educate**  
others on the right to be paid, decent work, to education, and to health
- 3 Ensure**  
that labor market policies and practices recognize and value motherhood and family care work
- 4 Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding financial autonomy
- 5 Promote**  
women's entrepreneurship and economic autonomy through education, training, resources, and innovation
- 6 Coordinate**  
cross-cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to eliminate the gender pay gap

- 7 Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss your right to economic empowerment, and the gender pay gap with your local leaders
-  **Negotiate**  
with public authorities about the need for social protection. Especially in times of COVID-19 it becomes evident how crucial health and work insurance is. In fact, social protection is a human right
-  **Raise**  
awareness about the importance of the work of doctors and medical workers during the pandemic. Advocate for the creation of good work conditions and decent pay
-  **Support**  
the many women which work at the forefront in hospitals. Assure their protection with masks, gloves and suits to protect them from the virus



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Find inspiration** in the motivating words of leaders like Lopa Banerjee, Rosaline Orwa and Indira Vargas who use the UN Commission on the Status of Women platform to ask for equal rights and opportunities for all rural women and girls

**Start** online campaigns to advocate for equal access to productive sources for women, especially now during the pandemic which has exacerbated economic inequalities! Policy changes are crucial to overcome the social crisis which accompanies the health crisis

**Gather information** about gender-based discrimination in the financial development sector and find creative ways to spread this information

**GENDER DIMENSIONS OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS:** [https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/g1914608\\_gender\\_dimensions\\_of\\_the\\_guiding\\_principles\\_en.pdf](https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/g1914608_gender_dimensions_of_the_guiding_principles_en.pdf)

### **The Addis Ababa Accord of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015)**

"We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development."


### **IFAD – Investing in Rural People (2014)**

"Greater equality between men and women means higher economic growth and better quality of life for all."

## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



- **Advocate** for paid maternity leave. Motherhood is hard, especially for would-be and newly become mothers, and your partner, sister and/or daughter needs all the support she can get
-  **Help** create networks of social and financial support for rural women entrepreneurs who are in a difficult financial situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Find creative ways** to reduce the gender gap. Hold rallies, start marches and most importantly, gather information and use it to educate others and pressurize the government at both the local and national level

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2ED #SDG1 #SDG8

### **Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 13**

"State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights."

### **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform (1966) Article 3**

"The State Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."



# Theme 9 Claim your right to information & communication technology (ICT)

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

**Dear Partners and Friends,**

Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge, and access to information technology.

The United Nations declared in 2011 that access to the Internet is a basic human right and is a component of the right to information and freedom of expression and opinion.<sup>1</sup>

The Internet and other technologies such as mobile phones, radios, computers, and email are all included in Information Communication Technology (ICT). ICT provides vital tools and information about subjects such as politics, science, healthcare, and human rights at an extremely low cost. However, women have unequal access to ICT compared to men.

**Rural women must take advantage of the resources made available via ICTs and use them to empower themselves**

Without access to the Internet, women lack access to tools, resources, and opportunities, which often stems from poverty, illiteracy, and discrimination when receiving training and education.<sup>3</sup>

**Rural women must lobby their local governments** to provide them with equal access to new technologies so that they too can have the same opportunities to advance and develop, as men do. Living in the modern world greatly depends on technology and information, as stated in the Beijing +20 Platform for Action recommendations.

Will our honorable leaders provide better access to the advantage of the resources made available via ICTs to rural women, so you can use them to empower yourselves and their communities?

**"In many countries, women face disproportionate risks in the job sector,** where many work in the informal sector (e.g. domestic workers, nannies, agriculture or supporting family businesses) and may be the first to lose their jobs or suffer from the consequences of the crisis given that they do not have social security, health insurance, or paid leave. Many women are also dependent on accessibility and affordability of childcare, which is now decreasing, further restricting their ability to work and earn an income."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID19Guidance.aspx>



**2021 Agreed Conclusions**

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

"41. The Commission further recognizes the potential benefits of new forms of information and communications technology and artificial intelligence that enable the participation of women and girls in public life, while more attention needs to be paid to the impacts of such technology on all women and girls.

It also recognizes that digital platforms can become public spaces in which new strategies to influence policy and politics are forged and where women and girls can exercise their right to participate fully and effectively in public life.

It notes that new technological developments can also perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions.

It also notes the importance of promoting equal access to information and communications technology and to the Internet for all women and girls, increasing women's access to digital technologies to enhance their productivity and mobility in the labour market, working towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, ensuring that programmes, services and infrastructure are adaptable and suited to tackle different technological barriers, including literacy, and targeting science, technology and innovation strategies to reduce inequalities and promote the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and effective participation in public life."

## Selected SDGs Targets - Agenda 2030



### Target 5.b

"Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."



### Target 9.c

"Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020."

**54%** of women in low- and middle-income countries now use mobile internet.<sup>4</sup>

ITU estimates that the proportion of women using the Internet is **12% lower** than the proportion of men using the Internet worldwide.<sup>5</sup>

The gender gap in mobile internet is still widest in South Asia at **51%**, and remains fairly consistent in other regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, which has the second largest gender gap at **37%**.<sup>7</sup>

An estimated **3.6 billion** people are offline, with the majority of the unconnected living in the Least Developed Countries where an average of just **2 out of 10** people are online.<sup>6</sup>

**41%** of Digital Specialists are women, yet **53%** of those in the talent pipeline are female.<sup>8</sup>

Women in low and middle-income countries are **20%** less likely than men to own a mobile phone.<sup>9</sup>

1 - [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27\\_en.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_en.pdf) 3 - <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/05/women-ict-africa-new-digital-ga-201452210244121558.html> 4 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GSMA-The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2020.pdf> 5 - <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2019-PR19.aspx> 6 - <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2019-PR19.aspx> 7 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GSMA-The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2020.pdf> 8 - [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf) 9 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GSMA-The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2020.pdf>

## General Ideas for Action

- 1 Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women and girls equal access to information and communication technology
- 2 Educate**  
others on the wealth of free information available online that can be accessed by anyone with an Internet connection
- 3 Ensure**  
that you are selling your goods for fair prices by checking marketplace prices online
- 4 Utilize**  
the media, social media, and your creativity to create campaigns for the inclusion of women in information and communication technology
- 5 Promote**  
the use of information and communication technologies in schools
- 6 Coordinate**  
free information and training sessions on how to utilize information and communication technologies

- 7 Advocate**  
through rallies, conferences and events, the social and economic importance of equal access to technology in your communities

Source: NGO – CSW - Geneva Declaration and Recommendations, Beijing+20 Review Forum

- 8 Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss your right to information and technology with your community leaders



### If your community

is connected to mobile internet: put in place group chats or virtual groups, where people can claim help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Organize a network of people who offer their help to others, for example food sharing, psychological assistance or support to people who are sick



### If your communities

are not yet connected to mobile internet: Set up strategies which are adapted to your communities in order for women to have equal access as men to mobile phones and internet and inform how important this would be during the current pandemic



**Create** think tanks, where people can discuss how the internet gender gap can be effectively closed and how technology can be used in order to tackle pandemics from spreading, for instance through the use of mobile applications



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives like the Technology Initiative<sup>1</sup> by the Global Fund for Women that works tirelessly towards increasing access to technology for women and girls and have many ways in which young adults can contribute to that cause

**Join** organizations that provide IT assistance to rural women during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Volunteer** to help build the infrastructure needed for rural women to get access to mobile phones and the internet, but also train them to be able to use the resources once they have access to them!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/our-approach/initiatives/technologyinitiative/#.Ww14GFOFQZM>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



**Help** create networks of social and financial support for rural women entrepreneurs who are in a difficult financial situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Train yourself** and then train others in providing IT support to women that are in the process of learning
- **Gather information** that is relevant to them and demonstrate how access to technologies like the Internet can help them gather information for themselves and pave the way to self-empowerment!



#17daysWWSF #WomanR2IT #SDG5 #SDG9

**Beijing +25 Platform for Action (1995)** "It is essential that women not only benefit from technology, but also participate in the process from the design to the application, monitoring and evaluation stages."

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** see pages 63-64.

**Dear Partners and Friends,**

Rural women, you perform the bulk of agricultural work in your communities, yet you are unable to fully enjoy your rights. You need genuine land reform. Now is the time to lobby your government to fully realize your right to land, as they have agreed to do so in many international treaties, conventions, and instruments. Do not let your human rights be ignored because of cultural norms or discriminatory attitudes and practices. Ensure your economic livelihood and food security and empower yourself by demanding that your government recognizes your right to land and inheritance.

**The right to land and inheritance** is an internationally recognized human right. It is a necessary condition for development and allows people to meet their basic needs through subsistence farming, water collection, and the harvesting of natural resources. Women's full and equal access to and control over land is essential to their everyday survival, economic security, and empowerment.

**Rural women of the world, you must claim your just inheritance and access to land.**

Despite the fact that there have been countless international treaties signed by your governments, in practice women are still not guaranteed land and inheritance rights. This is because of various obstacles including inadequate legal standards and implementation of laws and discriminatory social norms, attitudes, customs, traditions, and programs. In rural areas, inheritance claims are often poorly handled and dominated by males who base their decisions on discriminatory views rather than a legal basis. Women across all developing countries are consistently less likely to own or operate land or to have access to rented land, and the land they do have access to is often of poorer quality on smaller plots.

"... India's constitution gives women equal rights but custom dictates that land is inherited by male sons. Although the law states that a widow is the legal heir to her husband's property, in practice she is seldom allowed to stake her claim.

**Nearly three-quarters of rural women in India depend on land for a livelihood, yet only about 13 percent own land."**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-landrights-women/widows-of-suicide-farmers-to-get-land-titles-in-indian-state-idUSKCN1TM14R>

"Globally, 39% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only 14% of agricultural landholders are women."  
UN Women

## According to UN Women

"Women's access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources are essential to ensuring their right to equality and to an adequate standard of living. Throughout the world, gender inequality when it comes to land and other productive resources is related to women's poverty and exclusion. Barriers which prevent women's access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources often include inadequate legal standards and/or ineffective implementation at national and local levels, as well as discriminatory cultural attitudes and practices at the institutional and community level.

"The purpose of this publication is to provide detailed guidance to support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to respect, protect and fulfil women's rights to land and other productive resources.

"It presents an overview of international and regional legal and policy instruments recognizing women's rights to land and other productive resources, and discusses ways of advancing a human rights-based approach to women's rights to land and other productive resources. It sets out recommendations in a range of areas accompanied by explanatory commentaries and good practice examples and case studies from countries. The publication is based on the results of an expert group meeting held in June 2012. It is hoped that the publication will be a useful tool for policy makers, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in their efforts to realize women's rights to land other productive resources."

Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/11/realizing-womens-right-to-land>

## Selected SDGs Targets - Agenda 2030 Target 2.3



"By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment."



**Target 5.b**  
"Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws."

Women face numerous legal and social barriers in all aspects of land rights – including rights to sell, manage or control the economic output from their land.<sup>1</sup>

In a survey of **161** countries only **37** had specific laws which grant equal rights for men and women to own, use and control land.<sup>2</sup>

Globally, **38.7%** of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only **13.8%** of landholders are women.<sup>3</sup>

In the West African country, women make up almost **70%** of the agricultural labour force, but only **3%** of women own the land that they cultivate.<sup>4</sup>

In Central and Southern Asia, **62.1%** of women are working in agricultural and related activities, but only **11.6%** of landholders are women.<sup>5</sup>

In Sub-Saharan Africa, **60.6%** of women are working in agricultural and related activities, but only **14.2%** of landholders are women.<sup>6</sup>

In 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://www.iucn.org/news/gender/202001/gender-and-environment-what-are-barriers-gender-equality-sustainable-ecosystem-management> 2 - <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/wom2143.doc.htm> 3 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 4 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/11/op-ed-ed-women-and-climate-action> 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 6 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 7 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs-sdg-5-gender-equality>



## General Ideas for Action

## 1 Lobby

your government to provide equal access for rural women to land and inheritance

## 2 Encourage

women to ensure their right to land and use it to become agents of their own development

## 3 Utilize

the media, social media, and your creativity to lobby your government for equal inheritance rights

## 4 Address and work

to eliminate patriarchal inheritance laws

## 5 Promote

awareness of the right for women to own land and gain inheritance to land, focusing on raising awareness among traditional authorities in order to enhance their comprehension of gender issues

## 6 Coordinate

cross-cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to establish a system for monitoring land administration institutions

## 7 Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that equal access to land is a necessary condition for development



## Spread

the word: "It's time we break down the barriers to women's access to land around the world, and make sure to protect women's rights while the pandemic places them in a precarious situation" <https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/how-covid-19-puts-womens-housing-land-and-property-rights-risk>



## Inform

decision-makers and explain how women's right to own land can reduce the negative consequences of COVID-19 on your communities. Studies have proven that women's access to land diminishes poverty and improves living conditions for children



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by reading about these women in Tunisia<sup>1</sup> that have taken to the streets to demand equal inheritance rights

**Initiative** advocacy programs that lobby your local and national governments and pressure them to change their policies on land inheritance to make them more equitable

**Find creative ways** to bring out and criticize the patriarchal notions underlying these laws by performing street plays and creating posters and so on. Especially focus on cases where women lose their right to the land they have known as their own if the male relative that owned the land on paper dies

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsdeeply.com/womensadvancement/articles/2018/03/13/tunisian-women-march-to-demand-equal-inheritance>



## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Advocate** for there to be two spaces on the land registration forms

- **Land** is power. Ensure that the future of your partners, daughters and sisters is secure by helping create more equal rights to land



- **Start** online petitions and use the power of the internet to generate greater support for land and inheritance rights of women and girls! These rights are crucial to limit the negative social and economic consequences of COVID-19

- **Read about** JAI JAGAT marching for the right to Peace and Justice, including the right to land and water <https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2L&H #SDG2 #SDG5

### The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2010)

"Women have a right to own, use or otherwise control housing, land, property on an equal basis with men, and to access necessary resources to do so."

### Rome Declaration and Plan of Action, (1996) Objective 1.4 (b)

"Enact or strengthen policies to combat discrimination against members of socially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups...with particular attention to their rights to land and other property..."

### Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 15.2

"States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals."

# Claim your right to decision-making and leadership

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Rural women, you must empower yourselves and claim your right to decision-making in order to create a better life for your family, community, and country.**

The SDGs have also offered a new platform to claim your rights within your government, by empowering women to achieve equal leadership status to men.

As important gatherers of food, water, and other resources, rural women have a vast knowledge of their communities and what would best benefit them. Yet, far less women than men hold positions where they can make decisions and legislation regarding rural development.<sup>1</sup>

**Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, women have the same access as men to take part in and serve their governments.**

Rural women of the world, you account for a quarter of the world's population – this gives you immense bargaining power.<sup>2</sup> You must harness this power by participating in the elaboration and implementation of development planning. You know what is best for your communities. You spend countless hours a day gathering water, collecting firewood, growing food, and cooking for your family. **You are experts in your communities.** Yet, you still are not afforded the same rights as men. Even today, you do not have the same access as men to loans, education, land, healthcare, or skill training.

## 'Women Rise for All' to shape leadership in pandemic response and recovery'

"Although the **COVID-19** pandemic has generated an unprecedented global health, humanitarian and development crisis, it has also revealed the power of women's leadership", according to the *UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed*

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Women and girls are likely to face increased care-giving roles in the home, putting them under additional stress and potentially increasing their risk of infection. Across the globe, women comprise 70% of health workers, including midwives, nurses, pharmacists and community health workers on the frontlines, increasing their risk of exposure and infection. Targeted measures to address the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and girls are needed.

Link: [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/COVID-19\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/COVID-19_Guidance.pdf)



## 2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

"The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence.

"15. It also recognizes the need to significantly accelerate the pace of progress towards ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making in executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and the public sector.

"17. The Commission emphasizes that all people have the right to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and that women have the right to vote in all elections and public referendums and stand for election to all publicly elected bodies.

"60. (k) Take all necessary measures to encourage political parties to nominate equal numbers of women and men as candidates, promote equal leadership in party structures and mainstream a gender perspective into party programmes;

"(l) Encourage the implementation of measures and mechanisms, including appropriate mechanisms to track progress, to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels of elected positions;

"(m) Develop and implement policies and programmes, including through appropriate funding and innovative measures to promote women as leaders, executives and managers, in all areas, in particular in strategic economic, social and political decision-making positions, with the goal of achieving gender balance at all levels;

"Strengthen gender-responsive institutional reforms  
(x) Take measures to achieve gender balance in leadership positions in decision-making bodies at all levels, develop transformative approaches and changes in institutional structures and practices, and use the gender mainstreaming strategy to accelerate the implementation of legislation and public and fiscal policies, including through gender-responsive budgeting for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(y) Ensure that the perspectives of all women and girls are taken into account, that women, and girls as appropriate, fully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and that women and their organizations, and girl- and youth-led organizations, are fully, safely and actively able to participate in the decision-making process, policies and institutions at all levels."

**85 states have had no female head of state in the past 50 years.<sup>4</sup>**

**Women hold less than 1/3 of the world's research positions.<sup>5</sup>**

**Gender balance in political participation and decision-making is the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>6</sup>**

**In 2019, women held 25.2% of parliamentary lower-house seats and 21.2% of ministerial positions.<sup>7</sup>**

## Selected SDGs Targets - Agenda 2030



**Target 5.5**  
"Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life."



**Target 10.2**  
"By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status."

## Target 10.6

"Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions."

1 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures> 2 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf> 4 - <https://fr.weforum.org/reports/gender-gap-2020-report-100-years-pay-equality> 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 6 - <https://www.icsspe.org/system/files/Beijing%20Declaration%20and%20Platform%20for%20Action.pdf> 7 - <https://fr.weforum.org/reports/gender-gap-2020-report-100-years-pay-equality> 8 - <https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/resources/2018genderjustclimatesolutionsenglish.pdf>

# Claim your right to decision-making & leadership

## General Ideas for Action



### 1 Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to decision-making and leadership

### 2 Expand

women's citizenship and participation in leadership: Advance women as decision-makers

### 3 Ensure

that rural women are involved in the decision-making and peace processes at all levels and that your voices are being heard

### 4 Utilize

the media, social media, and your creativity to bring priority attention to policies and legislation to guarantee your right to be heard

### 5 Address

and work to eliminate gender discrimination in policy-making and legislation

### 6 Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate discrimination against rural women in leadership positions

### 7 Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and demand your government to provide you equal access to decision-making processes

### 8 Organize

*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss ideas of entrepreneurship, leadership and decision-making within your communities



### Lead and participate

in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making



### Provide

solutions for your communities during the Coronavirus pandemic and become one of the women who rises for all during the Coronavirus pandemic like these women  
<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/women-rise-for-all>



### Prioritize

the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals in the response and recovery planning for COVID-19



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Feel inspired** by the initiative and leadership capacity shown by these girls from Thennamadevi, India<sup>1</sup> who have taken decisive action towards improving the conditions of their village - from creating a 150-book library to getting a new bus-stop installed



**Advocate** for equitable representation for women in decision-making promises during and after the pandemic, especially at the local level. Lobby your government officials to make sure they understand that a woman's opinion is of great importance in finding solutions

**Start training programs** for young girls and women to try their hand at being leaders from a very young age by participating in community driven activities

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2018/0415/The-girls-who-took-over-a-town-in-rural-India>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Read** about the work done by Rohini Pande where she discovers that having women in positions of authority, shifts focus on a different set of issues than having men in positions of authority such as clean drinking water and gender gap in schooling. This stands testimony to the idea that women's voices are equally important and we must support them in their endeavor to become leaders and advocate for them to be heard
- **Ensure** that women's voices are heard during the Coronavirus pandemic. Support their ideas about how to tackle the economic and social consequences of the pandemic. Integrate women in leadership positions for the COVID-19 response.

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2L #SDG5 #SDG10

**Beijing+21 Platform for Action (1995) Article 181** "The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life."

**Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (1992)** "Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need."

**Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14** "State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development."



### Dear Partners and Friends,

According to global estimates by the World Health Organization, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner violence in their lifetime. While this percentage varies across different regions, violence against women remains unacceptably high in all parts of the world. No matter the type of violence suffered, **violence against women is a violation of the most basic and fundamental human rights.**



### 2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

"23. **The Commission strongly condemns** all forms of violence against women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between men and women. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty and limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and to health-care services. It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms."

"60. **The Commission also recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the promotion of women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life as well as the elimination of violence and in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**"

### "61. Prevent and eliminate violence against women in public life (p)

Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and to provide protection and equal access to appropriate remedies and redress and to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and access to affordable housing and employment, bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, and gender-related killings, including femicide, as well as elder abuse; and address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination, monitoring and evaluation by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities, including through publicizing the societal and economic costs of violence, and working with local communities; "



We draw your attention to the UN Women publication: **The Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19 Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women** (April 6, 2020) Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



#### Target 5.1

"End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere."

#### Target 5.2

"Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation."

#### Target 5.3

"Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation."



#### Target 16.b

"Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development."

**18%** of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. The prevalence is highest in least developed countries, at **24%**.<sup>1</sup>

WHO indicates that about

**1 in 3 (30%)** of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

The majority (**55% to 95%**) of women survivors of intimate partner violence or sexual violence do not disclose or seek any type of help or services.<sup>3</sup>

Globally as many as **38%** of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners.<sup>4</sup>

Based on data from **53** countries, **68%** lack rape laws based on the principle of consent.<sup>5</sup>

**1 in 4** countries have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence.<sup>15</sup>

**1 in 5** countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in employment.<sup>13</sup>

### Selected types of violence against women (presentation overleaf)

- 1 - Sexual Violence and sexual harassment
- 2 - Domestic Violence
- 3 - Psychological Violence Mutilation
- 4 - Early and Forced Marriages
- 5 - FGM – Female Genital Mutilation
- 6 - Crimes in the name of honor
- 7 - Elder Abuse
- 8 - Online violence against women&girls
- 9 - Trafficking
- 10 - Femicide

1 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 2 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women> 3 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/26-05-2020-fifa-european-commission-and-world-health-organization-launch-safehome-campaign-to-support-those-at-risk-from-domestic-violence> 4 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women> 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 13 - <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/679221517425064052/EndingViolenceAgainstWomenandGirls-GBVLaws-Feb2018.pdf> 15 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>

**1 - "Sexual violence"** is defined by the WHO as "Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work." Sexual violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights and is a crime. You must lobby your government to prevent and respond in a timely manner to cases of sexual violence and enforce legislation to protect women from sexual violence.

**2 - Domestic violence** means "all acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim." **Domestic violence is globally the most common form of violence in women's lives.** The time has come to make ending violence against women a global priority. Urge your government to adopt a human rights based approach in responding to domestic violence.

**3 - Psychological violence** involves "trauma to the victim caused by acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics," when there has also been prior or sexual violence, or the threat of physical or sexual violence, according to the Center for Disease Control. It is time to stop intimidation and abuse and exercise your right to live free of abuse and coercion. Pressure your government to protect women from violence.

**4 -** It is estimated that today about one in three girls in the developing world under the age of 18 have entered into **Child Early and Forced Marriages**. Child marriage is prohibited by CEDAW in Article 16.2. We must push for the advancement of gender equality. Petition your government to enforce CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**5 - FGM—Female Genital Mutilation** violates women's right to health, security and physical integrity; the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and the right to life when the procedure results in death (WHO). FGM is a harmful practice that affects 733 million girls and women worldwide. We must enforce human rights laws to protect women and girls from harmful traditional practices.

**6 - Crimes in the name of honor** are "acts of violence committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonor upon the family." There is no honor in killing a woman for her personal choices. We must lobby our governments to protect our right to life and stop this inhumane practice.

**7 - Elder abuse** can take the form of physical, psychological, emotional, and/or financial abuse. Many women experience heightened inequality and discrimination as they grow older, resulting in a lack of basic resources and/or rights.

**8 - Online and ICT-facilitated forms of violence against women** have become increasingly common, particularly with the use, every day and everywhere, of social media platforms and other technical applications... This development is especially critical for new generations of girls and boys, who are starting their lives extensively using new technologies to mediate in their relationships, affecting all aspects of their lives. To read more: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>

**9 - "Trafficking in human beings"** occurs in every country in the world and has strong gender dimensions. In Europe, sexual exploitation is the most widespread form of trafficking, followed by forced labour. Women and girls comprise the majority of all victims of trafficking. At EU level, most victims of trafficking are detected in their countries of citizenship. However, trafficking can also have strong cross-border dimensions..."

Direct Link to Full 48-Page 2019 Study: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/631757/EPRS\\_STU\(2019\)631757\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/631757/EPRS_STU(2019)631757_EN.pdf)

Direct Link to Full 124-Page 2019 Handbook: <http://endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/work-handbook-interior-web-rev.pdf>

**10 - "Femicide"** is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women because they are women, but broader definitions include any killings of women or girls.

Femicide is usually perpetrated by men, but sometimes female family members may be involved. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways. For example, most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner."<sup>16</sup>

Killing of women and girls because of their gender :

- the murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence;
- the torture and misogynist slaying of women
- killing of women and girls in the name of "honour";
- targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict;
- dowry-related killings of women;
- killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- the killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender;
- female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide;
- genital mutilation related deaths;
- accusations of witchcraft; and other femicides connected with gangs, organized crime, drug dealers, human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms."

**6 in 10 countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in education.<sup>6</sup>**

**4 in 5 countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in public spaces.<sup>7</sup>**

While laws against domestic violence and sexual harassment are not sufficient to end these forms of abuse, they are an important step that countries can and should take towards ending violence against women and girls.<sup>8</sup>

New modelling reveals that the total costs of treating the health impacts of female genital mutilation (FGM) would amount to USD 1.4 billion globally per year, if all resulting medical needs were addressed. For individual countries, these costs would near 10% of their entire yearly expenditure on health on average; in some countries, this figure rises to as much as 30%.<sup>9</sup>

If FGM were abandoned now, the associated savings in health costs would

**be more than 60% by 2050.<sup>10</sup>**

A 2020 unicef database indicates that the prevalence of FGM among girls aged 0 to 14 years are highest in Mali (83%), Indonesia (49%) and in Djibouti (43%).<sup>11</sup>

Rape victims are 6.2 times more likely to develop post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than non-victims.<sup>12</sup>

**3 in 4 human trafficking victims are women and girls. Most victims of human trafficking detected in countries around the world are intended for sexual exploitation.<sup>14</sup>**

6 - <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/679221517425064052/EndingViolenceAgainstWomenandGirls-GBVLaws-Feb2018.pdf> 7 - <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/679221517425064052/EndingViolenceAgainstWomenandGirls-GBVLaws-Feb2018.pdf> 8 - <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/679221517425064052/EndingViolenceAgainstWomenandGirls-GBVLaws-Feb2018.pdf> 9 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-02-2020-female-genital-mutilation-hurts-women-and-economies> 10 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-02-2020-female-genital-mutilation-hurts-women-and-economies> 11 - <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/> 12 - <https://www.wabe.org/sexual-assault-ptsd-whats-done-survivors/> 14 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 16 - [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.38\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf?sequence=1)



**UN WOMEN Call for Submissions on Alleged Violations of Women's Human Rights**  
**Communications Procedure for the UN Commission on the Status of Women - 2021 (deadline 1 August)**  
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/communications-procedure#claims>

**UN WOMEN Facts and figures: Ending violence against women**  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/youth/facts-and-figures27/07/17>

#### **WHO interagency statement on eliminating FGM**

"Female genital mutilation of any type has been recognized as a harmful practice and a violation of the human rights of girls and women."

#### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 112**

"Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms."

#### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 119**

"Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is necessary and achievable."

#### **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)**

"States should condemn violence against women and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination."

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW)**

"Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

#### **CEDAW Article 6**

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women".

#### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 3**

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

#### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 5**

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

#### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 16**

"Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses."



**1 Lobby**

your government to enforce legislation to protect women from physical, sexual, and psychological violence

**2 Put pressure**

on your local and national officials to:

- Fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to safety, security, and dignity
- Address gender inequality and gender norms and stereotypes, which reinforce violence against women, irrespective of the circumstances or culture

**3 Educate**

others on

- Their human right to life, liberty, and security
- The devastating effects that violence against women has on society

**4 Utilize**

the media, including social media, and your creativity to:

- Have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- Bring to light the effects of gender discrimination on creating a culture of violence

**5 Promote and strengthen**

- Accountability for gender equality and the realization of human rights for everyone
- Women-driven spaces for healing and rehabilitation of women survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by finding stories like that of this theatre group from Pakistan<sup>1</sup> that uses community theatre to advocate for ending violence against women



**Start campaigns** that spread information about domestic violence during COVID-19. Violence is not permissible under any circumstances

**Educate yourself** about the root causes of violence and spread the information! Learn to recognize abuse and interrupt it!

**Read** about the power of the youth to create zero tolerance for female genital mutilation<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://theirworld.org/voices/pakistan-sindh-province-gender-violence-theatre-changes-attitudes>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-02-2020-unleashing-youth-power-a-decade-of-accelerating-actions-towards-zero-female-genital-mutilation>

**6 Coordinate**

- Medical services for women to get help if they have been abused, including a legal framework
- Support programs for women survivors of violence to open up and rebuild themselves in a safe space
- Hold rallies, conferences, and events to Advocate for an end to violence against women and prosecution for those that violate your right to safety, equality and security

**7 Establish ONE-STOP centers**

that provide medical, legal and relevant services, catering to the urgent need of women who have suffered sexual and physical violence

**Make use**

of the #SafeHome multimedia toolkits and share the hashtag and materials. The #SafeHome campaign has been launched by FIFA, WHO, and the European Commission and supports women and children at risk of domestic violence during COVID-19 <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/26-05-2020-fifa-european-commission-and-world-health-organization-launch-safehome-campaign-to-support-those-at-risk-from-domestic-violence>

**Offer**

support to women who experience domestic violence during the Coronavirus. Make sure that they can escape the dangerous circumstances and can go to safe spaces

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Feel inspired** by finding stories about organizations like Men Stopping Violence<sup>3</sup> that organize men to end violence against women and girls through training programs and advocacy
- **Stand up** against violence perpetrated towards girls and women. Create safe spaces for victims of violence, especially now during the pandemic. Come up with an action plan towards combating this issue in your community
- **Call out** your colleagues and friends if you suspect that they might be perpetrators. Break the taboo and talk to them about it. Silence often is seen as a sign of condoning

<sup>3</sup> <http://menstoppingviolence.org/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2S #SDG5 #SDG16 #MeToo

# Theme 13

## Claim your Right to Peace



WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Partners and Friends,

Global military expenditure sees largest annual increase in a decade—says SIPRI—reaching \$1917 billion in 2019.

<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2020/global-military-expenditure-sees-largest-annual-increase-decade-says-sipri-reaching-1917-billion>

At a time of **COVID-19**, when budgets are required for public health and economic recovery, it is absurd to continue spending billions of dollars on nuclear weapons which threaten innocent lives and civilisation itself.

You can help turn this around by supporting the global "Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign".

"The campaign is working with legislators, investors and civil society campaigners to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons industry and reallocate these budgets and funds to support public health, economic recovery, climate protection and the sustainable development goals (See Move the Nuclear Weapons Money news here <http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/news/>)."

Use the World Peace Day 21 September to mobilize young people all over the world to take action!

If your organization works to advance peace or the Sustainable Development Goals and would like to join the coalition, please send an email to [campaigns@peaceoneday.org](mailto:campaigns@peaceoneday.org)



2021 Agreed Conclusions

Excerpt: UN Commission Status of Women

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/L.3>

57. "The Commission further recognizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and in peacebuilding and, in this regard, stresses the importance of the full, effective and meaningful participation of women, including by increasing their role in peace processes, as well as in decision-making in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reiterates the importance of engaging men and boys as partners in promoting such participation.

"Is the United Nations Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy on track to reach its goals?"

« Since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in 2000, there have been several attempts to increase women's participation in peacekeeping operations. Yet women remain underrepresented at all levels—particularly among troops, which are overwhelmingly the majority of deployed personnel. In 2019, on average 5000 women uniformed personnel were deployed to UN peacekeeping operations—equivalent to just 5.6 per cent of the 88 700 total personnel deployed... "

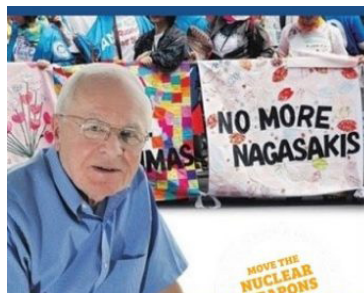
<https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-background/2019/united-nations-uniformed-gender-parity-strategy-track-reach-its-goals>

Total military spending accounted for 2.2% of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

With the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in 2000, the international community recognized that war impacted women differently and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks.<sup>3</sup>

Between 1992 and 2018, women constituted 13% of negotiators, 3% of mediators and only 4% of signatories in major peace processes tracked by the Council on Foreign Relations.<sup>6</sup>

When women are included in peace processes there is a 20% increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 2 years, and a 35 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years.<sup>7</sup>



"It's a dark and scary moment when a bunch of microbes brings humanity to its knees. We've come to a turning point in history. Neither nuclear weapons, nor all the armies in the world, can stop COVID-19. The old ways of building security – bigger and better weapons – are completely irrelevant now."

– Hon Douglas Roche (Canada). Former Senator and Canadian Disarmament Ambassador. Founding Chair of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

Images taken from <http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/>



"Imagine the world we could live in if our governments used even 1% of the money they use for nuclear weapons. Imagine if they actually cared for human life, we could eradicate poverty, have free health care for all and better our education systems."

– Akinji Obama-Manners, The Sauti Kuu Foundation, Kenya



Order your  
WWSF  
"Peace seal",  
visit page 71

2 - <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2020/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2019#:~:text=Global%20military%20expenditure%20is%20estimated,cent%20higher%20than%20in%202010.> 3 - <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> 6 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security> 7 - <https://wps.unwomen.org/participation/>



## General Ideas for Action



## 1 Celebrate

World Peace Day – 21 September, a great way to make a difference and stand up for peace

## 2 Get information

about military spending in your country and lobby to reduce the defense budget

## 3 Elaborate

guidelines to build a culture of peace based on the right of peoples to peace

## 4 Educate

others on their human right to peace including clean, healthy, and adequate food, a prerequisite to live in peace

## 5 Utilize

the media, including social media and your creativity to rise and organize for peace

## 6 Mobilize

young people to reject armed militias and prevent wars; train them to build peaceful relations across the divides of war

## 7 Train

government services, men, women and schools in conflict resolution

## 8 Put pressure

on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises made in 1995 at the Beijing Women's conference and deliver your right to equality, development and peace

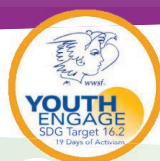
## 9 Support

organizations and individuals working for peace and disarmament



## Consult

your political leaders to use the governmental budget for the COVID-19 response and recovery while reducing or ideally eliminating the budget for military expenditure



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Find** your country's profile here<sup>1</sup> and see what the military expenditure is! Gain information and lobby to have the budget reduced. Go the extra mile and advocate for setting up a Ministry of Peacebuilding.

**Feel inspired** by hearing Haya Atassi Önügören<sup>2</sup>, representative of the Syrian Youth Assembly, who spoke at the United Nations about "Youth Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation."

**Start campaigns** against armed violence, especially if you belong to an area that is not directly involved in an armed conflict at the moment.

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPND.GD.ZS>

<sup>2</sup> <http://syrian-youth.net/en/spoke-at-the-united-nations-youth-event/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2P #SDG16 #MeToo

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Lobby** to ensure that women are included in negotiations for peace, i.e. that their voices have an equitable representation at the negotiation table.
- The UN CEDAW Declaration from 1993, provides a framework for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Find useful and creative ways to adapt the framework to your local settings.
- **Rally** against armed violence, don't just do it for your own sake, do it for your daughter, sister and/or partner.



**Build** long-lasting peace NOW during COVID-19 while you integrate women in peace processes. The health and wellbeing of the population should be absolute priority.

WWSF invites you to order online your stickers "My home is a place of peace" and / or "My school is a place of peace", an initiative to help build a culture of peace in our troubled world. To learn more about it, see [Page XXXX](#)

**Women, Peace and Security Resolution 1325 (2000)**

"Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security"





## Holding your leaders to account

"Nations have pledged to eradicate poverty and protect the planet from degradation. How can citizens ensure that governments stick to their promises?"

### "Why accountability is crucial

<https://www.sustainablegoals.org.uk/holding-leaders-account/>

For my organisation, Beyond 2015, the purpose of Agenda 2030 – the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – is to enable coherence and prioritisation of action; to secure commitment to action; and to ensure accountability for action. Agenda 2030 represents a pledge to current and future generations, particularly the poorest and most marginalised. The accountability regime is the test by which people will judge whether that commitment is being met. This is not revolutionary. Our national civil-society organisation (CSO) deliberations highlighted that people want development to be based on human rights, equality and justice, environmental sustainability and good governance and accountability. Governments recognise this: SDG Goal 16 focuses on accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Paragraph 35 acknowledges "the need (for) effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and... transparent, effective and accountable institutions"

**"This is not just about holding governments to their commitments** – all partners in Agenda 2030 must be held to agreed UN standards in respect of human rights, environmental impact, transparency and effectiveness. It is imperative, for example, that governments agree to strong laws to protect against environmental and human rights abuses by companies, ensuring

that they are fully accountable and, at the least, that they do no harm.

"Implementing accountability at national and regional levels Agenda 2030 clarifies that the "High-Level Political Forum... will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level!" With accountability being a politically loaded concept, Agenda 2030 merely commits governments to a "robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework", which will "promote accountability to citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning"

National-level processes will be the foundation for regional and global reviews. So, this is what governments have agreed. However, implementation at national and regional levels will involve many further steps.

### 1. Monitoring by the people

**"Agenda 2030 must be monitored not just by governments but by people themselves.** Accountability mechanisms must allow people, particularly those experiencing poverty, inequality and marginalisation, to participate effectively and without discrimination."

### 2. Adapted national strategies

"Governments should develop a national sustainable development strategy through a participatory process that includes those most affected by poverty and injustice. The strategy must include meaningful, measurable commitments on the progressive realisation of all the SDGs, as well as each country's equitable contribution to global achievement of the goals. This strategy should be the basis for accountability. Paragraph 78 of Agenda 2030 recognises the need for such strategies..."

The World Bank estimates that 40 million to 60 million people will fall into extreme poverty (under \$1.90/day) in 2020, compared to 2019, as a result of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup>

750 million adults are illiterate. 2/3 of them are women.<sup>3</sup>

Half of women in developing regions do not receive the recommended amount of health care they need.<sup>4</sup>

In many countries, gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and participation in government.<sup>5</sup>

Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.<sup>6</sup>

GHG emissions have risen at a rate of 1.5 per cent per year in the last decade. Total GHG emissions, including from land-use change, reached a record high of 55.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2018.<sup>7</sup>

Children in sub-Saharan Africa are more than 15 times more likely to die before the age of 5 than children in high income countries.<sup>8</sup>

1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet and 673 million people still practice open defecation.<sup>10</sup>

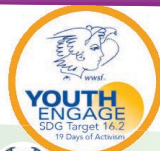
ITU estimates that the proportion of women using the Internet is 12% lower than the proportion of men using the Internet worldwide.<sup>11</sup>

2 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview> 3 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf> 4 - <https://www.isglobal.org/en/maternal-child-and-reproductive-health> 5 - <http://www.zm.one.un.org/node/57> 6 - <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/#:~:text=Globally%2C%20women%20are%20just%2013.41%20per%20cent%20in%202015.> 7 - <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30798/EGR19ESEN.pdf?sequence=13> 8 - <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being/targets.html> 10 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf> 11 - <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2019-PR19.aspx>

## General Ideas for Action

- 1 Lobby**  
your government to fulfill the promises they have made and ensure rural women and their families and communities have the basic human rights they deserve
- 2 Educate**  
others on the obligations of your government to fulfill the commitments they have made in various conventions, treaties, and covenants
- 3 Ensure**  
that your government develops frameworks for guaranteeing your rights and monitors its progress
- 4 Put pressure**  
on your local and national officials to sign and ratify any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified
- 5 Urge**  
Member States to incorporate recognition of women's human rights into constitutions/state legislation
- 6 Utilize**  
the media, social media and your creativity to have your rights realized and needs fulfilled on a national level

- 7 Promote**  
respect for International human rights including labor rights, the right to adequate food, shelter, health care, and social injustice
- 8 Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss women's rights issues with leaders in your community and to hold them accountable for their promises
-  **Hold your**  
leaders accountable and advocate for putting the maximum force into the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals during and after the Coronavirus pandemic
-  **Uncover**  
the social and economic consequences which COVID-19 has on your communities and incentivize your governments to tackle them
-  **Inspire**  
your political leaders to reduce gender inequalities which have made women more vulnerable to the consequences of the Coronavirus



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Find inspiration** in the work done by the young Accountability Advocates in Tanzania<sup>1</sup> who use data to hold their leaders accountable, generating data where there is none

**Gather information** on the sustainable development goals that are relevant to women and girls. Find creative ways to spread this information, especially in schools where young girls can learn about their rights and empower themselves



**Create** self-help groups in your locality where women can find a safe space to talk about their concerns related to the Coronavirus pandemic and help them draft strategies

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.one.org/us/2016/08/11/meet-the-young-people-using-data-to-hold-their-leaders-accountable/>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Set-up** a local platform for women to send their views about the local and national leaders. Make sure that the review mechanism is taken seriously and that the leaders are also lobbied, so that they agree to take up the concerns mentioned



**Educate** yourself and others about the rights of women and girls. And ensure that the policies that are in place during the Coronavirus pandemic ensure those rights

- **Make sure** that women have access to such information as well, so that they can empower themselves and hold their leaders accountable when they do not deliver on what has been rightfully promised to women and girls

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2A #SDG5 ##SDG17

**Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW) Article 3**

"States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

**International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) (ICESR) Article 3**

"The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."



# Theme 15 Celebrate Rural Women on International Day -15 Oct. & celebration of the 2021 winners the Prize for women's creativity in rural life

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

Dear Sisters living in rural communities,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is among many other global voices for rural women's empowerment and calls upon civil society, governments and the private sector to ensure that the world community acknowledges and supports the contributions rural women make in providing household food security, peace-building, sustaining the environment and protecting local seeds for their agricultural produce.

Since 1994, WWSF invites candidates from around the world and awards its annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life**. This year again 10 prizewinners are awarded on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women, with a monetary award of US\$ 1000 per laureate for their creativity, courage and compassion in improving and advancing the quality of life in rural communities. **472 awards** have been given since the inception of the Prize in 1994, and we hope that our humble empowerment will encourage many among you to continue efforts to develop your rural communities.

To read about prizewinners, check out our website <http://www.woman.ch> and send us candidates for the annual awards in 2022. Nomination guidelines are published in this Kit (see page 47 - 48) and can be found on our website.

Since 1995, WWSF and many network partners annually commemorate the **International Day of Rural Women – 15 October**, a Day, which was originally launched at the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) by several NGOs, including WWSF who took on the task to promote the Day and mobilized the UN member states to declare this day at the UN General Assembly a United Nations Day, which was achieved in 2007. WWSF annually publishes a campaign poster for the 15 October Day.

WWSF took the lead in making the World Rural Women's Day known by publishing an annual "Open Letter to Rural Women of the world", highlighting their important contributions to rural development and peacebuilding, including their numerous challenges they have to overcome on a daily basis.

In 2015, WWSF initiated the **17 Days campaign for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October: Rural Women RISE and CLAIM your RIGHTS**. This campaign reminds you every year with 17 themes of updated information to empower you to demand the realization of the unfulfilled promises made at the 1995 UN Beijing conference and Platform for Action, while at the same time strive to implement the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs - Agenda 2030.

The **2021 Prizewinners** will be announced on the 1 October with an invitation to the prize nominators to organize, whenever possible, an award ceremony for the prizewinners in their local communities to increase visibility of their projects benefitting rural communities.

In the 21st century, investing in rural women and especially in women farmers is a vital additional step towards meeting the challenges of food production and ending hunger.

We thank you for your participation in commemorating 15 October, using the attached poster for the Day (page 68) and sending us news of your events.



## Stats & figures:

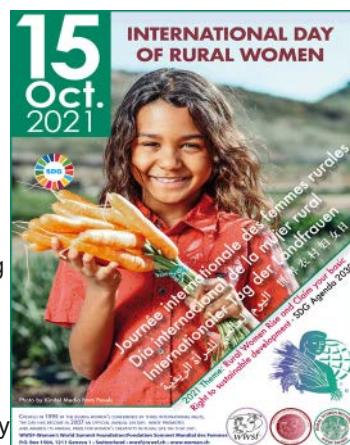
Agriculture remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas.<sup>1</sup>

Globally, 38% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.<sup>2</sup>

A rural woman is 38% less likely to give birth with a health care worker than an urban woman in low-income countries.<sup>3</sup>

A rural girl is 2x more likely to get married as a child than her urban counterpart in some African, Latin American and Caribbean countries.<sup>4</sup>

More than half of all poor rural women lack basic literacy skills.<sup>5</sup>



### In solidarity and partnership, WWSF Board of Directors

- Elly Pradervand, President
- Gulzar Samji, Vice-President
- Jyoti Macwan, Member from India (SEWA)
- Anne Pélagie Yotchou, Member from Cameroon

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



**Goal 1.** "End poverty in all its forms everywhere."  
**Target 1.1** "by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere."



### Target 5.c

"Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels."

### Links to statistics:

- 1 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>
- 2 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/gender-snapshot.pdf>
- 3 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>
- 4 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>
- 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>





## **2022 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

### **WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life**

**Nomination Deadline 30 April 2022**

Dear Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 25th annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life**, honoring and awarding creative and courageous women and women's groups around the world working to improve the quality of life and empower rural communities.

Since inception of the Prize program in 1994, **472** Laureates have been honored for their courage, commitment and creativity with a cash award of US\$ 1000. All prizewinners and a brief description of their work are published on our website <http://www.woman.ch>

Given your experience, interest and perspective with regard to issues of sustainable development, human rights, economic development, the environment and climate change, peace building, ending violence and advancing the empowerment of women, we would greatly appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for sending us your candidates. Between 5 to 10 prizewinners will again be selected in 2021 and will be announced to prizewinners and the media on **1 October** and **celebrated on 15 October** – International Day of Rural Women.

**Kindly note** that the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world, empowers us to include this ambitious plan in all of our rural women programs. WWSF has therefore slightly modified its prize criteria for submitting nominations, which are presented online in order for you to follow our new guidelines. Your presentation of candidates, respecting the new guidelines, must reach our office no later than 30 April 2021 by post only. Nomination proposals, which are incomplete and not following the guidelines, will not be considered by the Prize Jury.

**Please note** that WWSF encourages rural women's groups and development organizations to join our annual campaign **"17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October – Rural Women Rise and Claim your right to development, equality and peace"**, is one of our regular initiatives, which provides 17 themes to organize for action. Join the campaign: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

We thank you in advance for your partnership and look forward to your candidate(s) in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Elly Pradervand, WWSF President and Executive Director / UN Representative

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-World-Summit-Foundation/123455932640>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wwsfoundation>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-pradervand-20b57516>
- Link to all Laureates: <http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/list-of-432-prize-winners>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WWSFoundation>



**WWSF** - Women's World Summit Foundation, POBOX 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

E-mail: [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - United Nations consultative status

**Thank you for your contribution.** IBAN: CH89 007 8800 005070 1413 - CCP Swiss postal acct.: 12-100651-8



## WWSF PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland  
(472 awards given so far – all laureates are published on the Internet - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch))



### Nomination Form 2022 Guidelines available online

<http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/prize-for-rural-women>

Nomination materials should arrive no later than **30 April** through the post.

E-mail nominations are no longer accepted.

#### CANDIDATE

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOMINATOR

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

#### List of supporting materials

- ☐ Endorsement letters
- ☐ NewsPaper articles
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Other (photos, videos, etc.)

#### International Prize Jury:

Elly Pradervand (Switzerland); Gulzar Samji (Canada); Jyoti Macwan (India); Anne Pelagie Yotchout (Cameroon)

#### Next awards in 2022

**Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post and be addressed to :**

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 Fax: +41 (0) 22 738 82 48 - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch)

# Celebrate Rural Women on the International Day!

The 2021 Prizewinners will be announced on 1 October

## General Ideas for Action

### 1 Raise

the profile of rural women and their communities

### 2 Educate

both government and civil society organizations to their crucial yet largely unrecognized roles

### 3 Promote

Initiatives on how to celebrate the International Day for Rural Women are left to individual organizations and communities, according to their own traditions. Action undertaken by rural and farming women in all parts of the world on the very same day, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, will strengthen the impact for solidarity and cooperation

### 4 Recognize

rural women actors, leaders and communities around the world, to start giving credit where it is due, on the World Day 15 October

### 5 Organize

*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss issues rural women face and hold your leaders accountable for their promises



### Spread

the word of Wang Qing, UN Women Project Manager: "As farmers, these women are also playing a critical role in food security in the aftermath of COVID-19. Bringing their voices and leadership at the forefront of the recovery phase is very important" <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/feature-rural-women-farmers-join-the-fight-against-covid-19-in-china>



### Rise as rural women

during the Coronavirus pandemic and stand up for your communities. Organize project which help other rural women during this pandemic



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours! Use the hashtag #AMessageToHer to spread messages of solidarity and recognition of women's contributions to the COVID-19 response



**Start simple.** Make sure the community you are a part of celebrates rural women on the international day. Put up informative posters and awareness about the importance of integrating rural women in the COVID-19 response and recovery process

**Find inspiration** in 5 stories from rural India<sup>1</sup> that celebrate the work of women that fight all odds to achieve their right to equality, development and security

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oxfamindia.org/featured-stories/five-stories-that-are-proof-that-women-are-breaking-stereotypes-in-rural-india>



## WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



**Recognize** the importance of the role rural women play in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as leaders, and lobby for them to be recognized by all

- **Start** information campaigns to educate the local and national leaders about the contributions made by rural women to ensure that their role is recognized and appreciated.
- **Create** a network that not only supports rural women in their day-to-day activities but also creates a safe space for them to voice their concerns and be taken seriously.

#17daysWWSF #SDG1 #SDG5

### By ratifying the CEDAW Optional

**Protocol**, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women—the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention—to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/>

### Women's Right to Equality:

#### The Promise of CEDAW

<http://cedawsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Promise-of-CEDAW-final-pdf.pdf>



# Theme 16

## Claim your right to food! Participate in the World Food Day!



WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

### Dear Partners and Friends,

Hunger, like poverty, is still predominantly a rural problem, and among the rural population it is the #peasantfarmers, small landholders, and landless workers who suffer disproportionately.



### "Recent increases in food insecurity are likely to worsen as a result of COVID-19"

Since 2014, the global prevalence of undernourishment (chronic food

insecurity) has remained virtually unchanged at slightly below 9 per cent. However, the total number of people going hungry has slowly increased for several consecutive years. Almost 690 million people were undernourished in 2019, up by nearly 60 million from 2014.

« Eliminating hunger alone will not ensure that everyone has access to sufficient nutritious food. An estimated 25.9 per cent of the global population – 2 billion people – were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity in 2019 an increase from 22.4 per cent in 2014. People experiencing moderate food insecurity are typically unable to eat a healthy, balanced diet on a regular basis because of income or other resource constraints.

**Those facing severe food insecurity – around 750 million people – tend to run out of food and, at worst, go a day, or days, without eating.** The recent increase in food insecurity was primarily due to worsening situations in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The estimates for 2016–2019 also indicate that food insecurity was higher among adult women than men in every region.

« Along with conflict, climate shocks and the locust crisis, COVID-19 poses an additional threat to food systems, indirectly reducing purchasing power and the capacity to produce and distribute food, which affects the most vulnerable populations. In 2020, up to 132 million more people may suffer from undernourishment because of COVID-19."



### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 Target 2.1

"By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round."

### Target 2.2

"By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons."

### "The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025"

Link: <https://www.un.org/nutrition/home>  
is a commitment by United Nations Member States to undertake 10 years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies, programmes and increased investments to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, everywhere, leaving no one behind. »

### Facts on nutrition

Link: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>

- 690 million people are undernourished
- 2 billion people experience some level of food insecurity
- 144 million children aged under 5 years are stunted
- 47 million children aged under 5 years are wasted
- 38 million children under 5 years are overweight
- The COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of the undernourished in the world in 2020
- Over 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet
- Healthy diets can lead to a reduction of up to 97 percent in direct and indirect health costs and 41–74 percent in the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions in 2030.

"Inequities in food consumption stand in contrast to women's significant role in agricultural production. They comprise on average 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and over 50 per cent in parts of Asia and Africa. Yet their potential contribution to food security remains constrained by unequal access to land and other productive assets.

"Ending hunger means that all women can consume enough food with adequate nutrients. All women working in agriculture, if unshackled from discrimination, can contribute to greater global food security."

Read more: <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/noticias-y-eventos/en-la-mira/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-2-zero-hunger>

### Key Data: Women's Major Group - 2021 HLPF Position Paper

Link: <https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WMG-HLPF-2021-Sectoral-Position-Paper-Full-1.pdf>

- Globally, the number of people in acute food insecurity could increase by 121 million people in 2021 - 82% increase compared to pre-COVID needs<sup>10</sup>
- In 2019, almost 1 in 10 people globally experienced severe levels of food insecurity

To read more: check out the link above

It is mainly the small farmers (men and women) who feed the world by producing about 80% of all the food.

(KEYSTONE 2021)

In 2019, close to **750 million** – or nearly one in ten people in the world – were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.<sup>3</sup>

In Pakistan **40.6%** of the poorest of the poorest Sindh women (aged 18 to 49) living in rural areas are undernourished.<sup>5</sup>

In some countries, tradition dictates that women eat last, after all the male members and children have been fed.<sup>6</sup>

Income inequality increases the likelihood of severe food insecurity, and this effect is **20 %** higher for low-income countries compared with middle-income countries.<sup>7</sup>

Healthy diets are unaffordable for more than **3 billion** people in the world.<sup>8</sup>



A preliminary assessment suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020 depending on the economic growth scenario.<sup>9</sup>

1 - Nierenberg, D. "The Future of Family Farming: Empowerment and Equal Rights for Women and Youth." FAO 8 June, 2014  
2 - [www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm](http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm) 3 - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2704FAOpublication.pdf> 5 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 6 - <https://www.wfpusa.org/articles/women-in-crisis-top-ways-women-are-hungrier/> 7 - <https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/foodsecurity/state-food-security-nutrition-2019-en.pdf?ua=1> 8 - <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition> 9 - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2704FAOpublication.pdf> 10 - World Food Programme.

## General Ideas for Action



- 1 Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat starvation and malnutrition
- 2 Put pressure**  
on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to food
- 3 Educate**  
others on their human right to food and let them know that they deserve clean, healthy, and adequate food
- 4 Ensure**  
that food and its prices are not used as a means of political or economic pressure
- 5 Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs for adequate food realized on a national level

- 6 Promote**  
and educate others on healthy, diversified, and balanced diets throughout the life cycle
- 7 Coordinate**  
crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate food insecurity
- 8 Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss ideas surrounding the right to food within your community
-  **Set up**  
food programs for the people who find themselves in food insecurity during the Coronavirus pandemic
-  **Elaborate**  
and action plan to address food insecurity during and after COVID-19



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Feel inspired** by reading up on movements like World Vision's Famine movement<sup>1</sup>, where over 400,000 youth from 14 different countries got together to tackle the issues of hunger and poor nutrition

**Start** information campaigns that provide data attesting to the fact that there is a gender discrepancy in the way resources are allocated. Ensure that you give women and girls the ammunition they need to empower themselves and fight for an equitable distribution of resources

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/child-health-now/article/youth-fight-hunger-free-world-world-food-day>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2F #SDG2

### Declaration of the Rights of Peasants – Women and Men (2009) La Via Campesina

"Recognizing and reaffirming that peasants are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in International law."

### International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) General Comment No. 12

"The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement."

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Find inspiration** in the collaboration established between the Women in Blue<sup>2</sup> and the men of their community, in Madhya Pradesh, India – collaboration that works towards fighting malnutrition in the region
- **Lobby** your local government officials to ensure that women can exercise their right to food, especially now during the pandemic, when women are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity
- **Find information** about women and girls' right to food and spread the information! Ensure that your daughter, sister and/or partner know of their own rights and can thus empower themselves
- **Find ways** to support entrepreneurial initiatives lead by women and girls who wish to lobby for their right to food

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.trust.org/item/20180409094845-ulyh7>

### Women & the Right to Food—Intersectionalities of Rights

Poverty, Extreme Poverty/Nutrition/Malnutrition  
Health—Physical & Mental/Reproductive Health  
Maternal & Infant Mortality/Disabilities  
Water & Sanitation/Education/Child Labor/ Child Marriage & Motherhood  
Forced Marriage/Preference for Males  
Land, Housing/Shelter/Land-Grabbing, Forced Evictions  
Homelessness—slums/War & Conflict  
Refugee Status/Internal Displacement  
Safety—Violence—Rape/Prostitution  
Trafficking/Lack of Social Support  
Political Volatility/Migration/Statelessness/Minority/Indigenous issues  
Culture & Traditions/Climate Change Issues/Natural Disasters  
Widows discrimination—Lifespan—Ageing Women—Survival  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC2250\\_English.PDF](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC2250_English.PDF)

# Claim your right to an adequate standard of living. End Poverty!

Dear Partners and Friends,

Women of the world, we urge you today to call on your governments to recognize your right to an adequate standard of living. Now is the time to petition your government to eradicate poverty once and for all. You must lobby them to create and strengthen social protection floors to enable your communities to break out of the cycle of poverty.<sup>2</sup>

**Poverty amongst rural women is the highest in the world.** We call on you today, 17 October, to **commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, which promotes awareness of the need to eradicate extreme poverty and destitution in all countries, and honors those affected by it.

« **The end of poverty can only be achieved** with the end of gender-based discrimination. All over the world, gender inequality makes and keeps women poor, depriving them of basic rights and opportunities for well-being, says UN Women in its « Women and Sustainable Development Goals report.

Women make significant contributions every day from bringing in an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer, for instance, may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn't have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services. **She is very unlikely to own her land—only 20 per cent of landowners globally are women. If she hopes to someday inherit family property, the law may deprive her of an equal share, or social convention may simply favor her male relatives.**

**Poverty comes with many risks;** discrimination leaves women less resilient to these. In an economic downturn, poor women are less likely to have savings and abilities to make up for lost income. Poor girls are more than twice as likely to marry in childhood as those who are wealthy. They then face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy, and often lost hopes for an education and a better income. Women have a right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of the latest technology. "

Read more: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2322UN%20Women%20Analysis%20on%20Women%20and%20SDGs.pdf>



- "Even before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, progress towards Goal 1 had slowed, and the world was not on track to

**ending extreme poverty by 2030.** Now, as the world anticipates the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression, tens of millions of people will be pushed back into poverty, undoing years of steady improvement. As the economic impacts of the pandemic begin to be felt more strongly, the importance of robust social protection systems for safeguarding the poor and vulnerable is becoming clearer than ever. So, too, is the need for effective emergency preparedness, both for pandemics and other hazards that cause disasters.

- **Women and children are also among those bearing the heaviest brunt of the pandemic's effects.** Disruption to health and vaccination services and limited access to diet and nutrition services have the potential to cause hundreds of thousands of additional under-5 deaths and tens of thousands of additional maternal deaths since the beginning of the pandemic, including a surge in reports of domestic violence against women and children."

## 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2021)

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/8r2xax3m> **Excerpt:**

- "... Between 83 and 132 million people experienced hunger in 2020 and 255 million people lost full time jobs, four times the number lost during the 2007-2009 financial crisis. Youth and women were especially hard hit. »

The pandemic will worsen child malnutrition :

- 22% (149.2 million) of children under 5 are stunted
- 6.7% (45.4 million) of children under 5 suffer from wasting
- 5.7% (38.9 million) of children under 5 are overweight"

As the global community strives for a more gender-equal world, closing the gender gap in land ownership holds great promise. Secure and clear rights to land create pathways to empowerment and economic opportunity, and often have the ability to shift long-standing social and power dynamics. Around the world, women own less land than men. The UN estimates that less than 20 percent of world's landholders are women, and reports by the World Bank show that in 40 percent of the world's economies, women face legal barriers to their land and property rights."

WWSF 17 Days Campaign  
Updated version 2021

**17 OCT** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

+71 million people are pushed into extreme poverty in 2020<sup>2</sup>

85% of the world's poor live in rural areas, 70% of the poor are women.<sup>4</sup>

More than 3 billion people, 80 percent of the poor, live in rural areas, with around 2.5 billion dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods.<sup>5</sup>

Women aged 25 to 34 globally are 25% more likely than men to live in extreme poverty.<sup>6</sup>

Women aged 25 to 34 with dependent children (below 5 years of age) are 4.8 percentage points more likely than those who have no young children to live in extreme poverty.<sup>8</sup>

The World Bank estimates that 40 million to 60 million people will fall into extreme poverty (under \$1.90/day) in 2020, compared to 2019, as a result of COVID-19.<sup>9</sup>

1 in 10 people lack access to basic drinking water services.<sup>10</sup>

The world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population.<sup>11</sup>

## Selected SDG Target - Agenda 2030 Goal 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"



**Target 1.1:** "By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day."

**Target 1.2:** "By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty

in all its dimensions according to national definitions."



**Target 1.3:** "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measure for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable."

**Target 1.b:** "Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions."

2 - <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15219&LangID=E> 4 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1908EN/ca1908en.pdf> 5 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf> 6 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 8 - <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-on-the-sdgs-the-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5814> 9 - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview> 10 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/18-06-2019-1-in-3-people-globally-do-not-have-access-to-safe-drinking-water-unicef-who> 11 - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/22/wef-18-oxfam-says-worlds-richest-1-percent-get-82-percent-of-the-wealth.html>





- 1 Lobby**  
your government to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as regional-level declarations on poverty reduction
- 2 Educate**  
others on their human right to social services and right to development
- 3 Ensure**  
that you are granted the same economic opportunities and benefits from your local and national governments as men
- 4 Address and work to eliminate discrimination**  
in loans, resource allocation, inheritance, health benefits, educational opportunities, skill training, and employment
- 5 Promote**  
anti-poverty programs that improve access to food and water for women living in poverty
- 6 Demand**  
that strong linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action, post-2015 agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals are maintained and promoted
- 7 Hold**  
rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show to your government that you demand to have your rights realized
- 8 Inform**  
your communities on the growing inequality gap between rich and poor and demand your governments to take action
-  **Provide help**  
to the ones who lack an adequate standard of living during the Coronavirus. Prioritize the people who are most vulnerable and leave no one behind
-  **Create**  
a dialogue with your leaders to address poverty during COVID-19. Inform them about the dramatic consequences the pandemic has on poverty
-  **Elaborate**  
a petition with political strategies to reduce poverty during and after the Coronavirus pandemic. Let as many people as possible sign the petition and transfer it to your political authorities



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO



**Operationalize** the full force of social media during the Coronavirus pandemic. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!

**Find inspiration** in the words of young women that demand for better implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, such as the Young Feminists' statement for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women

**Find information** on the gap between the gains made by the world's poorest and the richest from the annual increase in global wealth. Start campaigns to find creative ways to reduce this gap!

<sup>1</sup> <https://iwhc.org/resources/young-feminists-statement-for-the-59th-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men stand up for women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Ensure** that your daughter, sister and/or partner has all the information she needs to empower herself through the knowledge of her right to an adequate standard of living.



**Create** social networks for women; especially from the rural communities in your local environment, to find a safe space to talk about the hindrances they face during the Coronavirus pandemic. Brainstorm with them to find solutions to poverty and approach the local authorities with your ideas!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2SofL #SDG1

#### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble 24**

"All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems."

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14.2 (h)**

"States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right ... (h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

# Selected World Days to use for advocacy

“Human rights matter because they are dependent on only one thing: being human.”

## Jan.

24 January International Day of Education

## Feb.

06 February International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM

10 February Safer Internet Day

12 February International Day against the use of Child Soldiers

20 February World Day of Social Justice

## Mar.

8 March International Women's Day

20 March International Day of Happiness

21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

22 March World Water Day

## Apr.

4 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

6 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

7 April World Health Day

12 April World Day for Street Children

21 April World Creativity and Innovation Day

22 April International Mother Earth Day

25 April World Malaria Day (WHO)

26 April World Intellectual Property Day (WIPO)

## May

3 May World Press Freedom Day

16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

## June

4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

5 June World Environment Day

12 June World Day to End Child Labor

15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

16 June International Day of the African Child

19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

20 June World Day for Refugees

26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

# Selected World Days to use for advocacy

## cont'd.

### July

4 July	International Day of Cooperatives
11 July	World Population Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons

### Aug.

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests

### Sept.

8 September	International Literacy Day
9 September	International Day to Protect Education from Attack
15 September	International Day of Democracy
18 September	International Equal Pay Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
28 September	International Day for Universal Access to Information

### Oct.

1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
5 October	World Teachers' Day
5 October	World Habitat Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day

### Nov.

1-19 November	19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
2 November	World Day for Circles of Compassion (In support of SDG Target 16.2)
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
19 November	World Day for Prevention of Violence Against Children and Youth
20 November	Universal Children's Rights Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

### Dec.

1 December	World AIDS Day
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 December	Human Rights Day
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day



# Excerpts of selected messages in support of WWSF initiatives:

Prize for women's creativity world day Rural women -15 Oct

## **1997 - Hon. Gertrude Mongella, SG of the Fourth UN International Women's Conference, Beijing 1995**

"Dear Elly, Your work with WWSF is recognized worldwide. You have worked tirelessly for the advancement of women in different regions promoting and rewarding successful initiatives of women particularly in community based rural areas..."

## **1997 - UNESCO**

"... The Director of the UNESCO Women and Culture of Peace Program, Ms. Ingeborg Breines, would like to congratulate the Women's World Summit Foundation for organizing the eventful celebrations to mark the World Rural Women's Day on 15 October..."

## **1997 – President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton**

"... Our world has been continually uplifted and renewed by the contributions of women of courage and conscience, women of strength and compassion, women of vision and talent have enriched every aspect of international society. (...) I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1997, as International Rural Women's Day in the United States...Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all."

## **1998 – Former High Commissioner for Human Rights – Mary Robinson**

"... I am grateful to you for having dedicated this Rural Women's Day to the 50th Anniversary, and to human rights at large. It highlights the importance of the Declaration for rural women and manifests its universal nature... I offer you my best wishes for productive and rewarding results of your meeting and wish you happiness and satisfaction..."

## **1998 – M. Robert Kramer, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of the Geneva State Council**

"... Au nom du Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Genève, je tiens tout d'abord à vous saluer et à vous dire à quel point nous sommes honorés que vous ayez choisi Genève pour distribuer ce prix qui distingue chaque année un certain nombre de femmes pour leurs actions en milieu rural. Je tiens à vous dire que nous sommes honoré par votre présence et que nous nous sentons modestes lorsque nous voyons ce que les lauréates qui sont distinguées aujourd'hui ont accompli..."

## **1998 – Angela E.V. King, Assistant UN SG-Special Adviser on Gender Issues & Advancement of Women**

"... The celebration of World Rural Women's Day – 15 October provides an opportunity to honor women who have contributed to the spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action and to remind the world how much we owe to rural women and to give credit and value to their work. I hope it will proclaim the essential message to the need for immediate and determined actions for the advancement of rural women ..."

## **1998 and 2000 - Dr. Nafis Sadik, former Executive Director United Nations Population Fund**

"... I wish to extend my congratulations to the Women's World Summit Foundation on organizing the World Rural Women's Day. Such a day is an important opportunity to recognize the contributions that rural women make to the welfare of their families.... On behalf UNFPA, and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my best wishes to all the participants who have come to Geneva to celebrate this day... This is a first necessary step on the way to empowering women."

"... Keep up the good work! Advance the dignity of women. Help them to achieve their goals! We applaud you, and in our own way, we support every single woman, wherever she lives, however she is managing to improve lives of those around her..."

# Cont'd: Excerpts of selected messages in support of WWSF initiatives

## **2002 – Letter from James T. Morris, former Director, World Food Program**

“...Thank you for your continued collaboration in addressing and meeting the needs of hungry poor people...”. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the prize winners and express my appreciation for their achievements in favor of rural women...”

## **2002 – Statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, at the opening of the WWSF - Exhibition “Vision de Femmes”**

“... It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Palais des Nations for the opening of this exhibition honoring the recipients of the Women’s World Summit Foundation’s Prize for Women’s creativity in rural life and celebrating the vision and talent of women in rural areas in developing countries... The empowerment of women is a means of empowering whole nations...”

## **2003 – Graca Machel - Fundacao Para Desenvolvimento Da Comunidade**

“I salute you today, the 15 October 2003, World Rural Women’s Day, which is being celebrated world wide. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the important efforts made by the Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF) to galvanize the commemoration of this day globally. The use of the annual Open Letter to Rural Women of the world is an important instrument to educate the community at large and remind rural women of their rights. I commend the Prize awarded for women’s creativity in rural life, awarded since 1994 to creative and courageous community leaders who take on education and training of thousands of rural women who are the actors of local and national development and food production. Rural women need to become visible and reckoned with if governments want to eradicate poverty since 70% of the poor live in rural communities...”

## **2003 – Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, former Executive Director of UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund**

“... UNFPA salutes the past and present prizewinners for women’s creativity in rural life. Working together we can build a world where the creativity and diversity of humankind are celebrated, and the human rights of women and children are fully respected...”

## **2003 – Bertrand G. Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson, Geneva**

“... The empowerment of women requires that we give priority to the obligation Governments have accepted to guarantee to all full access to education, as education is not only a right in itself, but an indispensable means of realizing all other human rights...”

**2011 – Michelle Bachelet, former CEO of UN Women “... I congratulate the Women’s World Summit Foundation on your 20th anniversary as you celebrate women’s creativity in rural life. ... There is no limit to what women can accomplish when we set our minds to it. And the women honored tonight are a case in point, and they are an inspiration to all of us...”**

# Useful publications by CETIM

<http://www.cetim.ch/blog/en>

The Human Rights Program of the **Centre Europe -Tiers Monde (CETIM)** is dedicated to the defense and promotion of all human rights, a commitment based on the principle that human rights are totally inseparable and indivisible. Within that commitment, however, the CETIM has a particular focus on economic social and cultural rights and the right to development, still much neglected in our times, even if not denied completely. Its objective includes combating the impunity accompanying the numerous violations of these rights and helping the communities, social groups and movements victimized by these violations to be heard and to obtain redress.

Through this series of informational brochures, the CETIM hopes to provide a better knowledge of the documents (conventions treaties, declarations, etc.) and existing official instruments to all those engaged in the struggle for the advancement of human rights.

## Already published in the CETIM Series (<http://www.cetim.ch/blog/en>):

- *The Right to Food* (2005)
- *Transnational Corporations and Human Rights* (2005)
- *The case for a Protocol to the ICESCR* (2005)
- *The Right to Health* (2006)
- *Internally Displaced Persons* (2007)
- *The Right to Development* (2007)
- *The Right to Housing* (2007)
- *Debt and Human Rights* (2007)
- *War on Terrorism and respect for Human Rights* (2007)
- *The Right to Work* (2008)
- *The Right to Education* (2009)
- *The Right of Peoples to Self-Determination* (2010)
- *The Right to Non-Discrimination* (2011)
- *The Right to Social Security* (2012)
- *Cultural Rights* (2013)
- *The Right to Land* (2014)
- *Le commerce, c'est la guerre* (2015)
- *Transnational corporations' impunity* (2016)
- *La passion du schiste. Capitalisme, démocratie, environnement en Argentine* (2016)
- *La souveraineté au service des peuples suivi de L'agriculture paysanne, la voie de l'avenir!* (2017)
- *La Déclaration de l'ONU sur les droits des paysan.ne.s* (2019)
- *Puissance du Droit et Droit des puissants. Les traités européens et "eurafricains" sous la loupe* (2021)

## UNDERWAY

### UN Legally binding instrument on the right to development

"The North-South divide is once again evident in the debates on the **draft Convention on the Right to Development**. Despite opposition from the West, Southern countries are committed to an instrument that could orient the international order towards greater equity."

*For your information*, **training on peasants' rights** will primarily revolve around a series of twelve sheets created by CETIM to disseminate the content and to highlight the key rights outlined in the Declaration.

**CETIM would like to start a long-term training process aimed at peasants as well as other rural organisations as priority groups.** The sheets can be downloaded free of charge on the CETIM website: [www.cetim.ch/factsheets-on-peasants-rights](http://www.cetim.ch/factsheets-on-peasants-rights)

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# Attention to registered Coalition Members:

We thank you in advance for sending us a brief report of your 2021 activities during the 17 Days Campaign

## Guidelines for your activity report 2021

Dear Coalition Members,

We thank all registered coalition members in advance for sending WWSF a brief activity report of their participation in the 17 Days Campaign 1-17 October. WWSF will select and publish excerpts from your reports on its Annual Activity Report, and promote activities at United Nations events and lobby UN member states to comply with promises made to rural women of the world.

In order to learn more about the activities of coalition member organizations, and to share the impact of your advocacy work Beijing+26 and activities, WWSF kindly asks that each registered organization submits an Activity Report to be sent via email to [wdpca@woman.ch](mailto:wdpca@woman.ch), and share their organization logo for our Annual Activity Report.

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the [WWSF Annual Report 2021](#) and publish it online together with selected photos, videos, and press releases from your events. These materials may also be shared via other outlets to increase awareness of your local and national campaigns for the advancement of rural women's rights to equality, development and peace.

### Please be sure to address the following points in your report

- Name of organization (and acronym), city and country, telephone number, email address, website (if applicable)
- What theme(s) you selected (amongst the 17 proposed themes), and the relevance of the chosen theme(s) in your community
- What type of activities you organized (i.e. social media campaigns, press conferences, lobby sessions with your local and/or national government officials, seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public conferences/events, film screenings, press conferences, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 2 pages) with photographs or videos of your transformative program providing highlights, including youth and faith-based leaders participation
- What 17 Days campaign materials from the Kit were used and disseminated, and how was your event advertised
- The estimated number of people reached by your activities, including the media, radio, TV, and government officials, etc.
- Collaboration/participation with other civil society organizations, NGOs, youth clubs, schools, UN agencies, business partners, government officials, media, etc.
- The impact of your activities in your community towards empowering rural women
- Plus any additional information you may wish to include in your activity report



**WWSF**  
*Creating the Power  
for Change*

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your kind cooperation.

**WWSF 17 Days Campaign Team**

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949) Annexe 1

## PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

## Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

## Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opi-

nion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

## Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

## Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

## Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

## Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

## Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

## Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

## Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

## Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

## Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

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## Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## Article 13.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

## Article 14.

- (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
- (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## Article 15.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

## Article 16.

- (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

## Article 17.

- (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

## Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

## Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

## Article 20.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

## Article 21.

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

## Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

## Article 23.

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

## Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay

## Article 25.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.



# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

## Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

## Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

## Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

## Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW

## **The States Parties to the present Convention,**

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Noting that the States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering the international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist,

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs,

Convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women,

Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women,

Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole,

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women,

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,  
Have agreed on the following:

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## **PART I**

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### **Article 1**

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term “discrimination against women” shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

### **Article 2**

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its

forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

- (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;
- (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;
- (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;
- (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;
- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;
- (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;
- (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.

### Article 3

States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

### Article 4

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.
2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory.

### Article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

- (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- (b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases.

### Article 6

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

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## PART II

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### Article 7

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

### Article 8

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

### Article 9

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.
2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

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## PART III

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### Article 10

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- (a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;
- (b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;
- (c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by



encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods;

(d ) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(e) The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between men and women;

(f) The reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely;

(g) The same Opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education;

(h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.

#### Article 11

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;

(b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment;

(c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training;

(d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work;

(e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave;

(f) The right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;

(b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;

(d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.

3. Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this Article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary.

#### Article 12

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

#### Article 13

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to family benefits;

(b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;

(c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

#### Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

(a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;

(c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;

(d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;

(e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;

(f) To participate in all community activities;

(g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;

(h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communication.

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## PART IV

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### Article 15

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.
2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.
3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.
4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

### Article 16

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:
  - (a) The same right to enter into marriage;
  - (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
  - (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
  - (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
  - (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
  - (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
  - (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
  - (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.
2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

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## PART V

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### Article 17

1. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting, at the time of entry into force of the Convention, of eighteen and, after ratification of or accession to the Convention by the thirty-fifth State Party, of twenty-three experts of high moral

standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems.

2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.
3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.
4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
5. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
6. The election of the five additional members of the Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article, following the thirty-fifth ratification or accession. The terms of two of the additional members elected on this occasion shall expire at the end of two years, the names of these two members having been chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
7. For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.
8. The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.
9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

### Article 18

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect:
  - (a) Within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned;
  - (b) Thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.
2. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

#### Article 19

1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.

#### Article 20

1. The Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention.
2. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. (amendment, status of ratification)

#### Article 21

1. The Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information.

#### Article 22

The specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

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### PART IV

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#### Article 23

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the achievement of equality between men and women which may be contained:

- (a) In the legislation of a State Party; or
- (b) In any other international convention, treaty or agreement in force for that State.

#### Article 24

States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

#### Article 25

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.
3. The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. The present Convention shall be open to accession by all

States. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### Article 26

1. A request for the revision of the present Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

#### Article 27

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying the present Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

#### Article 28

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

#### Article 29

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.
2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.
3. Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### Article 30

The present Convention, the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed the present Convention.*



15  
Oct.  
2021

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN



Photo by Kindel Media from Pexels

Journée internationale des femmes rurales  
Día internacional de la mujer rural  
Internationaler Tag der Landfrauen  
اليوم العالمي للمرأة الريفية 世界农村妇女日

2021 Theme: Rural Women Rise and Claim your basic  
Right to sustainable development - SDG Agenda 2030



CREATED IN 1995 AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE BY THREE INTERNATIONAL NGOS,  
THE DAY HAS BECOME IN 2007 AN OFFICIAL ANNUAL UN DAY. WWSF PROMOTES  
AND AWARDS ITS ANNUAL PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE ON THAT DAY.

WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation/Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
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# OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE WORLD

## A WWSF Global Peace Seal Campaign for Homes and Schools

*Building cultures of peace & non-violence.*

### "MY HOME IS A PLACE OF PEACE"

### "MY SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF PEACE"

Dear Friends,



WWSF wish to share with you the global peace seal campaigns "my home is a place of peace", "my school is a place of peace", which are meant to help everyone, especially children, to understand that they can be active peacemakers

right where they live. Peace is something that starts in one's heart and expands to filling the home, the school, the community and, ultimately, the world.

The campaign "**My home is a place of peace**" has now been expanded to include "**My school is a place of peace**"; and "**My web site is a site of peace**".



#### 1) Start with a discussion

about what constitutes peace, stressing that peace is more than an absence of conflict: it is a positive state that includes feelings such as contentment, calm, the absence of longing and desire, inner quiet, forgiveness, innocence, etc., i.e. all conducive to experiencing the inner peace that is our essential state of being and a dynamic transformative process.

#### 2) Continue to discuss

about where peace resides, concluding that it is ultimately a state of consciousness. Help children to share their experiences when they have felt peace or its contrary (anger, hate, irritation, envy, etc.) which do they prefer? Living in peace and staying inwardly in a state of peace does not mean that one does not encounter conflicts or that one avoids them; it means living and facing them in a non-violent way with a desire to resolve them harmoniously.

#### 3) Become an active peacemaker.

Everyone can be a peacemaker by taking a stand for peace in his/her life, starting at home, then at school, in classrooms, in meetings, in the bus, in church, at the play-ground, etc.

#### 4) How to be a peacemaker.

Discuss potential conflict situations at home and at school and how to resolve them harmoniously. Have students share experiences and ask them if they wish to declare that their home and their school are places of peace, and invite them to use the peace seal to remind them of their pledge for peace.

**We cordially invite you** to share the peace seal project and its commitment with your family, students, colleagues and friends, and visit our web site [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) to also copy the peace seal onto your site.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Sincerely yours, WWSF campaign team**

#### For further information - Order your peace seals

contact **Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)**

P.O.Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

Email: [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - website: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

Cost: min. 20 seals US\$ or CHF 25.00, handling and mailing costs included.

Payment link:

- Swiss Francs IBAN: CH1900788000050701412

- US\$ IBAN: CH8900788000050701413

We thank you for your order and for sharing the seals.

# Women's Rights are Human Rights



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