



Open Letter to the Generation Equality Leads

January 23, 2020



Marlene Schiappa,
Secretary of State for Gender Equality of France

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
Executive Director, UN Women



Martha Delgado,
Deputy Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico

Nadine Gasman Zylbermann,
President, INMUJERES



Dear Excellencies:



We very much welcome your leadership and ongoing collaborative efforts to drive progress on gender equality and girls' and women's rights over the next five years. The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an opportune moment to take stock of where we have successfully moved forward on our commitments to girls and women and where ongoing gaps remain.

We are extremely excited to see the planning and momentum already well underway and were pleased to see the recent announcement of the six action coalitions and their proposed structures as evidence of this continued positive momentum and action. We agree that the six action coalitions recently announced cover issues critical to the achievement of gender equality and girls' and women's rights and we look forward to continued discussions on other concerns requiring urgent attention and accelerated progress.



The organizations listed below are greatly concerned about continued gaps in realizing accountability to girls, and the continued urgent need to address the distinct rights violations and experiences of all girls of all ages, in particular adolescent girls.



Achieving progress for adolescent girls requires us to tackle the many causes and consequences of rights violations they experience at once and in an integrated manner.



Discriminatory social norms within the home and family, access to and quality of education, lack of decision-making power, risks associated with adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence, including child marriage, FGM and other harmful practices, must be addressed holistically and with tailored approaches targeting their distinct age and gender driven needs.



The gender-related barriers and discrimination adolescent girls experience in the achievement of their rights is compounded by their age. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for action recognized this necessity and the reality of girls' distinct



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experiences and we should not miss the current opportunity to build on that recognition through concerted attention to all girls, especially adolescent girls.

Although we are encouraged to see the steps taken by the Beijing+25 Core Group to mainstream adolescent girls throughout the proposed efforts of the action coalitions, we remain concerned by the approach and the limitations inherent. Our collective experience over years of programmatic efforts and consultations with girls themselves has proven that such an approach will not be enough to address adolescent girls' distinct age- and gender- driven needs. This approach also neglects to focus on the experiences of all girls at all ages.

We strongly urge the Beijing+25 Core Group to include a standalone action coalition focused specifically on girls and adolescents, and which includes the resourced and supported participation of the girls themselves, as key stakeholders with the right to participate in all decisions about their own lives. A standalone action coalition throughout this process is essential to: 1) ensure that girls do not continue to fall between programmatic, policy, and data gaps, 2) provide much needed accountability to girls, including support for their meaningful engagement in this crucial process; and, 3) allows for the holistic and tailored approach required to adequately address their needs during these next five years of accelerated action.

Sincerely,

CARE

ChildFund Alliance

Child Rights Connect

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Eurochild

Feminist Majority Foundation

Futures Without Violence

Girls Learn International

Girls Rights Project

Global Partners United

Human Rights Watch

The Grail

The Hunger Project

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loretto Generalate (IBVM-Loretto)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



International Rescue Committee (IRC)

John Snow, Inc. (JSI)

Just Like My Child Foundation

Loretto Community

Management Sciences for Health

Medical IMPACT

MOLACNATS (Movimiento Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes Trabajadores)

National Organization for Women (NOW)

Oxfam

People Serving Girls At Risk Malawi

Plan International

REDDNyAS (Red Latinoamericana y Caribena de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes)

Save the Children

SOS Children's Villages

UFER - United for Equity and Ending Racism

Unchained at Last

Vital Voices

War Child UK

Women for Afghan Women

Women's Refugee Commission

The Working Group on Girls

World Vision

