

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 2020

Rural Women Rise, be the power for positive change

17
Days
Empowerment
Rural Woman
1-17
October

www.woman.ch





Call to Action!

17 Days of Activism - Kit 2020 for rural women leaders & communities

Beijing+25 - SDGs+5 - Agenda 2030

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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

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 2020

July 2020



Dear Campaign Partners and Friends,

Dear Sisters living in rural areas,

We wish to inform you that our annually revised campaign Kit « **17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 Octobre 2020** » is now published online <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/> for you to download, consult and be inspired into creative collaboration for the building of a more prosperous and peaceful future for all. Please share it with your members, partners and networks to create change in your rural communities. We count on your creative collaboration and much needed contributions to leave no one behind especially in rural areas. Nothing else will do the job to accomplish the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

We take this opportunity of thanking all the 2019 coalition partners who participated last year in our campaign. We listed your organizations in the WWSF Annual Activity Report <https://www.woman.ch/wwsf-annual-activity-reports/>

Since we find ourselves in a global health pandemic the likes of which the world has never experienced before, we have decided to revisit our 2020 campaign themes in the light of **COVID-19**, share with you excerpts from the **2020 Report of the UN Secretary-General "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals"** to share with you updates on the implications of the pandemic regarding the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Link: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf

We look forward to learning about your activities again this year and remain your partner, though in a humble manner, to make your work visible via our network and social media outlets, transforming rural communities.

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 Carol Aline Bouverat 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 2020

<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/>

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, and in particular Goals 1 and 5.

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 powerful civil society participation.

WWSF motto: Regularly reminding ourselves that our annual campaigns, Prize awards, World days and empowerment programs only make sense if local community partners make use of them and create change in the lives in rural areas, realizing that they are the real actors of transformation in their communities.

70% of the world's poor are women

145 out of 195 countries guarantee equality between women and men in their constitutions as of 2014

Rural women are roughly 1.6 billion and represent more than a quarter of the total population

Rural women represent two thirds of all illiterate people

Worldwide, women and children spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water

Women are key to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Source: UN



2020 WWSF MANIFESTO *Moving forward !*

Women's World Summit Foundation

www.woman.ch

wWSF@wWSF.ch

- **Because International Women's Day** (launched in 1857) is an annual occasion for women everywhere to UNITE & RISE to claim their right to peace, equality and sustainable development also for women. On this day, we also celebrate our 29th anniversary of the Women's World Summit Foundation-WWSF.
- **Because in 2020 we commemorate 8 important anniversaries in the human rights family:** the UN 75th anniversary / 40th anniversary CEDAW / 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child / 25th anniversary of the Beijing Women's Conference / 20 years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda / 10th birthday of UN Women, 5th birthday of the UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030. Clearly the time has come to review and renew government commitments and make sure they are matched with strong accountability to obtain lasting results.
- **Because 2020 is the beginning of a new decade**, a decade in which we expect governments finally deliver the unfinished business they signed up for at the Beijing 4th World Women's Conference (1995), and to demonstrate accountability for the 12 critical areas that remain of concern today, as well as accept independent monitoring for their implementation of policies and activities with regard to ending violence against women, equal pay for equal work, women's participation in decision-making, climate action, as well as achieving gender equality. Priorities set by governments need to connect with the people on the ground and the women of the world are impatient for decisive change to move forward.
- **Because only three quarters of all countries** have laws on domestic violence to-date, "... yet 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day; unpaid care and domestic work are largely shouldered by women everywhere, often at the cost of their career growth and economic participation. While global poverty has declined, it remains highly feminized: women aged 25-34 are 25 % more likely than men the same age to live in extreme poverty ..." (UN Women, 2020).
- **Because Women's Rights are Human Rights**, we are Rising in order to empower the women of the world to lobby their governments to ensure that the fulfilment of their basic human rights becomes the hallmark of this decade. A decade in which all promises are kept and results widely celebrated. The world is indeed waiting for transformative action from our leaders to turn the world around for good. What is good for women is good for all. The Time is NOW!

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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Update on the People's March for Peace and Justice from India to Geneva

We inform you about an extraordinary People's March for Peace and Justice from India to Geneva, which has been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic



"The Global Peace March was suspended on the 15th of March 2020 in Yerevan, Armenia due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We plan to resume the march at the same time in 2021 to complete the last 6 months and walk to Geneva. In the meantime, we have been holding a series of webinars, which you can find below. There is a week of virtual action between the 26th of September and the 2nd of October. Stay tuned..."

<https://www.jaijagat2020.org/> - www.ektaparishad.in



"The Jai Jagat campaign is based on a vision of ahimsa (nonviolence) that guides and motivates human action. People are encouraged to move... to march and to use different channels, such as art, music, drama, social networking, literature, journalism, and education, to counter the violent political economy with nonviolence and positive change.

Social movements bring people together to courageously press for agendas of change for the weakest sections of the population. The effort is to build new nonviolent structures that can foster a model of development based on ethics, justice and peace. This draws deeply from Gandhi's idea that self-governance is important and makes state(s) and global policy makers accountable. Social movements that are nonviolent are not meant to provoke power-holders rather they preempt opposition as much as possible. Social movements that are nonviolent are open to dialogue wherever possible. If there is no dialogue, and there are just demands, then struggle is justified.

Jai Jagat also comes out of the contemporary experience of an Indian people's movement, known as Ekta Parishad (Unity Forum) that has been widely acclaimed for its long marches that bring together the poorest and most marginalized people to challenge existing power relations, and to urge governments for policy change through nonviolent action." <https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>



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UN Women's "Women's Rights in Review - 25 Years After Beijing"

This excellent paper brings together the next generations of women's right activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who are instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action more than two decades ago. Collectively these change makers of all ages and genders will tackle the unfinished business of empowering women through a new, groundbreaking, multigenerational campaign: "Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future". Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-equality-womens-rights-in-review-en.pdf?la=en&vs=934>

Excerpt:

"Ensure no one is left behind. The promise to achieve gender equality for all women and girls stands and falls with empowering and guaranteeing the rights of those who have been pushed to the margins by decades of structural discrimination on the basis of gender, class and ethnicity, among others. Progress must be shared by everybody, with no woman or girl left behind. Data should be collected to show who is being excluded. All must be given a voice and a seat at decision-making tables so that policies and programmes are designed and implemented to respond to the rights and needs of everyone."



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 “**The right to health and wellbeing.**”



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 reponse



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

Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

Beijing+25 - SDG+5

Selected relevant Sustainable Development goals to include in your local and national action plans:



By 2030 End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

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



By 2030 End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition - Promote Sustainable Agriculture

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>



By 2030 Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for all to all Ages

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>



By 2030 Ensure Inclusive - Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>



By 2030 Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

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



By 2030 Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water Sanitation for all

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>



By 2030 Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for all

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>



By 2030 Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>



By 2030 Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Inclusive Institutions at all levels

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>



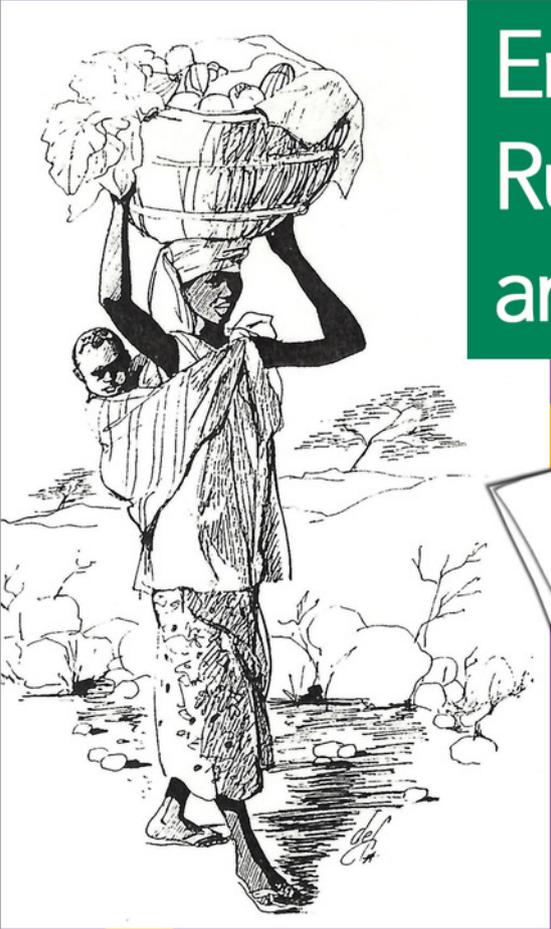
By 2030 Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for SDGs

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

The annual 17 Days Campaign poster 2020 can be used for your local events and for the announcement of your activities for the empowerment of Rural Women in your country

1-17 October 2020

17 Days Activism



Empowerment of Rural Women and communities



Campaign organization
Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF
Women's Section
PO.BOX 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11
Switzerland
<http://www.woman.ch>

Organizing for change
Supporting UN SDG Agenda 2030 #17DaysWWSF

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

1st day of the Campaign - About the SDGs: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Dear Partners and Friends,

The right to development is one of the most fundamental and core human rights afforded to you. In 1986 your governments signed the Declaration on the Right to Development, the first in a series of legislation stating the international community's commitment to ensuring the right to development for all people.

This right is dependent on your right to food, health, education, adequate housing, employment, and other basic and interdependent human rights. As you know, however, you are not yet able to fully enjoy these rights.

Now with the SDGs in their 5th years, rural women must band together and lobby their governments to fulfill their commitments. Your governments have been given the primary responsibility of implementing your right to development. You must petition them to fulfill their promise and ensure you the full and equal enjoyment of all of your human rights to which you are entitled.

As stated by the President of ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council): "Our development gains are at risk of being reversed in the very year when we launched a Decade of Action & Delivery to accelerate the implementation the Sustainable Development Goals."

General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women
"The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ("the Committee") acknowledges the vital contributions of rural women and the urgent need to improve recognition and protection of their human rights.

Through its previous Concluding Observations and General Recommendations, the Committee has identified various ways in which rural women continue to face discrimination. In this General Recommendation (GR), the Committee clarifies State obligations to ensure the rights of rural women, with a focus on article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("the

Convention") which recognizes the unique situation of rural women and highlights specific obligations of States parties in recognizing, promoting and protecting their rights."⁷



Excerpt: 2020 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

This report provides a global overview of the current situation of the Sustainable Development Goals, based on the latest available data.

"In the 2020 SDG Progress Report, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, noted: "While this crisis is imperiling progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it also makes their achievement all the more urgent and necessary. Moving forward, it is essential that recent gains are protected as much as possible and a truly transformative recovery from COVID-19 is pursued, one that reduces risk to future crises and bring much closer the inclusive and sustainable development required to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change."

"Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development. Millions of people have been deprived of their security, human rights and access to justice. In 2018, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million, the highest level recorded by UNHCR in almost 70 years. The COVID-19 pandemic is potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to meet the SDG 16 targets."

"COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated inequalities within and among countries. There is an urgent need for strengthened multilateralism and international cooperation by States and all actors in a spirit of global solidarity and shared responsibility. (...)The collective responses of the international community in the short and long term must be guided by all human rights including the right to development."

750 million adults are illiterate. 2/3 of them are women.¹

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

Only 10% of the total aid for agriculture, forestry and fishing goes to women.⁴

60% of the world's hungry are women.³

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

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/> 7 - <http://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/fr/c/386972/>

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"

On average women carry out at least 2.5 times more unpaid household and care work than men.⁷



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.⁶

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

(Cont'd)



Presentation of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

“As the most basic rights of rural people continue to be trampled on in many parts of the world, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a new declaration to help safeguard them (18.12.2018).”

Link to the Declaration: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.3/73/L.30>

“Globally, peasants feed the world, but their own enjoyment of their human rights is challenged, including their own right to food,” Ms. Bachelet said, as she stressed the importance of the new text.

The document, titled **“Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas”**, was drafted in October by the Third Committee, which handles human rights issues, among others, and adopted on Monday by the UN General Assembly, in which all 193 Member States are represented.

It aims to protect the rights of rural workers, including fishermen, nomads, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and other agricultural workers, such as peasants, which are defined in the declaration as “any person who engages in small-scale agricultural production”.

“Peasants face dire situations that are aggravated by an imbalance of power in economic relations,” stated the High Commissioner, as she explained that “policies that could promote peasants’ rights are largely absent, and in some cases have suffered due to austerity measures”.

Among the many hardships and rights violations faced by rural workers listed in the declaration, are: the increasing number of forcible evictions they face; their difficulties in accessing courts, police services, prosecutors and lawyers for protection against violence, exploitation and abuse; and the “high incidence of suicide” among peasants “in many countries”. They are also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land degradation.

Ms. Bachelet explained in her statement that “women are particularly vulnerable, given widespread unlawful discrimination restricting their access to, use of and control of land, as well as unequal payment for their work.”

“I hope this Declaration will serve to enhance States’ commitment at all levels to uphold and protect the rights and dignity of peasants and other people working in rural areas,” she said. “They play a critical role in preserving our culture, environment, livelihood and traditions, and must not be left behind as we implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” Ms. Bachelet added.

“This is a victory above all for the peasants themselves, who had been asking for this through their representatives for years, and we welcome this historic recognition by Member States of what peasantry has brought and continues to bring to humanity.”



- Melik Özden, the director of CETIM, one of the NGOs engaged in this issue at the UN, told UN News. “But the work does not end here. The next step is the effective implementation of this declaration, hand in hand with rural populations,” he added.

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

(Cont'd)



**According to the Women's Major Group (WMG)*
2020 High-Level Political Forum Position Paper
"Accelerated action and transformative pathways:
realizing the decade of action and delivery for
sustainable development" 29 May 2020.**

<http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WMG-HLPF-2020-Position-Paper.pdf>

Excerpts from the Position Paper:

"Even before the onset of the crisis caused by **COVID-19**, the world faced mutually reinforcing crises: crises of inequality, environmental degradation, rising insecurity, protracted armed conflicts, growing fundamentalisms, unchecked corporate power all happening alongside outright attacks on multilateralism, participatory democracy, civil society, and environmental and women human rights defenders. The **COVID-19** pandemic has made systemic gaps, inequalities, and crises more visible - it did not create them. **The need for a substantial system change towards a more just and equal transition has never been more necessary.**

(...) The **COVID-19** pandemic is not only a crisis itself but its effects have also exposed and deepened all of the inequalities and injustices we have been fighting to eliminate across the three pillars of sustainable development. Feminist activists have, and continue to, raise these systemic and structural issues in various policy spaces including at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In the wake of the **COVID-19** pandemic, we must act on the calls to reassess the way in which humans have been living, which has been to the detriment of nature, animals, and human society. The **COVID-19** crisis has shown us that we can no longer ignore the degradation of the environment, loss of biodiversity, including animal extinctions, and glaring social inequalities and marginalization, which endanger human existence.

The good news is that women and girls in all of our diversity can lead the way out of these crises for the simple reason that feminist, women's, and girl-led movements drive the actions needed for structural and systemic changes in solidarity with other justice movements.

Accelerated action, one part of the theme for this year's HLPF, comes from political will. Feminist, women's, and girl-led movements that are supported, resourced, respected and protected, are crucial to driving this political will, and for ensuring accountability that political will translates into action.

Accelerated action for sustainable development will come when women's and girl-led movements, especially at the local level, exert their power alongside other justice movements and demand that States respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. Achieving gender equality and the 2030 Agenda can only be possible through such an inclusive and democratic approach."

(...) Without the equal participation of empowered feminist, women's, and girl-led movements at the table, policies ignore gendered impacts; the dominant thinking that has led us to this moment of crisis continues unchallenged and unabated; and progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda will continue to stagnate or, even worse, decline. **Now more than ever we need accelerated action based on bottom-up, rights-based, and community-driven approaches to development that are carried out through multilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships.**"

*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.

1 UN Declaration on the Right to Development

(4 December 1986)

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

1 UN Declaration on the Right to Development (Cont'd)

(4 December 1986)

and collectively, taking into account the need for full respect for their 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>

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 Lanka¹, 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!

¹ <http://www.roadtorights.org/www>



WHAT MEN CAN DO

"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!

#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."

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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

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

WWSF 17 Days Campaign
Updated version 2020

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, 3 July 2020

Summary of the report:

- "Past failure to build strong and resilient education systems and to fight entrenched inequalities has opened the door for a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable and marginalized, to which no temporary measure adopted in haste could have fully responded.
- Online distance learning should only be seen as a temporary solution aimed at addressing a crisis. The digitalization of education should never replace onsite schooling with teachers, and the massive arrival of private actors through digital technology should be considered as a major danger for education systems and the right to education for all in the long term.
- Acting within a human rights framework is crucial to ensure that responses to the pandemic do not jeopardize the right to education and do not increase the suffering of the most marginalized."

This crisis taught us fundamental lessons.

Countries working hand in hand with trade unions, teachers' associations and genuinely using technologies, managed to ensure a continuity of education throughout the crisis.

There were already more than 700 million illiterate children prior to the pandemic and 50 million people did not have access to education before the pandemic. Inequalities and denial of the right to education are problems that pre-date the **COVID-19** crisis. As we re-open schools, we need to consider all the potential learners who have already been missing out in their right to education."



Excerpt: 2020 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

"At the end of 2019, millions of children and youth were still out of school and more than half of those in school were not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and numeracy. School closures to stop the spread of **COVID-19** are having an adverse impact on learning outcomes and social and behavioral development of children and youth. They have affected over 90% of the world's student population. Even though remote learning is provided to many students, children and youth in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, such as those living in remote areas, extreme poverty, fragile states and refugee camps, do not have the same access. The digital divide will widen existing education equality gaps."

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.¹

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.³

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%).⁴

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 15.⁵

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

1 out of 3 adolescent girls from the poorest households has never been to school.⁷

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 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!



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 Pakistan¹ 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!

¹ <https://in.reuters.com/article/pakistan-women-education-idINKCNOVB0B8>

#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..."

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Theme 3 Claim your right to safe water

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

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 (2027)
- **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.



Excerpt: 2020 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

"14. Billions of people around the world still lack access to safely managed water and sanitation services and to basic handwashing facilities (WASH) at home, critical to prevent **COVID-19** spreading. Immediate action to improve WASH services is critical for preventing infection and containing the spread of the coronavirus.

(...) Water is essential for resilience to climate change, and underpins UN efforts in peace, security, human rights and development.

However, he said water supply globally faces the "twin threats" of increasing demand and withdrawals, and the degradation of water sources due to climate change, pollution and other factors. Meanwhile, progress towards achieving SDG 6 is off track.

The UN estimates more than two billion people worldwide still do not have access to safely managed drinking water, while 4.2 billion lack safely managed sanitation.

(...) As we are sadly reminded, water and sanitation are also key to fighting the **COVID-19** pandemic. Handwashing with soap is one of the most effective ways to limit the spread of **COVID-19** and other infectious diseases." Link: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/07/1068061?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=25b71adcc9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_09_07_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-25b71adcc9-107196053

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.¹

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

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



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

By 2050 **4.8 - 5.7 billion** people could live in potential water-scare areas at least one month per year.⁵

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

1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet. More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.⁸

673 million people still practice open defecation.⁷

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/>

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.>



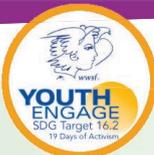
Organize

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 volunteers¹ 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 regularly 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.

¹ <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."

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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

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 3rd Goal 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.

Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health - 15 April 2020

<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 health is a broad concept that can be broken down into more specific entitlements such as the rights to: maternal, child and reproductive health; healthy workplace and natural environments; the prevention, treatment and control of diseases, including access to essential medicines; access to safe and potable water."



Excerpt: 2020 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

"Progress in many health areas continues, but the rate of improvement has slowed down and will not be sufficient to meet most of SDG Goal 3 targets. The **COVID-19** pandemic is devastating health systems globally and threatens already achieved health outcomes. Most countries, especially poor countries, have insufficient health facilities, medical supplies and health care workers for the surge in demand. Countries need comprehensive health strategies and increased health system spending to meet urgent needs and protect health workers, while a global coordinated effort is needed to support countries in need.

(...) The **COVID-19** pandemic spotlights the need for reliable and affordable electricity to health centres. However, a survey conducted in selected developing countries showed that one quarter of the health facilities surveyed were not electrified and another quarter reported unscheduled outages affecting their capacity to deliver essential health services. All these facts further weaken the health system response to the current health crisis."

Protecting yourself and others from the spread COVID-19 (WHO)

You can reduce your chances of being infected or spreading **COVID-19** by taking some simple precautions:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and others
- Avoid going to crowded places.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene.
- Stay home and self-isolate even with minor symptoms such as cough, headache, mild fever, until you recover.
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention, but call by telephone in advance if possible and follow the directions of your local health authority

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



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.²

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.³

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

Women and girls of all ages accounted for **59%** of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa.⁵

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

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 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 4 - <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preventing-unsafe-abortion> 5 - https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2020_global-aids-report_en.pdf 6 - https://www.who.int/health-topics/female-genital-mutilation#tab=tab_1



Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

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>

Excerpts:

"A. Scaling up alternatives as a core obligation under the right to health

52. The right to health contains the core obligation to ensure the "right of access to health facilities, goods and services on a non-discriminatory basis, especially for vulnerable or marginalized groups."

While many people have found support and healing from traditional mental health services, there are many who have not. Those who have been failed or harmed by mental health systems (including people struggling with serious psychosocial difficulties, often at the intersection of trauma, abuse, being young, being from an ethnic or racial minority, or in situations of poverty) must be viewed as belonging to a vulnerable or marginalized group. They are left furthest behind by absent or inappropriate, biomedically dominant, mental health systems in different resource settings. States, therefore, have an immediate obligation under the right to health to take action to ensure the availability of appropriate and acceptable services and rights-based support. That requires the immediate scaling-up of rights-based, non-coercive alternatives.

53. Prioritization around so-called mild (common) mental health conditions, which has been advanced by international financial institutions and global health actors, is insufficient for meeting core obligations on the right to health. The starting point for a rights-based transformation must be to address the crisis of those left languishing in coercive health systems and those entering mental health systems with intellectual, cognitive or psychosocial disabilities and unable to access community-based support because the alternatives remain woefully underinvested and unavailable."

V. Global threats and future trends (selected excerpts)

" B. Climate change

71. As climate change intensifies, its destructive effects on the right to health, and on the environment and human rights more broadly, are being felt across the globe. Already groups in marginalized situations, including indigenous peoples, children, older persons, women, persons in situations of poverty, migrants and people with pre-existing health conditions are most at risk from climate change, which threatens to exacerbate inequalities within and between countries. Severe environmental changes have profound effects on the underlying social and environmental determinants of the right to health, such as clean air, safe drinking water, adequate housing and food, economic security, social relationships and community life.

72. The physical health consequences of climate change have been well documented for some time. By contrast, the effects on the right to mental health have become better understood in recent years. The emotional and existential realization of the magnitude of the climate problem and the often shockingly limited responses are increasingly experienced, particularly by children and young people. Mortality, owing to heat waves and climate change, disproportionately impacts people who are institutionalized.

73. The importance of the natural environment to social relationships and community life is enshrined in many national constitutions. The inextricable relationship of health and climate change is recognized in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the Paris Agreement, States were called upon to promote and consider the right to health in their actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Indeed, a rights-based approach, with mental health at its heart, can strengthen climate responses, fortify community relationships and citizen activism, and improve sustainability and well-being."

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



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



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

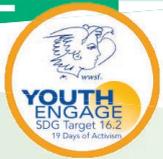


Call for solidarity!

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

4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

Main theme 2020 (cont'd.)



WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

Feel inspired by reading about organizations like the Youth Coalition¹ 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 themselves¹

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 calm²

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 anymore²

Educate your families, friends and community: Inform yourself about the Coronavirus, the related risks and solutions. Spread the word online and offline²

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

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

² <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 Deguale², 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!¹

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 emergency²

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 Coverage²

Organize personal protective equipment for healthcare workers

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

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

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2H #SDG3

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Theme 5 Claim your right to adequate housing

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?

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing

“The right to housing is not just a rallying cry. It, like human rights more generally, offers concrete standards that can be implemented and measured for progress. The results can be transformative and can shift us away from charity toward social justice.”

The right to adequate housing

Link to his report: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/HousingIndex.aspx>

“Housing is the basis of stability and security for an individual or family. The centre of our social, emotional and sometimes economic lives, a home should be a sanctuary; a place to live in peace, security and dignity.

Increasingly viewed as a commodity, housing is most importantly a human right. Under international law, to be adequately housed means having secure tenure – not having to worry about being evicted or having your home or lands taken away. It means living somewhere that is in keeping with your culture, and having access to appropriate services, schools, and employment.

Too often violations of the right to housing occur with impunity. In part, this is because at the domestic level housing is rarely treated as a human right. The key to ensuring adequate housing is the implementation of this human right through appropriate government policy and programmes, including national housing.”

Protecting the right to housing in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak

“Housing has become the front line defense against the coronavirus. Home has rarely been more of a life or death situation. In order to

prevent the spread of **COVID-19**, States across the world are asking and, in some cases, legislating that people “stay home.” This is based on the assumption that one’s home provides protection against contracting and spreading the virus. This is not always the case. (...)

(...) Approximately 1.8 billion people worldwide live in homelessness, informal settlements and grossly inadequate housing, often in overcrowded conditions, lacking access to water and sanitation – making them particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus, as they are often suffering from multiple health issues.”



Excerpt: 2020 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

“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.¹

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

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

621 million urban residents do not have access to basic sanitation facilities worldwide.⁴

About **15 million** people forcefully are evicted every year, which has noted an alarming rise in homelessness in the last 10 years.⁵

Limited access to property rights, which limits their economic and personal autonomy is a frequent case of women’s homeless.⁷

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

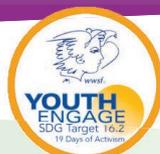
5 Claim your right to adequate housing

General Ideas for Action



- 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 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 Futures¹ 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!

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

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2Housing #SDG11

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

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."

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

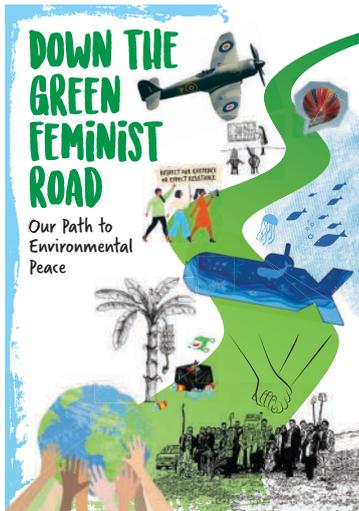
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Theme 6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment

Dear Partners and Friends,
We wish to share with you a remarkable program from The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) "Down the Green Feminist Road - Our Path for Environmental Peace"

<https://www.wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WILPF-Environmental-Zine-EN-Web-spreads.pdf>



Introduction:

"Welcome to this JOURNEY

In times of uncertainty, people look to each other for comfort and reassurance that things will turn out fine. As we write this, reaching out to others has been made more difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic – a zoonotic disease that now threatens the global community.

As political leaders have made little progress on international environment and peace agreements, it becomes evident that the work for a clean environment and sustainable peace requires a grassroots approach – sustainability built from the ground up.

"Environmental justice

is at the intersection of human rights, infrastructures and the possibilities for people to survive and prosper. Within International Human Rights Law there is potential to provide solutions for victims of environmental degradation and climate change, but this framework needs strengthening. Of the 17 principles of environmental justice, principle 5 succinctly states that environmental justice "affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural

and environmental self-determination of all peoples." A safe, clean and sustainable environment must be recognised as a universal fundamental right.

Feminism

is a critical perspective on social, economic and political life that draws attention to the ways in which human actions and ideas around gender create injustices. These injustices are experienced differently by different groups of women because of the way in which gender norms interplay with race, class, ethnicity, geography, immigrant status, age, sexuality, disability, nationality, and other power relations. Most importantly, feminism aims not only to understand the world and how it operates but rather to change it.

Indigenous peoples

is an umbrella term used to describe indigenous peoples as a collective. Indigenous peoples are indigenous in the sense that they are the original inhabitants of a geographical region before this was colonised. Indigenous peoples have distinctive social, cultural and economic systems strongly revolving around natural resources. Indigenous peoples are protected in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on historical and cultural ties to a particular territory and their cultural and historical distinctiveness from other populations.

Militarism and militarisation

are the processes through which war becomes normalised within and across societies and states. Militarisation starts early with the socialisation of children and youth, especially boys and young men, with war toys, video games and a bravado attitude. Militarism is enabled by the drastically unequal distribution of resources and prestige between defence and military spending on the one hand, and peace education and intercultural literacy on the other. All these processes continually prepare societies for fighting wars and constructing threats and enemies."

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

Every year, natural disasters trap some **26 million** people in extreme poverty.¹

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.²

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.³

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

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

Plastic bags and Styrofoam containers can take up to 1,000 years to decompose.⁸

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.⁶

Every **90 seconds** a child dies from a water-related disease.⁴

6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment

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 deforestation²

Feel inspired by looking into initiatives such as the YOUTH-लकि¹ 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

¹ http://www.cleanindia.org/index.php/what-we-do/?page_id=421

² <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 College², who helps grandmothers from villages in Africa become trained solar engineers, who then return to their villages and help make them more environmentally sustainable³
- **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 needed⁴

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

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

⁴ <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,



Excerpt: 2020 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

"The year 2019 was the second warmest on record and the end of the warmest decade (2010-2019). In addition, with a global average temperature of 1.1°C above estimated pre-industrial levels, the global community is way off track to meeting either the 1.5°C or 2°C targets called for in the Paris Agreement. Although greenhouse gas emissions are projected to drop 6% in 2020 and air quality has improved due to travel bans and economic slowdown resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this improvement is only temporary. Governments and businesses should utilize the lessons learnt to accelerate transitions needed to achieve the Paris Agreement, re-define the relationship with the environment, and make systemic shifts and transformational changes to low-GHG emission and climate-resilient economies and societies."

"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."¹

According to the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), "The climate justice fight here in the U.S. and around the world is... the fight for a new economy, a new energy system, a new democracy, a new relationship to the planet and to each other, for land, water, and food sovereignty, for Indigenous rights, for human rights and dignity for all people. **When climate justice wins we win the world we want.**"

"Climate change-related displacement is increasing worldwide, exacerbating global inequalities and disproportionately harming women and girls,

according to a new report by the humanitarian nonprofit CARE International.

"The report found that 33.4 million people were displaced from their homes in 2019, and climate change played a role in 70% of these cases. The vast majority of climate-related displacements occurred in developing countries that account for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. In the years ahead, scientists expect temperatures and sea levels to rise and precipitation patterns to destabilize. Heat waves, droughts, and tropical storms will get worse, undermining access to food, water, and shelter." <https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report-v0.4.pdf>

"The commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities in climate actions is reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals; the Paris Agreement; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and a series of decisions taken under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change." <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/disability/srdisabilities/pages/srdisabilitiesindex.aspx>

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

"The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you", - Greta Thunberg – UN Climate Summit - New York 23 September 2019



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

Developing countries are disproportionately burdening the impacts of climate change.²

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

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

To this date, **189** of the **195** signatory governments have ratified the Paris Agreement.⁸

Improved management of agricultural land can remove up to **63 gigatonnes** of carbon from the atmosphere.⁵

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.⁹

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

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** CO₂ in 2018.⁶

1 - <https://www.wfp.org/climate-action> 2 - <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gaef3516.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&mtldsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27 9 - <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2607EN/ca2607en.pdf>

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



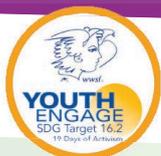
Inform

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 Environment¹, 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 Initiative²! 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 Change³

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

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

³ 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."

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: wdpc@wswf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 8 Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy

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.¹ 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.²



Excerpt: 2020 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

"Even before the current crisis, the global economy was growing at a slower rate than in previous years, despite improvements in labour productivity and unemployment. The **COVID-19** pandemic has abruptly and profoundly disrupted the global economy, pushing the world into a recession. The unprecedented shock to the world's labour markets is expected to result in a drop of around 10.5% in aggregate working hours in the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to 305 million full-time workers. Small and medium enterprises, workers in informal employment, the self-employed, daily wage earners, and workers in sectors at highest risk of disruption are hit the hardest. (...) Due to unemployment and underemployment caused by the current crisis, some 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy—half of the global workforce—are significantly impacted. Globally, the income of informal workers is estimated to drop by 60% in the first months of the crisis."

"Women play a key role in food production and form a large proportion of the agricultural workforce globally."

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/rural-women-day/2013#:~:text=Rural%20women%20are%20key%20agents,changes%20required%20for%20sustainable%20development.&text=Women%20play%20a%20key%20role,the%20agricultural%20work%20force%20globally>

"Given equal resources, women could contribute much more. FAO estimates that if women farmers (43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries) had the same access as men, agricultural output in 34 developing countries would rise by an estimated average of up to 4%. This could reduce the number of undernourished people in those countries by as much as 17%, translating to up to 150 million fewer hungry people.

According to new estimates, about 870 million people, or one in eight worldwide, did not consume enough

food on a regular basis to cover their minimum dietary energy requirements over the period 2010 to 2012. The vast majority live in developing countries.

Many of the world's most poor are women. Poverty eradication is a key challenge for rural women. New poverty estimates from the World Bank show that the proportion of people living on less than USD 1.25 a day fell from 47% in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010, across every developing region. **Yet, 1.2 billion people are still living in extreme poverty.**"

Excerpts: from the latest FAO publication: "Food Security and nutrition around the world in 2020"

We highly recommend the FAO publication
Link: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/CA9692EN.pdf>

"(...) The **COVID-19** pandemic continues to evolve and this report attempts to foresee some of the impacts on food security and nutrition."

"(...) 690 million people in the world (8.9% of the world population) are estimated to have been undernourished in 2019."

"(...) The number of people affected by hunger in the world continues to increase slowly. There are nearly 60 million more undernourished people in the world when the prevalence was 8.6% - up by 10 million people between 2018 and 2019."

"(...) With 10 years to go until 2030, the world is off track to achieve the SDG targets for hunger and malnutrition."

"(...) Projections for 2030, even without considering the potential impact of **COVID-19**, serve as a warning that the current level of effort is not enough to reach Zero Hunger ten years from now."

"(...) With this short timeline, countries must identify and implement critical policy and investment changes that will transform their current food systems to ensure everybody can afford healthy diets that include sustainability considerations. Urgent action is needed, especially for the poorest in society, who face the greatest challenges."

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.⁵

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

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**.⁷

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.⁸

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

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

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**

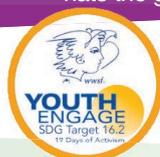
with public authorities about the need for social protection. Especially in times of COVID-19 it becomes evident how crucial health and work insurance is. In fact, social protection is a human right

**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

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

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)

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.¹

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.³

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.

"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>

Example

"Role of ICT Initiatives in Sustainable Progress of Rural Women in India"

Soundari, M. H. (2016), European Journal of Sustainable Development, 5(1), 39.

"The lower status, lost dignity, and denied rights of women across the rural India comes out with a clarion call to promote sustainable progress in their lives. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has emerged as one of a dynamic tool in their lives. It has been successful in connecting the rural and remote population to the wider world. These tools are initiated for gender equality and women's sustainable progress. Its success largely depends on the availability and accessibility for the rural women. The main objectives of the study was to present the successful elements of ICT initiatives in the significant process of sustainable development, to trace out the barriers and bottlenecks of ICT initiatives in rural India and to identify the areas of further strengthening the effectiveness of ICT initiatives in sustainable progress of rural women. Of the four sample ICT initiatives, two of the initiatives were situated in southern India i.e. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the other two were in the northern part of India i.e. Gujarat and Rajasthan. The study also identified the requirement for basic education, technical skills, tailored training for women and above all engendering of ICT policies."

54% of women in low- and middle-income countries now use mobile internet.⁴

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

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%**.⁷

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.⁶

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

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



Excerpt: 2020 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

"Empowering more women with mobile phones has been shown to accelerate social and economic development. However, in the 66 countries with data for the period 2016 to 2018, mobile phone ownership among men was on average 6.8 percentage point higher than for women.

(...) More than half of the world's population is now online. At the end of 2019, 53.6% of individuals, or 4.1 billion people, were using the Internet, ranging from only 20% in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and 26% in sub-Saharan Africa to 84% in Europe and Northern America and 87% in Australia and New Zealand."

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."

1 - 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_GGGP_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 Initiative¹ 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!

¹ <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/our-approach/initiatives/technologyinitiative/#.Ww4GFOFOZM>



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.

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: wdpc@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

Theme 10

Claim your right to land and inheritance

WWSF 17 Days Campaign
Updated version 2020

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

Excerpts:

from "Realizing Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources", a UN Women publication. A must for you to read!

"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. These resources help to ensure that women are able to provide for their day-to-day needs and those of their families, and to weather some of life's most difficult challenges. Women's access to land and other productive resources is integrally linked to discussions around global food security, sustainable economic development, as well as the pressing fight against the HIV epidemic and prevention of and responses to gender-based violence." (...) Throughout the world, gender inequality when it comes to land and other productive resources is intimately related to women's poverty and exclusion. The obstacles which prevent women from effectively enjoying these rights are complex and to a large extent context-specific."

"(...) While this publication focuses on women's rights to land, it is also recognized that land is inextricably linked to women's access to, use of and control over other productive resources, such as property, fisheries, livestock and game. Therefore, the publication also uses the phrase "women's rights to land and other productive resources" to reflect this broader context."

"(...) Building on the human rights principles and standards outlined in chapter I, chapter II discusses ways of advancing a human rights-based approach to women's rights to land and other productive resources. Chapter III presents recommendations accompanied by explanatory commentaries and good practice examples from countries."

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.¹

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.²

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

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.⁴

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

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

In 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights.⁷

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."

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>

**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 Tunisia¹ 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

¹ <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

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.¹

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.² 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



Excerpt: 2020 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

"The commitments to advancing gender equality have brought about improvements in some areas, but the promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed, remains unfulfilled. The current pandemic is also hitting women and girls hard. Globally, women make up three quarters of medical doctors and nursing personnel. Women already spend three times as many hours on unpaid care work at home as men. School and daycare closures require parents, especially women, to care more for children and facilitate their learning at home. Reports from several countries suggest that domestic violence against women and children is also rising during the global lockdown."

UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Peacebuilding in Africa 20 years after its adoption

"20 years ago the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. The resolution underscored the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and called for their equal participation in peacebuilding. The progress since its adoption has been underwhelming. This brief explores the barriers that prevent successful implementation of UNSCR 1325, and provides examples showing why women's role in peacebuilding processes should not be underestimated."

Link: <https://www.cmi.no/publications/7269-un-security-council-resolution-1325-peacebuilding-in-africa-20-years-after-its-adoption#:~:text=20%20years%20ago%20the%20United,its%20adoption%20has%20been%20underwhelming.>

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."

In 2018, women comprised 39% of the workforce, but held only 27% of managerial positions.³

85 states have had no female head of state in the past 50 years.⁴

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

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

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

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> 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://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>



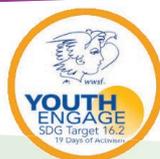
- 1 Lobby**
your government to provide rural women equal access to decision-making and leadership
- 2 Expand**
women's citizenship and participation in leadership: Advance women as decision-makers
- 3 Ensure**
that rural women are involved in the decision-making and peace processes at all levels and 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, India¹ 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

¹ <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,

In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, violence against women is declared to both violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

According to the UN GA 69, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by violence.”

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.**

community transmission of the novel coronavirus, many governments have adopted stringent lockdown measures or issued orders to shelter-in-place, which are much needed public health measures but disregard the fact that home is not the safest place for a woman.” Link: <https://16dayscampaign.org/2020/04/29/global-16-days-campaign-statement-and-call-to-action-domestic-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>



We draw your attention to the UN 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)

“The **COVID-19** pandemic is causing untold human suffering and is likely to heighten gender-based inequalities around the world. (...) In times of crisis, violence against women and girls is likely to increase as security, health, and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.”

Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>

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%**.¹

WHO indicates that about 1 in 3 (**35%**) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.²

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.³

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

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

1 in 4 countries have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence.¹⁵

1 in 5 countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in employment.¹³



“Urgent action needed to end pandemic of gender-based violence, say women’s rights experts.” GENEVA (14 July 2020)

“The **COVID-19** pandemic has sparked a pandemic of gender-based violence and discrimination against women that requires urgent action, say UN and regional experts on violence against women and women’s rights.” To read more: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26085&LangID=E>



Statement & Call to Action: Domestic Violence in the Time of COVID-19

“**COVID-19** has given rise to heightened risks and vulnerabilities for women across the world, which have further exposed the deep structural inequalities that women face within their homes and communities including the alarming deficits in social protection. To contain the

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.”

Selected types of violence against women:

- 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.”¹⁶

6 in 10 countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in education.⁶

4 in 5 countries do not have appropriate laws against sexual harassment in public spaces.⁷

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.⁸

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%.⁹

If FGM were abandoned now, the associated savings in health costs would be more than 60% by 2050.¹⁰

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%).¹¹

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

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.¹⁴

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

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the
UN General Assembly
Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
provided a framework for action on the pandemic.



But
more than 20 years later,
1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence,
mostly by an intimate partner.



UN WOMEN Call for Submissions on Alleged Violations of Women's Human Rights Communications Procedure for the UN Commission on the Status of Women - 2019 (deadline 1 August)
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/communications-procedure>

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

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

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

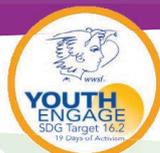
that provide medical, legal and relevant services, catering to the urgent need of women who have suffered sexual and physical violence

**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 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 Pakistan¹ 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 mutilation²

¹ <https://theirworld.org/voices/pakistan-sindh-province-gender-violence-theatre-changes-attitudes>

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-02-2020-unleashing-youth-power-a-decade-of-accelerating-actions-towards-zero-female-genital-mutilation>

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 Violence³ 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

³ <http://menstoppingviolence.org/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2S #SDG5 #SDG16 #MeToo

Theme 13 Claim your Right to Peace

WWSF 17 Days Campaign
Updated version 2020



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>

"(...)The total for 2019 represents an increase of 3.6 per cent from 2018 and the largest annual growth in spending since 2010. The five largest spenders in 2019, which accounted for 62 per cent of expenditure, were the United States, China, India, Russia and Saudi Arabia. This is the first time that two Asian states have featured among the top three military spenders."

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 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 #PeaceDay

Total military spending accounted for **2.2%** of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.²

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.³

In 2018, at least **69** armed conflicts occurred on the territory of **30** states.⁴

A 2018 report states that the number of locations in which conflict with political violence occurred increased by **11%** worldwide.⁵

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.⁶

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.⁷

"There can **never** be a just cause for the use of a **nuclear weapon**, not even in response to an **attack**. Not only is the use of a nuclear weapon **immoral**, but the **money** spent **building** and **maintaining** them is **immoral** as well, because those dollars could have been used to **save lives** instead of **end** them."

- Leah Bolger, President, World BEYOND War



"The **coronavirus pandemic** is sweeping around the world undermining public **health**, curtailing personal **freedoms** and causing **havoc** on countries economies. The **future** of millions children and their family is in **danger**. Government must shift the **resources** from the **nukes** and **military** to **public health** and **economy**."

- Emmanuelle Foyet, Deputy Coordinator Children for Peace
www.children4peace4p.org



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/> 4 - <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomla/tools-files/docman-files/The%20War%20Report%202018.pdf> 5 - https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018.12_ACLD_YearInReview_Press-Release.pdf 6 - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security> 7 - <https://wps.unwomen.org/participation/>

**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

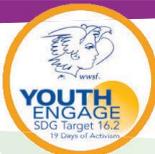
on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises made in 1995 at the Beijing Women's conference and deliver your right to equality, development and peace

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 here¹ 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 Önügören², 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.

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPND.GD.ZS>

² <http://syrian-youth.net/en/spoke-at-the-united-nations-youth-event/>

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.



#17daysWWSF #WomanR2P #SDG16 #MeToo

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"

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: wdpc@wssf.ch - www.woman.ch

Dear Partners and Friends,

Due to the **COVID-19** pandemic, the Jai Jagat 2020 march for Justice and Peace has been postponed to 2021.



JAI JAGAT 2020
on the move....

Update on the JAI JAGAT 2020 - ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

JaiJagat 4 pillars of change include:

- Eradication of poverty
- Eliminating social exclusion
- Ameliorating the climate crisis
- Halting conflict and violence

JAIJAGAT CHARTER

Vision

In the wake of the deepening economic, social and environmental crises, everywhere grows the desire for profound change in our way of life. The Jai Jagat campaign ("the victory of the World") is working to achieve a benevolent

World for the whole of the living, where "no one is left behind".

Mission

- To promote Gandhi's main message, namely non-violence, as a global transformation strategy and a way of living together.
- To make the Jai Jagat campaign, whose marches are an essential component, a tool for the convergence of the forces of change and individual, societal and institutional transformation.
- To promote the knowledge and emancipation of women, young people and the poor as essential actors of this campaign.
- To contribute to raising awareness on the global environmental, social and democratic challenges
- To build on the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) to fulfil these missions.

Values

- "Being the change we want to see in the world"
- Practice benevolence and care for each other
- To be for, to propose rather than to oppose
- Respect the ideal of openness, cooperation and inclusion of Jai Jagat in the service of the common good.

"If you want a different world, do not be indifferent."

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>

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-19.²

750 million adults are illiterate. **2/3** of them are women.³

Half of women in developing regions do not receive the recommended amount of health care they need.⁴

In many countries, gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and participation in government.⁵

Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.⁶

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 GtCO₂ in 2018.⁷

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.⁸

1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet and 673 million people still practice open defecation.¹⁰

ITU estimates that the proportion of women using the Internet is 12% lower than the proportion of men using the Internet worldwide.¹¹



"The Global Peace March was suspended on the 15th of March 2020 in Yerevan, Armenia due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We plan to resume the march at the same time in 2021 to complete the last 6 months and walk to Geneva. In the meantime, we have been holding a series of webinars, which you can find below. There is a week of virtual action between the 26th of September and the 2nd of October. Stay tuned..."

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 Tanzania¹ 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

¹ <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."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

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 protect local seeds for their agricultural produce.

Since 1994, WWSF invites candidates 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. 452 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 and move your work to serve your families and communities forward.

To read about prizewinners, check out our website <http://www.woman.ch> and send us candidates for the annual awards in 2020. Guidelines are published in this Kit (overleaf) 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 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: Rural Women RISE and CLAIM your RIGHTS. This campaign reminds you every year in 17 themes of new information to empower you to demand the realization of the unfulfilled promises made at the 1995 UN Beijing conference, while at the same time strive to implement the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.

The 2020 Prizewinners will be announced on the 1 October with an invitation to the prize nominators to organize, whenever possible, an award ceremony for the prizewinner's in their local communities to increase visibility of rural women leaders 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 69) and sending us news of your events.

In solidarity and partnership,**WWSF Board of Directors**

- Elly Pradervand, President
- Gulzar Samji, Vice-President
- Jyoti Macwan, Member from India
- Anne Pélagie Yotchou, Member from Cameroon

**Stats & figures:**

Agriculture remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas.¹

Globally, 38% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.²

A rural woman is 38% less likely to give birth with a health care worker than an urban woman in low-income countries.³

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.⁴

More than half of all poor rural women lack basic literacy skills.⁵

**The 2020
15 October
Poster is
available on
page 68!**

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."

- 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>



2021 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

Deadline 30 April 2020

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, **462** 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

We thank you in advance for your partnership and look forward to your candidate(s) in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Elly Pradervand, WWSF President and Executive Director / UN Representative

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-World-Summit-Foundation/12345932640>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wwsfoundation>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-pradervand-20b57516>
- Link to all Laureates: <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/prize-for-womens-creativity-in-rural-life/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WWSFFoundation>



WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POBOX 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland

E-mail: wwsf@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch - United Nations consultative status

Thank you for your contribution. IBAN: CH89 007 8800 005070 1412



WWSF PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland
(462 awards given so far – all laureates are published on the Internet - www.woman.ch)

Nomination Form 2021 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 2021

Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post and be addressed to :

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 Fax: +41 (0) 22 738 82 48 - www.woman.ch - [wssf@wssf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wssf.ch)

Celebrate Rural Women on the International Day!

The 2020 Prizewinners will be announced on 1 Oct.

Theme
15

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



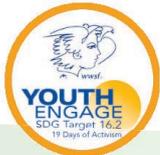
Spread

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 India¹ that celebrate the work of women that fight all odds to achieve their right to equality, development and security

¹ <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>

2020 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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

Theme 16

Claim your right to food! Participate in the World Food Day!

WWSF 17 Days Campaign
Updated version 2020

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. #PeasantsRightsNow #WorldFoodDay #WorldBeyondBanks

On this day, we wish to inform you of your right to food. This invaluable basic human right has been acknowledged by national, regional, and international entities on a number of occasions since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For thousands of years rural women have been the ones to feed their families, communities and the world. Yet, you do not receive the recognition, respect, support and protection you deserve.

Women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force in the developing world, and in some countries women account for 80% of the agricultural force.¹ Now is the time to remind your governments that in order to continue feeding your children, your communities and yourselves, they must fulfill the promises made and obligation they have to realize the right to food.



Excerpt: 2020 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

"The total number of people suffering from severe food insecurity is on the rise since 2015 and there are still millions of malnourished children. The economic slowdowns and disruptions in the food value chains caused by the pandemic is exacerbating hunger and food insecurity. In addition, the Desert Locust upsurge remains alarming in East Africa and Yemen where 35 million people already experience acute food insecurity. Due to the pandemic, some 370 million school children are missing the free school meals they rely on. Measures to strengthen food production and distribution systems must be taken immediately to mitigate and minimize the impacts of the pandemic."

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."

UN report sends 'sobering message' of deeply entrenched hunger globally



"In much of the world, "hunger remains deeply entrenched and is rising," the UN chief said at the launching this year's major UN food security update, highlighting that over the past five years, tens of millions of people have joined the ranks of the chronically undernourished." To read more: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/07/1068261?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=95f7fb04df-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_13_06_30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-95f7fb04df-107196053

"A sustainable zero hunger world can only be achieved if women, men, girls and boys enjoy equal access to food and nutrition, resources, rights and opportunities. **The World Food Programme** promotes gender equality through leveraging our food assistance to bridge the gender gap. Gender equality and women's empowerment are a key aspect of WFP's operations. Our work with school meals, smallholder farmers, health, nutrition and protection programmes boosts access to food and livelihoods." Learn more about gender equality: <https://www.wfp.org/gender-equality>

#16 World Food Day

"While the scale and severity of the **COVID-19** pandemic is being felt in developing and developed countries alike, the President of the UN General Assembly maintained (13 July 2020) **that the response must focus on "the two-thirds of the world's population at risk of being left behind"**.



In 2019, close to 750 million – or nearly one in ten people in the world – were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity.³

Globally, women had a 10% higher risk of experiencing food insecurity than men in 2018.⁴

In Pakistan 40.6% of the poorest of the poorest Sindh women (aged 18 to 49) living in rural areas are undernourished.⁵

In some countries, tradition dictates that women eat last, after all the male members and children have been fed.⁶

Income inequality increases the likelihood of severe food insecurity, and this effect is 20 % higher for low-income countries compared with middle-income countries.⁷

Healthy diets are unaffordable for more than 3 billion people in the world.⁸

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.⁹

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 3 - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2704FAOpublication.pdf> 4 - <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> 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>

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 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 Blue² 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

² <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



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 movement¹, 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

¹ <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."

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.²

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.

Reducing inequality within and among countries

Excerpt of the WMG 2019 Position Paper, p.20.

“There are more than 700 million people, mostly women and young girls, living below the poverty line of 1.90 US\$ a day, accounting for about 10% or more of the world population. In sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia, people living in poverty are about half and one-third of the total population, respectively. On average, income inequality increased by 11 % in developing countries between 1990 and 2010. These figures show that outcomes of economic growth are not distributed equally to all people. The economic inequality does not only have negative impacts on the stable growth and sustainability, but is also a factor for political instability and protracted wars.”

“Inequalities also lead to more migration and movements of people from South to North, which imposes risk on their lives. This income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10% earning up to 40% of the total global income. The poorest 10% earn only between 2% and 7% of total global income. Therefore, and at the current rate of progress, it may take 217 years to close the gender gap in employment opportunities and pay. These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower women, who are deemed as the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, ability, class, or intersecting identities.”

“They suffer from extreme poverty with shrinking social spaces and limited livelihood programs. Eighty percent of those affected by poverty live in rural areas, 40% are under 14 years old, and 40% lack access to formal education, while women are considered the most disadvantaged population group in this equation.”



Excerpt: 2020 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

“Even before the **COVID-19** pandemic, the pace of global poverty reduction was decelerating and it had been projected that the global target of ending poverty by 2030 would be missed. The **COVID-19** pandemic is pushing tens of millions of people back into extreme poverty, putting years of progress at risk. While the pandemic highlighted the need to strengthen social protection and emergency preparedness and response, these are insufficient to safeguard the poor and the vulnerable where they are most needed.(...)”

(...) The share of the world's workers living in extreme poverty fell from 14.3% in 2010, to 8.3% in 2015, then to 7.1% in 2019. The progress was less encouraging for young workers. In 2019, 12.8% of the world's young workers lived in extreme poverty compared to only 6.3% of the world's adult workers. The pandemic is pushing millions of workers into unemployment, underemployment and working poverty. (...)

(...) Despite some positive signs toward reducing inequality in some dimensions, such as reducing relative income inequality in some countries and preferential trade status benefiting lower 15 income countries, inequality still persists in all forms. The COVID-19 crisis is hitting the poorest and most vulnerable people hardest and threatens to have a particularly damaging impact on the poorest countries. It is laying bare the profound inequalities that exist within and among countries and is exacerbating these inequalities.”

17
OCT
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

85% of the world's poor live in rural areas, 70% of the poor are women.⁴

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.⁵

Women aged 25 to 34 globally are 25% more likely than men to live in extreme poverty.⁶

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.⁸

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-19.⁹

1 in 10 people lack access to basic drinking water services.¹⁰

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.¹¹

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> ³ - http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_141818/lang-en/index.htm 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-unicf-who> ¹¹ - <https://www.cnbc.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



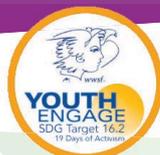
Create

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 Feminists¹ 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!

¹ <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

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...”

2015 – Message from IFAD

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:

- *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)*

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Attention to registered Coalition Members:

We thank you in advance for sending us a brief report of your 2020 activities during the 17 Days Campaign

Guidelines for your activity report 2020

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 website 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+25 and activities, WWSF kindly asks that each registered organization submits an Activity Report to be sent via email to wdpca@woman.ch, and share their organization logo for the WWSF Annual Activity Report.

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the [WWSF Annual Report 2020](#) 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 2018 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

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and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

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:

PART I

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.

PART II

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.

PART III

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.

PART IV

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.

PART V

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.

PART IV

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.
2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

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

2020 Theme: Celebrating all award winners receiving the
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UN Resolution Day (A/Res/42/136/2007)



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