

## INTRODUCTION

On 16 March 2022, AGIP, Ireland, and Purposeful hosted the CSW66 side-event 'Generation Equality Accountability for Adolescent Girls'; part of the official program of 24h Around-The-Clock Generation Equality at CSW66. This event aimed to meet the recommendations from adolescent girls on accountability to girl-centric commitments made during the Generation Equality Forums (GEF). We explored accountability mechanisms for commitments and investments that centre girls and youth leaders, whilst highlighting possible solutions and recommendations to address barriers – especially with regards to implementation and resourcing.

The event built on **Generation Equality commitments made by AGIP** and **Purposeful, Plan International and the Irish Government** under the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership. Our commitments are advocating for and supporting the inclusion, resourcing, and leadership of girl leaders in Generation Equality processes.

The event was co-designed and co-facilitated by adolescent girls and young leaders with support from the co-hosts, and welcomed speakers from different stakeholder groups, including UN Women, Action Coalition Leaders, government officials, and other young leaders. This summary report includes contributions made by speakers and panellists. We hope that the recommendations, stories, activism, and lived experiences of adolescent girls and young leaders as well as the commitments from GE stakeholders as shared in this event will continue to shape girls' inclusion in the GE process as it moves forward.

## EVENT OPENING BY AN ADOLESCENT GIRL LEADER

The event was opened with a powerful spoken word poetry by Milagros, an adolescent girl leader and the Latin American delegate of the Latin American and Caribbean Movement of Working Children and Adolescent Workers (MOLACNATs). Milagros performed her self-written poem titled "The struggle of a giantess" on girls' leadership which you can read below in Spanish. We hope that it inspires you as much as it inspired everyone present during the event. For an English translation, please click [here](#).

### **POEMA "La lucha de una gigante"**

Tenía 8 años cuando por pequeña no me dejaron hablar, luego  
teniendo 14 tampoco podría opinar.

Mi corazón se agitaba como las banderas que exigen libertad, no lo  
puedo evitar, necesito opinar.

Necesito defender eso que los adultos llaman "derechos", esos que son  
míos pero no me los dan.

Dentro de mí, una pequeña llama se encendió. Inició la lucha de una  
semilla que ahora es una rosa, que florece donde la ternura la  
necesite.

Mi lucha, tu lucha, nuestra lucha invisible toma forma en estos  
tiempos, donde nuestras compañeras son maltratadas, explotadas y  
asesinadas.

Pero ahora somos muchas y vendrán muchas más. Nos hemos  
organizado y estamos en movimiento. Nuestra vida es nuestra, es  
nuestro momento.

Compañeras alcemos nuestras voces y escribamos un nuevo contrato  
social, qué guíe a nuestras amigas en la búsqueda y construcción de  
una sociedad con igualdad.

Por eso que vivan las niñas del campo y la ciudad.

Que las salas del parlamento  
Donde se habla de mi cuerpo  
Sean nuestras por derecho  
Porque nada sobre nosotras sin nosotras

Niña y adolescente que me escuchas fortalece tu valentía que juntas  
nos encontraremos luchando y conspirando con garra, ternura y  
sororidad para la defensa de nuestro futuro y presente.





**‘Adolescent girls should not have to seek opportunities, but these should be made readily available for them.’**

**Ishanvi Malayanil**  
**Adolescent Girls Steering Committee**

- Adolescent girls must be given meaningful engagement opportunities in all accountability framework discussions; they should hold at least 33% of decision-making power in accountability mechanisms.
- An intersectional approach is key: girl leadership must not be tokenistic, but representative of the entire adolescent girl demographic, to holistically address needs and solutions.
- We need a formal accountability body that includes adolescent girl voices, supports adolescent girls financially and administratively, provides capacity strengthening and leadership development opportunities, and acts as a strengthening structure that promotes transparent communication between adolescent girls and senior leaders and stakeholders.
- Adolescent girls require emotional support to overcome the stigma of being heard ‘as a girl’, which is still very much prevalent in their own communities. Older feminist allies should use their voices to amplify the needs of adolescent girls within their spaces.

**‘Unless we are able to successfully centre the leadership of adolescent girls for Generation Equality, Generation Equality will not achieve its goals. [Adolescent girls] are the present and the future of gender equality. [...] without [their] leadership and contribution, Generation Equality will remain incomplete.’**

**Lopa Banerjee**  
**Executive Coordinator Generation Equality & Director, Civil Society  
Division, UN Women**



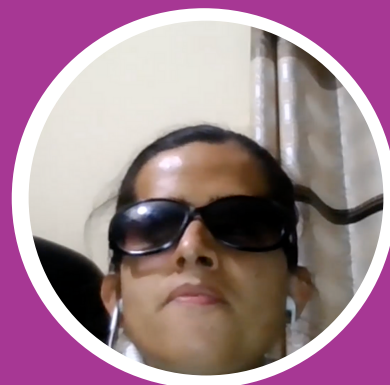
- The ‘Multi Stakeholder Partnership Model’ for Generation Equality will steer accountability going forward. Adolescent girls are to play a central role, and will be involved in movement sustainability, commitment accountability, decision-making processes, and the implementation process itself.
- UNW, in partnership with other UN agencies, will develop an implementation strategy for better information-sharing, accessibility, inclusion, and a safeguarding policy to ensure and enable meaningful adolescent girl engagement within Generation Equality and beyond.
- UNW commit to a clear timeline of good practice sharing, learning, and process for systematic, sustained, and safe leadership of adolescent girls in UN spaces beyond Generation Equality.
- The Commitment Dashboard allows tracking of all commitments, incl. financial. By UNGA77 in 2022, the tracker will include a survey tool to track progress against each commitment, highlighting commitment gaps and follow up on commitment implementation.



**'We need to be ready to empower and include girl leaders in a meaningful way, in all their diversity, and have them at the centre of initiatives. [The Girls Fund] will strengthen girl- and young feminist-led movements to really drive progress and gender equality.'**

**Ambassador Brian Flynn**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN**

- Girls and young women are at the centre of many global and national social change movements. It is imperative that their voices are at the forefront of accountability and their demands heard: access to information, clear communication, accountability for commitments, and meaningful inclusivity.
- Gender equality is a catalyst for progress, but also symptomatic of deeper inequalities, insecurities, and instabilities. Without combatting gender inequality, we will not find solutions for the problems that face humanity.
- Ireland's focus in Generation Equality is to amplify the power of, meaningfully engage with, and provide funding for girls and young women in all their diversity. Ireland committed US\$750 million to the Girls Fund over the next 5 years, as part of a broader funding commitment of US\$50 million to feminist and women's rights organisations.
- The Girls Fund is an experimental fund building on work by FRIDA, Mama Cash and the Global Resilience Fund, with the aim to move towards a more equitable and girl-led funding ecosystem. The Girls Fund has been developed in collaboration with adolescent girls.



**'While providing empowerment opportunities and while examining the proposals for funding the organisations led by young women and girls like ours, the examinations should be made according to the seriousness of the issue, not the technicality of the proposal; otherwise, those who were historically left behind are always going to be left behind.'**

**Laxmi Nepal**  
**Founder Access Planet Nepal, Girls Fund Grantee**

- There are very few opportunities led by girls and young women with disabilities and funds usually prioritise 'professionalised' organisations with specific technical skills, i.e., proposal writing.
- Access to the Girls Fund has significantly supported activities such as training of trainers and leadership development, thus supporting movement building empowering girls and young women with disabilities to decide for themselves.
- There must be more clarity which Generation Equality commitments and budgets are allocated for girls and young women, and there needs to be clear and accessible information and communication made available in a variety of formats – including text, audio, and braille.
- Both experienced and younger feminist must work together more closely and included together in decision-making spaces.



**'Young feminist-led movements are essential to building a just, equitable, feminist future where every person can exercise and enjoy their human rights.'**

**Subha Wijesiriwardena**  
**Manager Programs and Innovation, CREA**  
**AC6 Representative**

- AC6 leaders call for flexible funding, safe civic space for activism and participation in decision-making, accountability towards AC commitments, and investment into building critical feminist leadership for all young people and feminists in all their diversity

- All AC6 stakeholders have made significant gains towards their commitment to girls and young feminists. A few examples are:

*Canada launched a global campaign for embassies and missions abroad to open their doors for advocates and leaders in all their diversities*

*Gucci created direct, core, flexible, multi-year funding for groups led by young feminists, for young feminists*

*ONHCR opened spaces within the UN for young people, specifically advancing and promoting the inclusion of young feminists*

*Gender Links held women's political participation academies and cross-generational dialogues between seasoned and aspiring politicians*

*Women Enabled act as an advisor to the Global Resilience Fund*

*CREA stays committed to championing young people and girls as leaders in their communities through a variety of programs and interventions*

- Stakeholder efforts need to respond to and meet the demands of young feminists, in collaboration with young feminists and girls.
- Transparent communication of funding proposals, progress, and accountability reporting must be taken seriously and should include a two-way dialogue, to reach stakeholders beyond the traditional 'GEF Universe'.

## We asked our panelists: What is your vision for including girls in Generation Equality processes going forward?



**Brian Flynn:** Adolescent girls need to be at the centre of Generation Equality and occupy leadership roles. Data must be used address commitment progress and gaps and commitment makers need to be held accountable.

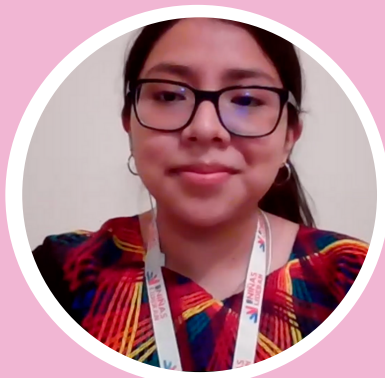
**Ishanvi Malayanil:** 1/3 of spaces within Generation Equality must be occupied by adolescent girls to ensure their voices and issues important to them are prioritised.

**Subha Wijesiriwardena:** 'Girls and young people [must] be included as rights' bearers, as agents of change, as decision-makers and leaders, [and] included in a way which supports and acknowledges their evolving capacity to take responsibility for their lives and their futures.'

**Lopa Banerjee:** Adolescent girls should participate as co-leaders in Generation Equality going forward. UNW will share information and create safe spaces for sustainable participation. Generation Equality should become a model for multi-stakeholder ways of working, and its success will inspire and serve as good practice for other UN spaces.

**Laxmi Nepal:** Girls and young women should not be limited to their local youth clubs. Instead, meaningful engagement must be mainstreamed in the development agenda and processes.





## POWER TO GIRLS CAMPAIGN

**‘Together, we have made 515 Power to Girls commitments to end child marriage. [...] I firmly believe that it is necessary to have these strong alliances so that we can accelerate the progress towards a world that is safe and enabling for each and every girl.’**

**Eyleen Menchú**

**Public relations coordinator at Las Niñas Lideran network (Let Girls Lead) and campaign leader with GNB for Power to Girls campaign**

Eyleen, a young leader from Guatemala, utilised the event platform to shed light on Early, Forced, and Child Marriage, a social issue that puts the lives of millions of adolescent girls at risk each year. She presented the ‘Power to Girls’ campaign that was created to call for immediate and urgent action, and invited all stakeholders present during the event to join this campaign by making specific commitments that empower girls in their communities.

The global Power to Girls campaign concluded on 5th April and the national levels campaign will continue until August this year. You can click [here](#) to know more about this campaign and join forces with several other girl allies to create a safe and enabling space for girls.

## SUMMARY

We were thrilled to see more than 150 people participate live during this important discussion. We would like to extend a special thank you to all participants, moderators, speakers, panellists, interpreters, and to everyone who has supported behind the scenes!

In case you were unable to join, you can view the recording of the event in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [Arabic](#).

If you wish to hear more about AGIP’s future activities and events, [please register here](#), and don’t hesitate to [contact the Secretariat](#) with any specific questions.

Thank you again for your engagement – we look forward to connecting with you in the future!

**This event was co-designed and co-facilitated with adolescent girls and young leaders. A huge thank you goes to our moderators and co-creators: Gulmina, Chelsea, and Caryn.**



**GULMINA IMRAN**  
Women Deliver  
Young Leader



**CHELSEA**  
Young Leader Kisumu  
Feminist Society



**CARYN DASAH**  
Social Justice Activist and  
Young Leader