

Adolescent Girls Dialogue on Feminist Movements and Leadership

Intergenerational dialogue draft summary report

18th February 2021

Background	1
Action 1: Introduce civic and human rights education early on in schools	2
Action 2: Strengthen girl-led movements by ensuring their access to funding and resources and that the processes are adolescent-friendly	2
Action 3: Create a safe environment for girls to speak out	3
Overarching: Minimum Standards for girls’ meaningful engagement and accountability in this process...	3
Key takeaways.....	4
Participants	5
Next steps	6
Detailed recommendations for each action	7
Reflections from Action Coalition Leaders.....	13
Questions from participants to AC leaders.....	13
Youth Manifesto	14
Methodology.....	15

Background

On 18th February, adolescent girls and representatives the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership met for an intergenerational exchange on the specific needs and actions for adolescent girls. This dialogue builds on the preparation session convened on 10th February hosted by the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) and the Generation Equality Youth Task Force (YTF). The main objective for this dialogue was to create a space where adolescent girls’ recommendations can be heard directly by Action Coalition (AC) leaders. Specifically, the focus is for AC leaders and girls to jointly develop the key action and related tactics for adolescent girls within feminist movements and leadership. Through this exchange the adolescent girls and youth leaders were provided with the opportunity to receive updates from AC leaders on the development of the blueprint and together, have an open

discussion on how to meaningfully engage adolescent girls and young leaders in the Generation Equality process going forward.

Participants who joined the dialogue included 22 adolescent girls from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Middle East and Africa, 6 young people, including from the Generation Equality Youth Task Force (YTF) and Youth AC leaders, 11 leaders from Feminist Movements and leadership Action Coalition and 6 AGIP members as logistical support persons.

We are grateful for the leadership of the 5 adolescent girl facilitators of the discussion (Thuba, Maurice, Selin, Paola and, Shukti) who managed to create a safe and enabling space for their peers to help us unpack the three priority outcome areas for adolescent girls which were previously identified in the prep workshop. The call also included very honest and tactical discussions by the adolescent girls and the youth leaders in the process on what needs to change in order to have collaborative, co-creational and meaningful engagement with the AC leadership and overall Generation Equality process.

Action 1: Introduce civic and human rights education early on in schools

Key Tactics Identified

- a. Local stakeholders: government, NGOs and funders should support, fund, and promote non-formal, creative methods of civic and human rights education including feminism and transformative gender education through in-school and out of school curriculums and methodologies that will reach and engage the out of school adolescents and young people.
- b. Community level engagement like including men and boys and other family members is important when challenging unjust social norms and having men and boys as allies to young feminist movement and organising.
- c. Accountability should be coupled with adequate and funded grassroots reporting and girls should be partners with local authorities and national government on this.

Action 2: Strengthen girl-led movements by ensuring their access to funding and resources and that the processes are adolescent-friendly

Key Tactics Identified

- a. Enhance adolescent girls' ability to access funding by addressing social norms around girls' participation in civic engagement work; changing perceptions around girls' access to employment, mobility restriction and access to funding and budget control in societies where these activities are male dominated and could harm girls' reputation in the society when they engage in them.
- b. We need to trust young people and girls with money and savings and put enabling processes for them to access unrestricted funds to do their activism and community development work.
- c. Financial literacy, personal and organisational saving, project and financial planning and project budgeting are essential skills for young feminist movements and need to be included in education curricula. These are among the core barriers for young people to access grants and funds due to their lack of experience and knowledge of the processes and procedures. Donors and local authorities should support smaller size and informal youth and girl-led and focused groups with these skills and essential education to be able to access flexible funding for their work.

- d. Among the suggestions from the group is to setup an online database that includes all youth-led and girl-led groups and their projects and all the available resources for young people organising to help match youth organising with resources and facilitate their access to funding. Within GE, we need to capitalise on the expertise of the Youth Taskforce and the youth journey and other youth-led and girl-led groups to launch that and ensure that its only online and is able to reach the young people with no internet access.

Action 3: Create a safe environment for girls to speak out

Key Tactics Identified

- a. Include adolescent girls as a key stakeholder when drafting and implementing laws and policies. Girls have been long excluded from the legal justice movements in spite being the most affected and impacted by the laws that affect them the most (e.g., violence prevention laws).
- b. Change social norms that pigeonhole women and girls as objects. Have them create their own safe spaces as most spaces currently are created by adults, by men. It is necessary to create spaces by and for girls and adolescents and to include the voice of girls and adolescents at the centre of those spaces supported by other stakeholders.
- c. More education and sensitisation about laws and the spaces for participation is needed for adolescent girls. They need to know about feminism and how it represents the rights of girls and adolescents. Violence has been normalised among adolescent girls and have been accepted in our communities. Girls need to be able to identify when they are experiencing gender-based violence and should be able to access sexual and reproductive health and Funding according to their needs.
- d. Looking at the opinion of girls and adolescents and the data. Data allows us to know how to address gender inequality and what the obstacles are for girls and adolescents. This data should be taken from the opinion of girls and adolescents and the feminist movement. Because when governments are asked, many of them don't provide the full picture of the situation of girls and adolescents. That is why it is important that we girls are there.
- e. We need to exert more effort to ensure girls aren't left behind and consider intersectoral identities and vulnerabilities and focus on more outreach and communication to not only reach privileged girls. We need start with the family and bring them up with values linked to feminism we need to do this work collaboratively with all the stakeholders with adolescent girls.

Overarching: Minimum Standards for girls' meaningful engagement and accountability in this process

Key messages from adolescent girls and youth leaders

The Fourth breakout group developed a set of standards and recommendations from adolescent girls and youth leaders in the process on how to ensure that the outcome of generation equality is co-created with them.

- a. On Accountability: frequent communication and reporting with the young people on the developments of the process is a key to ensure they are informed on GE and able to provide timely feedback and question the leaders on their actions and commitments. This should include sharing

meeting agenda, background information and objectives from the discussion in advance for the young people to engage their constituencies before participating in these meetings. Adolescents girls and young people need to co-design the accountability process from the beginning with the AC leadership and the Core Group and not to be brought at the end. We need a girl and youth-led accountability process in GE!

- b. On Inclusion: global opportunities need to be locally relevant especially for girls and young people. We need to recognise the western and white heritage of feminism and that's why many girl activists do not associate with the movement if it's not intersectional and with strong Global South leadership and ownership. Language, approach and ways of working within GE meetings and discussions need to be more inclusive, youth and girl friendly, we need to plan for and budget for translation, capacity strengthening, and consulting youth and girls.
- c. Power dynamics and shifting power to be with adolescent girls and young people: do not just bring adolescent girls and youth to adult spaces, understand how they organise and change your ways of working to fit their needs. Strengthen the capacity of the leaders on how to effectively work with youth and girls, be more transparent on the objectives of the meetings, how decisions are made and, how will you respond to the girl and youth recommendations and demands. We need to move from the language of 'meaningful participation and engagement' to 'co-leadership and co-ownership of the GE space'.
- d. On Resourcing: dedicate flexible financial, technical, and other resources for adolescent girls and youth to own the process and help co-lead it. This would include resourcing for capacity strengthening to engage in GE and dedicated resources for translation and making meetings and events more inclusive.

Key takeaways

1. Action Coalition leaders shared the current thinking on existing actions for feminist movements and leadership. These are:
 - a. Funding and strengthening feminist activists and organizations in all their diversity
 - b. Expanding and protecting civic space
 - c. Achieving gender parity in public life and increasing the representation of women in decision-making spaces.
2. AC leaders shared that they felt inspired by many of the recommendations and tactics identified by participants and **could see concrete entry points into existing actions that they have drafted** but also ideas as to what they could still identify as a specific action for adolescent girls.
3. Both girls and AC leaders recognized the **importance of ensuring intersectionality** is present in all actions. There is a need to not only promote a gender-responsive political/enabling environment, but one that is youth-responsive too. They stressed that progress in this area will require all sorts of partnerships – open and participatory mentorship; building alliances and multi-stakeholder coalitions – including with girl- and youth-led organizations.
4. Girls expressed the importance of these actions **reaching the most marginalized girls**. This includes those in rural areas, without digital access or who face exclusion from decision-making spaces due to multiple forms of discrimination.
5. **The AC leaders are meeting on 23rd February to finalize the first draft of their blueprint**. All actions and blueprints need to be ready by mid-March for Mexico GEF. Paris will see commitments being launched in support of these actions.

6. The message that girls should be meaningfully engaged in the AC and wider GEF was well-received. **AC leaders acknowledged there is a need to consider how to best share and gather feedback with girls on the blueprint.** There is an opportunity for this to happen through continued and regular dialogues with girls, as hosted by AGIP and by working more closely with the AC Youth Leaders and GE Youth Taskforce.
7. **The biggest takeaway was the need to co-create spaces with and for girls so they can lead.** There have been many challenges and limitations for meaningful girl and youth participation in the overall process to date. The AC leaders listened and noted that while it may be difficult to support full and meaningful girl and youth engagement, they want to better integrate girls' voices throughout the action coalition. But girls want more than just be invited to speak. They want to co-design and lead. AC leaders are very open to hearing ideas and suggestions on how to strengthen engagement and there is appetite from both girls and AC leaders to continue having these dialogues going forward. The next opportunity will be at CSW where AGIP is already in discussion with AC leaders.

Participants

The intergenerational dialogue was attended by:

- 22 adolescent girls (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Lebanon, Mauritius, Philippines, Rwanda, Turkey, Zimbabwe)
- 6 youth leaders including 1 from GE YTF and 1 Youth AC leader (Benin, Congo, Haiti, Nigeria, Vietnam, Mexico)
- 6 AGIP members (AGIP secretariat, Plan International, Girls Not Brides, Malala Fund)
- 11 leaders from Feminist Movements and leadership Action Coalition including UNW representative for this AC

Next steps

- This report and the notes from the breakout session will be shared with AC leaders to aide thinking about specific actions for adolescent girls ahead of finalizing the blueprint on 23rd February.
- We invite AC leaders to share their first draft of the blueprint with AGIP and the Youth Taskforce. We can ensure this is shared with the girl and youth participants and coordinate their feedback. AGIP members can also provide technical input.
- We will continue to have discussions with AC leaders and the Youth taskforce regarding more opportunities to engage adolescent girls in the process. The next opportunity is an event at CSW in mid-March which we are already starting to organize. This may be an opportunity to share girls' feedback on the blueprints and discuss further ideas regarding participation and adolescent girl-led accountability in the AC and wider process.
- It will be helpful for AC leaders and UN Women to share an update on timelines for finalizing the blueprints, outreach for AC membership and plans for the run up to Paris and beyond. This will help AGIP and the Youth Taskforce to identify strategic opportunities for adolescent girl engagement.

Detailed recommendations for each action

Introduce civic and human rights education early on in schools	
<p>Summary of actions identified in prep call on 10th Feb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include leadership skills, confidence-building and education for boys, families, and communities so girls can speak up without bullying or backlash. 2. Provide rights education in schools and hold governments accountable to provide this, through dedicated funding and supportive policies. 	<p>Actions Identified in main dialogue on 18th Feb</p> <p>Social and Gender norms <i>"We need to find ways to reach out and work with families also. Need to reach out to girls from rural and marginalised backgrounds and create spaces for them to build their capacities and work on their community-based issues"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Damini, India, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Community level engagement with girls is critical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Amina, Nigeria, Youth Participant</i> <p>We need to engage men to understand co-existing with women and giving equal rights and respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Thuba, Zimbabwe, Youth Participant</i> <p>Education and Financing What happens to out of school young people? Need to also focus on other ways to reach out such adolescents and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Subha, CREA, Action Coalition leader</i> <p>Govt needs to focus on promote non formal and other creative ways of models of learning. International funders need to support such approaches too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Nana, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Action Coalition leader</i> <p>Feminist concepts need to be embedded in civic education curriculums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Shamiso, Gender Links, Action Coalition leader</i> <p>Laws and policies Important to involve and have open conversations with local authorities at local, regional and national levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Anonymous, Lebanon, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Monitoring and accountability Focus on the role and performance of local authorities as they sometimes hinder proper implementation of laws and policies and action on ground. Need for such authorities to collaborate local activities and be transparent and authentic in their approach to deal with ground realities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Damini, India, Adolescent Participant:</i> <p>Ensuring no girl is left behind</p>

	<p>Important to reach out to girls from remote and marginalised backgrounds like conflict and emergency settings and need to stop assuming that they can reach out to us as they face a lot of barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Khesavi, Mauritius, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>need to make education accessible and affordable so that all adolescent can access the same. Providing scholarships to girls from marginalised backgrounds is important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Damini, India, Adolescent Participant</i>
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Strengthen girl-led movements by increasing access to funding and resources and ensuring the processes are adolescent-friendly

<p>Summary of actions identified in prep call on 10th Feb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build evidence base on young feminist organizing and leverage this for advocacy on why we need feminist movements and increased funding at all levels (local, sub-national and national). 2. Promote and recognize the value of current documentation approaches by young feminists such as showcasing the success stories of girl activists and the results they achieved from working with girls most left behind (at risk of child marriage, school dropout and other issues). 	<p>Actions Identified in main dialogue on 18th Feb</p> <p>Social and Gender Norms We need more autonomy for youth-led and girl-led groups. We have spoken on the possibility of including everyone to leave no one behind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Bangladesh, what we face is a male dominated culture, even if girls are interested to do something. We need to plan something for those girls who are interested to fight for their rights. If they go out, they will destroy their reputation. -Maximum earning population is male. Women don't have access to funding. Norms if the girl goes out and with money, they destroy their reputation, -Visibility of women leaders and the perceptions around women/girls' leadership (negative stereotypes). Girls can be equal good leaders <p>Education and Financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more capacity strengthening on financial planning • Help young people on their saving • Education and their right to decide • Young people should have money and this affects girls negatively. <p>help young people to have their own savings, it will be a beautiful initiative that will allow fewer young women who are victims of violence, we can in the training sessions that the girls attend on education, the right to decide, we can add some handicrafts that will help the girls have their own savings, because many young women have to sleep with a man just to have money to take care of themselves, and since the woman does not have her own savings, she has to obey everything a man says to her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Raphael, Haiti, Youth Participant</i> <p>Laws and Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate risks on flexible funding. How to ensure compliance is there but doesn't hinder the access to finding. Possible solutions are intermediary organizations to facilitate the transfer of funds to smaller size organizations (informal groups). Any suggestions? (Gucci)
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<p>3. There needs to be financing and non-economic support to be able to access decision-making spaces and participate. Funding is key to strengthening girls' movements around the world. And non-financial support allows them to know and access information.</p>	<p>-Access to resources barriers and how we addressed them: planning for the activities, costing these activities, collaborative funding. The problem was in accessing the funding. When we are implementing the activity, we needed to do that in a collaborative way and we needed governance. We ended up funding some activities ourselves. Sometimes Youth Organizations lack the experience to be able to access funding. The other problem is that of planning capacity, that doesn't include intersectionality and the planning for funding don't include the needs of girls or youth. This doesn't help us achieve the objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sylvain, Congo, Youth Participant</i> <p>Many good practices on how youth fund entrepreneurship and innovation (when youth access funds they use it in a responsible way) The leaders in Acs need to trust young people with funds and see what they can achieve with that. How can we build these feminist movements?</p> <p>Data and Evidence: We need a database; a global scanning of resources and youth groups across countries to match their work with resources and facilitate their access to funding. the Youth Taskforce, the youth journey, can help us build that within the Generation Equality Process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sylvain, Congo, Youth Participant</i> <p>Monitoring and Accountability: we would say that this action has achieved the results it is through evaluations and seeing the changes that the girls have been able to achieve.</p> <p>Ensuring No girl is left behind I with a group of young girls started our project 'motorcycle dairies' where a group of girls travelled to rural areas and talked to adolescent girls about menstruation, and other practices to address the harmful practices around menstruation and the girl shaming that happens in communities. There is a huge issue of misconception for girls and the community and this is one of the initiatives that needs more funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mushfiqa, Bangladesh, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>-Funding should be available offline means for those that can't access online/internet -Higher Education is unavailable in rural areas and also good internet connection</p>
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Create a safe environment for girls to speak out

<p>Summary of actions identified in prep call on 10th Feb</p>	<p>Actions Identified in main dialogue on 18th Feb</p> <p>Social and Gender Norms</p>
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<p>1. This includes approaching women in positions of leadership to connect with adolescent girls and redirecting policies that will be in favour of girls' development and online/public safety for girls and girl-led movements to speak out.</p> <p>2. This also includes social norm change campaigns and programmes so that girls' power is recognised and respected.</p>	<p>Don't perpetuate things that could break the ways in which we communicate. Don't have hate messages. Try to have peaceful dialogues and that all parties can be safe. Create friendly and trusting spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sara, Mexico, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Paola. Safe spaces are few and far between.</p> <p>Start with how girls and women are seen in the world. Change social norms that pigeonhole women as objects. Most spaces are created by adults, by men. It is necessary to create spaces for girls and adolescents and to include the voice of girls and adolescents at the centre of those spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Education and financing:</p> <p>Information channels. Online security. Participate, listen and harvest. Space for girls to create sisterly bonds, especially for girls in rural settings. There are issues that are seen as taboo, such as sexual rights.</p> <p>Education. Comprehensive Sex Education Law. It would be paid for with the public budget, with people's taxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sara, Mexico, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>To know the laws and the spaces for participation. Know about feminism and why it represents the rights of girls and adolescents. Violence has been normalised. Girls need to be able to identify when they are experiencing gender-based violence. Sexual and reproductive health. Funding according to the needs of girls and adolescents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>It should be the State's obligation to guarantee that girls are in these spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Paola, Bolivia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Laws and Policies:</p> <p>Often laws remain on paper. There are many laws that protect us but we don't know if they exist or not. They are not socialised. How do I know if a law protects me if I don't know it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Paola, Bolivia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Create laws and public policies that include girls and adolescents and that make it possible for them to participate in decision-making spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>It is important that we can participate in laws that involve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Paola, Bolivia, Adolescent Participant</i> <p>Data and Finance:</p>
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Create spaces where we can talk about theory and concerns in the city. How we experience harassment. When legal advice is required, it is often very complicated because young people don't tend to inform themselves about these issues. When it comes to creating spaces where we can express ourselves freely and propose solutions to problems, communication channels can be created to share these problems. Legal knowledge may not be very high.

- *Sara, Mexico, Adolescent Participant*

The way information is shared is very difficult. We have created networks to pass information by word of mouth. We are creating a gigantic virtual library. I come from a collective and a network of trans families.

- *Sara, Mexico, Adolescent Participant*

Girls and adolescents are more informed than those in big positions. It is necessary that the officials of the different entities take parity into account. Girls and women should be able to access spaces for participation.

- *Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant*

To speak up for our decisions. Change the stereotypical laws that prevent girls from expressing how they feel and that prevent them from participating in spaces.

- *Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant*

There are internal and external factors. The family, the school. Those of us who have discovered that we can participate have found it very difficult.

- *Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant*

Monitoring and Accountability:

The first thing we are going to measure is the participation of girls in these spaces.

- *Paola, Bolivia, Adolescent Participant*

Looking at the opinion of girls and adolescents and the data. Data allows us to know how to address gender inequality and what the obstacles are for girls and adolescents. This data should be taken from the opinion of girls and adolescents and the feminist movement. Because when governments are asked, many of them lie about the situation of girls and adolescents. That is why it is important that we girls are there.

- *Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant*

Ensuring no girl is left behind:

Focusing on community outreach to reach all girls, not just the most privileged. Build alliances with other feminist groups and movements.

Lack of inclusion of girls of diversity, from rural areas, with disabilities.

Creating groups, using audios, posters, phrases, books, publications on Facebook, twitter, networks. Starting in our families so that they can also tell others.

- *Lleimy, Gautemala, Adolescent Participant*

Minimum standard for girls' meaningful engagement and accountability in the GE process

Summary of actions identified in main dialogue on 18th Feb

Accountability:

1. Reporting back to us – what changes have been made? What recommendations are taken up and which aren't? And why not?
2. Ending tokenism. Not just inviting girls to speak but have them design the accountability mechanism from the beginning.
3. How can AC leaders advocate for a girl and youth-led accountability process?

Inclusion:

1. Make global opportunities locally relevant and contextualised.
2. Stop assuming that all girls relate to the feminist movement, which is predominantly white and elite.
3. Language inclusion too – budget for this!
4. Move away from euro-centric perspective

Power Dynamics:

1. Recognise that adults/adult-led orgs also need capacity building on meaningful engagement
2. Understand how girls organise and stop trying to insert them in an adult process.
3. Share insights into the internal process – how are decisions made? Where do my recommendations going?
4. Stop just inviting girls to “speak” and make suggestions
5. Move away from needing global experience to be listened to
6. Big organisations need to back this up!! Make other adults listen. What power do you have to use?
7. Shift from language on participation to meaningful engagement → co-leadership and co-ownership of this GE space. What could this look like for girls?

Resourcing:

1. Dedicated financial, technical and non-financial resources to ensure effective engagement
2. Capacity building support to girl led movements
3. Budget for interpretation to ensure language inclusivity
4. Flex funding to support co-leadership and co-ownership (managed by girl and youth groups)

Reflections from Action Coalition Leaders

"We are very new to this Action Coalition and we are every honored and pleased to be part of this. I can speak on the behalf of Gucci and Time for Change, everything that was shared focused a lot on collaboration and really innovating how we think about working together and that's very important. We have started, in the past few years, to really invest in grassroots movement and a lot of what we talked about today are the challenges that we directly experienced. It underscores a lot of the feedback that we wanted to the next draft of the actions. The lens they will bring is hearing what you say and how can we as private sector corporation can do and play a role in pushing the corporate sector to think bigger and be bolder. These are really valuable insights. Really felt the leadership in the actions of the girls."

- Stephanie Green, Gucci

"we are very inspired by the many recommendations and the concrete entry points for the existing actions and what we could add as an action. It's important for us to continue to have, throughout this entire process, these discussions with girls and keep informing you how this develops further and to be accountable to you and many other girls. The one thing that really stuck out for me was this idea of co-creation of spaces by and for girls and how better we can do that. Your honest reflections as to how this has been really difficult in the past is something that we really need to take seriously and think how we can remove the barriers and really drive that girls' voices are at the center of the process."

- Ruben, UN Human Rights Office

Questions from participants to AC leaders

Q) *Although it is true that Gender data allows for transformative action, how do you gather these data, from who and what investment and spaces do you need to strengthen these that may allow in turn that no girl is left behind in terms of data gathering and collection?*

- Yulianis, Colombia, Adolescent Participant

"I will try to answer this. It's a huge question and there are many sources to collect data in terms of gender. There are international sources, national and local sources as well. It is of course always a challenge to try to compare methodologies, for data to be concrete and measurable and comparable. With reference to what we can do from GE and from our coalition, this is more focused on the girl objectives that we will be working towards. For example, if we are talking about political engagement, it will be data that will have to do with parity, with engagement in political positions, legislatures, executive, cabinets, so that data come from national sources that feed into to international sources. But it is up to us to question the quality of this data and include important variables like around intersectionality. We should end having one person representing only one group. We have the opportunity to use this data in a new way in a new light."

- Laura Chrabolowsky, Global affairs Canada

Q) *What support do you intend to give to advisory council for adolescent girls for their effective participation?*

- Sylvain, Congo, Youth Participant, GE YTF

"we are very happy to hear about the possibility for adolescent girls' advisory body. What is currently being discussed is whether it's an advisory body to UNW or directly to Action Coalition leaders. I think its super important that we as AC leaders it is a direct advisory body to us as leaders and not just through UNW. I hope that this is something that we can agree on as AC leaders of this AC and ensure that it is effective and not

tokenistic. There should be indicators supporting this work and we have an accountability mechanism and to have enough resourcing for this council."

- *Xenia, Co-Founder, Young Feminist Europe, AC 6 leader*

"I would welcome ongoing engagement with girls because we need that and as this conversation is on-goin we cannot lose the momentum for that. One of the core actions is to ensure that all voices are represented and we can't have just one conversation and move on."

- *Stephanie Green, Gucci*

"One question on what type of support we could provide to the young girls' council within GE. Canada is utterly concerned about this. This is something we have been very committed to addressing and we have tried to facilitate the participation and the contact with organizations of young girls and adolescents throughout our work. It has always been welcome. Because we are here in this meeting and it would be a timely moment to ask the girls, if you have a piece of advice for us as members of coalitions. Because we may think that we are adult allied but we can only be useful as allies if we truly listen to you."

- *Laura Chrabolowsky, Global affairs Canada*

Q) Beyond the girl advisory council, how can girls participate in different parts of the process? Example feedback on blueprint, support to girl led accountability. Have the discussions so far included resourcing to enable girls' participation as the AC is going forward?

- *Paola, Bolivia, Adolescent Participant*

Youth Manifesto

Many of the questions being raised here could be addressed through the youth manifesto.

Here to share what is the work that youth led organizations, YTF and NYGA have been doing. As young leaders, we have been facing a lot of challenges in the past few months to participate effectively in the GE process. Some of the challenges are regarding the general perception of youth led organizations, YTF and NYGA

- *we don't really know what our roles and responsibility are. There is no TOR for our participation and that has made the process very confusing*
- *Not enough time and space to have deeper discussions and for youth leaders to consult other people in network like adolescent girls etc*
- *Coordinating is problem as there are not enough resources*
- *Many spaces are adult-centric*

Hence, some youth leaders volunteered to hold a meeting regarding these challenges that was held last week.

- *Are the ACs working on consensus or not? Where is the integration of youth perspectives?*
- *Lack of accountability mechanisms to monitor how the voices of young people are incorporated?*
- *No defined timeline, invitation is very short-noticed, doesn't give us time to consult with our peers*
- *Only one youth led organizations and they are expected to represent all the young voices in all their diversities*
- *Lack of interpretations and translations for documents for many native languages*
- *Insufficient resources but expected to participate in multiple spaces*

The youth manifesto document will be shared soon with concrete recommendations.

- Eunice, Executive director of Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive rights

“You heard a lot about frustrations that we experience and about the power imbalances but also to understand that why we are doing this is because we truly believe that young feminist and adolescent girls are not just about participating in the process but if we are talking about a transformational process, we need to change how we do things and young intersectional feminist really challenge existing power imbalances and power structures and we will give recommendation on how to do that. This process so far has not been co-creational so young feminists have a lot of experience in creating bold and transformational processes. It is not just about the actions but building a whole process. When we talk about capacity building, it's not just for youth, it is also for adult leaders so that everyone understands intersectionality and understand what does it really mean to lead in a feminist and transformative way. “

- Xenia, Co-Founder, Young Feminist Europe, AC 6 leader

Methodology

<p>Step 1 Prep Session: 10th Feb 2021</p>	<p>Participants joined three separate break-out groups that are based on the key themes emerging from previous youth consultations and the priority areas of the Action Coalition. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource and fund feminist, women’s and grassroots movements, organizations and leaders2. Strengthen an enabling environment for intersectional feminist movements and leaders3. Increase the leadership and participation of women and girls in decision making. <p>In breakout groups they were asked to identify 1-2 priority actions focused on adolescent girls. Facilitators guided the participants through a set of questions to help them to achieve this. These questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does this theme specifically relate to adolescent girls?• What is the most immediate thing that needs to happen for girls in this area?• What will have the most impact for adolescent girls in terms of feminist movements and leadership? <p>Each group fed back in plenary and all participants voted to identify the priority actions for girls.</p> <p>Priority actions emerging from discussion on 10th Feb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduce civic and human rights education early on in schools2. Strengthen girl-led movements by increasing access to funding and resources and ensuring the processes are adolescent-friendly3. Create a safe environment for girls to speak out
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<p>Step 2: Main dialogue: 18th Feb</p>	<p>Participants joined four separate break-out groups that are based on the key themes emerging from prep session and other consultations with young people. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduce civic and human rights education early on in schools2. Strengthen girl-led movements by increasing access to funding and resources and ensuring the processes are adolescent-friendly3. Create a safe environment for girls to speak out4. Minimum standard for girls' meaningful engagement and accountability in the GE process <p>Breakout groups built on the key actions under each key theme based on the levels as mentioned below.</p> <p>6 levels for breakout groups no. 1,2, and 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Social and Gender Norms2. Education and Financing3. Laws and Policies4. Data and evidence5. Monitoring and accountability6. Ensuring no girl is left behind <p>4 levels for breakout group no.4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Accountability2. Inclusion3. Power dynamics4. Resourcing