



GIRL-LED WEBINAR SUMMARY

Celebrations, lessons, and recommendations from **Girls Advisory models** of the **Adolescent Girls Investment Plan, EmPower** and the **Global Fund for Women**.

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH | FRENCH | SPANISH

FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER
14:00-15:30 GMT



GIRLS ON THE AGENDA AND AT THE TABLE

Enabling power-sharing in decision-making processes through girls advisory models

ABOUT GIRLS ADVISORY MODELS

Girls have a fundamental right to be heard and participate in decision-making processes, as recognized by international human rights frameworks like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights enable girls to shape policies and actions affecting their lives, ensuring their voices are integral to discussions on issues like education and social justice. As we find ourselves amidst a backdrop of declining political rights and civil liberties, these rights are now increasingly under threat.

Girls' advisory models offer an important opportunity to empower adolescent girls to engage in decision-making spaces. These platforms ensure girl-centered interventions are aligned with their needs and foster intergenerational solidarity. With flexible, part-time engagement, girls' advisory bodies enable girls to prioritize education while collaborating with peers and organizations to co-create solutions that reflect their lived experiences and aspirations.

ABOUT THE WEBINAR

This webinar, organised by **Girl Advisors** of the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) on 6th December 2024, celebrated successes, shared valuable lessons, and offered actionable recommendations from the girls advisory models of AGIP, EMPOWER - The Emerging Markets Foundation, and the Global Fund for Women. **Community-based mentors** were engaged to spotlight the need for in-person safety and learning support and two **AGIP Board Members** to underline the need for intergenerational leadership in the current context of increasing roll backs on girls' rights.

Over 30 girl-centred and -serving organizations and individuals joined the webinar, aimed at inspiring more allies to promote intergenerational leadership by amplifying the voices of adolescent girls and sharing decision-making power in girl-centred interventions at every level. You can view the event recording [here](#).



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YOUNG PANELLISTS FOR IMPLEMENTING AGAC MODELS

1. **Respect and mutual learning:** Create safe, respectful spaces for girls where they feel valued. Foster a two-way exchange of ideas and experiences between advisors and organizations to boost connection and ownership, and enhance the model's impact.
2. **Financial support and accessibility:** Ensure adequate financial resources to enable girls to fully engage with the advisory body without the burden of financial barriers. Make sure to understand any accessibility needs to be as inclusive as possible.
3. **Time and ask:** Allocating sufficient time for reflection, collaboration, and meaningful engagement is essential for building trust and understanding. Multi-year engagement is necessary to make the process and outcomes impactful. At the same time, organizations need to be aware of the time ask from advisors given their educational engagements.
4. **Capacity strengthening:** Building girls' skills in leadership, communication, and critical thinking empowers them to take on meaningful engagement with the advisory body. Organizations need to build their own strength to create spaces and processes that are accessible and meaningful for girls.
5. **Roles and responsibilities:** Account time for girls to make sense of the eco-system in which the organization operates and clearly define responsibilities. Provide sufficient guidance while enabling and encouraging girls to learn and co-lead.
6. **Peer learning:** Creating opportunities to connect with girl advisor alumnae or peers from different organizations to share personal challenges, exchange ideas and motivation is crucial to add another layer of support.
7. **Mentorship:** Offer mentorship opportunities to enable focused learning and foster intergenerational leadership.
8. **Bigger picture:** Offering opportunities to learn about the broader social, political, and economic contexts from leaders can inspire greater awareness and action. This helps girls see their individual voices as part of a larger movement for change.
9. **Rooted in realities:** Advisory experiences should reflect the lived realities of girls, addressing their real-world challenges, hopes, and aspirations. This grounded approach makes the process more relevant and ensures that girls feel seen and heard.
10. **Community-based learning and safety focal point:** Onboard a trusted adult from a community-based feminist organization to provide real time safety and learning support, especially for advisory bodies that primarily engage online.



**SPOTLIGHT
INTERVENTIONS**

We are just six years away from 2030, and we face such an urgent need to focus on and invest in youth and girl participation. This is certainly not the moment to take a backseat. In an increasingly challenging environment, it's essential that we gather energy and strategies to remain vigilant, and diligent, and form alliances like AGIP to make sure that we can continue to safeguard and protect girls' rights and decision-making for intergenerational leadership, and gender equality.

**Kathleen Sherwin, AGIP Board Co-chair
Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer - Plan International**

I recommend that other allies continue investing in empowering girls to participate in decision-making spaces and recognize the value of these powerful contributions.

**Ruth Ochieng Juliet, Shian's Mentor (AGIP AGAC Member, Kenya), Program Associate -
Feminists for Peace, Rights, and Justice Centre**

Most of time we just sit and make decisions for these girls, without even listening or consulting these girls to understand what they think or feel. But AGIP AGAC's mission to include girls to sit at the table and make decisions for themselves is something worth applauding.

**Mboringong Rita, Vanessa's Mentor
(AGIP AGAC Member, Cameroon), Program Staff - WESAD**

You go into mentorship thinking you're going to perhaps support or teach, but I learned so much myself. It was really a great way to exchange perspectives, insights and to hear the ambitions of our girl advisors, and what they want to achieve, and to be part of a conversation led by the girls themselves. I really did value that. I think we as leaders, who are mentoring girls and youth, need to listen and give space to them.

**Faith Mwangi-Powell, AGIP Board Member
Chief Executive Officer - Girls not Brides**



AGAC BODIES SHOWCASED DURING THE WEBINAR

1. **AGIP's AGAC:** In March 2023, AGIP launched its very first Adolescent Girls Advisory Committee (AGAC) with the intention of sharing decision-making power with adolescent girls. Read the one-year journey updates [here](#). Girl advisors **Darshana, Paola, Rushna and Ximena** shared insights from AGIP's AGAC.

2. **EMpower's AGAC:** Launched in 2018, Empower's Girl Advisory Council (GAC) is comprised of a group of adolescent girl leaders who advise on their grant-making strategy in India and how to best meet the needs of adolescent girls. Read more about this Council [here](#). Girl advisor **Aliya** shared insights from EMpower's AGAC.

3. **GFW's AGAC:** The Adolescent Girls Advisory Council by the Global Fund for Women drives key strategic decisions across the organisation including how to redistribute funds and other resources through our Adolescent Girls' Rights program. Read more about this Council [here](#). Girl advisor **Kateryna** shared insights from GFW's AGAC.

CONCLUSIONS AND WHAT'S NEXT

In conclusion, the Adolescent Girls Advisory Model is a powerful approach to ensuring that girl-centered interventions and advocacy are co-created with the girls themselves. This webinar highlighted key insights from the advisors on what enables meaningful engagement, the challenges they face, and how allies can better support the impact of AGACs.



Over the coming months, AGIP will collaborate with its Girl Advisors to co-create the transition process for the first cohort, documenting their experiences to celebrate their journey and inspire other organizations to adopt similar models for girls' inclusion in decision-making spaces.

Curious about girls advisory bodies? Write to Pooja Singh, AGIP Youth Engagement and Advocacy Specialist via psingh-consultant@icrw.org