



United We Stand for Girls Rights

2026 Adolescent Girls Summit

Theme: *Count Us In: African Adolescents Co-Creating Solutions to Advance Gender Justice and Rights*

Adolescent and Youth 2026–2028 Action Plan to Accelerate Gender Justice and Rights

From **March 31 to April 3, 2026**, more than 200 adolescents and youth, alongside representatives from governments, international NGOs, United Nations agencies, civil society, community and religious leaders, funders, and the private sector from 25 countries across Africa, Europe, and Latin America, came together for the 3rd edition of the Adolescent Girls Summit in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire. The gathering entirely planned by adolescents and youth aged 10-25 with the support of Global Fund for Children and its local partners in West Africa, provided a unique opportunity for adolescents and youth to learn from one another and from adults, share experiences, and co-create solutions to advance gender justice and rights, with adolescent girls at the forefront.

Over four days of adolescent- and youth-led discussions, intergenerational and policy dialogues, and collective reflection on issues affecting adolescents and youth, participants collectively reviewed progress, examined challenges impacting their lives, and identified practical actions needed to drive meaningful change.

The summit strengthened a **Pan-African adolescent and youth movement for gender justice and rights**, creating networks across countries and regions, fostering solidarity, and building collective power to influence policies and social norms at national and continental levels.

This Action Plan represents our commitment as adolescents and youth to lead the change we want to see. It is a roadmap for turning ideas into action, guiding our efforts to challenge harmful norms, promote equality, equity, justice, and rights, and build inclusive communities. Through this plan, we assert that adolescents and youth are not only participants in shaping policies and programs, they are the driving force for a more just and equitable present and future.

Our Vision as a Pan African Adolescents and Youth Movement for Gender Justice and Rights

We envision societies where every girl, boy, young woman, and young man:

- Is listened to, respected, and meaningfully involved in decisions that affect her/his life;
- Grows up in communities that promote equality, dignity, inclusion, and values that protect the rights and wellbeing of all young people;
- Lives free from violence, discrimination, and harmful practices;
- Has equal access to quality education, health services, and economic opportunities;
- Has access to age appropriate sexual and reproductive health information as well as safe spaces and adolescent- and youth-friendly support services, including mental health support.
- Has access to green spaces, clean air and water, and sustainable livelihoods, and is empowered to actively shape solutions that protect the planet and ensure a healthy environment for present and future generations.

Our Collective Actions to Advance Gender Justice and Rights

We commit, as girls, boys, young women, and young men, to:

- Lead with knowledge and courage by continuously learning about our rights, responsibilities, and the social norms shaping our communities.
- Raise awareness and inspire change through peer education, advocacy campaigns, and community outreach that promote gender justice and respect for the girl's and wellbeing.
- Challenge harmful norms and practices by confronting discrimination, violence, and gender-based injustices, while promoting healthy masculinities and inclusive behaviors.
- Create and strengthen safe spaces where adolescents and youth can meet, collaborate, and express themselves freely, ensuring their mental, physical, and emotional well-being.
- Use creativity, arts, and digital platforms to amplify our voices, share our stories, mobilize our peers and advocate for change.
- Champion inclusion and leadership opportunities for girls, marginalized adolescents, and youth, ensuring no one is left behind.
- Collaborate with communities, leaders, and institutions to co-create solutions, influence policies, and build more equitable, peaceful, and inclusive societies.
- Hold systems accountable by advocating for the effective implementation of laws, policies, and programs that protect and promote the rights of adolescents and youth.

- Strengthen a Pan-African adolescent and youth movement that connects young leaders across borders, strengthens solidarity, and collectively drives change for gender justice and rights.

Support Adolescents and Youth Need to Implement Their Action Plan

To turn this Action Plan into meaningful change, adolescents and youth need strong and sustained support from the duty bearers and stakeholders below:

From Governments

- Allocate adequate resources to support adolescent- and youth-led initiatives;
- Support skills development, vocational training, and employment opportunities for adolescents and youth;
- Ensure accountability and transparency in implementing commitments related to gender justice and adolescents' and youth well-being;
- Expand access to age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in schools and strengthen adolescent- and youth-friendly services to support informed choices and well-being.

From international NGOs, United Nations agencies and Grantmaking institutions

- Create spaces for adolescents and youth to actively and meaningfully contribute to decision-making at regional and global platforms on issues affecting girls.
- Provide continuous technical support, mentorship, and training to strengthen adolescent and youth leadership, equipping young leaders with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to drive change in their communities, influence decision-makers, and sustain their advocacy efforts over time.
- Ensure accessible and flexible funding and resources for adolescent- and youth-led initiatives, enabling them to design, implement, and scale innovative solutions that address challenges in advancing gender justice, rights, and adolescent well-being.

From Civil Society Organizations

- Provide sustained mentorship and guidance for adolescent and youth leaders to strengthen and continuously develop their leadership skills, confidence, and capacity to drive change in their families, schools and communities.
- Actively and meaningfully involve adolescents and youth in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs that affect their lives, ensuring their perspectives, priorities, and voices shape decisions and outcomes.
- Create and maintain safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces where adolescents and youth can meaningfully participate, express their ideas, take initiative, collaborate with peers and adults, and engage in decision-making without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

From Parents, Community, Traditional and Religious Leaders

- Engage families, communities, religious, and local leaders to foster positive social change, encourage supportive attitudes, and create collective responsibility for the well-being, development, and rights of adolescents and youth, ensuring that gender justice and respect for adolescent and youth perspectives become a shared societal value.
- Promote gender justice, rights, and the protection of girls' by actively challenging discrimination, harmful practices, and inequalities, while advocating for laws, policies, and social norms that uphold the dignity, safety, and empowerment of all adolescents and youth.

From Funders and Philanthropic Partners

- Provide flexible and long-term funding that directly supports adolescent- and youth-led initiatives, enabling adolescents and youth young people to design, implement, and sustain programs that address the challenges they face. This funding should be adaptable to their evolving needs, encourage experimentation and innovation.

From the Private Sector

- Provide comprehensive skills training, mentorship, internships, and employment opportunities for adolescents and youth, equipping them with the knowledge, practical experience, and professional networks needed to thrive in the workforce and take on leadership roles in their communities
- Support adolescent and youth entrepreneurship and digital inclusion by investing in programs that foster innovation, creativity, and business development among adolescents and young people.

Our Collective Message as Pan African Adolescent and Youth Movement for Gender Justice and Rights

We, adolescents and youth, affirm that we are not only the future, we are leaders of today. Advancing gender justice and rights requires partnership, trust, and investment in adolescent- and youth-led leadership.

We leave this Summit united and committed to turning ideas into action and working together to build inclusive societies where every girl, every boy, and every young person can reach their full potential.