



United We Stand for Girls Rights

2026 Adolescent Girls Summit (AGS) *Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, March 31-April 3, 2026*

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

Preamble

From March 31 to April 3, 2026, more than 200 adolescents and youth, alongside representatives from governments, international NGOs, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, 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, Côte d'Ivoire.

The gathering entirely planned by adolescents and youth aged 10-25 with the support of Global Fund for Children and its partners in West Africa, provided a unique opportunity for adolescents and youth to learn from one another and from adults, share experiences, build solidarity and co-create solutions to advance gender justice and girls and young women's rights and wellbeing.

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 girls and young women's lives and wellbeing, and identified practical actions needed to drive meaningful change for inclusive societies.

The summit strengthened a **Pan-African adolescent and youth movement for gender justice and girls' rights**, creating networks across countries and communities, fostering solidarity, and building collective power to influence policies and social norms at community, 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, but they are the driving force for a more just and equitable present and future.

Our Vision as a Pan African Adolescent 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;
- Is empowered with agency and decision-making capacity to make informed choices about her/his life, health, and future.
- Has continuous access to education, including for all differently abled young people, marginalized adolescents and youth, pregnant girls and young mothers, supported by re-entry policies and enabling learning conditions
- Learns and thrives in safe, healthy, and inclusive school environments, where every learner feels protected, respected, and supported.
- Lives in communities that uphold zero tolerance for all forms of gender-based violence, including school-related violence, bullying, and harassment.
- 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.
- Lives in clean and healthy environments, with improved access to safe water and sanitation and is empowered with knowledge and practical skills to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors, equipped to raise awareness on climate issues, promote hygiene and waste management, support access to clean water, advocate for sustainable practices, and take leadership in protecting their environments.

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 the right and wellbeing of girls and young women.
- Confront discrimination, violence, and gender-based injustices and actively promote healthy masculinities, respectful and inclusive behaviors.
- Champion inclusion and leadership opportunities for girls and young women, marginalized adolescents, and youth, ensuring no one is left behind.
- Establish and strengthen where needed safe spaces where adolescents and youth particularly girls and young women, can meet, collaborate, and express themselves freely and promote their mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing.
- Leverage creativity, arts, and digital platforms to amplify adolescent and youth voices, share lived experiences, mobilize peers, and advocate for change.
- 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 adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies, and programs that protect adolescent and youth rights.

- Lead and participate in adolescent and youth-led social accountability and monitoring of commitments related to adolescent and youth health, rights and well-being.
- Lead and participate in adolescent and youth-led social accountability and monitoring of the quality of implementation of sexual and reproductive health education and youth-friendly health services delivered to adolescent and young people.

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 adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights and well-being;
- Facilitate access to age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in primary and secondary 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 on regional and global platforms where issues affecting girls are discussed.
- 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

Parents/caretakers/Guardians

- Listen to us—your daughters and sons. Treat us equally. Believe in the potential of your daughters, stand with them when their rights are violated, and demand justice. Invest in your daughters' education, wellbeing, and future.

Community, traditional, and religious leaders:

- Strengthen engagement with families and communities on human rights in order to foster positive social change and create supportive environments where adolescents and youth can thrive, particularly girls and young women.
- Promote attitudes and social norms that value the voices, perspectives, and rights of young people, particularly girls and young women, ensuring they are respected and meaningfully included in decisions that affect their lives.
- Advance gender justice by actively challenging gender-based discrimination and violence, harmful practices, and inequalities and promote healthy masculinities.
- Ensure that both girls and boys are supported to reach their full potential, and continuously advocate for social norms, laws, and policies that uphold the dignity, safety, and empowerment of all adolescents and youth, with a special emphasis on girls and young women.

From Philanthropic Partners

- Provide flexible and long-term funding that directly supports adolescent- and youth-led initiatives, enabling adolescents and youth, 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, particularly girls and young women, 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 enterprises and digital inclusion by investing in programs that foster innovation, creativity, and business development among adolescents and young people, particularly girls and young women.

Our Collective Message as a 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 girls' 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."