



IDG 2020: Working Group on Girls Town Hall

Welcome and Overview

For International Day of the Girl, the Working Group on Girls is hosting a town hall meeting on Friday, October 9th, where girl activists, gender equity thought leaders, and United Nations representatives from around the world, come together to discuss progress and gaps around girls rights and articulate the possibilities for realizing gender equality for all girls.

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

Adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during these critical formative years, but also as they mature into women. If effectively supported during the adolescent years, girls have the potential to change the world – both as the empowered girls of today and as tomorrow's workers, mothers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, and political leaders. An investment in realising the power of adolescent girls upholds their rights today and promises a more equitable and prosperous future, one in which half of humanity is an equal partner in solving the problems of climate change, political conflict, economic growth, disease prevention, and global sustainability.¹

Did You Know

A panel of Girl Activists will be discussing their advocacy work and what equity for girls looks like with policy makers and audience members around the following themes, and we invite you to engage in thinking about the following themes:

- Economic Justice and Rights
 - Female youth aged 15-29 are 3 times more likely than male youth to be outside the labour force and not participating in education.²
 - Almost 70% of economically inactive female youth aged 15-29, who are not in education, indicated that they wish to work in the future.³
- Climate Justice
 - Currently, over half a billion children are living in areas with extremely high levels of flood occurrence, and nearly 160 million live in areas of high or extremely high drought severity.⁴
 - Consequences of disasters such as droughts, floods and storms on women and girls include increased maternal mortality rates and increased child marriage rates.⁵

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/background.shtml>

² <https://data.unicef.org/resources/girlforce-brochure/>

³ <https://data.unicef.org/resources/girlforce-brochure/>

⁴ https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Unless_we_act_now_The_impact_of_climate_change_on_children.pdf

⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/climate-change>



- Menstrual Equity
 - Up to 500 million girls and women are living each month in period poverty. Due to financial constraints, they lack access to essential tools for menstrual hygiene management (MHM), such as sanitary products and handwashing facilities.⁶
 - When looking at 1,000 teens ages 13 to 19 found 20% — one in five — of teenage girls surveyed can't afford to purchase menstrual hygiene products.
 - Of those, 25% missed class because they didn't have access to tampons or pads.⁷
- Gender-based Violence
 - Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. However, girls living in certain parts of the world seem to be at greater risk than others
 - Research has found that girls who have been sexually abused are at higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence and of being involved, or exploited, in sex work later in life
 - Globally, nearly one in three adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (84 million) in formal unions have been the victims of any emotional, physical or sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands or partners at some point in their lives.⁸

Activities

1. Pick one of the four themes that you are passionate about and complete the following Freewrite activity:
 - **Why are you passionate about the theme you chose?**
 - **How does it connect to your community?**
 - **Does your community experience this theme positively or negatively?**
 - **What change would you like to see based on the theme you chose?**
2. Review your Freewrite and formulate a question that you would ask policy makers and girl activists.

Girl Activist Question:



Policy Maker Question:

3. Next, think about equity and what this word means. Equity is a term very similar to equality but takes on a different approach in implementation. Define what equity means to you, below:

4. Check your definition with ours: Equity refers to the fact that different people have varying needs of support and assistance. Therefore, systems exist to be able to support individuals based on their specific needs. The goal of equity is to help achieve fairness in treatment and outcomes. Now brainstorm what equity looks like for girls specifically.

- **Describe in 3 words, what equity means for girls in your community and around the world**
- **What is one thing you believe needs to be accomplished to achieve generation equity for girls?**

5. Review your brainstorm to the questions above and formulate a question that you would ask policy makers and girl activists.

Girl Activist Question:

Policy Maker Question:



Post-Event Reflection:

- Discuss your questions with your peers and group that attended the event. Why are these questions important to you?
- What about this event impacted you the most?
- What did you learn while attending this Town Hall meeting?

What to Do Next

Find out who in your local community has the power to change the problems you see

- How can you get involved with girl activists in your community?
- How can you hold policy makers accountable?

Continue the gender equity conversation by joining us on October 11th at the Working Group on Girl's IDG Speak Out and participating in our 11 Days of Action. Share your ideas with us on social media using the #11DaysofAction and #IDG2020 hashtags.