UK – Denmark side event at CSW62
Tuesday, 13 March 2018, 3:00 – 4:15 pm,
Conference Room 8, UNHQ

YOUTH, GENDER
AND IDENTITY
At this event, we will explore how our gender affects our experience of the modern world. We will consider the complexity of identity, sexuality, age and social media and how social norms influence our behaviors and expectations as well as possibilities in our lives.

Social norms determine the choices of identity and sexuality for both girls and boys. Social media platforms play a decisive role in young people’s world by creating new ways of expressing identity and sexuality. Therefore, social media can be a window of opportunity, but also be a means to reinforce stereotypes and create double standards as to how people of different genders should behave.

We will discuss the latest actions taken by the Danish and UK Governments to empower young people and promote gender and LGBT equality, including the UK National LGBT survey and the Danish study on young people’s perceptions of gender, sexuality and body image in the digital age. For example:

The Danish Longitudinal Survey of Children confirms that gendered body images have a profound impact on boys and girls and that double standards influence the wellbeing of young people. Another Survey of Health, Impairment and Living Conditions in Denmark shows that 67 per cent of 16-20 year olds are not happy with their body image and it is girls in particular who dislike their body image. The UK National LGBT survey that was undertaken last year was completed by over 100,000 people and its results, which are currently being analysed, will inform UK policy in this area.

How do we ensure that our societies offer online and offline spaces for young people to express themselves and share their experiences without fear of being harassed, stigmatized or disadvantaged?

Join our conversation to hear more and make your own suggestions - we would love to hear from you!

**Panellists**

Karen Ellemann, Minister for Equal Opportunities, Denmark

Victoria Atkins, Minister for Women, United Kingdom

Christian Mogensen, Center for Digital Youth Care

Liam Hackett, Founder of pro-equality and anti-bullying charity Ditch The Label

For guests without a UN ground pass, please RSVP to cpeter@um.dk no later than Thursday, 8 March 2018