



Office of the  
**Secretary-General's  
Envoy on Youth**



**IN BRIEF**

# CSW63 YOUTH DIALOGUE MARCH 9 TO 15, 2019

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## **Accelerating youth leadership, activism and power**

Today, young people aged 10 to 24 make up one quarter of the world's population. The aspirations and achievements of these 1.8 billion young people is shaping the future. Social justice movements such as #MarchForOurLives, #FeesMustFall and #NeverAgain, are changing the world. We are one year away from commemorating the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 5-year Review of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, 2020 will be a moment in time, when youth activism must be at its strongest to make a critical and lasting difference for gender equality. UN Women is committed to center stage the voice, leadership and activism of young people in moving the gender equality agenda forward.

The reality that we face today is that, adolescent girls and young women continue to face multiple barriers - violence, limited and unequal access to resources, knowledge, information, networks and markets. They face multiple forms of discrimination due to persistent inequalities, discriminatory laws, stereotypical cultural norms, and unequal gendered social roles attributed to them within their communities and families. Despite all challenges, young women are mobilizing and challenging implicit hierarchies of power, by fighting for equality and justice. They are pushing policy makers to recognize the multiplicity of young women's roles, identities and their intersections and calling for their needs, interests, and priorities to be incorporated into policies that can transform social and economic structures.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as the seminal global intergovernmental body for gender equality, is a key space for young people to be supported to overturn the structural barriers that they face.

## **Youth Dialogue**

The CSW Youth Dialogue is the largest gathering of young people during CSW. It provides a space for intergenerational and intersectional conversations, best practice exchange and networking for all young gender advocates that come to CSW every year to defend their rights.

CSW63 Youth Dialogue mirrors the theme of the official session of the Commission on the Status of Women. In 2019, the priority theme is **"Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."** Young people will critique and demand more from policy makers on what policies and practices are required to tackle specific barriers and obstacles that affect their lives. The discussions must inform the deliberations of the Commission and offer young people an opportunity to propose innovative solutions on how social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure can address and deliver for their needs. Working with youth partners, UN Women will facilitate and ensure that young people's agency, leadership and voice is amplified and heard by policy makers.



## How Young People Make a Difference at CSW63: Step by Step

### WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The Youth Dialogue is critical in contributing to the development of action-oriented recommendations that Member States, civil society and youth-led and serving organizations can adopt in ensuring the effective delivery of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure for young people, girls, young women, and trans and non-binary youth. Therefore, the objectives are to:

- Understand what social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure mean for young people;
- Develop a set of **common minimum standards that will act as guidelines** for policy makers to ensure the participation and leadership of young women, girls, non-binary and trans youth is included in the designing, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure;
- Ensure that the set of **common minimum standards** reflects the voices of young people in the broader CSW63 discussions and negotiations;
- Nurture and support a **network of young gender equality advocates** at community, country, regional and global level contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

### WHAT WILL THE OUTCOME OF OUR DISCUSSIONS BE?

- A set of common minimum standards that will act as guidelines for policy makers in the designing, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure;
- A cohort of effective, dynamic, influential self-mobilizing young advocates leading advocacy and communications for gender equality and young women's empowerment globally and in their own communities;
- A space for young people to strategize, share innovative ideas, best practices and mobilize towards Beijing +25, the Gender Equality Forum, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325 and the review of 5th year of the SDGs implementation in 2020.

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

UN Women will co-convene the CSW63 youth dialogue with the UN SG's Envoy on Youth and in collaboration with youth-led and youth-serving networks and organizations: Girls Scouts and the Working Group on Girls, WAGGGS, AIESEC, World YWCA, AWID, WE, Restless Development, MenEngage Alliance, CHOICE for Youth, ACT Alliance, Rozaria Memorial Trust, FRIDA, Soul City Institute of Social Justice, Plan International, African Women Leadership Network, Afrika Youth Movement, Mexico Women with Disability Movement, the Young Feminist Caucus and the youth delegates.

### HOW WILL THE DIALOGUE HAPPEN?

*Young people will be engaged in multiple ways.*

#### **January to February 2019- Country and regional**

**consultations:** In collaboration with the Working Group on Youth and Gender Equality, youth-led and youth-serving organizations and networks will carry out e-consultations on social media as well as in-person focus group discussions to explore young people's insights on how social protection systems, accessible public services and sustainable infrastructure should address their needs. CSW regional consultations, and where possible, national consultations, will serve as spaces for youth engagement.

**9 March 2019 - Pre CSW-consultation:** A day where young people will develop a set of common minimum standards on how social protection, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure should address the needs of young people. These will be based on the results of the country and regional consultations.

**13 March 2019: High Level Intergenerational Dialogue "Take the hot seat."** Under the spotlight, senior Government and UN leaders will take the "hot seat" and respond to questions on critical issues of achieving social protection, accessible public services and sustainable infrastructure for young people by young people. Young people will lead the intergenerational dialogue and ask policy makers to make a commitment in ensuring that youth voice, agency and leadership is at the center of policy discussions and decision-making.

**15 March 2019: Youth mobilization spaces.** Young people will develop mobilizing strategies that are inclusive of intersectional feminist approaches that can foster and strengthen youth led movements on gender equality across the globe.

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