



**GENERATION
EQUALITY**
REALIZING
WOMEN'S
RIGHTS FOR AN
EQUAL FUTURE



ACTION COALITION ON BODILY AUTONOMY & SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

An Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) was formed following the Generation Equality Forum that was held in Paris, France, in July 2021. This builds on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, and largely contributes to the attainment of gender equality and women and girls' empowerment.

What is Bodily Autonomy and SRHR?

Bodily Autonomy and SRHR are defined as a situation where girls, adolescents, women, transgender, and gender non-binary people can freely access comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information, education, services, and commodities and are supported by their peers, families, and societies to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction, free from coercion, violence, and discrimination.

Gender Equality Vision 2026

1. All people, particularly girls, adolescents, women, transgender, and gender non-binary people in all their diversity are empowered to exercise their SRHR and make autonomous decisions about their bodies free from coercion, violence, and discrimination.

2. SRHR information, education, and services are freely available, accessible, acceptable, and of high quality.

3. Girls', women's, and feminist organizations and funds (including, among others, girl-and youth-led, disability-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, human rights defenders) and their allies are strengthened to advance SRHR.

4. More governments promote, protect and invest in SRHR, including as part of Universal Health Coverage. Working across Action Coalitions, with multiple stakeholders, and at all levels, transform gender and social norms, promote gender equality by applying an intersectional, intercultural, human rights-based approach and improve SRHR outcomes, leaving no one behind.



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Importance of Bodily Autonomy and SRHR



- Bodily autonomy and SRHR are basic human rights.
- Universal access to SRHR is crucial for the achievement of the realisation of other rights and the achievement of human development goals.
- The ability to fulfill SRHR, free from any form of violence, discrimination, and coercion is critical for the health and human rights of individuals, gender equality, and socioeconomic development.

Importance of Bodily Autonomy and SRHR

Girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people who face racism, ableism, and other forms of marginalization and discrimination, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and social and economic disadvantage are being hardest hit by COVID-19 with negative consequences for bodily autonomy and SRHR. COVID-19 has worsened the inequalities in the achievement of SRHR. In 2020, UNFPA reported that the pandemic prevented 12 million women from accessing contraceptives, leading to 1.4 million unplanned pregnancies. COVID-19-related school closures and economic hardships exacerbated the vulnerability of adolescent girls to sexual abuse, child, early and forced marriage and unions and early pregnancy.



What Needs to Change?

<p>Address the practical barriers, discrimination, and stigma faced by girls, adolescents, women, transgender, and gender non-binary people when seeking to fulfill their basic human rights.</p>	<p>Amplify access to information, education, and essential, high-quality SRHR services and address the backlash, regression, and use of harmful interventions.</p>
<p>Deliver Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in formal or non-formal settings; promote human rights; transform harmful gender-norms and empowers children, adolescents, and youth in all of their diversity to take responsible and informed decisions about their bodies, sexuality, and reproduction.</p>	<p>Provide CSE and rights education contributes to the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including Child/Early and Forced Marriages and Unions (CEFMU), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and child sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Ensure respectful non-discriminatory health care, free of coercion and stigma to girls, adolescents, women, and transgender, and gender non-binary people when seeking SRHR services.</p>	<p>Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of voluntary contraception and comprehensive abortion care and services in order to promote health, human rights and bodily autonomy.</p>



Promote the availability of information, knowledge, skills, access, and social support to girls, adolescents, women, transgender, and gender non-binary people to facilitate their own agency to make autonomous decisions about their bodies and SRH across the life course.

Advocate against all social and gender norms that foster unequal power relations, patriarchy, and toxic constructions of masculinity that shape broader household, community, and social practices and erect barriers to the ability of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations to seek SRH services and exercise bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights.

A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR BODILY AUTONOMY & SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Action 1

Increase delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school **reaching 50 million more children, adolescents, and youth** in all their diversity by 2026.

What Can you Do?

Law and Policies



Strengthen legal and policy frameworks by making CSE aligned with international guidelines part of the national education curricula (guaranteed/compulsory from early childhood education through to university, examinable) and by ensuring girls and adolescents have equal access to inclusive education, free from limitations related to disability, marital, pregnancy, or childbearing status.

Norms and Change



Create an enabling environment that supports CSE. Adolescent and youth-led organisations should be capacitated and supported to meaningfully engage in the development of the policies and programmes that affect them. This effort could include a change in the structure of decision-making spaces and programs, as well as activities targeting adult gatekeepers.

Education



Strengthen human and financial resources for in-school CSE (educator training and accreditation, link educators with NGOs) and out-of-school and non-formal settings, including humanitarian and crisis settings. Approaches should include group-based workshops, youth-led initiatives, peer delivery, traditional modes of information distribution, and digital media including apps, TV, and community radio.

Service Delivery



Link CSE, which creates demand, with youth-friendly SRH services that are confidential, accessible and acceptable to children, adolescents, and youth. Ensure that education linked to SRH services is accessible to all young people who face the greatest barriers, including those with disabilities.



Action 2

Within a comprehensive framework that includes SRHR services as an essential component of UHC for all people, **increase the quality of and access to contraceptive services for 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity**; support removal of restrictive policies and legal barriers, ensuring 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity live in jurisdictions where they can access safe and legal abortion by 2026.

What Can you Do?

Service Delivery



Improve access to quality primary health care and Universal Health Coverage that includes SRH services. These services include menstrual awareness and health, choice of voluntary male- and female-controlled methods of contraception, and safe abortion and post-abortion care and services, without requiring third-party consent. Scale-up community delivered commodities; facilitate access to information and services to promote self-care and task shifting; and remove financial, legal, and socio-cultural barriers, including for indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, and transgender or nonbinary gender identities,

Law and Policies



- Governments adopt and implement national laws, policies, and guidelines to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services; including telemedicine, comprehensive family planning services; over-the-counter delivery, and self-managed contraception and abortion care through the implementation of WHO self-care guidelines.
- Remove regulatory and policy barriers that impede access to safe abortion to the full extent of the law, provide post-abortion care and enact reforms to legalize and decriminalize abortion.

Financing



- Increase and improve domestic resources and external financing to ensure access to SRH services through both health sector and community-based delivery mechanisms, improve choices of SRH commodities and remove financial barriers with a focus on male- and female-controlled contraception and abortion.
- Invest in market analysis, commodity security and diversification, and strategic purchasing.

Action 3

Through gender norms change and increasing knowledge of rights, **empower all people including 260 million more girls, adolescents and women in all of their diversity** to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction by 2026; enact legal and policy change to protect and promote bodily autonomy and SRHR in at least 20 countries by 2026.

What Can you Do?

Norms and Change



- Invest in and scale-up gender/social norms change approaches to transform unequal power relations and promote equality and human rights.
- Involve people of all genders, sexual orientations, and identities in fighting patriarchy and addressing toxic masculinity and related harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages and unions, female genital mutilation, and child sexual abuse.
- Challenge stigma and discrimination and harmful gender norms and practices related to SRHR, including menstrual health, that restricts bodily autonomy and affect access to services for girls, adolescents, women, transgender, and non-binary people.
- Ensure that no person including those with disabilities, is either forced to or prevented from using contraception or abortion and that they have the support they need to make informed decisions and to have their decisions respected.
- Ensure that all people are protected against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Law and Policies



- Support bodily autonomy by removing legal and policy barriers to the exercise of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including barriers within health systems, and those related to age, disability, marital status, gender or other identities, sexual orientation, or third-party consent requirements.
- Implement standards and guidelines that recognize, respect, protect and fulfill the rights and capacities of all people, including those with disabilities, to decide about their bodies and to consent (or not) to sex, SRHR services, and marriages or unions.
- Ensure enforcement of laws and policies protecting voluntary access to contraception, abortion, and other services and commodities, including menstrual products, for all people, particularly marginalised populations.
- Eliminate laws and policies that restrict access to school or other educational opportunities due to pregnancy or any aspect of bodily autonomy.

Action 4

Increase accountability to, **participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women's organizations (including girl and adolescent-led, and Indigenous organizations and collectives), women human rights defenders, and peacebuilders.** Strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.

What Can you Do?

Accountability and Participation



- Increase participation of autonomous girls', women's, and feminist organizations in decision-making about policies and programs related to bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organisations include autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl-an youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders, and peacebuilders and their allies.
- Adolescent- and youth-led organizations should be meaningfully engaged in the development of the policies and programmes that affect them.

Financing



Increase financial support, including for capacity building, to organizations that are working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organizations include autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl- and youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders and their allies.

Law and Policies



Create and sustain a safe and enabling environment to ensure that organisations are protected, can operate in free and safe space and can partner with States in fulfilling their existing human rights obligations and commitments on bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organizations include autonomous girls', women's, and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl- and youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders, and peacebuilders and their allies.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

Civil Society Organisations, Women Rights Organisations and Feminist Movements can join a collective commitment by visiting <https://commitments.generationequality.org/>

What can you do to make a Change?

1. **Make a financial commitment** that will support the realisation of an action to advance gender equality results.
2. **Initiate or join Advocacy campaigns** to amplify and mobilise support for transformative change to achieve the goals of the Action Coalition.
3. **Make Policy commitments** that can be translated into concrete policy change.
4. **Ensure that programmatic commitments** are able to deliver programs, services, research or other actions, with a focus on scale.



The Leaders of the Bodily Autonomy and SRHR Action Coalition include:



**URGENT
ACTION
FUND +
AFRICA**

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTACT DETAILS



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Publication Release: March 2022



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