

## **CSW67 Girls Statement**

We, the girls of the 67th Commission on the Status of Women, assert that technology and its benefits are fundamental rights to women and girls. Girls have historically been deprived of access to technology, especially rural and indigenous girls, due to gender bias, socio-economic issues, and insufficient educational support. We demand that Member States create safe digital spaces for advocacy and inclusive representation of girls, and increase access to affordable opportunities for girl-specific digital education and literacy.

Digital platforms provide opportunities for education and awareness. However, girls are disproportionately exposed to ICT-facilitated violence and harassment. A fear of this violence on digital platforms limits girls' access to social media and curbs their voices, leadership, and self-esteem. However, this issue is frequently downplayed due to stereotypes that characterize girls as overly reactive to online criticism, instead of focusing on the negative environment of digital platforms.

In order to create safe digital platforms and learning communities and promote girls' voices digitally, we urge Member States to:

- Increase access to social media for girls suppressed by powerful institutions to protect their advocacy and representation.
- Create safe digital learning communities through increased enforcement of community guidelines, addressing gaps in safety policies, and increasing accountability through clear processes of reporting digital harassment.

All girls should have access to digital education and literacy. Due to a bias in education, girls struggle to receive and understand technology. Today, technology is an essential source of information, necessitating the improvement of digital literacy. Despite girls' high interest to pursue technological careers, they are limited due to gender bias, insufficient access to technology, and a lack of inclusive educators.

In order to prioritize digital education and literacy for girls, we urge Member States to:

- Promote gender-responsive digital teaching and learning by investing in teacher training on gender-responsive digital pedagogy and removing gender bias from the digital curriculum.
- Work with communities with low digital literacy to emphasize the benefits of technology on girls' lives.
- Curate affordable girl-specific digital education and technology for girls by increasing government funding for digital literacy classes and school-issued technology to support girls' access and education in STEM.

We, the girls of the 67th Commission on the Status of Women, call on Member States to immediately fulfill their responsibilities to girls to provide equal access to education,

representation, security, and safety in the digital world to girls from all backgrounds. Policy makers must actively equip girl leaders, especially those from traditionally disadvantaged communities, with educational and professional opportunities in digital spaces, and work with necessary stakeholders to create girl-specific solutions.

We assert that the full protection of human rights will only be achieved once girls, too, have equal rights in the digitalized world.

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Each year, a group of girl-centered organizations convenes to support the development of the CSW Girls' Statement. The Girls' Statement brings together CSW girl delegates to provide their perspectives and recommendations on the annual CSW theme. The draft document is written by a small coordinating group of 12-15 girls and then shared with a wider network for feedback, input, and final changes. This year, the CSW Girls' Statement was written and informed by 80 girls from 13 countries.

Girls from the following organizations and networks participated in the Girls' Statement drafting process

- Black Girl Rising
- Girls Learn International
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Global G.L.O.W.
- The Grail
- Greek Orthodox Church
- IBVM Loreto
- Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd