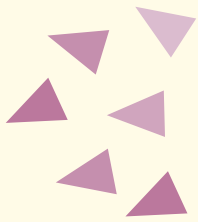


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Stop the Violence. Period.



Too many acts of violence are being normalised and permitted Cycles propagated by poverty. **Each year 12 million girls are married before the age of 18, and 15 million adolescent girls worldwide experience rape.**¹ For women, the single most common reason for becoming homeless is violence.² And the cost of gender-based violence is crippling to the individual, as well as society and nations economically.

Call to Action:

- **END CHILD MARRIAGE NOW:**

Take a holistic approach to ending child marriage by raising the minimum age of marriage to 18, advance girls rights, raise awareness and support communities and families out of poverty Update any constitutional clauses that prohibit the introduction and enforcement of stringent laws towards eradicating child marriage to disrupt cycles of poverty, violence and denying children's right to education.



- **SECURE WOMEN'S SAFETY:**

Demand for increased financial resources to support and fund women's organisations that are providing safety, shelter and developing expert, trauma-informed tools and mechanisms to help all survivors overcome violence and harassment.

- **ENGAGE ALL OF SOCIETY :**

Implement targeted policies and programs that provide mothers with access to education, employability skills and resources to break the cycles of dependency, poverty and living with abuse. Engage men and boys through gender-transformative and inclusive education that challenges harmful masculinity norms and stereotypes.

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¹ UN Women, Facts and Figures: Ending Violence Against Women: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#:~:text=Less%20than%2040%20per%20cent,as%20police%20and%20health%20services.>

² Gender-based Violence and Poverty in Europe Report, 2019, EAPN Gender-based violence working group briefing note #2 <https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/EAPN-Gender-violence-and-poverty-Final-web-3696.pdf>

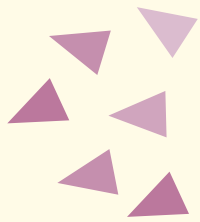


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Breaking the chain of period poverty



Women and girls worldwide face various challenges due to period poverty, an ongoing issue that affects their livelihoods. Approximately **500 million girls** lack access to menstrual products and adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene management (MHM)³. Taboos surrounding menstruation exacerbate this problem, leaving many without proper knowledge or choices. Prioritising affordability, education, and access to sustainable solutions is crucial to ensure menstruation doesn't hinder health, dignity, or equality.

Call to Action:

- **AFFORDABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS:**

Invest in, innovate and regulate the production of menstrual products so that they are sustainable, accessible and harm-free to users. This includes removing 'luxury status' categorisation, eliminating 'tampon tax' and allocating funds for subsidies to enhance affordability for low-income individuals.

- **MENSTRUAL HYGIENE ACCESS:**

Ensure menstrual products are readily available in public spaces like schools, workplaces, and community centres, while forging strategic partnerships with NGOs to widen distribution and effectively combat period poverty.

- **QUALITY EDUCATION ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH:**

Promote and enforce policy for the inclusion of comprehensive health education about the body, puberty and menstruation so that all children and young adults are informed. Encouraging investment in appropriate teacher training for quality education and engaging parents / caregivers to together dismantle stigma and prejudice within the community which is a barrier to social progress.



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³ World Bank, Menstrual Health and Hygiene Brief 2022: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/brief/menstrual-health-and-hygiene>



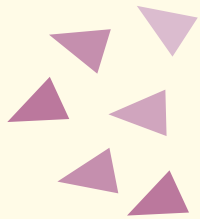
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Creating the world where I'm Free Being Me



8 out of 10 girls are so concerned with how they look⁴, that they opt out of important activities; meaning girls and women are limiting their lives, and at times putting them at grave risk, due to unregulated and harmful beauty standards. We must reach all girls, knowing that self-esteem is lower among adolescents of low socio-economic status and is associated with a number of intrapersonal, interpersonal and socio-cultural factors.

Call to Action:

- **ETHICAL INFLUENCER STANDARDS:**

Demand and enforce rigorous ethical guidelines for influencers, especially in the beauty and fashion sectors. These must discourage the promotion of unattainable beauty standards, which perpetuate feelings of low self-esteem and poor mental health, particularly among economically disadvantaged girls.

- **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVES:**

Insist on the implementation of comprehensive anti-bullying programs in schools and demand an expansion to existing curricula to include and actively promote an understanding of socio-economic diversity: cultivating empathy, respect and solidarity among students and society.

- **INVEST IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ON BODY CONFIDENCE:**

Mobilise funds for government investment in non-formal education on body confidence, developed from a gender-informed perspective. This should include workshops, community programs, and online resources aimed at fostering healthy body image and self-esteem for all.



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⁴ WAGGGS: Free Being Me Programme:
<https://www.waggs.org/en/what-we-do/free-being-me/>

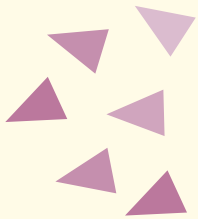
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Closing the Gap: Digital Access for All



We strive to address internet poverty by making access affordable for marginalised communities. Integrating safety education, fostering inclusive policy-making, and promoting mentorship empower girls and young women from low-income backgrounds to thrive digitally.

Call to Action:

- **CONNECTIVITY:**

Allocate funding and invest in the expansion of broadband infrastructure, ensuring equitable internet access for girls and young women residing in rural and remote regions. Implement subsidy programs or voucher systems to enhance affordability, specifically targeting low-income families.

- **ONLINE SAFETY EDUCATION:**

Incorporate internet safety education into educational curricula across all levels, providing girls and young women with knowledge about online risks, responsible digital conduct, privacy and strategies for maintaining online safety.

- **INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION:**

Involve girls, young women, and marginalised groups in shaping policy making processes concerning internet access and safety. Expand remote work opportunities, providing flexibility to aid those facing geographical barriers and caregiving responsibilities.



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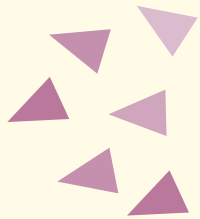
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Girl Led Action on Climate Change



Girls and women are disproportionately affected by climate change due to the existing gender inequality which worsens their vulnerability. They can play a vital role in responding to environmental degradation and climate change, yet they are often excluded from wider discourse, and participation in decision-making. Girls and young women must participate at all levels of decision making and in the design, delivery and implementation of environmental programmes in order to shape a sustainable and equal future for all.

Call to Action:

- **PROVIDE TARGETED SUPPORT AND PROTECTION** for girls and women in climate-induced displacement scenarios.
- **SUPPORT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS** and income-generating opportunities to enhance their financial resilience.
- **ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS** to resources and decision-making power for girls and young women in vulnerable communities.



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