

# WAGGGS AT CSW61

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN | 13 -24 MARCH 2017  
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK



## THE OUTCOME WE WANT

As the world lays the groundwork for the Sustainable Development Goals, now is the time to deliver on the commitments made and take genuine action to create a world where our human rights are protected, our work is respected and valued, we do not face barriers of discriminatory legislation and practice, and our life choices are not compromised by pervasive and harmful gender stereotypes.

As the only global movement for every girl and any girl, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts calls on the governments, business sector and civil society to help us to make this vision of the world a reality.

### Recognise that economic empowerment starts with girls

Women's economic empowerment starts with girls. Investing in girls is a primary means of increasing economic outcomes for them later in life.

- **Adopt a life-cycle approach** that empowers girls and women at all stages of their life, and ensure a specific reference to the unique needs of girls in the Agreed conclusions to help them to transition into adulthood as economically empowered women.
- **Acknowledge and invest in girls' leadership potential**, empower them to be leaders and innovators of the Global Goals



### Address discriminatory social norms and practices

Discriminatory social norms pose huge barriers to women's and girls' economic empowerment. Imposed on girls from the moment they are born, they legitimise discrimination against girls and women in both the public and private domain. These continue to shape the unequal status and role of girls and young women in society and translate into the world of work.

- **Transform discriminatory social norms, stereotypes and practices** through legislative reforms, awareness-raising and media campaigns and educational programmes for both boys and girls.
- **Recognise the value of 'feminised roles'** (caregiving in careers and unpaid work) and take measures to reduce and redistribute the burden of care and household work for girls.
- **Tackle gender norms so** that girls and women can make and act on economic decisions.



## Empower girls' economic futures through education

Women's full and equal participation in the workforce begins with girls' full and equal participation in education. All girls need to have access to quality education to be equipped with essential skills needed for economic empowerment.

- **Take measures to increase the value placed on girls' quality education at all levels** and tackle the discriminatory expectations around girls' choice of subjects in school.
- **Recognise the role of non-formal education** as critical for girls' empowerment and complementary to formal education.
- **Ensure educational curriculums include essential skills for economic empowerment** including leadership, problem-solving, digital literacy, self-confidence, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills.
- **Invest in human rights and gender equality education** to tackle the ideologies of male superiority.
- **Invest in education on body confidence and self-esteem** recognizing that the pressure to adhere to society's beauty norms has a lasting impact on girls' ability to fulfil their potential



## Make the invisible visible – let's see girls in data, leadership and policy

Gender issues, and specifically the unique challenges faced by girls and young women, are too often invisible in policy, strategy and data.

- **Disaggregate national data under each Sustainable Development Goal target** by age, sex and other categories bearing in mind the intersecting nature of inequality so that progress for all girls is adequately captured.
- **Collect data to track progress on the transformation of social norms.**
- **Conduct genuine consultation with girls and young women** in designing the programmes and policies which affect them.



## End violence against girls and women

Aside from its harmful consequences for health and well-being, violence is a major barrier to women' and girls' economic empowerment - whether experienced in the workplace, educational settings, in the community or at home.

- **Eliminate all forms of violence** against girls and women.
- **Recognise the prevalence of, and take actions to address, economic violence** where money and financial resources are used as a means of control.
- **Provide prevention education for boys and girls** that addresses harmful norms that maintain unequal power relations between men and women, and condone violence.

