



**GLOBAL
SUMMIT**
ARGENTINA
2018

**G(IRLS)20 COMMUNIQUÉ
TO G20 LEADERS**



CULTIVATING A NEW GENERATION OF FEMALE LEADERS

COMMUNIQUÉ TO G20 LEADERS

We, the delegates of the 2018 G(irls)20 Summit, met in Buenos Aires, October 13-19, 2018.

Based on our deliberations, we call on G20 Leaders to reaffirm the 2030 Agenda to accomplish Sustainable Development Goal 5 to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

To advance the 2030 Agenda, we believe G20 countries must continue to engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including: international bodies, civil society, the private sector, and all levels of government. This engagement must use an intersectional lens to ensure that the diverse needs of women and girls are considered. This includes the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples, and the respect of Indigenous knowledge, culture and traditional practices, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We urge G20 Leaders to collect extensive gender disaggregated and intersectional **data** and include compulsory reporting to a central body to analyze the progress of gender equality in the G20 countries.

We recognize the importance of providing direct funding to organizations advancing gender equality. G20 Leaders must create mechanisms to increase funding and monitor corrupt practices prevalent in fund distribution and implementation. A strong monitoring mechanism should include periodic audits and strict legal measures against perpetrators of corrupt practices.

During our consultations, we examined five distinctive pillars to close the gender gap and we call upon the G20 Leaders to:

1. PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DIGITAL SPACES
2. FOSTER ACCESS TO STEAM* EDUCATION AND CAREERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS
3. PROVIDE FINANCIAL ACCESS AND LITERACY THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS
4. IMPLEMENT STRONG LEGAL MECHANISMS TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
5. ADVANCE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEANS

1. PROVIDE SAFE ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DIGITAL SPACES

Vision for 2030: Women and girls will safely and authentically participate in digital spaces, free from gender hate-speech, harassment and the policing of non-conforming bodies.

At the 2018 G20 Summit, we call upon each G20 government to recognize the negative, exclusionary and damaging effects of online gender hate on women’s democratic participation, physical and mental health, and safety, and:

1. **Legislate against gender hate speech** and **provide legal avenues to seek redress** for assaults on personal integrity, without hindering the right to political or democratic expression. **Provide mandatory sensitivity training to law enforcement** on how to respond to reports of gender hate speech with empathy and action.
2. Strongly call upon **social media companies to discourage the existence and algorithmic prioritization** of gendered hate on their platforms, provide opportunities for users to **report gender hate speech** and ensure **harmful material is investigated with consequences** for users.
3. **Regulate gender-sensitive training for media professionals** on the role of language and imagery in breaking stereotypes to transform gender relations, and the importance of including diverse images of women in the media to combat damaging consequences of a unitary unrealistic standard of beauty on mental and physical health.

2. FOSTER ACCESS TO STEAM* EDUCATION AND CAREERS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS *(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics)

Vision for 2030: Women will have access to equal participation and representation, and will be free of discrimination, in STEAM* education and careers.

At the 2018 G20 Summit, we call upon each G20 government to:

1. **Provide government incentives, and sufficient financial and resource-based** support to initiatives that help improve and provide access to women and girls in STEAM.
2. Create programs in the public and private sectors that offer **career counseling and mentorship** for women in STEAM.
3. Support the **recruitment, retention and advancement** of female workforce in STEAM field, through **inclusive and non-discriminatory policies and regulations** to protect women.

3. PROVIDE FINANCIAL ACCESS AND LITERACY THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS

Vision for 2030: Women and girls from diverse backgrounds will be financially literate and participate in an inclusive economy.

We welcome the 2017 G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan which recognizes the important of financial inclusion as a tool for “poverty eradication, job creation, gender equality, and women's empowerment”. To that end, **at the 2018 G20 Summit,** we call upon each G20 government to:

1. **Incorporate financial literacy programmes** into the formal education system and create a regulating body to monitor the increase of financial autonomy of women and girls.
2. **Increase technology infrastructure** to advance digital financial literacy programs in areas that lack infrastructure necessary to access financial services, with special attention towards access to internet in rural areas.
3. **Increase investment** in corporations and civil society organisations which focus on financial literacy for illiterate women and girls in areas with limited digital access, with a special emphasis on marginalized communities.

4. IMPLEMENT STRONG LEGAL MECHANISMS TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Vision for 2030: All forms of violence against women and girls in the private and public sphere will be significantly reduced. Women and girls will have safe and easy access to legal mechanisms to report and be protected from gender-based violence.

At the 2018 G20 Summit, we call upon each G20 government to enforce legislation in line with Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights focused on the prevention of gender-based violence and femicide, the protection of young women, strict punishment for aggressors and to:

1. **Incorporate training and educational programmes** into the formal education system to teach women and girls about their rights on gender-based violence as it relates to the domestic context.
2. **Require that law enforcement** treats all reports of gender-based violence as high priority, especially in life-threatening situations. **Create mandatory training** to include response protocols, trauma, bias, cultural sensitivity, evidence-collecting, victim and aggressor interviewing, and risk assessment.
3. **Provide funding for comprehensive services** for survivors including financial support initiatives, mental health services, and access to safe spaces for reporting and protection. Additionally, provide funding for rehabilitation services for aggressors, including counseling.
4. **Require employers to have policies that protect women** against gender-based violence and harassment. These policies should be in line with standards laid out by the International Labor Organisation and UN Women.
5. **Create an official body to monitor sexual harassment** in the workplace at the national level.

5. ADVANCE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEANS

Vision for 2030: Women and girls in rural areas have equal access to quality education and strong infrastructure, creating a prospering environment for learning. Women are autonomous and independent agents of change within their communities.

At the 2018 G20 Summit, we call upon each G20 government to:

1. **Incrementally develop and maintain critical physical infrastructure**, including transport, sanitation facilities and electricity. Having improved upon this foundational infrastructure, we urge leaders to aspire to full, nationwide digital connectivity in all rural schools. These educational spaces must exist in a secure environment where all girls feel safe to learn.
2. **Increase educational funding** targeted at rural areas to reach parity with urban students.
3. Recognizing that participation in education should not just be focused on schools and that **a key barrier to education of girls is deeply embedded social norms in the community**, we urge G20 leaders to:

- i) **Incentivize community stakeholders** to become qualified and invested educators in rural communities.
- ii) **Provide gender-sensitive training** to teachers throughout their teaching tenure and create special efforts for them to be incentivized and supported by living wages.
- iii) **Contextualize the syllabi and skill-sets** to ensure that young women and girls are obtaining relevant and tangible skills. This includes but is not limited to education on resources in healthcare, securing financial independence and sustainable use of resources like agricultural land.

Signed by the 2018 G(irls)20 Delegates:

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Union

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Please note the delegate for Saudi Arabia, Ftoon AlThaedi, was not able to attend the Summit.

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