Who We Are

Founded during the build-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, the Working Group on Girls (WGG) is a coalition of national and international non-governmental organizations with representation at the United Nations.

What We Do

We work for and with girls to empower all girls to improve the status of the Girl Child and to ensure the full implementation of her human rights. We believe girls’ empowerment and inclusion is critical for the achievement of the goals unanimously agreed upon in the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of Generation Equality.

Why We Do It

Girls face unique forms of discrimination, inequalities, vulnerabilities and exclusions, both before and throughout their lives. However, the world continues to deny their specific identities as girls, thus making it difficult to put a spotlight on the issues that are unique to them or find solutions that would properly address them. For this reason, WGG maintains that girls must be at the decision making table, empowered to speak for themselves, in their identities as girls, separate from women, separate from “children.” It is the girl who best knows the issues she faces and can speak to what is needed to successfully address them. The realization of girls’ rights is an essential element to the realization of gender equality: to deny or delay them their rights is to deny or delay the equal rights of all.

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<th>Provide Equal rights</th>
<th>End Discrimination</th>
<th>Empower Girls</th>
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<td>Recognize rights of all girls as girls, particularly in their intersectionality; Provide and allocate sufficient financial support to achieve these ends; Prosecute at all levels of governance those who violate these rights.</td>
<td>Enforce legislation criminalizing harmful cultural practices; Promote action plans that ensure girls’ full participation in education and the economy; Transform harmful attitudes through the training of adults and communities; Encourage the full participation of women, men and boys, as allies, in achieving girls' full equality.</td>
<td>Support all girls in their own empowerment and ensure their rights are guaranteed; Ensure their equal participation in decision-making spaces; Educate girls on their rights related to exploitation, labor and gender-based violence, through scientifically-based and survivor-informed training; Recognize the significance of all forms of exploitation and violence against girls.</td>
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Priority Areas and Key Recommendations for Eliminating Discrimination against Girls and Achieving Generation Equality

Provide Equal Rights for ALL Girls:

- Recognize girls as human rights-holders, distinct from women or boys.
- Prioritize the rights of all girls in their intersectional identities and locations – across the spectrum of age, gender, sexual and gender identities, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, class, differing abilities, geographical location and migratory status.
- Allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the rights of the girl child at home and of the homeless girl child, within every community and country, regionally and globally.
- Implement law provisions that hold accountable and criminally prosecute the violators of girls’ rights at local, national and global levels.

End ALL Forms of Discrimination:

- Enforce effective measures to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and cultural attitudes and behaviors against girls within the family, community and society that result in unethical practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference, femicide, early and forced marriage, sexual abuse.
- Promote comprehensive plans of action to eliminate all forms of discriminatory policies excluding the girl child in education and formal economy at all levels.
- Develop training programmes to educate adults and communities on the importance of girls’ physical, mental and social health and well-being.
- Encourage all women, men and boys to fully participate, as allies, in all actions towards deconstructing patriarchy and removing obstacles to the advancement of girls and to generation equality.

Empower ALL Girls:

- Support girls at all levels to fully exercise their voice and agency on their own behalf and to ensure that the rights of the girl child are guaranteed in all aspects of life.
- Ensure equal opportunities for girls to participate in decision-making spaces in economic, political and social spheres.
- Provide research and survivor informed training and education to raise awareness among girls on their rights to be free from economic or sexual exploitation, child labor and all forms of gender-based violence.

WGG Website: https://girlsrights.org/