

## DECONSTRUCTING AND REDEFINING ACTIVISM:

YOUTH LEAD GENERATION EQUALITY LOCALIZATION



## FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL:

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The 2021 Generation Equality Forum (GEF) fueled a powerful coalition of gender equality advocates from all walks of life, with youth and adolescent girls at the center, who embarked on the 5-year journey to accelerate equality, leadership and opportunity for women and girls worldwide. The ability to succeed in this journey will lie in catalyzing change at the regional and country levels.

Approximately 80 percent of the <u>Commitments</u> made at GEF, focus on one or more national contexts, demonstrating the critical need to "go local".

The Generation Equality Localization workshop, co-created and convened by adolescent girl leaders and UN Women in June 2022, aimed at discussing actions and sharing experiences that can advance gender equality in local communities.



Exploring practices of decolonization and deconstruction of harmful social norms.

Adapting materials to local knowledge systems.

Emphasizing the intersectionality of gender equality.

Centering experiences of marginalized people, including young people living in rural and remote areas, outside of online spaces.

Developing capacity-strengthening tools with local leaders to engage and influence decision-making.

HOW TO LOCALIZE GENERATION EQUALITY

Capturing under-

represented real-

ities at the grass-

roots and local

levels.

Developing diverse and gender sensitive data, engaging local youth to undertake voluntary data reviews. Developing accessible versions of reports, policies, and briefings to inform young people on current trends.

Coordinating educational materials on Generation Equality that can be distributed to schools and institutions.



## AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATION EQUALITY ACTIVISM:

Generation Equality marked the beginning of intersectional global activism for many young people, allowing them to leverage Generation Equality brand and UN Women spaces including multi-stakeholder resources to advance their movements and contribute to the mission of Generation Equality. The activities undertaken by youth and adolescents differ due to opportunities for networking, community engagement, and movement-building, but includes the drive to achieve social change and engage in value shifting.

Localizing Generation Equality must reject a one-size-fits-all approach, and the outcomes of the GEF must be contextualized. The opportunities to localize the outcomes on different levels are critical. However, activists noted that there are barriers to advancing gender equality including ongoing conflicts and human rights violations in different countries.

Effective and meaningful localization needs a reliable base of community support, adequate resources and optimal levels of safety and security.

Broad and wide-ranging recommendations can aid in youth and adolescents contextualizing their advocacy to their needs and that of their communities. Youth and adolescents called for practical localization frameworks as prerequisites for effective implementation of Generation Equality.



## WHERE TO FROM HERE:

Generation Equality's localization will contribute to accelerate gender equality and strengthen young people's advocacy efforts and civic participation.

The <u>Young Feminist Manifesto</u>, which stresses the importance of co-creation, co-development, and co-leadership with young people, represents a critical tool to strengthen youth voices and participation. Its principles remain an important guide for implementation of Generation Equality strategies.

UN Women will build on the findings generated from the workshop and other spaces to work towards addressing the priorities of adolescents and youth leaders to sustain and further Generation Equality localization.

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