



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 December 2024

English only

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-ninth session

10–21 March 2025

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to
the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by World Youth Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The World Youth Alliance is a global coalition of young people dedicated to the promotion and protection of human dignity and the upholding of human rights. We are committed to respecting the dignity of the person and fostering a culture in which men and women live in genuine freedom and solidarity.

Thirty years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +5), their goals are yet to be realized, particularly in the area of safeguarding maternal health consistent with the dignity of every woman. World Youth Alliance will analyse the achievements and propose improvements for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in light of the dignity of the human person. Specifically, we will highlight the critical importance of access to education and the role of the family to empower women and girls and reduce vulnerability to violence.

To drive meaningful progress toward these goals, it is essential to first acknowledge that every human being possesses intrinsic dignity. This dignity forms the only solid and enduring foundation for human rights. It is the inherent worth of each person that provides the basis for shaping policies and laws that foster conditions where individuals can truly thrive. Without this foundation, human rights risk becoming illusory, subject to the arbitrary decisions of those in power. Therefore, effective advancement in human rights, equality, and development must center on the unwavering commitment to uphold human dignity above all else. Women's roles in families and communities must be recognized and strengthened, as empowering women directly contributes to the creation of equitable societies where everyone can thrive. Promoting awareness about women's contributions fosters respect and solidarity, essential for enhancing social institutions and combating poverty.

Advancing maternal health requires the implementation of evidence-based solutions. WYA recommends several approaches, such as enhancing prenatal care by providing essential information on pregnancy, delivery, and access to skilled birth attendants. These attendants are trained to detect early complications, prevent infections, manage the placenta to reduce blood loss, and ensure proper rest and hydration for the mother. Additionally, birthing facilities must be adequately equipped with essential medications to address major complications. Improvements to healthcare infrastructure, including education and transportation, are also vital to ensuring better maternal health outcomes.

Equally important is increasing access to education for women, which is key to their empowerment and the recognition of their equality. Investing in women's education not only promotes empowerment but also leads to reduced family poverty, improved health outcomes, and lower child mortality rates. Therefore, states must prioritize education as a fundamental strategy for driving progress in maternal health and overall development.

Adopting a person-centered approach to development means recognizing the unique needs and aspirations of each individual. Policies designed with this perspective in mind empower women to reach their full potential. To build societies prepared to confront the challenges of the 21st century, we advocate for a comprehensive approach to social and personal development. This approach must consider the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals, particularly addressing the vulnerabilities faced by women. For instance, integrating human dignity education, in line with the General Comment No. 1: The Aims of Education (article 29) (2001) (Adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the Twenty-sixth Session, [CRC/GC/2001/1](#), 17 April 2001), which states that “the goal is to empower the child by developing his or her skills, learning and other

capacities, human dignity, self-esteem and self-confidence”, into educational curricula can empower young women to navigate challenges effectively.

To empower children to become agents of positive change, the World Youth Alliance offers the Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC), which complements standard educational programs. This curriculum, adaptable for every kind of geographical and cultural setting, instills an understanding of human dignity, enabling children to act in ways that respect their own worth and that of others. Through interactive learning about human rights, personal identity, and responsible decision-making, students can develop a sense of agency and responsibility within their communities.

Moreover, the curriculum addresses the impact of digital technology on interpersonal relationships, teaching children to recognize that their online interactions should also reflect respect for human dignity. By fostering an understanding of how to engage thoughtfully and respectfully online, we prepare children to navigate the complexities of the digital age responsibly.

The HDC also has a sexuality education extension which teaches age-appropriate, biologically accurate information. It focuses on personal development and informed decisions related to students’ sexuality based on an understanding of themselves, and with respect for their own human dignity and the dignity of others. This can help girls and boys form healthy, respectful relationships and resist peer pressure, thus decreasing social risk taking. It promotes equality among men and women, for both are born free and equal in dignity.

The World Youth Alliance believes that the creative potential and individual awareness of human capital represent the world’s greatest resources, driving innovation and resilience. As we convene at CSW69 to explore strategic implementation for achieving equality and empowering all women and girls, we emphasize the need for holistic, person-centered education initiatives like the Human Dignity Curriculum. By investing in individuals, we cultivate a generation of changemakers equipped to address societal challenges to ultimately foster equality, mutual respect, economic well being and individual growth. Investing in human potential is not merely a moral obligation; it is the most strategic approach to ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for all.
