

Declaration of Intent:

Action Points to Counter Violence Against Young Women and Girls

Preamble

We, the undersigned stakeholders, as part of the global campaign 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, commit to a unified and comprehensive approach to combating violence against young women and girls in all its forms. Recognizing the urgent need for action and upholding the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation and representation, reasonable accommodation and accessibility, intersectionality, diversity and inclusion, we declare our intent to implement the following action points to create a safer and more equitable environment for all, especially young women and girls.

Action Points

1. Safe Spaces and Support Services

Create safe spaces – such as youth centers or online platforms, in schools or other community locations - where young women and girls can share their experiences and seek support. Publicize these spaces/services widely and ensure they are available in both urban and rural areas, including in non-majority community areas and languages. Ensure they respect standards and principles of equality, non-discrimination, and inclusive participation while being accessible to persons with disabilities. Establish accessible and anonymous reporting channels that ensure privacy, safety, and prompt action for affected individuals.

2. Awareness Campaigns

Launch awareness campaigns to educate youth about sex and gender-based violence and its consequences as well as the importance of consent. Organize workshops, seminars, and social media campaigns to raise awareness about sex and gender-based violence and promote healthy relationships among peers.

3. Education and Peer-Led Initiatives

Pilot school curricula that promote respect, equality, and healthy relationships between women and men from an early age. Train young girls and boys as peer educators to address consent, respect, and gender equality. Support youth-led initiatives with workshops on self-protection, negotiation skills, and leadership to empower young women and girls.

4. Training for Key Stakeholders

Provide training for teachers, first responders, and community leaders on recognizing, responding to, and preventing violence against young women and girls.

5. Youth Mentorship Programmes

Empower already established mentorship programmes where both, youth and community members, can serve as positive role models, promoting non-violence, respect, and open discussions on sex and gender issues among younger individuals.

6. Research and Data Collection

Conduct research and analyze offline and online incidents of violence against young women and girls. Use data to shape policies, allocate resources, and improve intervention effectiveness.

7. Community Engagement and Empowerment

Start community service projects to address local issues related to violence against women, encouraging youth to actively participate in building safer, more resilient communities. Engage men and boys as allies in these efforts, and promote community ownership of safety initiatives.

8. International Collaboration

Strengthen partnerships with international organizations and connect with global youth organizations to share best practices, resources, and strategies in combating violence against women and girls.

9. Enhancing Legal and Policy Frameworks

Support reviews and amendments to laws and policies to improve prevention and protection measures against all forms of violence against women and girls.

10. Advocacy for Change

Advocate for local and national policies that protect women and girls, ensuring their voices, needs and perspectives-including those of youth- are actively included in decision-making processes. Combine awareness, education, and advocacy to empower communities to act against violence.

By committing to these action points, we affirm our dedication to ending violence against young women and girls. We pledge to work collaboratively across all sectors of society to create a future where all women and girls can live free from fear and violence.

Signatories

OSCE Mission to Skopje



 Ambassador Kilian Wahl

President of the Republic of North
Macedonia



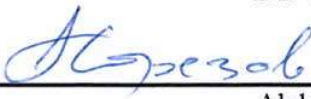
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