

Preamble:

We call for a strong standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as for gender mainstreaming throughout all goals.

The targets should be transformative and the indicators holistic.

Education and economic empowerment

Whilst we welcome the progress made in education for women and girls, we call for governments to recognise the lack of progress made in women's economic empowerment. We urge

governments to recognise their responsibility in ensuring an economic structure that provides every woman with opportunities for decent work at a fair living wage and economic advancement.

We call for these opportunities to fairly reflect women's abilities and education. We call for governments to continue working towards closing the gap between women and men in work. Women are increasingly coming into business, law and the media, but we also urge governments to look after women in precarious work situations, especially agriculture. While most agriculture internationally is done by women, this is not reflected in their land ownership and pay. We call for governments to recognise that decent work should be synonymous with work - there should be no variance.

We call for governments to take a sustainable approach in promoting universal education in the post- Millennium Development Goals framework. We therefore promote the use of social entrepreneurship as an invaluable tool to empower women and girls. We encourage educating women and girls in vital business skills in order to increase their economic independency and self-sufficiency. We urge governments to recognise that training and educating women and girls can help to secure a sustainable source of income for them.

We call for governments to make the link between gender inequality and preconceptions about gender that are imposed on children at a young age, both in school and at home. We therefore call for education to be used as a tool to inform children about gender equality. Children must be educated in an age-appropriate manner about healthy relationships, domestic violence and abuse, as well as traditional practices such as FGM which undermine gender equality. To create an inclusive and transformative development agenda, we also call for the education of boys on issues of gender inequality.

Inclusion and political participation for all

We urge for the full inclusion of all young people in formal and informal decision-making processes on all levels (household, community, national, regional and international). We call for challenging all social norms which exclude young people from decision making forums and hinder them in reaching their full potential in their social, political, and economic development. We recognise that only an inclusive society, in which everyone has the opportunity to raise their voice, can address poverty and all forms of human rights violations necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Any discriminatory attitudes and social norms which keep young people out of decision making forums should be addressed in awareness-raising campaigns and other effective means to promote and establish an inclusive society with equal opportunities for everyone.

We believe that the post-2015 agenda must highlight the need for disaggregated goals based upon age. 'Women and girls' is a label that does not bring sufficient attention on the necessary demands of individuals. We want to raise awareness that, within this label, adolescent girls is an age gap that must be highlighted, given that young women are susceptible to issues such as lack of education facilities, lack of sanitation, disproportionate targets of sexual violence and gender based violence, child marriage, and thus also pregnancy and child widowhood. The problems are far-reaching and intertwined. To tackle these, we ask governments to recognise that adolescent

girls require a holistic approach, which must be recognised in the new development framework so that the issues are not perpetuated across future generations.

We recognise that gender inequality affects all people, and that men and boys must be included as part the solution. We call for men, boys and groups with structural privilege to work alongside women and girls in a way that is sensitive to and respectful of their experiences. We call for the creation of safe spaces where men and boys may participate as allies in a dialogue that is guided by the needs of women and girls.

Widows

We call for the recognition that widowhood affects women of all ages, including young girls, particularly since child marriage remains a significant problem. We call for the understanding of widows to not be restricted to traditional age associations, but to reflect this reality. We are concerned about degrading and harmful practices that are carried out against widows across the world, purely because they have outlived their husbands. Statistics show that one third of widows have been abused. Awareness should be raised on the injustice of such treatment, and we call for governments to enforce punishment for those who encourage these practices of abuse. Money should be set aside to build training centres and safe houses for widows, so they can avoid abuse whilst gaining skills that would generate an income and allow them their independence.

Violent and non-consensual pornographic material

We recognise that the media has a huge impact on the perception of gender. It can be used very effectively to challenge and break down stereotypes. We are, however, concerned about the impact of violent pornography that undermines the key role that consent must play. A large proportion of pornography on the internet portrays violence towards women in a way that is non-consensual or disregarding of women's autonomy. No society can achieve gender equality if watching women being abused is acceptable, and if consent is not at the heart of all sexual exchanges. With the increasing access to the internet, this is a problem that is only going to get worse. We are particularly worried about the increasing trend for so-called 'revenge pornography', in which women's consent is entirely disregarded. We urge governments to tackle this issue now, by raising the profile of the negative effects of non-consensual sexual portrayals and investing in ways to track and punish the creators and sharers of such material. Most importantly, there has to be a mass movement from the public to endorse the fact that sexual portrayals without consent at the front and centre are unacceptable and inappropriate.

28th March 2014

Young people UK alliance (With contributions from NAWO youth delegates, Made Equal and Progressio)

For questions and further information please contact

NAWO Youth delegates: Rebecca Cary, beckycary@gmail.com

Made Equal: Laura Ameer, Laura@MadeEqual.org

Progressio: Fatima Bintou Haase, Fatima@progressio.org.uk