



**JOINING FORCES**

*For All Children*



African Girls' Manifesto  
*Girls' Empowerment and Ending Violence Against Children*  
Women Deliver Conference  
*Where the world comes together to advance gender equality*  
17- 20 July 2023, Kigali, Rwanda

As girls from five African countries together with children from all over Africa, we are honored to amplify our voices before, during and after the Women Deliver Conference, the largest global gathering to advance gender equality. We are excited that leaders from governments, civil society, United Nations agencies, donors and faith organisations are here to listen to us and catalyse a global movement in the way the world treats children. Together, we unite to empower girls and end violence against children.

We want to tell our stories, share our experiences, catalyse collective action and hold leaders accountable. We ask for an end to violence against girls, including harmful practices (child marriage and FGM), exploitative child labour, sexual violence and children being associated with armed groups.

We are empowered to speak truth to power and here is our urgent call to action:

**On Addressing Harmful Practices:**

- Governments need to enforce strict laws against violence and harmful cultural practices, ensuring the protection of children. Outlaw corporal punishment in schools, promote reasonable discipline alternatives.
- Perpetrators should face severe punishment for violating children. Hold individuals accountable for their actions and protect the rights of young girls.
- Encourage reporting of child marriages to authorities, empowering girls to speak out and seek justice against this harmful practice.

**On Tackling Teenage Pregnancy:**

- Promote age appropriate information and services to girls including the consequences of teenage pregnancy. Empower girls to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.
- Ensure that teenage mothers have access to education and support systems to prevent school dropouts and provide opportunities for their future.

- Expand healthcare services to address the specific needs of teenage mothers, including postnatal care and reproductive health support.

**Ending Sexual Violence:**

- Families should protect girls from sexual violence, providing a safe environment and open dialogue to raise awareness about different forms of abuse. Support girls who experience violence and ensure their well-being.
- Governments need to strengthen laws that protect girls from sexual violence and empower communities to openly discuss and address this issue. Provide necessary resources and support systems for survivors.
- Donors need to stand with girls, supporting initiatives and organizations working to end sexual violence. Together, we can create a safer environment for all girls.

**Recommendations for Change:**

- Families and Parents are encouraged to dialogue with girls, educating them about their rights and the dangers of harmful practices. Support them in making informed choices and provide, financial, mental and psychosocial support.
- Governments need to strengthen laws and public policies that protect girls' rights, including access to education, healthcare, and social protection. Empower communities to address issues affecting girls through awareness and education.
- Faith leaders can organize educational programs and workshops within faith-based institutions to raise awareness about the harmful impact of practices such as child marriages, female genital mutilation, and gender-based violence. Help community members understand the importance of protecting and empowering girls.
- Civil Society Organisations and Donors need to continue supporting initiatives that prioritize girls' well-being and advocate for their rights.

Together, we can create lasting change and uplift the lives of girls across Africa.