

ACTIVE YOUTH FOR GENDER  
EQUALITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT

# Youth Lab: How youth can take action to ensure Gender Equality

Greece  
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[youth-partequality.eu](http://youth-partequality.eu)

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# Introduction

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of a just and progressive society. Achieving true equality between genders is not only a matter of fairness but also essential for social and economic development. When all individuals, regardless of gender, have equal opportunities and rights, societies thrive, and innovation, productivity, and well-being increase.

Young people play a crucial role in shaping the future, making them powerful agents of change in the fight for gender equality. Their fresh perspectives, energy, and ability to challenge outdated norms position them at the forefront of progress. By engaging in activism, breaking stereotypes, and promoting inclusivity, youth can drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

# Understanding Gender Equality

Gender equality refers to the state in which individuals of all genders have equal access to rights, responsibilities, and opportunities in all aspects of life—be it education, employment, leadership, or personal development. It does not imply that everyone must be treated identically but rather that all individuals should have the same chances to reach their full potential, free from discrimination or bias.

A key concept related to gender equality is gender equity, which recognizes that different groups may have unique needs and challenges. Achieving fairness sometimes requires providing additional support or resources to overcome historical disadvantages. Equity ensures that everyone has a fair starting point, leading to true equality in outcomes and opportunities.



# Global Gender Equality Statistics

## Wage Gap

Women earn 20% less than men worldwide.

## Political Representation

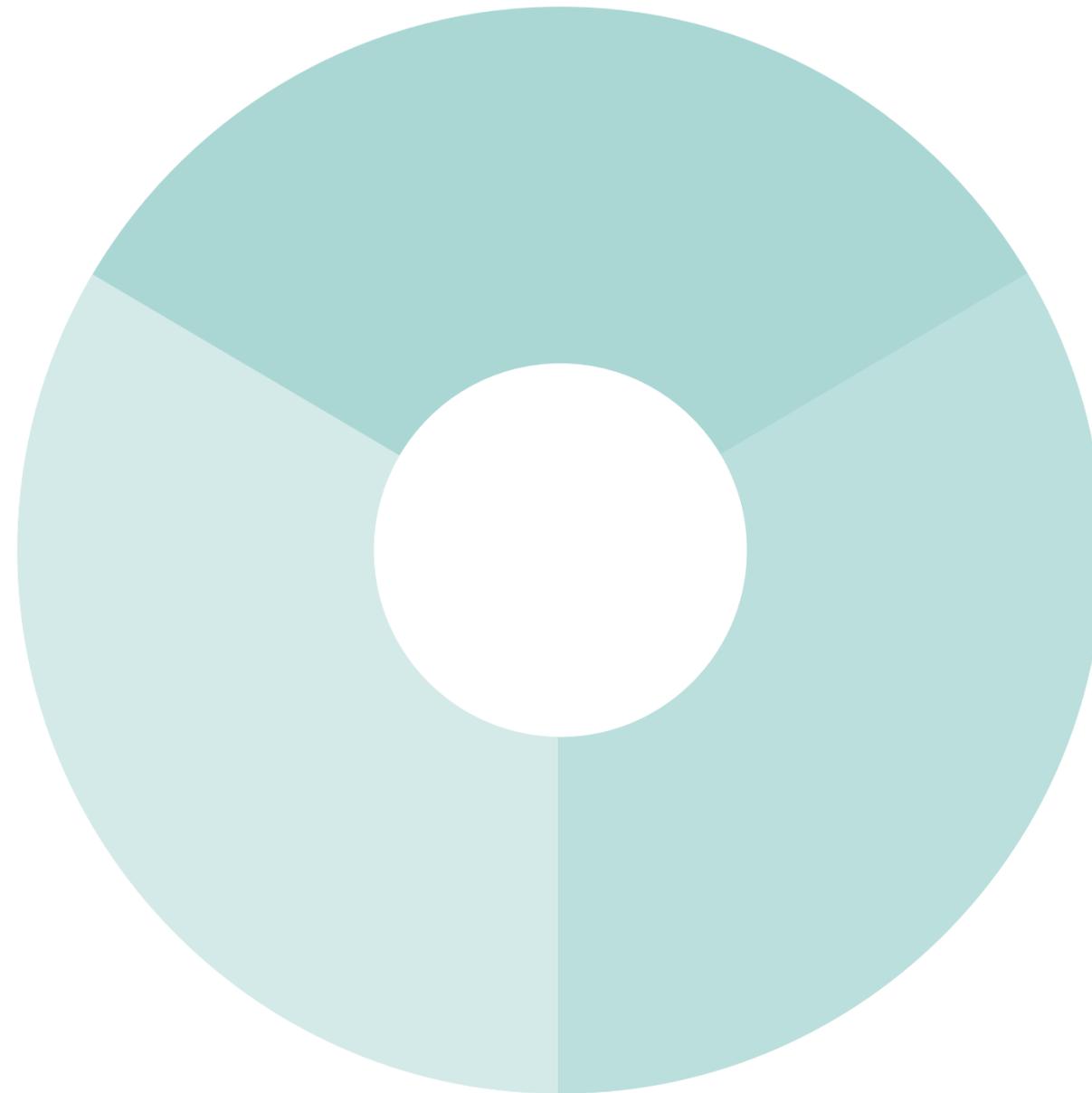
Only 26.7% of parliamentary seats are held by women.

## Gender-Based Violence

1 in 3 women experiences gender-based violence.

## Labor Force Participation

Women remain underrepresented in the workforce, especially in leadership and STEM fields.



# The Role of Youth in Promoting Gender Equality

- Challenging stereotypes and advocating for inclusive policies.
- Engaging in social activism and awareness campaigns.
- Influencing peers and communities to adopt gender-sensitive practices.
- Using digital platforms to voice concerns and drive change.



# Barriers to Gender Equality

- **Cultural and Societal Norms:** Deeply ingrained gender roles and stereotypes limit opportunities and reinforce inequalities.
- **Limited Access to Education & Employment:** Many girls and women face obstacles in accessing quality education and economic opportunities, restricting their independence and growth.
- **Gender-Based Violence & Discrimination:** Physical, emotional, and economic abuse disproportionately affect women and marginalized genders, undermining their rights and safety.
- **Lack of Representation:** Women remain underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles, limiting their influence on policies and governance.

# Gender Equality and the EU Youth Strategy (2019–2027)

The EU Youth Strategy (2019–2027) is built on three key pillars: Engage, Connect, and Empower, aiming to strengthen youth participation in society.

- Youth Goal #2: Gender Equality focuses on ensuring that all young people, regardless of gender identity, have equal access to opportunities, rights, and resources.
- The strategy promotes inclusive policies, education, and initiatives to challenge gender stereotypes, combat discrimination, and support equal representation in leadership and decision-making.
- It encourages young people to engage in activism, policy-making, and community efforts to advance gender equality across Europe.

# Youth Engagement in Policy-Making

- Engaging in discussions, surveys, and advisory boards ensures youth voices are heard in policymaking.
- Pushing for inclusive policies in schools, workplaces, and communities helps create equal opportunities for all.
- Collaborating with national and international leaders ensures youth perspectives are included in gender equality initiatives and legislation.





# Youth Participation in the European Youth Dialogue

The European Youth Dialogue is a platform that allows young people to actively shape EU policies and advocate for their rights. Through this initiative, youth can:

- Engage in discussions, consultations, and forums to ensure their voices are heard in policymaking.
- Advocate for policies that promote equal opportunities, challenge discrimination, and support gender equity.
- Work alongside EU institutions and national governments to develop inclusive legislation and create lasting change.

# Creating Awareness Through Education and Advocacy

## Implementing Gender-Sensitive Curricula

Encouraging schools to integrate gender equality topics into education to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity.

## Organizing Workshops & Discussions

Hosting events, debates, and awareness campaigns to engage communities in meaningful conversations on gender issues.

## Partnering with NGOs

Collaborating with organizations that focus on gender equality to amplify advocacy efforts and reach wider audiences.



# Empowering Women and Girls Through Leadership Initiatives

## **Mentorship & Networking Programs**

Connecting young women with mentors and role models to guide them in their careers and leadership journeys.

## **Encouraging Female Participation in Politics & Business**

Supporting women in leadership roles by promoting policies that ensure equal representation and opportunities.

## **Providing Scholarships & Training**

Investing in education, skills development, and entrepreneurship programs to empower women and girls to succeed.

# Youth-Led Campaigns and Movements for Gender Equality

Young activists play a vital role in driving gender equality through impactful campaigns and movements. The #HeForShe Campaign encourages men and boys to take an active role in promoting gender equality. The Malala Fund advocates for girls' education globally, empowering young women through access to learning opportunities. Additionally, local grassroots movements challenge discrimination, raise awareness, and push for policy changes to create more inclusive communities. These initiatives highlight the power of youth activism in advancing gender equality worldwide.



# Encouraging Equal Opportunities in the Workplace

Ensuring workplace equality requires policies and initiatives that promote fairness and inclusivity. Advocating for equal pay and anti-discrimination laws helps close the wage gap and protect workers from bias. Supporting women in entrepreneurship and STEM fields provides opportunities for career growth in traditionally male-dominated sectors. Encouraging inclusive hiring and workplace policies fosters diverse and equitable work environments where all employees can thrive. These efforts contribute to a more just and balanced workforce.



# Supporting Gender-Inclusive Legislation

Advancing gender equality requires strong legal frameworks and active civic engagement. Understanding laws that protect gender rights helps individuals advocate for fair policies. Participating in campaigns for stronger legal protections ensures continuous progress in areas like equal pay, anti-discrimination, and gender-based violence prevention. Holding governments accountable for policy implementation is crucial to turning legal commitments into real change. Through advocacy and activism, young people can help shape a more just and inclusive society.



# Using Social Media for Gender Advocacy

Creating and sharing gender equality content –  
Spreading awareness through posts, videos, and infographics.

Participating in online activism and discussions –  
Engaging in campaigns, hashtags, and debates to challenge discrimination.

Connecting with global networks for support and action –  
Collaborating with activists, organizations, and movements to drive change.



# Combating Gender Stereotypes and Bias

- Addressing gender roles in media and advertising – Encouraging accurate and fair representation of all genders.
- Promoting diverse and inclusive narratives – Highlighting stories that break stereotypes and celebrate gender diversity.
- Challenging harmful societal norms – Advocating for cultural shifts that reject discrimination and bias.





# Involving Men and Boys in Gender Equality Efforts

- Encouraging male allies to speak out against discrimination – Empowering men to challenge sexism and support gender equality.
- Promoting positive masculinity and respectful relationships – Redefining masculinity to emphasize empathy, equality, and respect.
- Creating safe spaces for gender discussions – Engaging men and boys in conversations about gender issues and inclusivity.

# Promoting Gender Equality Through Volunteering and Community Service

Engaging in gender-focused NGOs allows individuals to support advocacy and policy efforts. Organizing community projects empowers marginalized groups by providing resources and education. Additionally, mentoring young girls and non-binary individuals fosters confidence and leadership skills. Through volunteering and service, communities can drive meaningful progress toward gender equality.



# Case Studies: Successful Youth-Led Gender Equality Initiatives

## Youth-Led Advocacy in School Curriculums

Students in various countries have successfully campaigned for more gender-inclusive education. By petitioning school boards, collaborating with educators, and raising awareness, they have helped integrate topics such as gender equality, consent education, and LGBTQ+ inclusion into curricula. These efforts challenge stereotypes from an early age and foster a more equitable learning environment.

## Local Communities Fostering Gender Awareness

Youth-driven grassroots movements have organized workshops, awareness campaigns, and mentorship programs to address gender biases within their communities. By working directly with local leaders, families, and schools, these initiatives have helped shift societal attitudes, encourage equal opportunities, and support marginalized groups.

## Social Media Campaigns Influencing Policy

Online activism led by young advocates has proven to be a powerful tool for change. Hashtag movements, digital petitions, and viral campaigns have successfully pressured policymakers to implement gender-equality measures. For example, youth-driven campaigns have led to stronger protections against gender-based violence, workplace discrimination policies, and increased funding for gender equity programs.



# Challenges in Implementing Gender Equality Policies



- Cultural and ideological opposition can hinder policy adoption and implementation, slowing progress toward gender equality.
- Limited financial resources and weak institutional commitment can restrict the effectiveness of gender-focused programs and initiatives.
- Even after policies are enacted, ensuring proper enforcement and measuring impact require ongoing oversight and commitment.

# Measuring Impact: Indicators for Gender Equality Progress

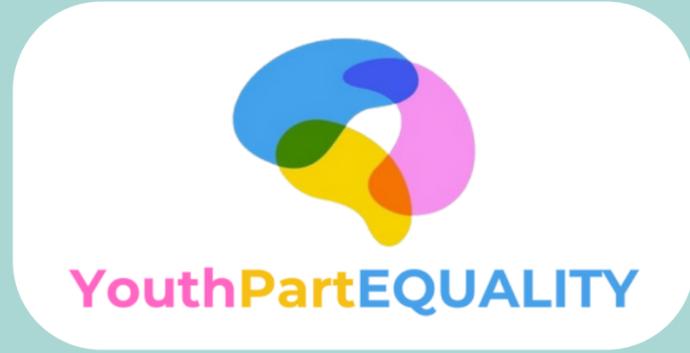
- Gender Parity in Education and Employment – Monitoring equal access to education, workforce participation, and wage gaps to assess economic and social inclusion.
- Reduction in Gender-Based Violence Statistics – Evaluating declines in reported cases of domestic violence, harassment, and discrimination to measure safety and rights protection.
- Increased Female Representation in Leadership Roles – Tracking the number of women in politics, business, and decision-making positions to ensure equitable opportunities.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, gender equality is a fundamental aspect of social justice and sustainable development. This presentation has highlighted the critical role of youth in advancing gender equity through policy engagement, education, advocacy, and grassroots initiatives. Addressing persistent barriers such as gender-based discrimination, unequal opportunities, and societal norms requires a multi-faceted approach that includes legal reforms, institutional support, and continuous monitoring of progress.

It is imperative that young people actively participate in shaping a more inclusive society by challenging stereotypes, promoting equal opportunities, and holding policymakers accountable. Only through collective action can meaningful and lasting change be achieved.





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**Thank you!**

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