




WE LEAD MANIFESTO


The We Lead partnership (2021-2025) is committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescent girls and young women. This Manifesto explains what we collectively stand for. The Manifesto is both a demand towards people in power, as well as an intention for ourselves.

We lead

- We are stronger in ***our diversity***. Young women are not one homogenous group: we live with disabilities, we are affected by displacement, we live with HIV and we identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer. Our identities are intersectional, we can belong to one or more marginalized groups at the same time. Policies should be inclusive to our diverse needs.
- We keep ***policy makers accountable*** for their promises.
- We deserve ***access to funding***. Youth organizations need to be adequately and fairly funded for our contribution to social justice. We need funders to trust youth organizations and create procedures that ensure accessibility and ownership.
- We deserve a healthy world that is safe and nourishing for us. ***Climate change is real*** and affects young women and girls disproportionately. We need people in power to take bold action to reserve this world for our and future generations.

We own our bodies

- We need access to ***contraceptives and safe abortion*** for everyone. We should be free to decide about our bodies and our lives, and never be criminalized for these decisions. Especially women with intellectual disabilities need birth control that gives them autonomy over their bodies.
 - We challenge ***societal stigma and taboos*** on sexuality. We want to break the binary and heteronormative system.
 - We are ***sexual beings and deserve pleasure***. Too often, young women - especially those living with disabilities - are expected to not be sexually active. LGBTIQ+ women can be exposed to violence and discrimination for openly expressing their sexuality. We need service providers to respect our decision to be sexually active or not.
 - We can make all decisions concerning our body. Forced and involuntary sterilization, especially of women living with disabilities and/or HIV, is a violation of our ***bodily autonomy*** and human rights.
 - We have the right to be mothers or parents, regardless of family situation or sexual orientation. We have a right to take care of ourselves, to ***family planning*** and to create families with whom we wish.
 - We need legal and political recognition for all ***trans and gender non-confirming identities*** and we must be represented in all decision-making arenas.
 - We demand ***access to health care services*** that cater to our diverse needs. This relates to mental health services, medical services for trans people and access to
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health services that cater to the needs of women living with disabilities. Migration status should never limit a young woman's access to essential health services. Facilities should be accessible to women in rural and urban areas equally. We deserve access to quality services that are youth-friendly and in line with the latest technology.

We deserve to be safe

- We deserve to live free from *racism, discrimination and stigma*.
- We need bold action to *end all sexual and gender-based violence*.
- We are *human rights defenders*. We deserve to do our work in a safe and secure environment.
- We have the right to *share our perspectives and opinions*. With growing conservative movements and shrinking space to be involved in political debate, we continue to voice our urgencies loudly.
- We need quality, comprehensive and inclusive *sexuality education*. Different needs, such as those of people living with disabilities, should be catered to.
- We need access to *quality treatment for people living with HIV and those with disabilities*, including our children.
- We have the right to *decent and well-compensated work*, regardless of our migration or health status.

We are ready to speak with policy makers about changing our social realities. We deserve *a seat at the table*. Our perspectives should be center stage in decision making processes.

