



Human Rights in Ethiopia

Addressing

**DISCRIMINATION OF GIRLS AND
YOUNG WOMEN (GYW) FROM
MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN
DECISION MAKING**

and SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF GYW

UPR Pre-session on Ethiopia
29 August 2024

The She Leads Consortium



- Programme with and for girls and young women (GYW)
- Objective is to enhance the influence of GYW on gender norms and decision-making in both formal and informal institutions

Partners of the Consortium

- Terre des Homme NL
- Plan International NL
- DCI-ECPAT
- FEMNET

Partners at the local level

- the Network of Ethiopian Women Associations
- the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
- the New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization
- the Yellow Movement

ISSUE 1 – Discrimination of GYW from meaningful participation in decision-making



Root causes

- Lack of opportunities
- Discriminatory laws and practices
- Patriarchal structures
- Limited legal framework

Impact

- Limited influence in formal and informal institutions
- Hindrance to empowerment and equal participation

Previous recommendations on participation in public decision-making processes (2019, UPR 3rd cycle)



- Address discrimination against women and girls (163.303 from Guinea; 163.283 from Georgia)
- Promote CSOs participation (163.220 from Austria)
- Encourage participation of women in politics (163.221 from Laos)
- Combat gender stereotypes, promote gender equality and empower women (163.126 from Iceland; 163.289 from South Africa; 163.285 from Japan; 163.292 from Ecuador; 163.287 from Philippines; 163.293 from Vietnam; 163.294 from Azerbaijan; 163.22 from Eritrea)

New developments

There are some youth/women associations, but they are often adult-led. They are not sufficiently empowered to play an active role.

Recommendations on Discrimination of GYW from meaningful participation in decision-making (I)



1. Fully enforce the UNCRC and the ACRWC to eliminate gender and age-based discrimination by establishing child participation councils in all regions with at least 50% representation of girls.
2. Challenge specific deeply entrenched discriminatory gender norms which confine the roles and responsibilities of GYW only to the domestic sphere by conducting annual training sessions for government officials, educators, and community leaders on international legal frameworks to ensure compliance and promote the active involvement of girls in decision-making processes.

Recommendations on Discrimination of GYW from meaningful participation in decision-making (II)



3. Launch community dialogue initiatives by partnering with traditional and religious leaders, as well as boys and men, to change discriminatory gender norms that limit girls' and young women's (GYW's) participation in socio-cultural, political, and civic spheres. And track progress through assessments that measure the increased involvement of girls and young women in leadership roles and community activities.

ISSUE 2 – Sexual Exploitation of GYW



Forms of Violence:

- Domestic violence
- School-related violence
- Workplace harassment
- Social media risks

Root Causes

- Not fully implemented legal frameworks
- Cultural norms

Impact

- Physical and psychological trauma
- educational and professional setbacks

Effects of School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV)

- High dropout rates among female students
- Prevalence of bullying targeting girls and younger children

Previous recommendations on sexual exploitation and violence (2019, UPR 3rd cycle)



- **Strengthen laws against harmful practices like FGM and child marriage** (163.166 from Rwanda; 163.170 from Zambia; 163.171 from Argentina; 163.158 from Hungary; 163.161 from Namibia; 163.167 from Slovenia; 163.168 from Spain; 163.163 from Israel)
- **Prevent and protect women and girls from physical, emotional and sexual abuses and harmful practices** (163.290 from Sri Lanka; 163.291 from Thailand; 163.284 from India; 163.282 from Myanmar; 163.173 from Burundi; 163.162 from United Arab Emirates; 163.169 from Togo; 163.172 from Burkina Faso; 163.174 from Cape Verde; 163.175 from Democratic Republic of Congo; 163.177 from Estonia; 163.178 from Finland; 163.164 from Italy; 163.165 from Nepal)
- **Support victims of violence** (163.288 from Singapore)
- **Address existing and new risks of gender-based violence within the context of disaster risk reduction** (163.140 from Fiji)

New developments



Adoption of the National Legal Aid Strategy by the Ministry of Justice in November 2023, aimed at coordinating the provision of free legal aid services.

Adoption of the National Road Map to End Child Marriage and FGM (2020–2024) which provides framework to eliminate child marriage and FGM by 2025.

Development of the national five-year strategy (2021/22–2026) on prevention and response to violence against girls and young women.

Recommendations for Sexual Exploitation of GYW (I)



1. Effectively implement the National Legal Aid Strategy in order to provide free legal aid services to girls survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse.
2. Effectively implement the National Road Map to End Child Marriage and FGM/C and the National five-year policy and strategy (2021/22-2026) on GBV prevention and response in order to prevent and protect GYW from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including harmful practices (HPs)

Recommendations for Sexual Exploitation of GYW (II)



3. Increase by 20% the number of one-stop centers providing comprehensive support services to victims of domestic violence. This expansion should include access to legal aid, medical care, and psychological counseling, with regular progress reports to track the number of centers established, services offered, and beneficiaries served.
4. Promote online safety for GYW through education, responsible use, and protective measures by, for instance, integrating digital literacy and online safety education into the national curriculum for all students aged 12-18, launching a nationwide campaign promoting responsible internet use, and establishing cyber protection units to monitor and respond to online threats.

Thank you

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