

Youth Perspectives on Key Issues Affecting Women - CSW66

The NGO CSW Research and Advocacy Group Youth Research Team launched a survey (in English and Spanish) and incorporated the 48 responses received from 28 countries into their research findings below, summarizing youth perspectives on our 6 Recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Investment in gender-responsive policies and programs that prioritize girls and women of all ages.

Youth constitute most of the population in many countries, and young women and girls are often uniquely affected by the climate crisis. While the [United Nations supports](#) the development of climate change educational programs and mitigation resources, the same level of commitment cannot be observed at the national level in many countries. As determined by the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#), gender-responsive climate action includes three elements: recognition of gender differences in needs, equitable participation and influence, and gender equitable access to financial resources. National policies should incorporate these three elements and indicate young women and girls specifically as a group vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Recommendation 2: Prioritization of knowledge management and strategies for disaster reduction and resilience.

According to a [World Bank study](#), women are disproportionately adversely affected by climate disasters. Several studies find that “women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die when a disaster strikes.” Existing gender inequalities are reflected in the disproportionate impact climate-related disasters have on women intensifying pre-existing developmental gaps. Effective gender-responsive disaster risk management needs to not only prioritize understanding the unique ways women are affected and design respective investment and governance strategies but also classify young women and girls as a specifically vulnerable population developing strategies that are sensitive to addressing their unique needs.

Recommendation 3: Collection of comprehensive data on displaced girls and women.

According to the [recent estimates reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center](#), 21 million women and girls were uprooted within their countries by conflict and violence by the end of 2018. The majority of these displaced women and girls were in Africa and the Middle East, and nine countries worldwide hosted over one million women and girls each: Syria, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. While data on displaced women and girls is collected globally, the lack of specific data on young women and girls on global and national levels hinders a complete understanding of the scale of impact and required actions.

Recommendation 4: Training for women in climate-resilient jobs, including food and water security.

[The Global Economy and Development Working Paper](#) jointly published by Plan International and UNICEF, analyzed 160 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) - country-level climate strategies to reduce emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change - and thirteen National Adaptation Plans to determine whether climate strategies include girl’s education. Research findings suggest that the overwhelming majority of national policies do not include girls’ education as a priority. Only one country’s NDC makes a reference to girls’ education and two additional countries refer to girls explicitly, a reflection of a larger omission of young women and girls and their educational needs in climate strategies.

Recommendation 5: Financial support for mitigation and adaptation to climate change for women in the Global South.

The historical debt that the countries of the North owe the countries of the South continues to be a widely discussed issue. However, few countries take real action and, on many occasions, these actions do not take into account the needs or demands of the people of the South and are taken unilaterally. Specific focus on young women and girls is even more uncommon. For instance, [Canada provides \\$2.65 billion](#) in climate finance to help the most vulnerable countries, mostly in the South, adapt to and mitigate climate change and transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. But these types of funds do not specifically target the needs of young women and girls.

Recommendation 6: The elimination of legal barriers to women, including widows, concerning land ownership, resources and inheritance.

Despite international declarations of equality, progress at the state level to provide women equal land ownership and inheritance rights has been slow. [According to the World Bank](#), 112 economies do not restrict women's property rights, while 75 economies still limit women's rights to manage assets. European and Central Asian, OECD high-income, and Latin America and the Caribbean economies almost all implement good practices related to women's property ownership and inheritance. Unfortunately, regions like the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, have seen little reform in this area. Young women's futures are directly affected by these barriers. Securing land rights for women, including securing their ability to make decisions of the use of that land, is essential for building women's resilience against climate change and its socio-environmental consequences and ensuring a better future for young women and girls.