



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network

She
LEADS



We, African Girls & Young Women shall Speak for ourselves about our issues!

A COMMUNIQUE

TO: The African Union

On this important *Day of the African Child 2022*, We African girls and young women from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Uganda have gathered here in Accra, Ghana to reclaim our rights, and most importantly, our VOICE!

From the **14th to the 16th of June 2022**, we have enhanced collective action and activism hosted by The African Women Development & Communications Network, **FEMNET**, in partnership with her members and development partners.

We met as daughters of Africa in all our diversities from different backgrounds but with similar challenges. Our discussions enabled us to realize that inequalities, exclusion, and injustice against girls and young women of Africa are cross-cutting. Our collective voices as African girls and young women have enabled us to increase and sustain influence in the transformation of gender norms in formal and informal institutions.

We appreciate the critical opportunity to convene, deliberate and strategise towards the Africa we want.

We therefore, through this historic communique present our **urgent demands** to the African Union representing all of Africa's Heads of State and On this day of the African Child 2022 to have our key issues prioritized.

We Demand:-

1. Accessible and affordable Sexual and Reproductive Health & Right (SRHR) information and services for girls and young women in all their diversities.
2. African governments **Recognize, Prioritize and Safeguard** the unique needs and voices of sexual minority girls and young women living with HIV, disability, affected by displacement and the plight of the LGBTIQ community.
3. Enactment and implementation of the revised *Maputo plan of action, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 SDGs, Beijing platform for action, Gender Equality Bills* for example the *Affirmative Action Bill in Ghana, the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Bill in Sierra Leone, The two-thirds Affirmative Action Bill of Gender in Kenya, Equal Opportunity Bill in Nigeria, The East Africa Sexual Reproductive health bill* etc.

4. Strict enforcement of laws that are punitive to sexual and gender-based violence including harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early child marriage.
5. Formulation, review and implementation of laws and policies that safeguard and protect the dignity of girls and young women living with disability.
6. Meaningful engagement of girls and young women in leadership and national peace building processes.
7. Intentional gender responsive budgeting and financing in health, education and entrepreneurship to enhance the lives and quality of lives of the girls and women of Africa.

We the undersigned African girls and young women will no longer remain silent as decisions are made for us, about us but without us, we shall **SPEAK FOR OURSELVES!!!!!!**

Signed (16th June 2022) :

NAME	AGE	COUNTRY
Raima Francisco Manyo	24	Mozambique
Wanda Sus E.M	24	Mozambique
Haura Diallo	31	Mali
Kariitau SITA	29	Mali
Veronica Oursu	22	Ghana
Soniah Monica	25	Ghana
Khalid Batehaq Fatima	23	Ghana
Amonyi Emmanuella Ekuwa	14	Ghana
Bernice Ocran Jodoo	24	Ghana
Addae Salomey	26	Ghana
Naomi Eyob	18	Ethiopia
Martha Nangan' Nzomo	24	Kenya
Sumiya Ali	24	Kenya
Glain Nareu	21	Kenya
Katifah Wangui	22	Kenya
Coffie Rebecca	22	Ghana
Onyido Seyn Oulton	24	Nigeria
Maya Kule Swen	16	Liberia
Aisha F. Firkollic	20	Liberia
Janeline F. Gbarbea	16	Liberia
Birontauri + Bethany	24	ETHIOPIA
Margaret Bolaji	33	Nigeria
Faduna Tahamadou	22	Niger
Modibo Amadou Adama	23	Niger
Jennifer Nash	20	Ghana
Ohene Francisca	27	Ghana
Omari Diana	21	Ghana
Abdoulaye I. Hadjatan	29	Niger



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THE ACCRA DECLARATION FOR AFRICA'S GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN

16th JUNE 2022

#ISpeak4Myself!

I have a VOICE!

I have every right to speak for myself!

I understand myself more than anyone else!

I have a right to speak my mind!

I am a human being worthy of presence, voice & participation in any situation that impacts and/or affects me.

I am the author of my own destiny!

#ISpeak4Myself!