

**25X25**

**She Decides.**

# ASPIRATIONS 25X25

**WE ARE THE 25X25, 25 YOUNG LEADERS BORN IN THE YEAR OF ICPD**

Over the past few months, we've held open mics in on and offline spaces all over the globe. In these safe spaces, we've engaged, talked with and listened to thousands. We've been challenged, moved and inspired.

**HERE ARE OUR COLLECTIVE REFLECTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS...**

**"Taking back empathy, love and energy from such spaces"**

**CLOSE TO  
3000  
PARTICIPANTS**



**"Safe spaces save lives"**

**AGE BRACKET  
12-65+  
OPEN MICS**





**"It is us who set ourselves and others free. You cannot be free when others are depriving you of it"**

Queendel, 23, Transgender - Philippines

**"To change perspectives, you have to enter people's homes"**

Anonymous - Portugal

**"Banning abortions and access to services is a death sentence to some, and is a public health crisis to all"**

Anonymous - USA

**"We renew our commitment to end sexual and gender-based violence, including child marriage"**

Baraa Issa, 19, Male - Palestine

**"We must break the patriarchal stereotypes on sex, sexuality, and the way we perceive our bodies"**

Maya Ammar, Female - Lebanon

**"I wish I could live in a world where I could smile at people in the street and not be afraid that they will follow me home"**

Anonymous - Belgium

**"It is not possible to separate the church from sexual and reproductive health and rights, we all need to work on mind-set change, the church is composed of the people"**

Melinda, 22, Female - Malawi

**As we take action for a world that is better, stronger, safer, we recognize the gains made over the past **25 years** and the tireless activists that made them possible. We commit to work together to co-create a prosperous future that every woman and girl can call her own.**

**Still, countless injustices remain:**

- **Rigid and regressive social norms put women and girls at a disadvantage.** For example, they place the disproportionate burden on women and girls to carry out unpaid care work including taking care of children, the sick, the elderly and household chores.
- **Harmful traditional practices persist.** These include child, early and forced marriages and unions; female genital mutilation/cutting; breast ironing; menstrual exclusion.
- **Too many deaths from unsafe abortions and a lack of post-abortion care.**
- **High rates of teenage pregnancy.** Most often unintended and/or unwanted and resulting in school drop-out and other life-long consequences.
- **Unacceptably high rates of sexual and gender based violence,** including harassment, assault, femicide, compounded against ethnic, religious, class, sexual and gender minorities.
- **Things for us, without us.** Too many programs, services, policies and initiatives about women and young people without meaningfully involving them, considering or understanding their specific and differentiated needs, rendering them ineffective.
- **Menstruation Paralyzes.** Countless women and girls are forced to endure extreme difficulty managing their periods every month.

**We aspire for a world where:**

- **The periphery become the core** – excluded populations including LGBTQIA+, those in prisons, convents, sex workers, forcibly displaced populations, teenage mothers, child wives, indigenous, rural populations, slum dwellers, out-of-school youth, those with disabilities+ are at the centre of provision of resources, services and facilities as well as policy formulation and implementation.
- **Data collection and management systems are strengthened** and consider disparities within and between countries, and across socio-economic and cultural divides in order to truly 'leave no-one behind'.
- **Teenage pregnancies are addressed** through return to school policies, comprehensive sexuality education counseling, information and services, and support to teenage mothers.
- **Abortion is decriminalized and destigmatized;** free, non-judgmental access to and choice over contraceptives and other family planning methods, and safe abortion and post abortion care are readily available, without question.
- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education is widely available for young people and their guardians** to counter misinformation, fill in information gaps, and assert bodily autonomy, fight gender based violence and harassments, and ensure integrity.
- **Positive, uplifting and empowering practices become the norm rather than the exception,** regressive norms and practices are transformed through engagement of religious and community leaders as well as influential personalities.
- **Women and youth are at the centre** of the design, implementation and monitoring of sexual and reproductive health programming, resulting in non-judgmental, non-discriminatory, youth friendly, youth and gender responsive programming and services.
- **Increased attention and focus on the responsibility of men and boys** and their roles in SRHR and promotion of positive masculinities.
- **Menstruation Matters.** Menstrual hygiene products are no longer taxed, sanitary pads are freely available; menstrual management goods are affordable and accessible and stigma and shame around periods no longer exists, with menstrual exclusions a thing of the past.
- **Resources are abundantly available** for SRHR programming interventions and support youth-led, youth serving organizations to tap into the positive and passionate energy young people bring.
- **Youth-friendly mental health support** is systematically integrated into sexual and reproductive health services.
- **Progressive leadership, attitudes, practice and norms** uplift and create a conducive environment where women, girls and young people in all their diversity, are able to freely make decisions over their bodies, their lives and their future.

