

CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Gender Equality and Equal Rights for Women

Women's equal rights and empowerment are fundamental to achieving both human rights for all and sustainable development as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals. We can only win the fight for a more just, equitable and sustainable future if we bring the abilities and potentials of everyone into play. Research shows that when women participate in peace negotiations, they tend to be more durable; when women serve in cabinets and parliaments, they pass laws and policies that are better for the environment and social cohesion; and when they sit on corporate boards, those companies not only generate just as much profit, but benefit people and the planet too.

Yet, **women have historically been excluded from the table**, through a maze of structural, attitudinal, and multi-layered obstacles. As the most pervasive and universal of inequalities, discrimination of women is deeply embedded in political, social, and economic barriers.

Among most transformative and impactful actions to advance gender equality are to dismantle discriminatory laws and take bold action for equal representation and participation of women at all levels of society, in both public and private sphere.

Therefore, the Call to Action:

1. **Advocates for the elimination of discriminatory laws** – including through building alliances at national and regional levels – and shares good practices to inspire others to follow suit.
2. **Promotes the use of temporary special measures** to accelerate the inclusion of women across all sectors as a means to correct past and current effects of discrimination.

