

Honorable chair, esteemed delegates,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am speaking on behalf of the Right Here Right Now Partnership, representing 18 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, which works to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people, in all their diversity, globally.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including abortion, are highly stigmatized, especially for young people. As a young citizen of Ireland, where abortion is still highly criminalized, this is an issue close to my heart. Safe abortion services are still underfunded, inaccessible and criminalized in many countries, posing threats to the lives of women and girls, specifically those in vulnerable situations.

Out of the 18 countries in our partnership, only Nepal imposes no restriction to safe abortion. And while abortion is legal under some circumstances in Kenya, for many girls living in the slums of Nairobi, these services are beyond their reach. Globally, unsafe abortion accounts for tens of thousands of maternal deaths every year.

In light of the theme of this year's CPD talking about abortion is critical as young migrants and young people in informal settlements of cities are disproportionately affected, and find their sexual and reproductive rights violated.

Therefore, as Right Here Right Now, we urgently call to governments to:

- Firstly prevent the need for abortion by implementing quality comprehensive sexuality education, providing affordable modern contraceptives, and youth-friendly health services.
- And secondly to ensure access to safe and legal abortion services for all women and girls, upon demand and regardless of age or migration status.

Growing up in a country that did not respect my reproductive rights, I implore you to listen to listen to young people's united voice. To reiterate: our body, our choice.

Thank you.