



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Why Feminist Education is key to achieving all the sustainable development goals

20 September 2024, 5.30 pm, Population Council, New York

Organized by: UNGEI, Population Council, Government of South Africa, Transform Education, Equimundo, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNESCO

Background on the event

With only six years to go to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals target, we are still far from the world we want. The children of today live in a world with rising hate and division, escalating conflicts, deepening inequalities and catastrophic climate emergencies. Half of all children have experienced violence in the past twelve months, 122 million girls are out of school, 12 million girls each year are victims of early, forced, child marriage or unions and 4,000 adolescent girls and young women (aged 15–24 years) were infected with HIV every week in 2022. Anti-Rights movements are growing stronger on our watch. Afghan girls are shut out of education. LGBTIQ+ persons are facing further criminalization in several countries. Half the women in the United States risk losing access to abortion. This backslide in the human rights we have secured over decades is the fundamental denominator of all the threats to our future. This session made the case that safe, inclusive, feminist education is the answer to the backslide. Feminist education has the power to equip future generations with the skills, critical consciousness and empathy to build a peaceful, just and inclusive world. Investing in feminist education is investing in all the sustainable development goals.

Key Issues discussed

- The transformative power of feminist education to provide children with the necessary skills, wellbeing and resilience to build a peaceful, just and inclusive world
- The role of education in challenging harmful gender norms, teaching the values of non-discrimination and respect, and raising critical consciousness about systems of oppression and inequality
- How to meaningfully partner with young people to shape inclusive, gender-transformative education systems
- The importance of feminist education for boys and men, in challenging harmful notions of masculinity and offering alternative models of boyhood
- The protective and transformative potential of education for girls affected by crisis

Key recommendations for action

- Invest in feminist education as a way to achieving all the sustainable development goals and the Pact for the Future, in particular actions 4, 5, 6 and 41.
- Design education curricula and pedagogy that actively challenge harmful gender norms, teach respect and non-discrimination and question systems of oppression.
- Develop and implement gender-transformative education systems that provide safe, equal and quality education for children of all gender identities and expressions in all of their diversity.
- Meaningfully partner with young people in the design, implementation and assessment of feminist education policies and programs, including funding youth-led organizations.
- Develop a coordinated approach to feminist education, across UN agencies, that leverages its potential to achieve the SDGs across the education, gender and peace sectors.

Webpage to find more information: www.ungei.org