



FOCUS ON: YOUTH FOR GENDER EQUALITY

ABOUT YOUTH FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Youth for Gender Equality is a three-year initiative co-led by Plan International Canada and the Canadian Teachers' Federation that engages youth from all over Canada to convene and discuss how to spearhead progress towards achieving United Nations SDG 5. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, came into effect in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Canada, as a member of the United Nations, has committed to achieving gender equality as part of the "2030 Agenda." SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Youth for Gender Equality unites young people from coast-to-coast-to-coast, ages 14 to 24, and of all gender identities in conversations about how to create an equitable society for all people of all genders, abilities and races, reflecting the values of reconciliation.

More information about Youth for Gender Equality is available at planacanada.ca/YGE.

ABOUT THE YOUTH-LED ROADMAP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

The *Youth-Led Roadmap for Gender Equality* is the most extensive, youth-led recommendation document for achieving SDG 5 of its kind. It stemmed from a four-step approach:

1. **Engaging diverse youth participants:** Using a purposive sampling approach that considered a variety of factors when reaching out to youth, such as geographic location, community size, age groups, language and gender identity, participants included youth who have experienced homelessness, Indigenous youth, young people of colour, newcomers to Canada, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, among others, as well as individuals from remote and rural communities.
2. **Youth-led national Dialogues:** Over 300 youth were engaged in a national conversation around Canada on how to achieve SDG 5 to create a more equitable world for all. This process was entirely youth-led and facilitated. As a result, each two-hour Dialogue, provided opportunities for youth participants to share their personal lived experiences of gender inequality, analyze the root causes of these experiences and develop recommendations to overcome these barriers in pursuit of gender equality.
3. **Formulated recommendations:** Twenty-seven youth leaders convened at a YGE Writer's Conference to draft the *Roadmap*. The four-day conference included trainings that enabled youth participants to apply an intersectional, gender-transformative lens when drafting recommendations.
4. **Provide platforms for youth:** In June 2019, youth will unveil the first-ever *Youth-Led Roadmap for Gender Equality: A Plan to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5* in

Canada, to key decision-makers at the Women Deliver conference in Vancouver. The unique report is comprised of 64 recommendations drafted by youth aimed at individuals, community and corporate leaders, and various levels of government to achieve gender equality in Canada.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Youth-Led Roadmap for Gender Equality in Canada* provides tangible actions individuals can take within their personal lives and spheres of influence to change the discriminatory social norms that fuel gender inequality. The *Roadmap* calls on all Canadians to:

- Support friends, family members, colleagues who are discovering their gender identity.
- Change the way we speak about and react to sexual assault.
- Ensure our language, thinking and action is inclusive of all genders.
- Encourage decision-makers in the workplace, government and civil society to actively foster gender equality.

The *Roadmap* offers concrete solutions for ending gender discrimination in economic, political, education and health systems. Broadly, the recommendations address:

- **Making Canadian workplaces inclusive, and free from discrimination and harassment** through advancements in pay equity, ensuring existing anti-harassment policies are implemented and implementing a national strategy for affordable, accessible and quality childcare.
- **Shifting power dynamics towards gender equality** by promoting gender equality training for public and private sector leaders and creating opportunities for all genders to pursue positions of power.
- **Setting a new standard for gender equality inclusivity in education systems** with revised curriculums, including comprehensive sex-ed, and accessible resources like peer-to-peer groups that support a network of gender equality-educated students.
- **Building gender responsive and inclusive health systems** by prioritizing Indigenous health, stepping up support for survivors of violence, and implementing adequate culturally appropriate health facilities and services within existing healthcare systems.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We encourage Canadians to help youth-leaders bring a more equal future into focus. Some ways you can do that include:

- Visit plancanada.ca/YGE to download the *Youth-Led Roadmap for Gender Equality*, learn more about the recommendations and how to get involved.
- Learn more about how to make a personal commitment to gender equality in your life and spheres influence, and join the conversation with @PlanCanada on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook using #YouthforGenderEquality.
- People between the ages of 14 and 24 are encouraged to join the Youth for Gender Equality initiative by signing up at plancanada.ca/YGE.