



World YWCA

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Scouting International and World YWCA welcome this opportunity to speak and to contribute to the ongoing work undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women and its partners here today. Our organizations, representing the voices of young women of world corners of the globe, would like to highlight the various barriers that violence against girls and young women present when accessing education, training and labor market. We would also like to suggest that ensuring girls and young women have equal access to education can prevent violence from occurring across a woman's life course.

We are greatly concerned that violence against women continues to be prevalent to violence in every sphere of their lives, including education and labor market. Violence does not affect girls alone, but it is the girls and young women who suffer the most of violence, and suffers the most. While violence against girls and young women can prevent education, quality education for boys and girls can prevent violence.

We urge governments to take the following measures: strengthen legal frameworks and systems of justice, and where necessary, enact new laws to prevent, prosecute and punish an act of violence, in particular violence that prevents girls and young women from receiving an education or actively taking part in the labor market.

ensure that girls are not at risk of violence, assault or abuse on their way to and from school, and that that school environment is not one where violence can easily occur, for example by designing in schools that facilities such as toilets and drinking water are easily and safely accessible.

recognize the great potential of education to eliminate violence by ensuring that girls have accessible, acceptable, available, and good quality education, formal as well as non-formal. Awareness-raising programmes that inform girls of their rights and how to exercise them, as well as programmes that educate men, boys, parents, educators, community, political and religious leaders about the rights of girls and the unacceptability of any form of violence. Governments should work with non formal education to implement these activities.

Girls are the most crucial constituents for change now and in the future. Encourage you to stand with and accompany the young women around the world in their future, and to intensify efforts to ensure they can live a life free from violence and the fear of violence. Thank you very much for your attention.