



The Girls' Charter

This Charter Was Developed by 42 Young Girls (Ages 15–19) From Across the 6 Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria.



On the 4th of November 2021, 42 Girls from the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria (ages 15-19) came together in Abuja to develop the Girls Charter - a list of demands springing from conversations on issues they experience in various parts of their lives. The girls identified issues restricting the access of girls to education, gender inequality, digital gender divide among others.

The asks/demands are channeled towards key stakeholders who are representatives of the Government, Civil Society Organizations, Parents, and every citizen of Nigeria.

In addressing these issues, the following demands were made:

1. Girl Child Education

- All states in Nigeria should domesticate and implement the Violence Against Persons Prohibition and the Child Rights Acts to protect girls.
- Girls should have access to free, safe, and quality basic education to realise their full potential.
- There should be an increased enrollment of girls in schools to reduce the rate of girls' illiteracy.
- Competent teachers should be employed to provide mentorship and guidance for girls in schools.
- An external regulatory body should be established to monitor schools that demand hidden fees.
- Security issues in the country should be addressed to ensure that girls can learn in a safe and peaceful environment.
- Girls should be informed and encouraged to sign up on platforms where they can gain soft skills and workplace preparation skills.
- Government and all relevant stakeholders should continue to support girls' access to education in Nigeria.

2. Gender Equality and Leadership

- Curriculum development and educational practice should be made to address Gender stereotypes and roles.
- Programs that encourage and foster leadership opportunities for girls should be made top priority in schools. Girls should be encouraged and allowed to aspire to take active roles in leadership and political positions.



- An enabling learning environment for girls to utilise their skills should be made available. Girls in educational institutions must be protected against sexual harassment and abuse. All perpetrators of Sexual violence should be punished.
- Boys should champion the activities that promote the rights of girls in the community. In partnership with religion and traditional leaders, the government should provide a level of commitment to end all forms of traditional norms in marginalized communities.
- Girls should track the implementation of the demands of the charter and put pressure on the government for expedited delivery.

3. Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Girls need access to adequate and factual information that will enable them to make healthy choices for their bodies.
- Dignity kits or menstrual hygiene products, such as sanitary pads, sanitary wipes and tampons should be subsidized or available at no cost for girls, especially those in marginalised communities.
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education should be incorporated into schools curriculums and taught to both boys and girls.
- Harmful practices and socio-cultural norms that affect girls should be abolished by enforcing laws that protect girls from them and sensitizing the public on the harms and consequences of these practices.
- Laws and policies such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition and Child Rights Acts should be fully implemented and domesticated in all Nigerian states. There should be increased awareness on access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services in rural communities.

4. Access to Technology

- Governments should provide ICT facilities and equipment to schools and enforce the practical aspect of it in the schools.
- ICT clubs should be formed which includes girls and they should be encouraged to pursue a career in ICT related courses.
- School curriculums should be revised to include computer-based tests and examinations.
- Programs should be created on digital literacy to boost the interest of girls. Creation of job opportunities for parents to purchase technological gadgets for girls.
- Government should provide internet services to rural communities so that girls will have access to educational materials online.



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