

MANIFESTO

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL 2018

The girl, wherever she is in the world, has the right to education

**Madame Audrey Azoulay, Director general of UNESCO,
at the First "G20 Education", Argentina, September 5, 2018**

"Education is the challenge of the century. That is why it was important for UNESCO, the United Nations agency in charge of education, to participate in this first G20 dedicated to Education in Mendoza

*I wanted to emphasize here the importance of investing in education:
It is an absolute priority on which all others depend. "*

"The inclusion, for the first time, of education in the G20 talks is a positive sign of political commitment at the highest level," she added.

This manifesto was developed by the working group that prepared this
International Day of the Girl 2018.

- Considering the many **legal instruments** since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 dealing with education,
- Considering the numerous **statements** advocating the importance of girls' education,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to be born, to survive and to develop physically and intellectually
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to protection (one of the 3 P of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child) against abuse, violence, incest,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to free primary education,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to a technical and vocational education chosen by herself to enable her to gain access to a profession and responsibilities,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to a civic education which makes her a responsible citizen likely to exert later elective political and associative functions in her country,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to a physical and sport education

- Considering that the girl has the **right** to be protected against unpaid forced domestic work, against sexual exploitation, against prostitution presented as a lucrative profession,
- Considering that the girl has the **right** to health and gynecological care,
- **With reference to Goal 4 of Sustainable Development (SDG) by 2030:** *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. In addition to improving their quality of life, access to inclusive and equitable education can help provide local people with the tools they need to develop innovative solutions to the world's biggest problems.”*

AND YET, IN 2018

- **We note** that the girl with a disability is not sufficiently protected when she must be particularly protected,
- **We note** that millions of girls are assaulted daily,
- **We note** that millions of girls are forced to work too hard at a young age,
- **We note** that 200 million girls are struck by excision
- **We note** that 131 million girls around the world are out of school, while boys are in,
- **We note** that more than 16 million girls are forced to marry before the age of 18,
- **We note** that early pregnancy affects millions of girls,

TESTIMONIES RECEIVED IN 2018

- With reference to the **hundreds of testimonials collected** by Non-Governmental Organizations partners of UNESCO or not, mentioned below, from their national and local branches in different regions of the world and whose recurring themes are: ***Poverty***, gender-based violence, ***harassment***, lack of access to hygiene products especially during menstruation, ***rape***, prostitution to get money to go to school, ***forced marriage*** at a very young age, early pregnancy, ***lack, at school, of sanitary facilities and drinking water, of separate toilets between girls and boys***, mines and soldiers on the way to school, ***unequal access to school too expensive pushing parents to send boys at school rather than girls***, inaccessibility for children with disabilities, ***excessive distance from school and lack of transportation***, forced to get married at a very young age, having to work to earn money for family, ***excessive participation in housework*** etc etc ...

We, NGOs partners of UNESCO or not who have prepared the Day of the Girl 2018,

- **Consider** that, to be achieved, the SDGs by 2030, and particularly SDG 4, should have binding clauses that are respected by all states.
- **Demand** that child trafficking, child prostitution, and rape of girls be punished as a crime punishable by national laws
- **Demand** that the girl benefits from the entire school curriculum and if possible preschool

- **Demand** that girls and boys, educated separately or not, learn to work together as partners to ensure that girls are considered equal to boys.
- **Demand** that the girl be taught, from childhood, that her sex is in no way inferior to the male sex, that there are humans of different sex, equal in right and in dignity
- **Demand** that the protection of the girl be specifically inscribed in national legislation
- **Demand** that the quality of the training of all teachers is improved
- **Demand** that parents, teachers, traditional and religious leaders are informed and trained to involve them in respect of these rights
- **Recommend** that girls and boys receive “comprehensive sexuality education” as advocated in 2018 by the United Nations and UNESCO to control fertility and protect against sexually transmitted diseases
- **Recommend** that international, national and local NGOs take over the problem of non-schooling of girls and work with the people and in cooperation with all actors, particularly their governments
- **Are determined** to act more strongly to end the abuse of girls leading to death
- **Call on States** to make the recognition of the right to education of all girls in their countries operational
- Finally, **call on the entire civil society** to effectively support this advocacy, sensitize local actors and actively contribute to the achievement of these objectives at the service of humanity so that ALL girls, in 2030, receive an education of quality, the key to their development, which will enable them to find their rightful place in society and to become citizens aware of their responsibilities and rights.

Education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world
(Nelson Mandela)