



# TOWARDS A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD

The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2021–2025 – An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women’s empowerment in EU external action



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#GenderEqualWorld



“Granting the same rights to all empowers our societies. It makes them richer and more secure. It is a fact that goes beyond principles or moral duties. With this new Gender Action Plan, we are pushing for more and faster progress towards gender equality.”

High Representative/Vice-President, Josep Borrell

“Stronger engagement on gender equality is key to a sustainable global recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and building fairer, more inclusive, more prosperous societies.”

Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen



## BUILDING A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD, TOGETHER

The Gender Action Plan III is the **EU’s blueprint** for building a gender-equal world. It aims to curb the rise of inequalities in the difficult context created by the COVID-19 health and socio-economic crisis, and to **accelerate progress** on gender equality and women’s empowerment as a key aspect of **building back better**.

GAP III emphasises the importance of working together with EU Member States, in close cooperation with all partners, including civil society and communities. It will enhance the involvement of women’s and youths’ organisations and movements.

The EU will **lead by example** by striving for a gender-responsive and balanced leadership, ensuring public accountability of gender-related spending, and putting the focus on **results**.

## A PRIORITY OF ALL EXTERNAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

GAP III is an ambitious plan to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment through **all external action** of the European Union. It will help empower women and girls to **participate** and **lead** equally in social, economic, political life, and have a say in decisions involving them, including on the environment or digital transformation.

The Plan aims to **create long-term change** through concrete actions that change mentalities and address the harmful social norms and stereotypes at the root of gender inequality.



**64,25%**

2019

**85%**

2025

In 2019, 64.25% of all new projects, worth €8.7 billion, had gender equality as one of their objectives. By 2025, 85% of all new external actions will contribute to gender equality and the promotion of women’s empowerment.

## ADDRESSING THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN KEY AREAS

The EU aims to accelerate progress towards:

- Freedom from all forms of gender-based violence against women, girls, men and boys
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women
- Women's participation and leadership in politics and public life
- Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda
- Including women and girls in the green transition and digital transformation



**35%** of women have experienced gender-based violence. In some countries, this rises to **70%**



In 2020, less than **50%** of women have a paid job, compared to **76%** of men



Women represent around **25%** of national parliamentarians worldwide, marking a slow increase from **11.3%**



Women account for **80%** of the people displaced by the impacts of climate change



Bringing an additional **600 million** women online could increase GDP by **€13 billion**, bringing benefits to public health, education, women's employment, entrepreneurship, community welfare and social life

### MERRIE'S STORY

"I was only 19 years old. People warned me against it, but I had a mission to accomplish. I wanted to change the political landscape in my community.

I joined a discussion group in my district, a leadership nursery. We were young female politicians from different political parties. At election time, we worked together to increase women's representation in parliament.

My next goal is to contest the elections for councillors. I appeal to my peers: "If I can do it, you can too!" We can influence change in our communities."

Merrie is a member of the Young Women Action Group, co-funded by the EU and DanCurchAid, which aims to increase young women's participation and leadership in politics.

### AWA'S STORY

In early 2020, Awa had just turned 15 years old when she heard that her marriage was being arranged. Escaping it seemed difficult, but Awa found the courage to defy her father's decision.

Her small village in Mali had a Committee for the prevention of early marriage, and she took her case to them. This body of respected people presented Awa's father with all the arguments against early marriage, and managed to convince him.

The Committee, along with many others in the area, is supported by the European Union.

