



Interactive dialogue with youth representatives

Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers

**Thursday, 12 March 2026, 3.00 – 6.00 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 4**

Background

The priority theme, “Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers” responds directly to sustained Member States demand (see also [E/CN.6/2026/3](#)). In the 2024 global review of the Beijing Platform for Action, 77% of countries identified access to justice as a top priority, and 90% reported recent action to strengthen laws addressing violence against women. At the same time, persistent barriers continue to undermine meaningful justice outcomes. CSW70 offers a critical opportunity to reaffirm access to justice as both a right and a precondition for realizing all other rights.

Objective

The interactive dialogue with youth representatives will elevate the voices, expertise, and lived experiences of young people in advancing access to justice through diverse approaches, including legal empowerment, traditional justice mechanisms, strategic litigation, and transitional justice processes. By fostering intergenerational and intersectional exchange across national, regional, and global levels, the dialogue will focus on the role of youth in ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will provide youth representatives from Member States an opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion with a broad range of stakeholders that will include Government representatives,

Parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, where they exist, as well as NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, representatives of relevant United Nations bodies and the media. Member States will participate in the interactive dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept.

The Chair will direct the dialogue to ensure its interactive nature using a set of guiding questions. Member States will be encouraged to ask questions and comment on interventions made during the dialogue. Written statements will be strongly discouraged.

Guiding questions

Participants are invited to consider the following questions to help to focus the interactive dialogue:

1. What steps are necessary to expand legal aid, strengthen legal literacy, and remove financial, legal, and technological barriers that hinder access to justice for young women and girls, particularly those facing discrimination in all its forms and manifestations?
2. How is your government/organization supporting youth-led, victim and survivor centred approaches that improve safe reporting and accountability for violence against young women and adolescent girls?
3. How can technology be leveraged to promote equitable access to justice for young women and girls, especially those experiencing digital exclusion due to geographic, linguistic, or socio-economic disparities while ensuring safeguards against bias, surveillance, and other harms?
4. What measures are needed to protect a safe civic space and ensure meaningful, long-term participation of diverse youth, particularly young women and girls from marginalized regions, also taking into consideration their diverse situations, contexts and conditions in shaping justice systems, legal reforms, and social norms?

Outcome

The outcome of the interactive dialogue will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.