

International Day of the Girl 2021



Concept Note

International Day of the Girl 2021: 11 October

Digital generation. Our generation.

In 2021 we commemorate the [Generation Equality Forum \(GEF\)](#), launching 5-year commitments from civil society leaders, governments, corporations and change makers from around the world for bold gender equality impacts. At the same time, we are in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has accelerated digital platforms for learning, earning and connecting, while also highlighting girls' diverse digital realities.

The gender digital divide in connectivity, devices and use, skills and jobs is real. It is an inequity and exclusion gap across geographies and generations that is our challenge to address if the digital revolution is to be for all, with all, by all. Let's seize the momentum to drive action and accountability of GEF commitments made, for and with girls to achieve a bold vision of bridging the digital gender divide.

Theme: Digital generation. Our generation.

Girls know their digital realities and the solutions they need to excel on their diverse pathways as technologists for freedom of expression, joy, and boundless potential. Let's amplify the diversity of these [tech trailblazers](#) while simultaneously widening the pathways so that every girl, this generation of girls – regardless of race, gender, language, ability, economic status and geographic origin – lives their full potential.

Gender equity in digital literacy is also a driver of economic growth, a competitive business, and national advantage. Yet currently:

- The global internet user gender gap is growing, from 11 per cent in 2013 to 17 per cent in 2019, and widest in the world's least developed countries at 43 per cent.
- 2.2 billion people below the age of 25 do not have internet access at home, with girls more likely to be cut off.
- Globally, the percentage of females among Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduates is below 15 per cent in over two-thirds of countries.
- And in middle and higher-income countries, only 14 per cent of girls who were top performers in science or mathematics expected to work in science and engineering compared to 26 per cent of top-performing boys.

- Only 22 per cent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) professionals globally are women, a massive gender gap in who is currently at the heart of designing the algorithms that will impact all of our lives.

From October 2021 – October 2022 we will collectively call attention to:

- The power and diversity of adolescent girls as digital change-makers and designers of learning and other solutions addressing the challenges and opportunities they face in their digital worlds.
- Living and increasing the investments announced at GEF from all actors and stakeholders of intentional approaches to closing the gender digital divide – access to devices, connectivity, skills, safety – thus opening up pathways for all girls, for generations, to live their full potential.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Share stories / blogs / videos of inspiring adolescent girls who are tech trailblazers while collectively amplifying our call to action to expand these pathways for every girl, everywhere.

Amplify your GEF and other commitments to address the gender digital divide experienced by today's generation of girls, illustrating that we must take a strong generational gender lens to the digital divide if we are to achieve meaningful and sustainable change for a digital revolution by, with and for all.

More information is available [here](#). The social media pack will be uploaded by the beginning of September.

For more information, please contact

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