

CONCEPT NOTE - Online Side Event for the 2025 High Level Political Forum

Online Side Event Title: Gender Equality: The Key Ingredient for SDG2030

Preferred Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Time: 8:30am EDT

Zoom Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/I2_cilBOQYSBGludDspjiA

Target Audience: Youth (young women and girls), religious congregations and their networks, IBVM UN NGO network, girl and women-serving NGOs

Event Sponsors: Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate; The Grail

Event Partners: The Mary Ward Centre

Event Objective:

Learn from young women and girls as they share their knowledge and experience concerning gender equality. In response to UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality, this webinar will examine the opportunities and barriers young women and girls experience concerning SDG 5. This webinar will examine their experiences related to policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels, particularly applied to good health and wellbeing (SDG 3), decent work (SDG 8), life under water (SDG 14), and partnerships (SDG 17).

Event participants will hear from young women and girls from around the world who will highlight the interconnections between these goals. Through panel presentations and interactive engagement, participants will gain knowledge, understanding, and the capacity to act towards achieving SDG 5 locally and globally.

This side event aligns with other key global commitments on gender equality, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and outcomes from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Background

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the global community has made significant strides toward gender equality. However, challenges remain—particularly for girls, who continue to face barriers in accessing education, healthcare, protection from violence, and opportunities for leadership.

Proposed Speakers:

- Victory Okeugo, Youth Representative (Canada)

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- Girl Representative (Canada) - To be confirmed
- Lili Lenard, Youth Representative (Germany)
- Youth Representative (South Africa) - To be confirmed
- Youth Representative (Philippines) - To be confirmed

Draft Outline

Online Side Event

Time	Content	Speakers
	Welcome, Land Acknowledgement (3 minutes)	Representative of Host Organization
	Opening Remarks on Event Theme (5 minutes)	Youth Moderator (Kimy - The Grail)
	Panel Discussion – Exploring SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and its interlinkages with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 14 (Life Under Water), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 17 (Partnerships) 5 minutes per speaker Approximately 20 minutes for conversation among panelists and Q&A from audience Guiding questions: Related to the snapshot and SDG 5, 8, 14 and 17: What is your current reality? How do you envision your reality if the SDG were achieved? What are your strategies in your community to overcome the reality you face?	Victory Okeugo, Youth Representative (Canada) Lili Lenard, Youth Representative (Germany) Youth Representative (South Africa) - TBC Youth Representative (Philippines) - TBC

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	<p>Small Group Conversation Circle (15 mins)</p> <p>In groups of 5 people, small group facilitators will guide a conversation on the following three questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is your experience of gender equality? - What can be done locally to empower young women and girls? - What commitment can you personally make to empower young women and girls in your community? <p>Large Group Sharing in Chat (2 mins)</p>	<p>Youth Moderator</p> <p>Small group facilitators</p>
	<p>Closing and Thank You (5 mins)</p>	<p>Representative of Host Organization</p>

Sponsors and Partners

