YOUTH MANIFESTO

OUR BODIES, OUR LIVES, OUR RIGHTS

VISION

As young people, we demand a world where we are empowered to lead a happy, inclusive and healthy life, free from any form of discrimination and violence; where our rights, our choices and our bodies are respected and where we can realise our full potential to transform our communities and create sustainable change.

BACKGROUND

In 1998, IPPF published its Youth Manifesto. Twenty one years later, a group of young leaders from all six IPPF regions came together to rewrite the Manifesto, ensuring it would reflect the wants and needs of today's young people.

This Manifesto has been written with contributions from over 16,000 young people around the world from various backgrounds who participated in an open online consultation process.

SERVICES

We demand high-quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care that is accessible, affordable and is responsive to our needs.

We have the fundamental right for health care providers to respect our confidentiality, enabling us to access services in a safe, private and confident manner.

We will not tolerate judgment or discrimination and demand that healthcare providers treat us with respect and dignity, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, belief, ethnicity, ability or disability and our marital status. We deserve these rights whether we live in stable or crisis settings and regardless of our documentation status.

We have the right to up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive information about our sexual and reproductive health and rights, including information on contraception, relationships, HIV and STIs, sexual and gender-based violence, consent and sexual pleasure.

We must be empowered to explore more radical and assertive narratives designed to disseminate information and create inclusive access to sexual and reproductive health services, leading to collective action in responding to the opposition and reclaiming control over our own bodies.

Only when we can truly realise the agency of our bodies can we contribute to the development of an inclusive and safe society.

EDUCATION

We demand comprehensive sexuality education that is provided throughout our lives and which addresses every aspect of our health, growth and development.

Governments and policy makers must legalize and fund mandatory comprehensive sexuality education that is delivered in and out of school by trained, non-judgmental providers going beyond biology to include but not limited to, HIV and STIs, gender, identity and sexual orientation, gender-based violence, healthy relationships, consent and sexual pleasure.

We must create an open and safe culture to access and share and gather information about our sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout our lives, using various platforms with safe and interactive methods.

The agency of our bodies lies with us, and as such, all young people must be empowered to tackle sex and gender-based violence while at the same time, we call for solidarity in ensuring safe spaces and accountability.

Information is power and being given access to comprehensive education empowers us to make the most informed choices, free from coercion, regarding our health, bodies and lives.

LEADERSHIP

We refuse to merely be observers of policy and leadership and demand to be meaningfully engaged and recognised as active decision makers - we will not be diminished to a quota.

Youth leadership must be valued and supported by investment and policy; we must create youth-friendly environments through training opportunities, policies and financial investment where young people can thrive.

We call on all stakeholders to engage with us in a meaningful and respectful manner, sharing knowledge, experience and constructive criticism as active partners, understanding that we share equal rights and responsibilities.

We need to make a more concerted effort to build relationships based on mutual support and respect between young people across the globe, foster knowledge sharing and stand in solidarity on issues directly affecting us.

CALL TO ACTION

We are the future, but we are also the now.

We are the sole owners of our bodies and our lives.

We are building and shaping our communities to become more inclusive and non-discriminatory.

We demand our sexual and reproductive health and rights - by speaking out, taking the space and reclaiming our fundamental right to be treated as equals, and we will continue to do so until our demands are met.

We want nothing for us, without us.