



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

United Nations (UN) Women Youth Dialogue: Connecting Generations in Achieving Gender Equality

The purpose of the event was to create a space for dialogue about how to achieve the goal of planet 50/50 Gender equality by 2030 with diverse youth activists on gender equality, the Executive Director of UN Women, and Canadian youth

The forum was held on 7 June 2016 at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario.

Report submitted by Aden Hamza, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

The discussion provided an opportunity for youth in Canada to discuss the issue of gender equality, particularly the challenges and potential strategies that could be effective in achieving 50/50 by 2030.

When asked about youth engagement, the panel discussed how youth need to recognize that their experiences are valid and rejected the notion that instead of being leaders tomorrow, they should opt to be leaders NOW. It was also mentioned that youth need access to mentorship and intergenerational support to grow as leaders.

On the topic of intergenerational dynamics, the time and experience of elders was recognized, as was their responsibility to share mistakes, lessons, and insights, thus giving youth access to this through mentorship. This gives an opportunity for youth to challenge the way the world has been perceived and still feel supported by their elders. Spaces and opportunities for young people to work alongside adults need to be provided — particularly in creating media and enhancing representation. However, for these intergenerational partnerships to be successful, both youth and elders have to come into the discussion with humility and elders have to relinquish their age privilege in order to work in solidarity with youth. Also, remember that men need to be part of the discussion and should not be discriminated against, as they are a key partner in prevention. Finally, the strength of youth was highlighted particularly in grassroots movements and it was highly encouraged that youth connect with organizations that are bigger than themselves; learning from peers is an irreplaceable experience.

In the concluding remarks, action-oriented change was highlighted specifically for youth, identifying that youth-led spaces and conversations can be created at the community level, and youth can also help keep the United Nations accountable to its goals. Also, attendees were reminded to “check your privilege,” meaning dismantle what we think in order to be true allies to the struggle for gender equality. In terms of UN limitations in Canada, the director was forthright in that Canadians are privileged and can use the policies already in place to our advantage. Additionally, we can encourage our government to focus on these issues.

Panelists:

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka - Executive Director of [UN Women](#)

- Aldeli Alban Reyna – Public Policy Coordinator at [YWCA](#)
- Claire Charness – Canadian Ambassador to [G\(irls\)20](#) in 2012
- Nasma Ahmed – Student in Public Policy – Young Muslim Feminist
- Jason Tan de Bibiana – Program Coordinator of [Next Gen Men](#)
- Lia Valente and Tessa Hill – Co-founders of [We Give Consent](#)

Twitter: [@unwomen4youth](#)

Hashtag: #LEAPsinGenderEquality #planet5050

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unwomen

YouTube: www.youtube.com/unwomen

Brochure:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/initiatives/stepitup/stepitup-brochure-en.pdf?v=1&d=20150916T204739>