



WHAT WE HEARD

**Findings from Women Deliver's
Global Community Consultation**

INTRODUCTION

In August of 2020, Women Deliver began the Global Community Consultation (GCC) to gather feedback and input ahead of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023), which will be co-created and co-led from day one of the planning process, by diverse stakeholders, including partners, past Conference attendees, as well as those who have never attended the Conference. These stakeholders will play a crucial role in shedding light on the current advocacy landscape for gender equality¹ across each of the major geographic regions of the world, and will inform the overall theme, goals, and programming for WD2023.

Over a four-month period, we collected information via a public survey in order to better understand the most pressing issues for girls and women globally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on convenings, what advocates would like to gain from participating in the next Women Deliver Conference, and how the Conference can catalyze collective action for gender equality. We received 4,480 responses across six continents from respondents spanning generations (39% of respondents were under the age of 30) and working in a wide range of sectors, including academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, government, and UN agencies. Women Deliver staff also conducted a series of virtual interviews and focus groups with an equally diverse group of respondents — from former heads of state and multilateral leaders, to disability rights activists, young leaders, and grassroots advocates. As we plan WD2023, these insights will help shape a more inclusive and accessible convening and build momentum toward advancing gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) around the world.



¹ Women Deliver defines gender equality as the equal access to power, dignity, justice, rights, health, and opportunities for all persons, particularly girls and women in all their diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) identities.

BY THE NUMBERS

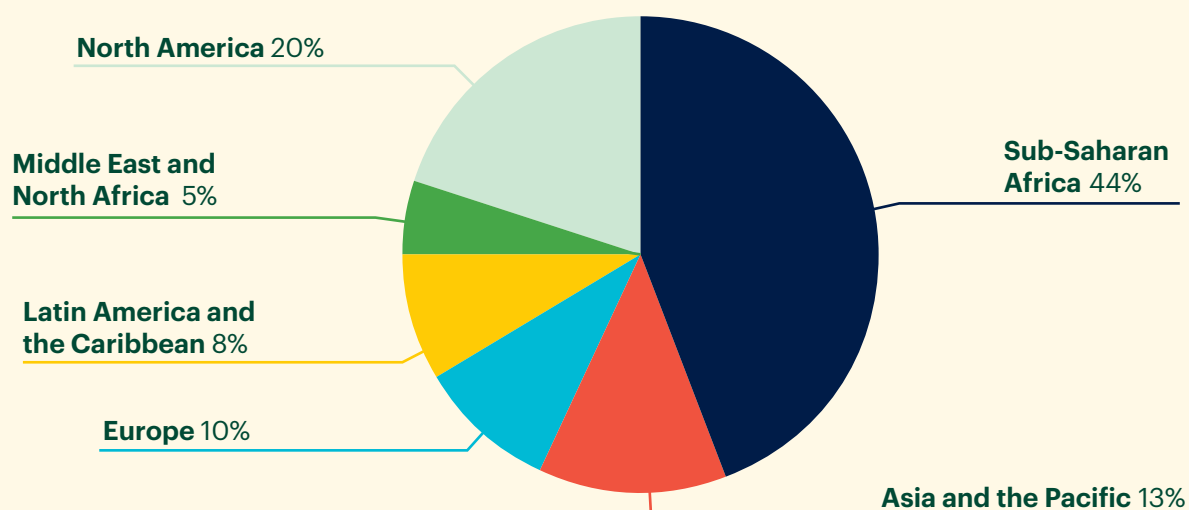


4,480
total respondents

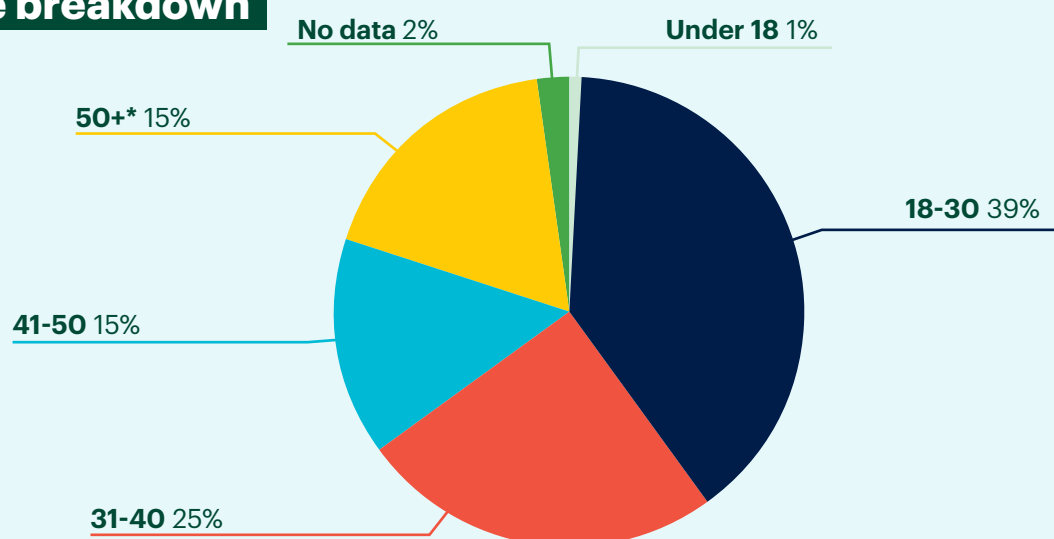


166
countries

Regional breakdown

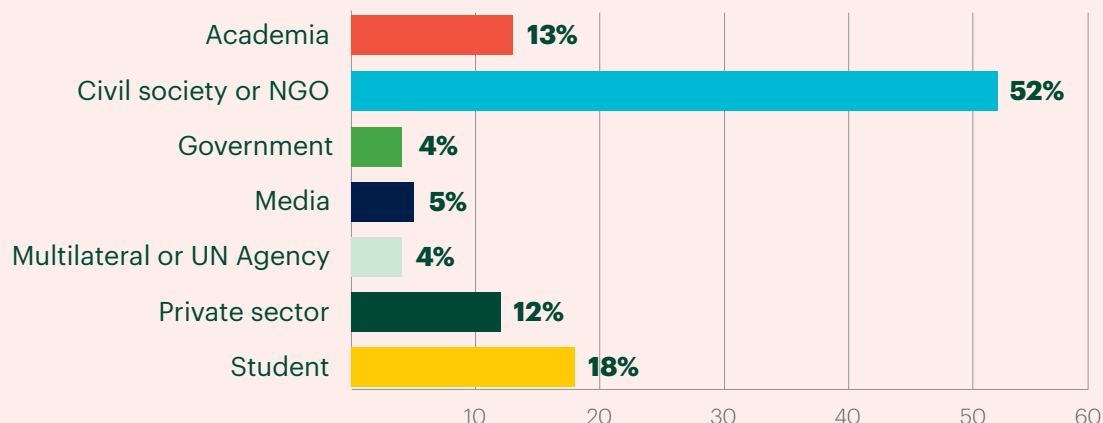


Age breakdown

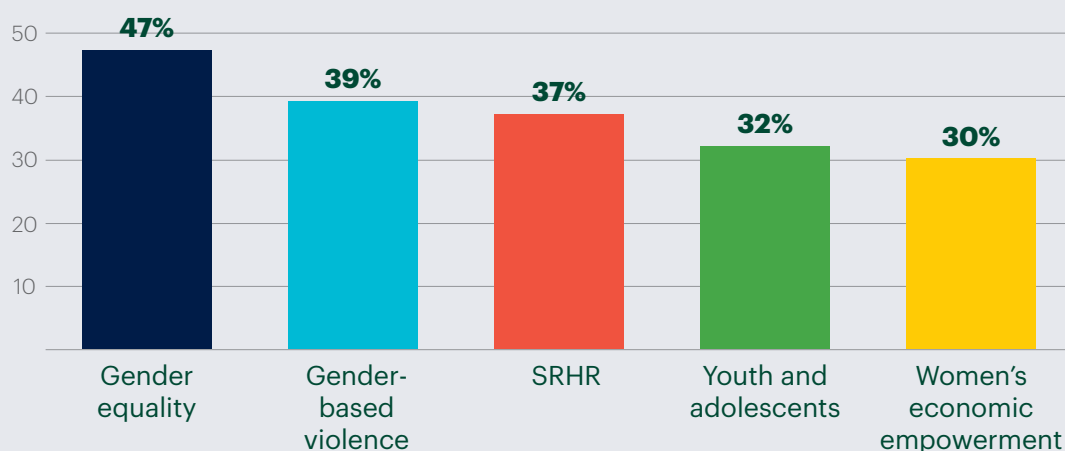


* In future, Women Deliver's Global Community Consultations will strive to reach additional age brackets, including people aged 50-70, as well as people aged 70 and above.

Breakdown of different sectors



Breakdown of respondents' issue area of focus



Additional demographic characteristics of respondents

Female **83%**
 Indigenous **12%**
 LGBTQIA+ **9%**
 Living in a humanitarian or crisis setting **11%**
 Living in a rural area **28%**
 Living with a disability **6%**
 Male **14%**
 Non-binary/gender nonconforming **1%**
 Refugee or asylum seeker **3%**
 Transgender **1%**



70%

of respondents had never attended a Women Deliver Conference

KEY FINDINGS

The Global Community Consultation resulted in a wealth of knowledge, learnings, and suggestions concerning global and regional priorities for achieving gender equality, ideas for creating more accessible and inclusive convenings, and the impact that advocates hope to see WD2023 achieve. We are humbled and grateful for respondents' insights and deep engagement in this process. Below is a summary of the key findings from the GCC.



USE CONVENING AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL

Through this process, survey respondents overwhelmingly shared the belief that the Women Deliver Conference is a powerful platform for advancing gender equality by acting as a key policy moment and a fueling station for advocates to connect with decision-makers and one another to learn new skills and share evidence. They felt that the next Conference will serve as an important policy moment and accountability mechanism following a number of commitments we expect to be made around gender equality at international fora, including the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), the Global Education Summit, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the G7 Summit, and the United Nations Climate Change Summit (COP26), among others. Similarly, overall, focus groups agreed that an in-person convening is important for greater engagement and networking, and reinforced the belief that digital programming should be expanded to improve the Conference's accessibility.



Delegates taking a group photo at the Young Leaders & Alumni Workshop at the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver, Canada. Photo credit: Isabella Sarmiento.



SET GOALS AND CONCENTRATE ON IMPACT

Respondents shared that they hope the Conference will catalyze conversations between diverse stakeholders, break barriers, address challenges, and strengthen advocates' capacity to advance gender equality and SRHR around the world. The majority of respondents felt that while the Women Deliver Conference should address gender equality holistically, it would benefit from a more focused theme and set of goals. Specifically, respondents expressed the desire to see clear, quantifiable goals set ahead of the next Conference to support with monitoring overall impact, including a set number of political and financial commitments and investments from leaders and decision-makers to advance gender equality and SRHR. To bolster the Conference's overall impact, respondents also shared a strong call for greater accessibility, intersectionality, and inclusivity in all stages of the conceptualization, development, and execution the Conference — from day one.



“[The Women Deliver Conference and Global Dialogue should act as a] portal for dialogue, training, and a space for conversation between advocates, change-makers, and key players to bring forward a dialogue, to start projects, and to monitor results.”

- Global Community Consultation Respondent



FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Respondents shared many challenges and opportunities to improve the lives of girls and women and achieve gender equality. When asked what respondents thought were the top actions that would have the greatest impact on gender equality, the most frequent responses were:

- Improve women's access to leadership roles.
- Improve women's economic empowerment.
- Address gender-based violence.
- Promote equal access to education.
- Improve access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- Address the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemic preparedness.



CENTER ADVOCATES

The GCC included past Conference attendees, as well as those who have never attended a Women Deliver Conference. All perspectives were beneficial in learning how WD2023 should develop its programming and better center advocates, including from women's rights organizations and movements, youth-led and LGBTQIA+ organizations, and those representing the intersectional identities of girls, women, and underrepresented populations in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) in all aspects of the Conference. Co-creation, building accessible and inclusive spaces, power-sharing, and power-shifting were consistently identified by respondents as being crucial to advocate-centered programming.



"Increase the level of engagement with women from LMICs in the preparatory aspects [of the Conference], not only as recipients of travel grants, but as thought leaders and shapers of themes."

- Global Community Consultation Respondent



PROVIDE SPACE FOR LEARNING AND CONNECTION

Respondents' top priorities in attending the Women Deliver Conference were: 1) to add a gender lens to their existing work, 2) to learn and/or improve their advocacy skills, and 3) to connect with decision-makers, funders, and other advocates. Women Deliver gathered feedback on the kinds of programming respondents thought would be most beneficial, which included workshops, webinars, forums, and networking spaces to learn from and engage with their peers. Respondents also hope to see greater regional programming and mobilization in the lead up to WD2023 that enables them to connect with other organizations and advocates – both in-person and virtually.



"Through the skills I gained at the Conference, I have managed to secure funding from Global Fund. I am working with the LGBTI+ community whereby with my organization we are advocating for their rights"

- Women Deliver 2019 Conference Attendee



NEXT STEPS

It is only in partnerships – and as a result of the contributions of many – that gender equality will be realized. WD2023 will adopt a greater focus on partnerships than ever before by building bridges between diverse actors in order to bring country-level advocates' perspectives to bare both in-person and virtually, every step of the way. Below are some of the prioritized next steps we are taking from the learnings of the Global Community Consultation.



Delegates taking a group photo on stage at the Deliver for Good Campaign side event “Leveraging National Movements for Global Change” at the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

1. CO-LEAD AND CO-CREATE

Women Deliver will partner with hundreds of organizations around the world to co-lead and co-create all aspects of the Conference, both in-person and virtually, using a cross-cutting, multisectoral approach. This work will be led by a diverse Advisory Group that will be charged with taking forward suggestions from the GCC as well as those submitted via an online form on our [Conference website](#). We will also conduct a series of design sprints in fall 2021 that will help shape the Conference program.

66

“Involve researchers and NGOs in various regions [in the Conference] to identify groups of women with needs that have been ignored or not brought to the fore.”

- Global Community Consultation Respondent

99

2. DEVELOP A ROBUST VIRTUAL PROGRAM

WD2023 will feature a robust virtual program that will take place in conjunction with in-person programming. Virtual programming will give participants around the world an opportunity to fully engage with plenary sessions, networking events, and side events. The Women Deliver team is currently in the process of researching virtual platforms that prioritize accessibility and user experience in order to select the most fitting platform for WD2023.

3. BUILD MOMENTUM FOR GENDER EQUALITY

WD2023 will seek to build momentum toward gender-transformative policy change by holding decision-makers accountable for commitments to gender equality, including those made during key policy moments in the lead up to the Conference. We will continue to work with partners to brainstorm how WD2023 can be a space to break barriers, address challenges, and identify new opportunities to advance gender equality and SRHR. For example, WD2023 will be an opportunity for 2021's Generation Equality Forum Commitment Makers to convene and share progress.

4. FOSTER A GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Six months prior to WD2023, Women Deliver will launch a Global Dialogue to equip advocates around the world, and particularly those living in LMICs, with the knowledge and skills they need to address the most pressing challenges to gender equality and SRHR in their own communities, countries, and regions. The Global Dialogue will present new evidence and knowledge, promote solutions, and engage a broad spectrum of voices, within and beyond our networks, to 1) catalyze action for girls and women in the lead up to WD2023, and 2) connect diverse communities and sectors by linking previously disparate organizations and movements to drive collective action.

5. STRENGTHEN CAPACITY AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE

WD2023 will have a greater focus than ever before on capacity sharing and skill building. For instance, within Conference programming, more space will be built in for networking and interactive workshops, as well as for sharing evidence and solutions between in-person and virtual participants.

“

“[The Conference] increased my fundraising skills. These skills enabled me during the lockdown restrictions in Uganda to fundraise \$5000, which was used to provide food to urban refugees.”

- Women Deliver 2019 Conference Attendee

”

6. PRIORITIZE KEY ISSUES IN THE PROGRAM

As we develop the Conference's theme and program tracks, we will prioritize the issues we have heard are the most pressing for girls and women and for achieving gender equality and SRHR across diverse situations and contexts.



Delegates exploring the Solutions Gallery at the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Women Deliver is working to become an anti-racist and anti-colonial organization, grounded in intersectional feminist principles. We recognize the importance of the long-overdue global reckoning around the world and within our sector, and are actively working to break down the systems of white supremacy and privilege at the core of reproductive, economic, and racial inequality and injustice. We also recognize that there is no final destination in the work to become anti-racist and anti-colonialist. This is a continuous process that requires continuous work. Finally, we know that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the ways in which we work, connect, and support one another.

Women Deliver, alongside global partners and the community of advocates we work with and for, is committed to continuing to learn and reflect on how we can live our values and best enable our global community to fully, effectively, and equitably participate in all of our convenings. The GCC has been an invaluable part of our work to create more inclusive, consultative, and accessible convenings. As such, we commit to the following at WD2023 and the Global Dialogue:

- 1 In-person and digital programming that is accessible from around the globe, including low-bandwidth options**
- 2 The creation of a diverse Advisory Group that prioritizes co-creation and co-leadership in the development and execution of all aspects of Conference programming**
- 3 A streamlined and transparent application submission process, including full transparency around selection criteria, and a deepened respect for the time and effort associated with applying to host a panel or session at the Conference**
- 4 100% of panels will include speakers from LMICs and youth speakers (under the age of 30 at the time of the Conference)**
- 5 60% of Conference organizers, speakers, and advisors will be from LMICs**
- 6 25% of WD2023 participants, including all 300 members of the current class of Women Deliver Young Leaders, will receive financial support. Wherever feasible, Women Deliver will offer financial support, from scholarships, to honorariums, to tech stipends**

7

Registration costs will be on a sliding scale, so youth and those from LMICs have reduced costs to participate

8

All official programming will be accessible, including physical and digital spaces, by providing closed captioning, interpretation in three languages, and International Sign Language

9

Accessibility services that include trauma informed specialists, child safeguarding support, and mental health specialists will be provided

10

WD2023 will prioritize the themes of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalitions and will create spaces at the next Conference for the Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC, Global Alliance for Care, Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce Initiative, Climate-SRHR Alliance, the Deliver for Good Campaign, and the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) to build on efforts started at GEF

THANK YOU

Women Deliver is grateful to all who contributed to the Global Community Consultation. We are using these important findings and suggestions to inform the program development of WD2023 and the accompanying Global Dialogue which will begin in 2022. The conversation will continue with experts and advocates around the globe, with a focus on the perspectives of country-level advocates, toward developing an accessible and inclusive Conference that fosters robust dialogue and knowledge sharing, and, crucially, drives gender-transformative policy change, action, and accountability.

For more information, please visit [WD2023.org](https://wd2023.org). To stay up to date on Conference announcements, please sign up for the Women Deliver newsletter [here](#).

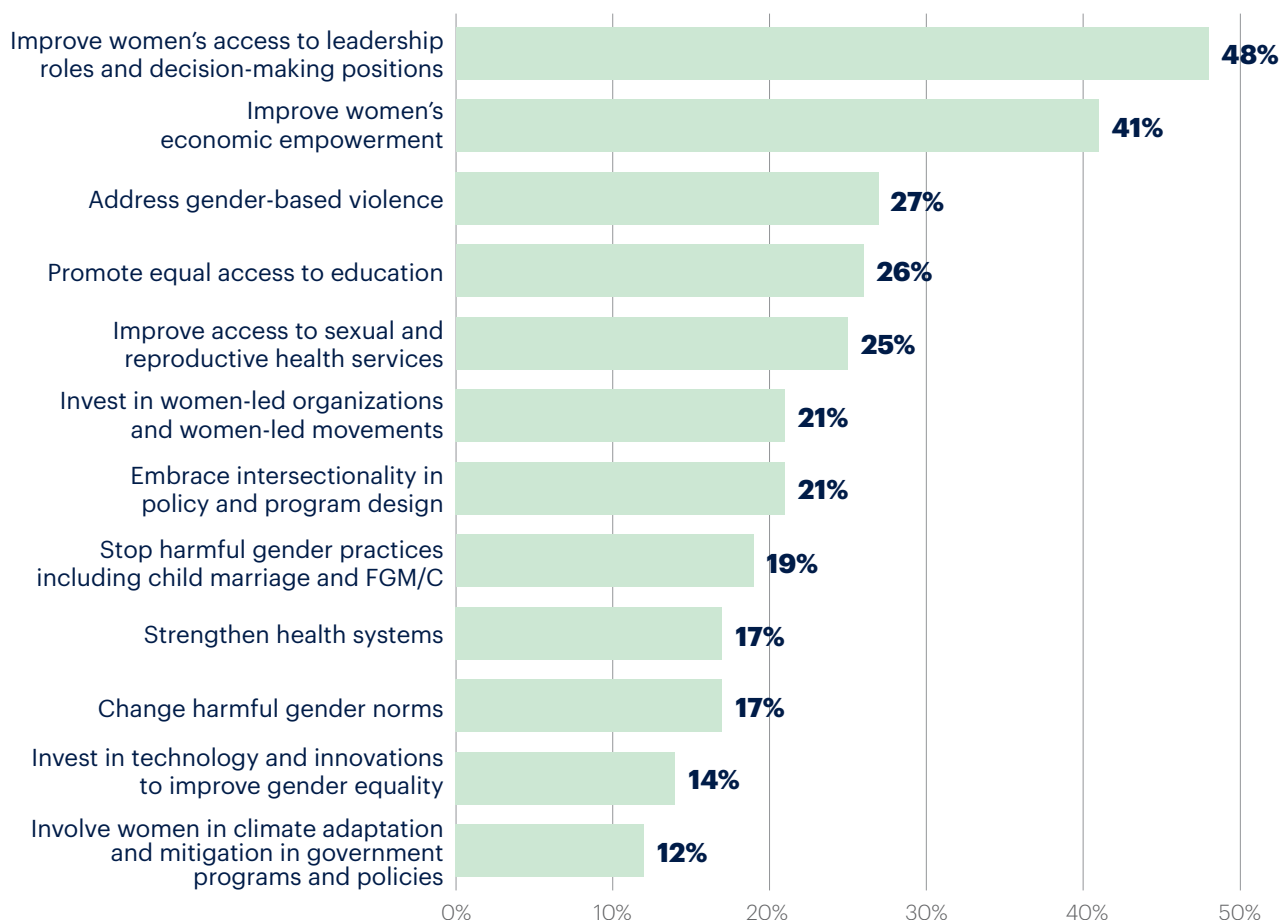
APPENDIX

Below are the responses to both the Global Community Consultation Survey conducted in August 2020 and the focus group consultations conducted between August and October 2020.*

*Note: At the time of the GCC, the next Women Deliver Conference was going to be held in 2022, so questions were framed in that context. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Women Deliver has decided to host the next Conference in 2023.

1

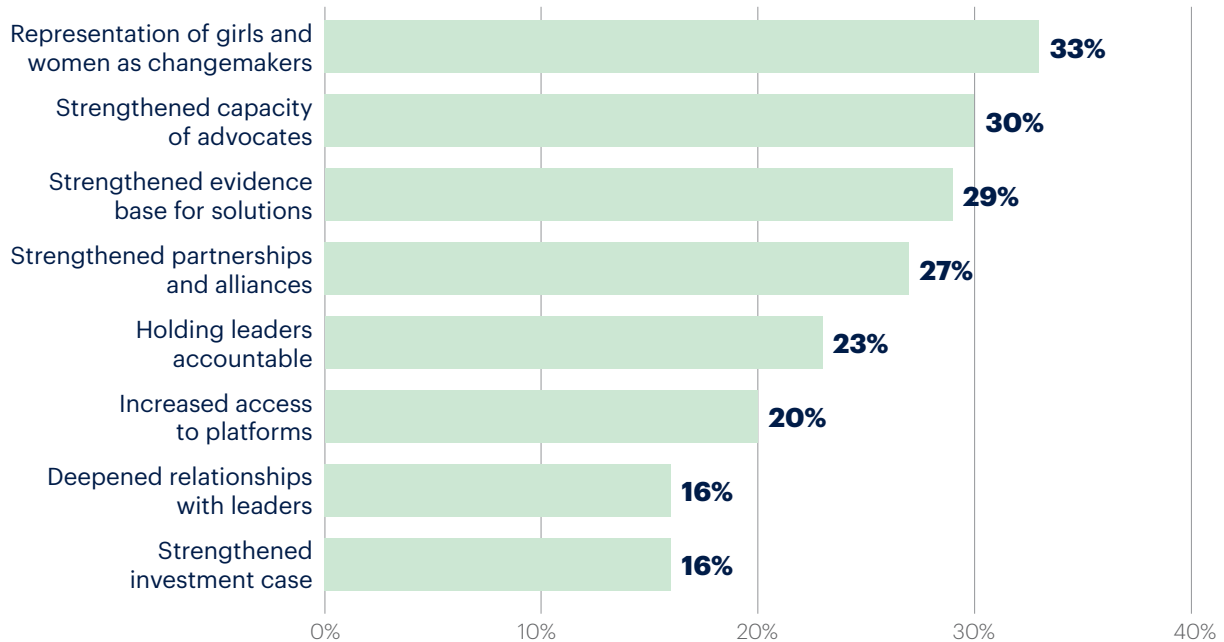
Please indicate what you think are the top actions that could have the greatest impact on gender equality in 2022? [Respondents selected three options]



2

Women Deliver has always emphasized that the Conference is much more than a moment in time, but instead a catalyst for a global dialogue on gender equality. In what ways would you like to see the global dialogue catalyze action and change?

[Respondents selected up to two options]



3

Given COVID-19 and the need to engage advocates globally, what further can be done beyond the physical space of the Conference to ensure a global dialogue takes place, considering greatest potential impact and feasibility? Please rank the following strategies with 1 having the most impact and 9 having the least impact.

[Below is the aggregate ranking of responses]

1. Women Deliver conducts more webinars on advocacy strategies prior to the Conference
2. Regional conference launches
3. Forums conducted leading up to the Conference on topics related to gender equality
4. Satellite events
5. Expanded social media campaign to include more partner voices
6. Develop a database with advocacy solutions and resources
7. Sessions and/or meetings at other conferences or global convenings
8. Women Deliver streams more elements of the Conference online
9. More opportunities for two-way communications with the Conference

4

Do you have other responses to expand the Global Dialogue? [Top themes]

- Create virtual content and prioritize digital accessibility practices
- Conduct regional campaigns, potentially with ambassadors and volunteers
- Partner and collaborate with grassroots organizations
- Create spaces for networking in multiple languages
- Use existing and new social media outlets (i.e., blogs, podcasts, video campaigns)
- Prioritize inclusivity (age, language, underrepresented voices) in programming
- Use country and community ambassadors to expand the dialogue
- Engage mainstream media to change the narratives
- Consider various time zones
- Share lessons learned and impact re: COVID-19
- Create connective tissue between the Global Dialogue and the Conference



Sample of quotes for expanding the Global Dialogue:

“A portal for dialogue, training and a space for conversation between advocates, change-makers and key players can bring forward a dialogue to start projects/ monitor results amongst others.”

“WD Alumni in every country should host webinars every quarter, provide updates and answer any queries or have a focus group session with the changemakers within their countries and report back to the WD HQ for insight and workshops online.”

“Having small Regional platforms (Symposiums/workshops/dialogues), that brings together Policy makers/ leader at the Regional levels, NGO’s, Youth and other stakeholders.”

“Foster engagement with Filmmakers, Musicians/Song Writers, Dancers, Poets as producers of engagement materials.”

“Build match-making program to connect between the women entrepreneurs or with investors and mentors.”

“a) Address themes that cut across a broad diversity of themes and women, b) Increase the level of engagement with women from the global south in the preparatory aspects not only as recipients of travel grants but as thought leaders and shapers of the themes of the Conference.”



5

How do you suggest we reach and meaningfully engage new and hard-to-reach people and communities to ensure the Conference and Global Dialogue are representative of diverse communities around the world (e.g. adolescents, LGBTQIA+, girls and women living with disabilities, rural women, Black and indigenous women, religious and ethnic minorities, etc.)? [Top themes]

- Use social media and digital outreach in various languages
- Ensure virtual accessibility
- Engage field staff and grassroots organizations
- Host convenings outside of the Conference
- Secure safe spaces for participation and host meet up groups for communities
- Be transparent about speaking and planning opportunities and reach out to underrepresented communities
- Use music, storytelling, and art as methods to foster dialogue
- Have allies in these networks who can spread the word
- Be bolder in stating inclusivity and embrace issues from different perspectives
- Use accessibility best practices
- Share learnings from smaller countries and communities



Sample of quotes:

“Stream videos of these local communities who can’t attend the conference so they can speak for themselves during the conference.”

“Go to them rather than expecting citizens to participate at pre-established times that are only suitable for the organizers. Meet people where they are comfortable.”

“Assess and find ways to provide safe and reliable access to technology for remote participation (e.g. through small group gatherings in homes, educational institutions, community centres, etc.)”

“Reach them through foundations who fund grassroots women’s organization.”

“Involve researchers and NGOs in various regions to identify groups of women with needs that have been ignored or not brought to the fore.”



6

How can Women Deliver design a conference that contributes to dismantling colonialist development practices and white supremacy? [Top themes]

- Elevate and center BIPOC voices
- Ensure diversity at all levels of planning and programming
- Be explicitly anti-colonial and anti-racist
- Ensure virtual/digital accessibility
- Consider the conference location & access of participants (i.e. visa accessibility)
- Tackle the topic at the conference, have discussion groups
- Make space for storytelling



Sample of quotes:

“Let BIPOC women-led grassroots orgs set the agenda and define the needs. Not the Intl white-led NGOs.”

“Don’t focus on the elites who are disconnected from their territories and countries.”

“Design events/forums/panels that push for (uncomfortable) discussions between participants about race, racism, internalized racism, colourism, racial profiling...”

“Honor women and girls living in areas under colonial occupation. For example, Native Hawaiians in Hawai’i under the USA and Tahitians in Tahiti under France. We often get categorized into the colonizers are/region when our Indigenous peoples still live in dangerous conditions. Decolonizing the global dialogue includes geographic representation of our demography.”

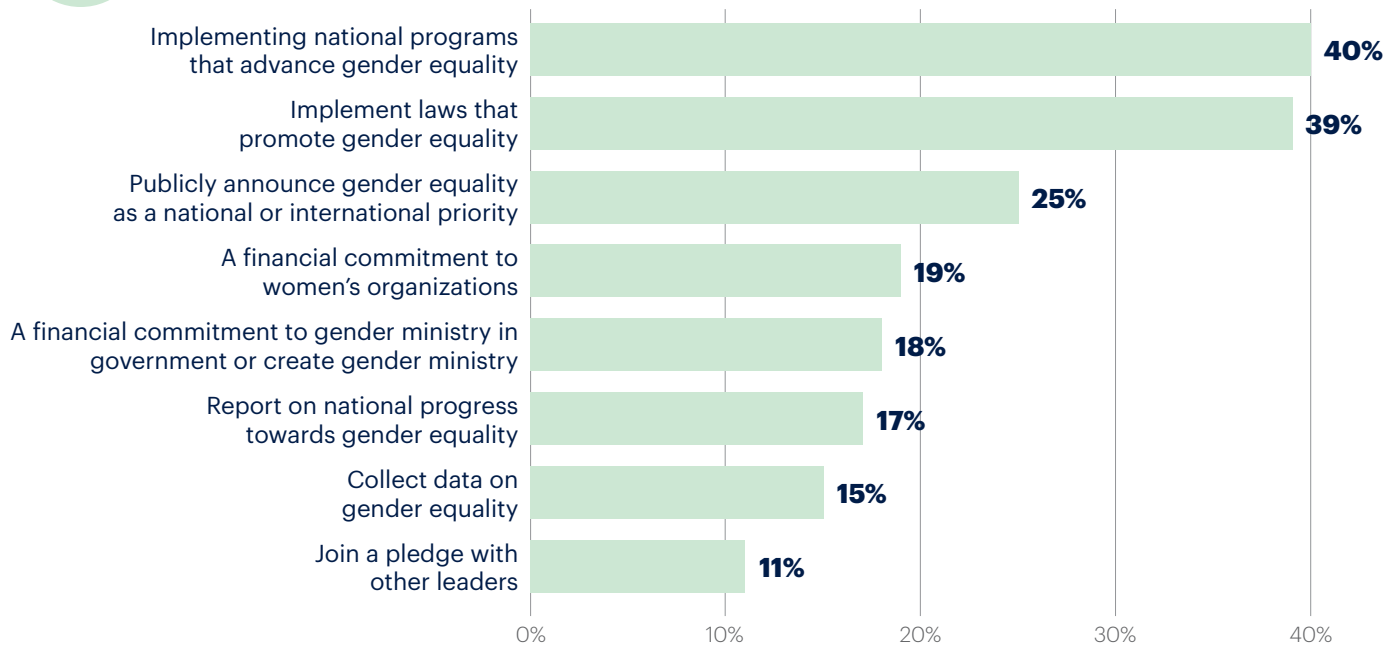
“Allow time and space for reflection, time out and self-care. Do not follow the typically male approach of corporate and capitalist conference models which have unrealistically packed timetables, tick-box exercises and unnecessary time-fillers.”



7

What would a commitment to gender equality from a leader look like to you?

[Respondents selected two options]



8

At Women Deliver 2019, the theme was **POWER** and how power can drive or hinder progress and change. What is the overarching theme you would like to see throughout the Global Dialogue and Women Deliver 2022? [Top 5 answers]

1. Equality and Equity
2. Empowerment (including economic empowerment)
3. Unity
4. Intersectionality
5. Gender-based violence

Other Common Responses

- Access for All
- Accountability
- Adaptation
- All Women Lead
- Allyship
- Anti-Racism
- Autonomy & Agency
- Be Bold
- Breaking Barriers
- Building Back Better
- Changing Policies
- Climate Change
- Collaboration
- Community
- Connection
- Decolonization
- Education
- Freedom
- Future is Now
- Hope
- Human Rights
- Impact of COVID
- Investing in Gender Equality
- Justice
- Leadership
- Male Engagement
- Partnership
- Peacebuilding & Security
- Perseverance
- Progress
- Re-imagining
- Reproductive Justice
- Resilience
- Self-Care
- Shifting Power
- Social Justice
- Solidarity
- Solidarity
- Speak Up & Speak Out
- Strength
- Supporting Women
- Sustainability
- Technology & Innovation
- Transformation
- Use Your Voice
- Walk the Talk
- Women and Leadership
- Youth Leadership

9

What are your personal or professional goals for participating in Women Deliver 2022 and the Global Dialogue?



34%

Learning about evidence-based solutions to challenges women and girls face



29%

Learning new advocacy strategies and skills



29%

Networking with other advocates



26%

Sharing knowledge on challenges women and girls face



15%

Connecting and engaging with funding partners



22%

Connecting and engaging with decision makers



6%

Connecting and engaging with media



13%

Showcasing your own work or solutions

10

Who would you like to see speak during Women Deliver 2023 programming?

[Top responses]

- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
- Alicia Garza
- Amina Mohammed
- Angela Davis
- Angela Merkel
- Angelina Jolie
- Angelique Kidjo
- Aya Chebbi
- Barack Obama
- Beyoncé
- Brene Brown
- Chimimanda Adichie
- Christine Legarde
- Dr.Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- Emma Watson
- Graca Machel
- Greta Thunberg
- Helen Clark
- Hillary Clinton
- Jacinda Ardern
- Julia Gillard
- Justin Trudeau
- Kimberlé Crenshaw
- Malala Yousafzai
- Meghan Markle
- Melinda Gates
- Michelle Obama
- Oprah Winfrey
- Priyanka Chopra
- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
- Sanna Marin
- Winnie Byanyima