

Women Deliver at WHA77

For nearly two decades, Women Deliver has championed gender equality, focusing on global spaces such as conferences, forums, and meetings. Global spaces bring together advocates, decision-makers, technical experts, and others to discuss international issues, create narratives, and set norms and standards. These spaces are essential because many pressing challenges, like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis, transcend national borders and require global attention. Historically centered on progress, these spaces are now increasingly contested, and sometimes overtaken, by anti-rights actors who tirelessly work to strip girls and women of their fundamental human right, including their right to bodily autonomy. Without protection, global spaces run the risk of being further weaponized against progressive, rights-based agendas, affecting all girls and women globally.

The 77th World Health Assembly (WHA77), held from May 27 to June 1, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland, is one of the most influential global spaces for setting global health policies and norms. It shapes WHO policies and outlines the organization's future plans and budget. This year's theme is "All for Health, Health for All." WHA77 is particularly significant as it offers the opportunity to integrate meaningful social participation — actively involving diverse stakeholders, including community members and civil society, in decision-making — into universal health coverage (UHC) policies, address climate change-related health risks and adaptation strategies, and enhance the recognition of civil society and advocates as partners in achieving global health goals.

Women Deliver will attend WHA77 to advocate for its priorities and those of the Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC. Women Deliver's overarching goal is to advance SRHR and bodily autonomy for all, particularly adolescent girls. Key areas of focus include reinforcing the link between UHC and the climate crisis and safeguarding language around sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, and gender-responsiveness, which recently faced pushback from Member States during the January WHO Executive Board Meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen Relationships and Enhance Impact:

Women Deliver aims to strengthen relationships and enhance impact with the WHO, Member States, and civil society allies by:

- Safeguarding and advancing SRHR at WHA77, monitoring Member State positions, and supporting pro-SRHR allies.
- Collaborating with WHO focal points to advance our Plan of Collaboration, which establishes our technical priorities for Women Deliver to support WHO's work and collaborate on areas including SRHR and adolescent health.
- Building relationships with Member States to support our advocacy.
- Strengthening relationships with civil society allies working across our issue areas: SRHR in UHC, the climate crisis, and countering the anti-rights movement.

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2. Advance Research Goals for SRHR Accountability in UHC: Women Deliver is developing an accountability toolkit to help civil society partners and youth hold national governments accountable for their SRHR commitments in UHC. This toolkit will build on "[Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Universal Health Coverage: An Advocacy Guide](#)."

3. Monitor and Track Anti-Rights Rhetoric: Women Deliver follows key resolutions to understand Member State positions on SRHR in relation to UHC, climate action, and adolescent girls. This approach helps identify advocacy targets, foster strategic partnerships, assess risks, and support pro-SRHR voices to combat misinformation and disinformation.

4. Advocate for Resolutions and Outcomes: Women Deliver and the Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC will advocate for resolutions and outcomes that support gender-responsive health systems and comprehensive SRHR. Key advocacy priorities include:

- Integrating SRHR within climate crisis responses through a One Health, systemic, gender-responsive approach.
- Reinforcing the need to recognize adolescent girls as a distinct group and collect age and gender-disaggregated data to realize their SRHR throughout their life course.
- Ensuring comprehensive SRHR is integral to UHC frameworks, policies, and gender-responsive health systems, including meaningful participation of girls, women, and gender-diverse people in health planning processes.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Ensure the inclusion and centrality of SRHR and gender equality in the [WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work \(GPW 14\)](#).**
- **Consult with key constituents, technical experts, allies, and civil society partners on accountability needs and processes to support ongoing SRHR in UHC research.**
- **Support pro-SRHR voices to combat disinformation spread by anti-rights entities.**
- **Monitor Member State positions on key resolutions to enable targeted advocacy and risk assessment.**
- **Strategize with Alliance members and other networks like PMNCH on WHA actions and future SRHR in UHC advocacy priorities.**
- **Co-sponsor events with the Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC on gender-responsive health systems and UHC, providing space for civil society experts to share evidence, engage, and strategize with civil society, UN, and Member State representatives.**

Women Deliver will engage directly with the below agenda items and resolutions, including by delivering constituency and individual statements:

- Climate change and health
- Social participation in universal health coverage, health and well-being
- The finalization of GPW14
- Acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health and child mortality

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WHERE TO FIND WOMEN DELIVER AT WHA77

Where Next on Gender-Equal UHC: A Dialogue Post 2019 and 2023 HLMs

Date: May 28, 2024

Time: 14:00-15:00 CET

Location: International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI),
Route de Ferney 106, 1202 Geneva Switzerland

Beyond Empowerment: Next Steps for Women's Leadership in Global Health

Date: May 30, 2024

Time: 18:00-20:00 CET

Location: Intercontinental Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland