

WOMEN DELIVER AT HRC59

16 June – 9 July 2025 | Geneva, Switzerland



From 16 June to 9 July 2025, governments, UN agencies, civil society, and human rights defenders will gather in Geneva for the 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC59). Women Deliver will be there — advocating to protect, respect, and fulfill the rights of all girls, women, and gender-diverse people, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

We are working with our partners and Emerging Leaders to:

- Defend and strengthen global norms and standards on gender equality and SRHR — including for adolescent girls.
- Deepen transnational feminist solidarity to confront growing fascism and fundamentalism.
- Strengthen partnerships with civil society, human rights defenders, UN agencies, and UN Member States advancing girls' and women's rights.
- Ensure the voices and perspectives of adolescent girls and young people are heard, valued, and acted upon.

Background

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is the UN's primary intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally. Composed of 47 Member States elected by the General Assembly, the HRC addresses violations and helps define international standards — such as the rights of girls and women to live free from gender-based violence, to access education and health care, and to exercise bodily autonomy.

HRC59 is happening at a moment when the global human rights framework — the international system of laws, institutions, and agreements designed to protect the dignity, rights, and freedoms of all people — is under attack.

Anti-rights, fundamentalist, and fascist actors are actively working to undermine the global human rights framework by promoting a regressive, alternative vision in which adolescent girls, women, and gender-diverse people have fewer rights. They spread mis- and disinformation to advance their agenda and deliberately use their influence to close civic space for feminist movements and human rights defenders working to uphold gender equality.

Anti-rights actors and the double standards imposed by Global North countries — especially regarding justice and accountability for grave human rights violations, including the ongoing genocide being perpetrated by Israel — are fuelling a crisis of multilateralism.

Why HRC59 Matters

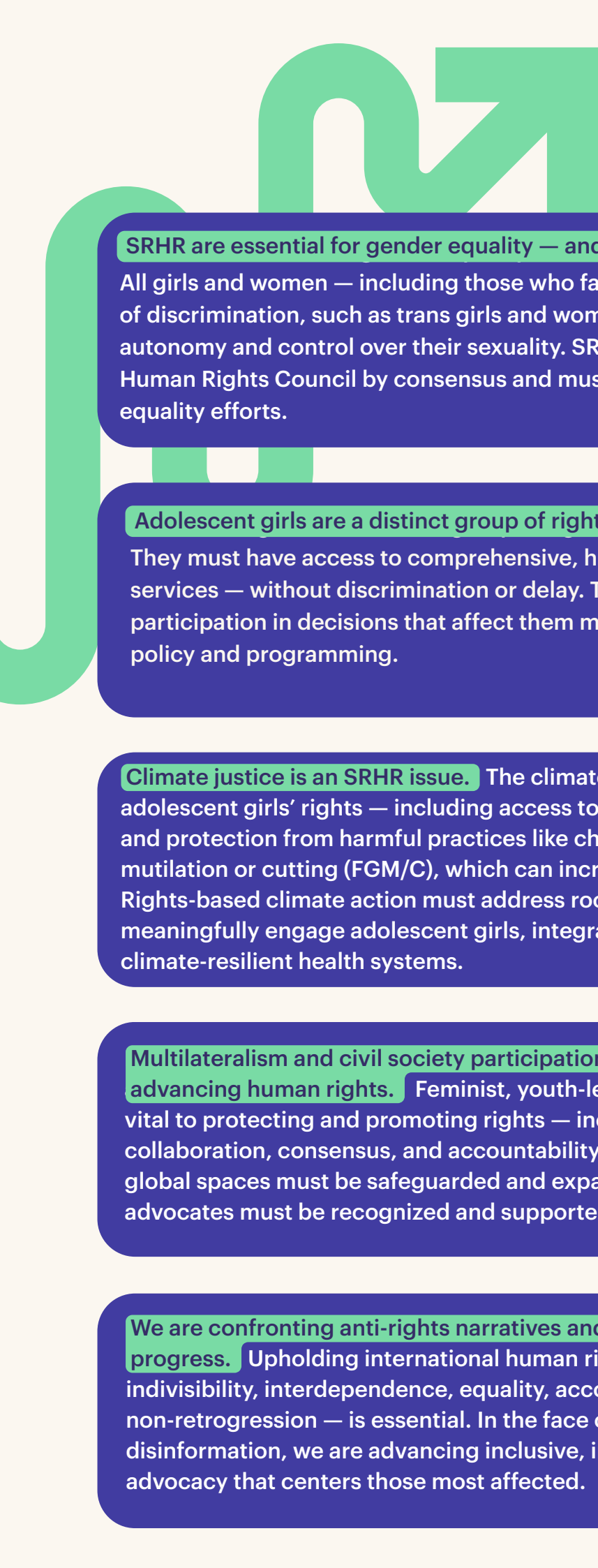


HRC59 offers a critical platform to 1) counter regressive narratives, 2) reinforce the role and potential of multilateral spaces in advancing gender equality and rights, and 3) strengthen global commitments to human rights.

It is an opportunity to:

- Reaffirm that gender equality, SRHR, and the rights of all girls, women, and gender-diverse people are non-negotiable.
- Strengthen global commitments to progressive human rights standards — especially for adolescent girls, who remain sidelined in many global policy spaces.
- Show solidarity with human rights defenders and rights holders from the Global Majority, who continue to lead the fight for justice despite increasing threats.
- Amplify and support the leadership of adolescent girls, young feminists, and LGBTQIA+ advocates — ensuring their perspectives shape global decisions.
- Defend civic space and the legitimacy of human rights institutions — and challenge the double standards that weaken global accountability.





Key Messages

SRHR are essential for gender equality — and are human rights.

All girls and women — including those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as trans girls and women — have the right to bodily autonomy and control over their sexuality. SRHR have been recognized by the Human Rights Council by consensus and must remain central to all gender equality efforts.

Adolescent girls are a distinct group of rights holders with specific SRHR needs.

They must have access to comprehensive, high-quality, and youth-friendly SRHR services — without discrimination or delay. Their full, equal, and meaningful participation in decisions that affect them must be guaranteed and respected in all policy and programming.

Climate justice is an SRHR issue. The climate crisis disproportionately threatens adolescent girls' rights — including access to menstrual health care, SRHR services, and protection from harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C), which can increase in climate-stressed settings. Rights-based climate action must address root causes, provide reparations, meaningfully engage adolescent girls, integrate health, and invest in low-carbon, climate-resilient health systems.

Multilateralism and civil society participation are essential and irreplaceable in advancing human rights.

Feminist, youth-led, and LGBTQIA+ movements are vital to protecting and promoting rights — including SRHR — through collaboration, consensus, and accountability. Their access to and influence in global spaces must be safeguarded and expanded. SRHR and LGBTQIA+ advocates must be recognized and supported as Human Rights Defenders.

We are confronting anti-rights narratives and regressive efforts to roll back progress.

Upholding international human rights law — grounded in universality, indivisibility, interdependence, equality, accountability, non-discrimination, and non-retrogression — is essential. In the face of rising fundamentalism, fascism, and disinformation, we are advancing inclusive, intersectional, and evidence-based advocacy that centers those most affected.

How We're Engaging

Women Deliver is engaging at HRC59 through strategic advocacy, coalition building, and youth leadership. Our actions include:

- Elevating the leadership of Women Deliver Emerging Leaders through high-level speaking opportunities.
- Coordinating joint advocacy with allies to strengthen SRHR language in HRC resolutions.
- Actively countering regressive narratives and providing feminist, rights-based alternatives.
- Advocating for civil society participation and the protection of civic space in multilateral forums.
- Providing technical guidance and strategic messaging to UN Member States to help advance bold, rights-based commitments.

Side Events

- **18 June, 1-2 PM CEST:** Women's Solidarity and Justice
- **24 June, 2-3 PM CEST:** We Are Still Here: Building a Feminist Playbook
- **25 June, 2-3 PM CEST:** Les violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre en période de conflits armés
- **25 June, 1-2 PM CEST:** Beyond Conflation: A Rights-Based Approach to Trafficking and Sex Work