

JOINT DECLARATION FOR STATES – WOMEN DELIVER 2026

We, the undersigned, reaffirm the essential role of feminist civil society and women human rights defenders in advancing the rights of women and girls and gender equality, and commit to support their ability to organize, speak out and hold States accountable.

We reaffirm the obligation of all States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, and to fully uphold, the International Bill of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Girls, UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and all other relevant human rights treaties, declarations, resolutions and instruments, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

We also recall the Sustainable Development Goals and the global commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Civil society, feminist movements and women human rights defenders have made major contributions in promoting and advancing gender justice. We therefore stress the need to create an enabling environment for women human rights defenders, to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women, girls, and people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and the importance of allowing civil society to operate freely and safely, without fear of intimidation or reprisals, online and offline,

In this spirit, and acknowledging the Melbourne Declaration adopted at Women Deliver 2026, we:,

1. Express solidarity with, recognize and support the importance of civil society, women human rights defenders, feminist activists and gender equality advocates in protecting rights, expanding participation, and holding institutions accountable;
2. Express deep concern at reprisals, threats, attacks and restrictions directed at women human rights defenders and feminist activists, and commit to taking action to prevent and respond to them;
3. Recognize that this backlash is linked to poverty, economic crises and inequality, racial discrimination, harmful social norms and gender stereotypes, retrogressive lobbies, fundamentalist and ideological views or the misuse of culture or religion to oppose women's and girls' equal rights, as well as to shrink civic space and undermine democracy
4. Stand in unity with and solidarity and support human rights defenders as the world faces a growing number of protracted and complex crises, and at a time when international law, multilateralism as well as agreed norms and standards on human rights, including women's and girls' rights, are being undermined
5. Reiterate our shared adherence to the rule of law and democratic principles, the universality and interdependence of human rights, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and our firm belief that human rights-based approaches provide conditions for sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies and peace.

6. Reaffirm our commitment to the full, equal and meaningful participation and to the leadership of women in all their diversity in all interventions, policy or programs that pertain to them, including in peace processes, stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding; reiterate our strong condemnation of all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and urge all States to fight against the impunity of the perpetrators of such crimes.

7. We will work together to:

- a. Take urgent action at national and international levels to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, including but not limited to femicide, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, through an online and offline continuum, recognizing that women and girls suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including forms of criminalization or punishment of women and girls for making decisions regarding their own body, discrimination based on sexual orientation, and gender identity ;
- b. Prevent and combat gender-based discrimination and gender stereotypes, including patriarchal norms and practices, and address forms of masculinities that establish unequal power relations and the inequitable distribution of unpaid care work that negatively impacts the effective enjoyment of the rights of women, adolescents and girls;
- c. Uphold and strengthen the key role of civil society actors and feminist organizations, including women human rights defenders, in the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and promote a supportive and enabling environment for those actors throughout the world;
- d. Respect, protect and fulfil sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including ensuring access to safe and legal abortion, the protection and promotion of bodily autonomy of all women and girls, ensuring access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services including comprehensive sexuality education, addressing social and other determinants of health, and intersectional discrimination;
- e. Redouble our actions to guarantee women's and youth's equal, full, effective and meaningful participation in all decision-making systems and in all spheres and levels of public, economic and political life, including through the strengthening of universal social protection systems, undertaking reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, and ensuring decent working conditions, equal pay for equal work and work of equal value;
- f. Address the impact of climate change as a gendered crisis that disproportionately impacts women and girls and ensure that climate responses are rights-based, gender-responsive and inclusive of feminist and women-led leadership.