



## When

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 13.00-15.00

## Where

European Parliament in Brussels, room A5E2

## Background

This fall, the [European Week of Action for Girls](#) (EWAG) will be back! [Organised by a coalition of civil society organisations](#) and held under the patronage of Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission and the European Parliament. The 2019 edition will take place from 8 – 11 October in Brussels, to mark the International Day of the Girl (IDG). Now in its seventh year, and at the beginning of a new legislature, EWAG 2019 will give youth advocates the opportunity to talk to EU decision-makers and help shape a better world for all girls. They will address EU decision-makers on what needs to be done to overcome the barriers girls face and to ensure their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. This year, the EWAG youth advocates will particularly focus on girls' right to education, economic empowerment, participation in decision-making, and on combating violence.

**EWAG brings together youth advocates from around the globe and opens space for influencing at EU level.** The organisations involved in EWAG will provide youth advocates with tools for advocacy and collective action to ensure their voices are clearly heard at the beginning of this new European Parliament and Commission's mandate.

EWAG 2019 takes place shortly after the European Parliament Elections putting a new European Parliament in place while paving the way for a new College of Commissioners. The newly elected EU leadership will set the vision for the EU and it will be crucial that this builds on the current momentum towards greater gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In addition, the new multiannual EU budget (MFF) will be thoroughly discussed after the European elections, creating a huge opportunity for increased and better investments for girls up to 2027.

## About our public event

This public event, organised with the support of the S&D Group, EU40, the Greens/ EFA in the European Parliament, the Intergroup on Children's Rights in the European Parliament and the European United Left/Nordic Green Left, will aim at bringing together [EWAG youth advocates](#) and newly elected MEPs to have an exchange on how the EU can scale up its commitment for girls to pursue their goals and achieve their dreams. The European Union must strengthen its role as a global champion for girls supporting their right to decide about their own lives, creating a world in which they can actively participate and thrive.

The EU has made strong promises to girls in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its policies and initiatives such as the new EU Consensus on Development, the Spotlight Initiative, and the Gender Action Plan II. **Future EU leaders must continue putting girls at the centre of their external action and deliver on their promises!**

The EWAG public event is scheduled to take place on **9<sup>th</sup> October from 13.00-15.00 in the European Parliament in Brussels (room A5E2)** and will bring together a group of about 20 global youth advocates, newly elected MEPs, civil society and other EU officials. It aims at ensuring a meaningful

interaction between youth and MEPs, with youth advocates being the key protagonists and shaping the EU agenda on how to improve respect of girls' rights in the world and the EU's plan to becoming a true global champion for girls.

Through this public event our youth advocates will present the issues that matter most to them and will exchange with MEPs on steps to take to advance these issues. It will be also an opportunity for MEPs to ask questions to the youth and hear their perspectives on what is needed globally to ensure girls' rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

## Programme

Moderated by **Céline Fabrequette**, Head Project & Communication Manager at ADYFE (African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe)

12.15 *Registration*

13.00 **Opening remarks - Girls Speak Out in the European Parliament**

With **Iratxe García Pérez**, President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament and our **Youth Advocates**

13.10 **Session 1 – Girls Speak Out on Political Participation and Economic Empowerment**

**Our Youth Advocates will Speak Out on what they believe matters most**

Followed by an exchange between our Youth Advocates and Members of the European Parliament  
with

**Anna Donáth**, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group, Hungary

**Evin Incir**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Sweden

**Kira Marie Peter-Hansen**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Denmark

**Sirpa Pietikäinen**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party, Finland (TBC)

**Ernest Utrasun**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Spain

13.45 *Followed by a group photo*

13.55 **The EU's plans to Act for Girls and deliver on Girls' Rights**

With Amb. **Mara Marinaki**, Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

14.00 **Session 2 – Girls Speak Out on Education and against Violence**

**Our Youth Advocates will Speak Out on what they believe matters most**

Followed by an exchange between our Youth Advocates and Members of the European Parliament  
with

**Manon Aubry**, Member of the European Parliament, Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left, France

**David Lega**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party, Sweden (TBC)

**Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Germany

**Chrysoula Zacharopoulou**, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group, France

**Evelyn Regner**, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the FEMM Committee, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Austria

14.35

### Closing

with

**Chiara Adamo**, Head of Unit "Gender, Human Rights and Democratic Governance" at the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation of the European Commission (DG DEVCO)

and

wrap-up by our Youth Advocates

*Followed by a group photo*

At the opening of each session, our youth advocates will share their challenges and present their messages and recommendations to the MEPs. To ensure a dynamic debate, all speakers will be invited to prepare a 3 minute intervention in response to the youth's cases. After the MEPs' interventions, we will open the floor for a lively Q&A with all those in the room.

### Why should you get involved?

- To gain first hand insight into those issues that matter most to girls from all over the world;
- Because you are serious about ensuring the EU becomes a global girls' rights champion

The European Week of Action for Girls is organised by



Held under the patronage of  
Mr Jean-Claude Juncker,  
President of the European Commission



And under the patronage of  
the European Parliament



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