



# WATCHDOG

## #CPD46

### Update

The YCSRR Delegation  
comes from:  
Azerbaijan  
Ghana  
United States/Chile

### Update from the CPD

We are approaching the end of 46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development! Throughout the session, the CPD46 Youth Caucus has been working hard to advocate for the sexual and reproductive health and RIGHTS of young migrants. This has been a very different session from previous CPD meetings, as many governments want to focus solely on migration without linking it to the many psychosocial and political aspects of migration. The youth caucus firmly believes that access to a comprehensive range of youth-friendly, quality sexual and reproductive health services, including confidential services and emergency contraception is essential to all young migrants, age 15-24, who make up the largest age group of migrants globally.

We would like to congratulate the delegations of Ghana and Finland for involving young people on their official delegations to the CPD46. We would like to encourage all delegations and government representatives to reaffirm the commitments made by their governments at the ICPD and strive further to ensure all rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, are upheld for young migrants especially adolescent girls and young women who are acutely affected by migration in its many forms.

## CPD46

### Youth Caucus Asks

- Meaningfully engage young migrants, especially girls, at every decision-making level.
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education in both formal and non-formal settings.
- Ensure access to comprehensive, quality, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, regardless of migration status.
- Eliminate punitive laws that violate the rights of young people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

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# Youth Perspective: What the CPD Means to Me

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As a youth advocate at my first Commission on Population and Development, I was apprehensive about the impact that I would be able to have. I began the CPD looking at it as an opportunity to look at an issue through a global lens. Since this year's theme is migration and I have very little knowledge on the topic, I was overwhelmed and excited to be learning so much information about the extremely relevant topic. Additionally, my goal here is to help advocate sexual and reproductive rights and I wanted to be able to effectively combine that goal with the theme of migration. I have encountered that finding tasks I could manage and complete effectively was easier than I previously thought, and that I have been able to find opportunities to make change wherever I can.

The chance to work with other NGOs as a caucus of sexual and reproductive health and rights advocates is one of the most amazing experiences I've had. I've never felt more surrounded by a likeminded group coming together in order to make incredible impact on an issue that is near and dear to each person's heart. I feel extremely inspired and prepared to go back to my college campus and complete my fellowship with PPFA throughout the rest of the year using everything that I have learned here at the CPD about how to negotiate with people and the ability to look at the world through a global context.

If I've gleaned anything from this experience it is that the power of civil-society's influence at the United Nations should not be underestimated. The United Nations is a forum built for involvement with civil society and I have gotten the opportunity to see how that manifests itself here at the CPD, a commission that works on ICPD, encompassing issues most important to me. One of the most remarkable examples of civil society's influence on the process that I have seen was the youth caucus delivering an oral statement. The idea that the delegates would care about the views and positions of young people, and that the youth caucus could have such a direct impact on the process is very inspirational to me. Additionally, the United States Mission to the United Nations held a session with all of the NGOs based in the United States in order to give us an update on the CPD so far and to take questions. I thought this was also a really great way for the NGOs to have direct influence. It was clear that the NGOs are important to the United States delegates, since they took time out of their extremely busy day to listen to concerns and questions from the NGOs. These examples of civil society's involvement in the CPD process show me that the United Nations truly is a place where the influence of civil society can be seen.

In the future, if I get the opportunity to attend the CPD again, I know that the experience of being here this year would help me to take an even more active and participatory role. If I had an opportunity to talk to any United Nations delegate, I would probably like to speak to a delegate whose country does not support sexual and reproductive health in the resolution. I want to convince them that the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights cannot be underestimated. My hope would be that by hearing all of the reasons that sexual and reproductive health and rights are a necessity, from a young member of society, a delegation could understand why it's such a pressing issue for the future.

Attending the CPD this year has easily been one of the most incredible opportunities I've had. I know that this experience will stay with me as I continue to participate in advocacy work because I've learned so much about how my work as an advocate can have a difference on the process here at the United Nations.



# Youth, Migration, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at CPD 46

Imagine having to leave your country at a young age simply for being who you are. This is a hard reality faced by young lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people around the world who endure violence and discrimination that makes their situation at home unlivable. LGBT people, including youth, often seek refuge across borders based on well-founded fears of persecution, such as fear of harassment or attack – by private individuals or even by officials that are supposed to protect them. Member states at this year's CPD must recognize the discrimination and violence faced by people of all ages as a result of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over 40 countries throughout the world recognize the well-founded fear of persecution brought on as a result of an individual's sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and have policies in place to grant asylum to these individuals. These countries are simply acknowledging what Human Rights Council and other international bodies have already asserted: human rights must be respected, regardless of who someone loves or how they express their deeply held sense of self.

For youth, being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender can be particular difficult, and even more so in the context of seeking protection across borders. The Human Rights Council reported in 2011 that LGBT youth are at risk of family and community violence. They may be prevented from going to school or expelled due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. They may also be subjected to violence and bullying by classmates or teachers. At a time when they should be able to freely explore and develop who they are, many youth around the world are being chastised for having an identity that doesn't fit the mold.

In instances where young people migrate to flee persecution, based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or other reasons, they face unique difficulties. In some cases, they pursue asylum on their own as a result of discrimination in their home countries and face mistreatment by their parents during the process. In others, youth may have a hard time proving their identity for asylum purposes, since they have been living "in the closet" or are still discovering their identity themselves. Clearly, age in addition to their sexual orientation or gender identity can make the process of seeking protection more difficult.

**Regardless of someone's age, age, sex, race, ethnicity, disability religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV, health, migration and other status, migrants should be protected equally. Not only should countries support their asylum claims based on well-founded fears of persecution due to sexual orientation or gender identity, countries should change discriminatory laws, practices, and policies that make it difficult for LGBT youth to grow up with dignity.**

by Kristen Thomas  
Student at Columbia School of International Public Affairs (SIPAL)

## High Five!

**To the Governments of Argentina, Uruguay, European Union, USA, Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Canada for protecting migrants who seek asylum because of their sexual orientation and gender identity!**

We call for the above governments to further ensure the rights of all migrants regardless of their status.





# Youth and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Governments Must Fulfill and Implement Recommendations from Bali

Submitted by the Youth Leadership Working Group

With 43% of the world's population under the age of 25, it is imperative that the new global agenda on development place young peoples' voices and needs at the centre. In December 2012, as part of the review and follow up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Global Youth Forum was held in Bali, Indonesia, in order to develop a clear statement and agenda for putting youth rights at the heart of development. Co-hosted by the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations, 130 United Nations Member States; 80 youth groups; 300 individual youth participants; 50 non-governmental organisations; 2,500 online delegates; 40 private sector institutions; 50 representatives of the United Nations; and other stakeholders actively participated in the dialogues and formulation of recommendations of the Forum.

The participants developed an historic and ground-breaking Declaration with over 70 recommendations under the overarching themes of staying healthy; comprehensive education; families, youth-rights and well-being, including sexuality; transitions to decent work; and leadership & meaningful participation. The Declaration has clear cross-cutting messages on the importance of comprehensive sexuality education, youth participation, access to comprehensive health services, including safe abortion, investment in young people, and prevention and elimination of all forms of violence.

The Declaration, an outcome of a process led entirely by and with young people, is a loud and strong reflection of the future that young people, UN Member States, the UN System, NGOs and other stakeholders agreed to as what they want and envision. Given the thematic reach of the Forum and the clear linkages with the post-2015 agenda; the parallels between the two inter-linked processes are evident. The recommendations of the youth movement prioritise the inter-linkages between sexual and reproductive health rights and other development priorities, and make a case for the rights to health, education, and meaningful youth participation and leadership to be key elements of the development, implementation, and moni-

toring of whatever may come from the post-2015 process.

Young people's participation in all stages of decision-making and implementation of policies and programmes is a precondition for sustainable development. Young people must have equal access to meaningful participation in local, national and international decision-making forums and in the allocation of resources, with support from governments, the private sector, UN and other international institutions. The Bali Declaration calls on governments, civil society organisations, UN agencies, the private sector, young people and other stakeholders to build sustainable capacity for youth leadership and participation through engaging young people with national policy processes in representative proportion to their numbers and their diversity, and by strengthening access to information, resources, education and investments regardless of socio-economic and cultural background, in line with human rights standards, in a democratic environment, and in equal partnership without discrimination, coercion or violence. Young people's rights to freely express their opinion and to organise are foundational to meaningful participation and leadership.

We call on governments and policy-makers to fulfill and implement the goals and recommendations set forth by the Bali Declaration and emphasise the importance of young people's leadership and meaningful engagement in the successful creation, implementation, and sustainability of a post-2015 agenda.



To read the Bali Declaration, visit:

[http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/bali\\_global\\_youth\\_forum\\_declaration.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/bali_global_youth_forum_declaration.pdf)





## Meeting Ahmad Alhindawi – connecting efforts to ensure meaningful youth participation within the UN.

Yesterday, some of the youth organizations present at the CPD met with Ahmad Alhindawi, the newly appointed UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. This meeting—the first out of, hopefully, many to come—was set up to identify common goals and practices, so we can possibly collaborate on youth issues in the future.

Alhindawi's job within the UN will be to address and prioritize the needs of young people and the issues they face. He explained to us that he does not see himself as a youth representative, but as a young person with the privilege to create spaces for young people and to facilitate their participation in the UN system. He displays a special interest in the issue of meaningful youth participation. His big question to us is, "How can we make sure that youth organizations will collaborate on a bigger scale?"

According to Alhindawi youth organizations tend to be too supplier-driven. They focus on their own issues and group and have trouble connecting with the demands for youth participation. The real demand is for a global coalition of youth networks that can work together on a range of issues and hold its own in face of the broad spectrum of UN agencies. Another goal of Alhindawi is to harmonize these same UN agencies, so access to them becomes easier for young people. He envisions doing this by connecting youth-friendly personnel of the UN with each other and with youth organizations, thus making it more simple for involved parties to get in touch.

In reply to the Envoy's vision Kemi, a Nigerian SRHR-activist attending the CPD on behalf of RESURJ, suggested that Alhindawi pay special

by Stefan Hennis  
Youth Advocate for CHOICE for  
Youth and Sexuality

attention to the role the UN can play at the national level. UN's privileged access to national governments makes them an important factor in connecting youth organizations to their governments, and in making sure that governments worldwide respect and involve young people in policy- and decision-making.

After this fruitful meeting we express our hope to work with Alhindawi towards ensuring that young people will always be a meaningful part of all the UN processes and events to come.

**We are looking forward to our future collaboration and towards connecting on a broader level!**

## YOUTH PRIORITIES FOR POST-2015: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

by Suloshini Jahanath  
from ARROW

Young people in the Asia-Pacific region face a multitude of barriers when it comes to their SRHR. Gender norms, socio-cultural status, socio-economic status, geographic location and sexual orientation are just a few of the barriers and challenges that they face. Another barrier that impedes young people's realisation of SRHR is the issue of migration. Migrant workers' sexual and reproductive rights are often denied, including their rights against compulsory screening for HIV, STIs and pregnancy, and the right to form relationships, to found a family, and to have children in countries of destination, especially for unskilled women workers. Mental health, gender-based and sexual violence are also critical health and rights issues for migrant workers.

These, and the lack of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in most countries in the Asia-Pacific, the lack of access and information on youth-friendly SRHR services, the existing cultural traditions that are still followed in parts of the region (such as arranged, forced and child marriages; female genital mutilation; honour killings' etc.) all combine to form a strong barrier against young people realising their SRHR.

Today, a large part of our population is on the move, whether they cross borders or move to cities. Migrants can be domestic workers, restaurant wait staff, nurses, caregivers, IT professionals, entertainment industry workers, sex workers, factory workers, or international organization/UN staff. In

fact, there were 214 million international migrants globally in 2010.

Of this total migrant stock, 15.6% are between ages 0-19. The Asia-Pacific region alone has 6 of the top 10 countries of origin, and the region represents many important migration flows. There are many more internal migrants, as people migrate from rural to urban areas, seek a better life or are forced to move due to various circumstances like conflict, land grabbing or climate change-induced disasters. Migrants, whether international or internal, contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as in their own countries.



# Women and Migration

By Shama Dossa, ARROW and Nida Mushtaq, YCSRR

'We don't call it migrant women, we call it women and migration' said Carol Barton, United Methodist Women working with the Women and Migration movement. This is because migration affects women in more ways than only when women are on the move. It is women who are left behind when men migrate and have to run households and deal with social pressures of being on their own in patriarchal settings.

Settings in which women are affected by migration include but are not limited to displacement caused by wars – across borders as well as internally, internal migration due to ecological disasters, labour migration due to neo-liberal economics which is deeply connected to precarious employment – mostly unskilled.

Women in all these circumstances have to deal with a plethora of issues that affect their sexual and reproductive health including increased sexual violence amongst displaced communities, limited access to legal and social protection and health services where these women are undocumented migrants putting them at risk of unwanted/unplanned pregnancies and STIs. Language and mobility of the migrant women are also barriers when it comes to access to information on SRHR and the related services available – if available in both sending and receiving countries.

The above discussions were part of a cross movement dialogue between the sexual and reproductive health and rights activists and women in the migration activist movement in a side-event to the 46th session of the Commission on Population Development. Currently, in the CPD negotiations, we are struggling with bringing this holistic perspective to the table.

We have realized that many negotiators have not made the linkages between migration and its affects on women's SRHR. Many countries are talking about migration and how much they are earning in remittances in relation to that – completely ignoring the psychosocial and political aspects of migration in general.

We have also realized that although many countries are advocates of SRHR, they discriminate on the basis of who should receive SRH services. This indicates that their understanding of rights is divisive and significantly problematic from a human rights perspective.

SRHR for all, regardless of their status is a basic human right and cannot be divided according to citizenship rights of people. Governments all over the world should ensure that policies and laws mandate women's access to SRHR services so that 'women migrants can move, work and live, with dignity, respect and full protection'. At the individual level, women and young people must be facilitated to take control over their sexual and reproductive capacities and choices, wherever they are<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Marin S. (2013) Inter-national Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in East Asia, SouthEast Asia and the Pacific, ARROW Working Paper, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women accessed at 25 of April 2013: <http://www.arrow.org.my/publications/AFC/v19n1.pdf> and [http://www.arrow.org.my/uploads/Migration\\_WorkingPaper.pdf](http://www.arrow.org.my/uploads/Migration_WorkingPaper.pdf)

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