



## International Youth Day 2020

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This collection does not claim completeness. We recognise that there is more work being done by our members than is presented in the overview.

Since 1999, around the world we celebrate International Youth Day on August 12 as an opportunity to highlight and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.

At Share-Net Netherlands (SNNL), we want to use this year's International Youth Day to look at what our members, the secretariat and other actors are doing to work for and with adolescents and young people to improve their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

## AFEW INTERNATIONAL

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AFEW International's work in public health contributes to a healthy society with healthy individuals and specifically healthy key populations at risk for HIV, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and other public health concerns in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA). They increase access to prevention, treatment and care for the most vulnerable groups of the society including young people.

For several years, International Charitable Foundation "AIDS Foundation East-West" ([AFEW-Ukraine](#)), a partner of [AFEW International](#) in Ukraine, has been successfully implementing programs aimed at working with adolescents who use psychoactive substances. This activity results in hundreds of strong and self-confident adolescents who change their lives and lives of people around them for the better.

- In this [interview](#), Anastasia Shebardina, AFEW-Ukraine Senior Project Manager, told AFEW International how it all began and how her organization managed to mobilize the community of adolescents who use drugs through [Bridging the Gaps program](#).

As part of the "Bridging the Gaps" program in Kyrgyzstan, AFEW and Dance4Life are successfully implementing the "[Journey4Life Plus](#)" initiative for youth. The goal of the program is to support young people and improve their access to sexual and reproductive health, HIV and drug services.

- In this [interview](#), Adele Omorova (21) one of the Dance4life champions, told AFEW International how the project changed her life and how her knowledge influences her generation.

Supported by the [Emergency Support Fund](#) for Key Populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, AFEW International is also focusing on youth in their project "Mobilization of Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV through Implementing the TEENERGIZER Model in Kazakhstan".

- [Here](#) you can read more about the reasoning on HIV from Sergey, a 15 years old participant of the project.

## AMREF FLYING DOCTORS

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Y-ACT, Youth in Action is an initiative of Amref Health Africa that aims to mentor, support and increase the capacity of youth advocates to influence youth policy and resource priorities in the areas of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at national, sub-national and grassroots levels in Kenya. Y-ACT believes that Africa's youth have a huge opportunity to shift in-country policy landscapes to address challenges in gender and sexual and reproductive health & rights (SRHR).

[Amref Health Africa](#) scheduled a number of activities to mark this important week:

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020:** Y-ACT, YOUTH IN ACTION in partnership with the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) will launch the first ever [National Meaningful Youth Engagement Framework \(MYE\) for Parliament](#) that seeks to provide an innovative platform through which youth and parliamentarians can engage unequivocally and navigate the bureaucracy and systems that have posed as barriers to MYE for decades.

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020:** The Youth4UHC Movement will be hosting a [Twitter Chat](#) at 16.00hrs EAT (East African Time) where we will be launching the COVID-19 Africa SRHR Policy Brief. In culmination of the COVID-19 regional webinar series on SRHR and the effects of the pandemic. Feel free to share and join!

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020:** Y-ACT will be joining forces with other key players (PSI, FP2020, 120 UNDER 40 AND IYAFA) on our #BeThere IYD 2020 Twitter Chat at 9:30 AM EST that will talk contraceptive access for young people amidst COVID-19.

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020:** Amref Global will be launching the [#WEtheYOUTH- VOICE UP](#) Global Campaign online to celebrate and amplify the voices of the African youth and recognize the importance of youth participation in political, economic and social life and processes. We are urging young people globally to [add their voice](#) to this online call.

## CHOICE FOR YOUTH AND SEXUALITY (CHOICE)

**CHOICE advocates for young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights and for their meaningful participation in the decisions made about their lives. They strengthen the capacity of young people and youth-led organizations, enabling them to become leaders and change-makers in their communities.**

Advocacy coordinator at [CHOICE](#), Benjamin Nolan, wrote a piece for [Het Parool](#) about 'conversion therapy' against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex youth in the Netherlands. Conversion therapies falsely advertise the ability to suppress the sexual orientations and/or gender identities and expressions of LGBTI youth. A myriad of research shows the incredible harm it can have on the physical and mental health and well-being of LGBTI persons, in particular youth - who are the primary demographic for those subjected to these practices. While he is glad to see the Dutch government is taking steps to address this problem, he expresses his concern about fulfilling the rights of young LGBTI to participate in this policy process that directly affects them. Participatory policy making is a right, and has also shown to create better and more impactful policies.

- Therefore, in his article in Het Parool he calls on Minister Hugo de Jonge: Ensure youth participation in the policy process, for example by enacting a youth advisory council that can advise during the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all future policies aiming to ban conversion therapies in the Netherlands.

Furthermore, on IYD, they released a new educational video unpacking what Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP), one of the central values that CHOICE advocates and fights for, really means. Watch the [video](#) and have a look at the resource hub [YOU\(TH\) Do IT](#) to learn more about this important topic.

## CORDAID

**Cordaid mobilizes global networks, resources and knowledge to tackle root causes of conflict and fragility in some of the most conflict-affected countries. They link relief interventions to longer term development aid and adapt our interventions to levels of fragility. In five inter-connected fields of expertise they use results based financing to create durable social impact. All their interventions are community based.**

In light of the IYD, [Cordaid](#) is promoting two campaigns of their Jeune S3 programme that were launched this year:

- [VIDEO 1: JEAN-AIME, YOUTH-RIGHT DEFENDER](#)

**What it is about?** In his press released on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus observed sadly: *"Unfortunately, some countries report an increase in domestic violence since the start of the COVID 19 outbreak. [...] Women living in abusive relationships are more likely to be exposed to violence, as are their children."* Since its creation, Jeune S3 has campaigned for access to information and respect for the rights of these vulnerable people who are even more at risk now. The young ambassadors in the programme, have connections (network) and know about legal procedures. They are now key people who can alert the authorities. This is the case of Jean-Aimé, a young Congolese resident in South Kivu. He is a resource person for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in his community. Young people call him if they encounter problems in this field. His goal: to stop ignorance and impunity. Finally, this video was endorsed by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Denis Mukwege who is featured too.

**Duration :** 4 minutes 30 seconds.

- **VIDEO 2: JEUNE S3, A PROGRAMME BY, FOR AND WITH THE YOUTH IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS**

**What it is about?** The Jeune S3 programme released its last video in November 2019 showcasing its work, results and the actors of change: young people. The video was endorsed by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Denis Mukwege who also features in this video.

**Duration :** 4 minutes 37 seconds.

## DANCE4LIFE

**Dance4Life envisions a world where all young people are able to shape their future the way they see it. A world in which they are able to make healthy sexual choices and develop healthy relationships. That is what Dance4Life stands for.**

In the end of March, Dance4Life published the [COVID-19 Youth Guide](#). This is a visualized collection of information, links and resources that can support young people to navigate their lives in these challenging times, as well as inspire them to become leaders in dealing with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and was developed by our franchisees, Trainers4Life and the Research & Development team. The guide is also available in [Russian](#) and [French](#).

## VIRTUAL VERSION



## MY BOUNDARIES

The in 2019 developed digital and gamified [Academy4Life](#) – an interactive learning platform where personal, professional and SRHR skills can be developed together with coaches and experts – already offers online modules to our young international trainers. Since April 2020, 18 young advocates who are part of the Right Here Right Now alliance, have successfully been joining the platform to follow e-learning courses focused on their personal and professional development.

Dance4Life will first start broadening the Academy to franchisees. Online interactive modules will be co-developed to support the franchisees in reaching more scale and impact with delivering the [Journey4Life](#) online, online and offline referral, stakeholder engagement and fundraising. Dance4Life also started a trajectory of making an online version of the Journey4Life. Not meant as a replacement of the in-person one, but as an opportunity for our franchisees and trainers to still be able to implement the Journey during COVID-19. You can find out more about Dance4Life's newest developments and creative online interventions [here](#).

## KIT ROYAL TROPICAL INSTITUTE

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KIT Royal Tropical Institute is an independent centre of expertise, education, intercultural cooperation and hospitality dedicated to sustainable development. Based on a national heritage site in Amsterdam, KIT focuses on key areas where it can make a difference: Gender, Global Health, Intercultural Communication and Sustainable Economic Development.

- Anke van der Kwaak and John Kingsley Krugu have written a brief on: [Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in low- and middle income countries: A synthesis of research findings for improved program development and implementation](#)
- This report by John Kingsley Krugu, Cephas Sialumbanje, Maria Codina and Anke van der Kwaak provides a [mapping of CSO's working with young people's SRHR needs and social norms transformation in Zambia](#).

## MORE THAN BRIDES ALLIANCE, YES, I DO ALLIANCE AND HER CHOICE ALLIANCE

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In 2015, the Dutch government invested €215 million in seven civil society organisations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights. These three alliances specifically focus on ending child marriage.

Just in time of IYD, GlobalDev published [Child marriage in Pakistan: evidence from three development programs](#), reporting on the negative consequences of child marriage and the potential for changing attitudes and social norms about this practice in Pakistan. Evidence from [Her Choice](#), [More than Brides Alliance](#), and [Yes I Do](#) sheds light on why child marriage is so prevalent in Punjab and Sindh, and how to tackle it.

## PLAN INTERNATIONAL

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Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. They strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, their supporters and partners.



Have you already [signed up](#) for Global Launch: Girls' Platform for Action – A Girls' Agenda for Beijing+25 and Beyond? In case you missed the event on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 14.00 CEST, we will make sure to share the link of the report once it is ready.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Global Launch: Girls' Platform for Action – A Girls' Agenda for Beijing+25 and Beyond

The **Beijing Platform for Action** remains the most progressive blueprint for women's rights. Twenty-five years ago, girls were not key partners in its development. The 25th anniversary is an opportunity to ensure that girls' voices are heard.

Girls from around the world have spoken out - they are clear on what needs to happen to achieve gender equality in their lifetime. In many instances, girls are already leading these efforts in their communities and countries. This International Youth Day, join girl advocates as they share their ideas and recommendations for Generation Equality.



**—GIRLS  
ADVOCACY  
ALLIANCE**

#### DATE AND TIME

12 August 2020  
8AM EST

#### PLATFORM

Zoom  
*(link to be sent to registered attendees ahead of event)*

#### SPEAKERS

To be  
announced

#### RSVP

[Click here](#)

## PSI EUROPE

PSI makes it easier for all people to lead healthier lives and plan the families they desire. They approach care from the consumers' perspective. They consider programming through the lens of gender and they aim to make universal health coverage more of a reality.

On IYD, [PSI](#) is hosting a global Twitter chat about youth contraceptive access during COVID-19 with questions that are intended to engage young people to elicit insights about their experiences making SRH choices amidst life in pandemic. The chat includes youth moderators from PSI and the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning, 120 under 40, Family Planning 2020 and the Self-Care Trailblazers Group. This twitter chat provides an opportunity to highlight to the global SRHR community how menstrual health is often overlooked in AYSRH programs. Here you find the [additional information](#) and the [sign-up link](#) for the Twitter chat taking place between 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM CEST.

Throughout the week, PSI will run the [#CloseTheLoop campaign](#) to advocate to funders and practitioners for menstrual health as a key component of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. This campaign will highlight that effective menstrual health management requires holistic solutions that put power and control in the hands of young people who menstruate to understand their bodies and make informed decisions about their health.

They're asking young people about the challenges they face when their menstrual health needs aren't met and what they can do and achieve when they are. You can hear from them by following their [campaign](#). PSI also invites you to share the tweets and graphics in our [social media toolkit](#) on your social channels and within your networks.

## RNW MEDIA

**RNW Media focuses both on engaging young people – primarily in the digital space – and influencing the societies of young people. Their approach is based on continuous innovation applying state of the art media tools and methods.**

**Sharing stories** – big, small, funny sad, wise or foolish, true and false. Stories are the lifeblood of social media as people reach out to others with their thoughts, feelings and opinions. But not everybody is able to tell their story freely. Social norms, political censorship, religious restrictions or simple lack of access to the platforms where audiences gather are all barriers to free speech and free association. We are launching a 6-month campaign [#MyStoryForAStory](#) (#MijnStoryVoorEenStory) to encourage young people in the Netherlands to show solidarity with their peers in countries where it's not always easy to tell your story. The campaign includes numerous key moments, including Amsterdam Gay Pride on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, International Youth Day on 12th August and finishing on Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December.

[Follow them on Instagram](#) for more updates!



## SHARE-NET NETHERLANDS

**Share-Net Netherlands is the Dutch knowledge platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and one of the country hubs of Share-Net International. Share-Net Netherlands has 31 individual members and 32 organisational members from sectors including NGOs, universities, knowledge institutes, governmental and private sector which work in low- and middle- income countries and in the Netherlands with a focus on SRHR.**

The call for abstracts for the [9th Annual Meeting for Young Researchers: "Linking Research, Policy and Practice"](#) is still open until August 24. This meeting is tentatively planned for Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 and brings together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in international development. The focus lies on the work of young professionals who have recently submitted or are in the process of finishing research as part of a Master programme, postgraduate degree, research internship or research consultancy. Hereby, we hope not only to disseminate knowledge on SRHR and GEWE, but also to create a space for open dialogue, to identify further gaps in research, policy and practice and to harvest networking opportunities.

Furthermore, we are in the process of setting up our national Community of Practice (CoP) on SRHR for Adolescents and Youth in preparation for Share-Net International's Co-Creation Conference that will focus on this

matter. In case you missed the chance to voice your interest in participating in this CoP, don't hesitate to write us an [email](#)!

At Share-Net Netherlands, we aspire to engage young people in a more meaningful way. As a first step, our SNNL secretariat staff will receive a workshop by CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality next month. We are also in the process of organising a webinar where our intern Carys Stirling will present her findings on meaningful youth participation within the Share-Net network and we want discuss with our members together, how we can become more youth-inclusive. More news will be shared in the near future!



On IDY, [Share-Net International](#) asked their young team members to reflect on their experiences with SRHR within their country context and asked how it has contributed to the work that they are doing now. Did you know that two thirds of the Share-Net Netherlands staff is under 30? Read their SRHR stories [here](#).

## UNITED NATIONS

The Focal Point on Youth, UN Programme on Youth, falls within the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Within the United Nations system, the Focal Point on Youth aims to build an awareness of the global situation of young people, as well as promote their rights and aspirations.

The theme of International Youth Day 2020, "[Youth Engagement for Global Action](#)" seeks to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

The United Nations have mapped International Youth Day 2020 events on their [World Map of Events](#)! Events to celebrate International Youth Day 2020 take place all over the world. They encouraged everyone to be part of the celebrations by organizing their own event or activity in their community, school, youth club, or workplace.

Hosted by youth for youth, a podcast series showcases how young people are crucial partners in political processes and in development. It also seeks to draw lessons with regard to how youth representation and participation in politics can be enhanced, especially for the purpose of responding to global challenges.

### [Episode 1: Engagement at the Local Level](#)



Participants: Javan the Poet (Kenya) and Lynrose Jane Genon (Philippines)

Host: Lucy Fagan (UN Major Group for Children and Youth)

### Episode 2: Engagement at the National Level

Participants: Nikoli Edwards (Trinidad and Tobago) and Joe English (USA)

Host: Lucy Fagan (UN Major Group for Children and Youth)

### Episode 3: Engagement at the Global Level

Participants: Hajar Yagkoubi (The Netherlands) and Eglė Janušonytė (Lithuania)

Host: Lucy Fagan (UN Major Group for Children and Youth)

## WOMEN DELIVER

Women Deliver is a leading global advocate that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women. Our advocacy drives investment—political and financial—in the lives of girls and women. We harness evidence and unite diverse voices to spark commitment to gender equality. And we get results. Anchored in sexual and reproductive health, we advocate for the rights of girls and women across every aspect of their lives.

In the lead up to #YouthDay, with support from [Norad](#), Women Deliver is launching [“Together on the Path to Change: A Young Advocate’s Guide to Advancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\)”](#). In this research study, Women Deliver and Girl Effect worked together to understand how adolescent girls and young women in India, Malawi, and Rwanda are using digital platforms to learn about their sexual and reproductive health.

Furthermore, this week, they launched a new study with [Girl Effect](#), which engaged adolescent girls and young women every step of the way: in shaping the research questions, in collecting the data, discussing the results, and generating recommendations for action. Watch the [video](#) to learn more.

## Join Share-Net!

and become part of the knowledge platform on SRHR as either a member or a sponsor. When joining Share-Net, you will not only be contributing to our mission and vision, but you will also be able to enjoy specific member benefits:

- Have free access to all the meetings that we organise. (Non-members participate at cost-price)
- Participate in our working groups or CoPs, which is exclusive for members. These groups are crucial for agenda setting, organizing meetings and executing small research projects. For more information on the Share-Net Netherlands working groups and thematic groups please visit [www.share-net.nl/working-groups](http://www.share-net.nl/working-groups).
- Be elected in one of our governing bodies, the Steering Committee of the Netherlands or the Board of Share-Net International. All members are invited to our annual business meeting.
- Be eligible for our yearly call for proposals for the Share-Net International Small Grants facility.