

Not My School!

Global Youth Call to Action to Eliminate School-Related Gender-Based Violence



School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) is defined as the act or threat of physical, sexual or psychological violence that children or young people experience in or around school.

Girls, boys and gender non-conforming youth experience this violence due to stereotypes related to their gender identity and expression. SRGBV is rooted in gender norms and unequal power relations.

An estimated 246 million young people are victims of violence in and around schools every year. The #NotMySchool Campaign represents an opportunity for youth to break the silence around SRGBV. Now it's time to take it forward. Youth must stand up and be recognised as change-makers. We must raise our voices against SRGBV and demand safe school environments for our peers around the world.

We believe that:

→ **SRGBV is a violation of the basic human rights of students. All young people have the right to education and the right to be safe from bodily and emotional harm.**

→ **It is the right of every child to have an equitable, quality and inclusive education, regardless of race, identity and expression, ability, religion, political persuasion, age, geography, sexual identity, or socioeconomic status.**

→ **Although anyone can be a target of SRGBV, LGBT+ youth, youth with disabilities, girls, and marginalised youth are most vulnerable. Therefore, an intersectional lens must be applied to education policy and programming.**

→ **Eliminating SRGBV is not only possible, it is essential.**

These are our calls to action:



Governments and organisations

1.

Recognise that youth with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities, are more vulnerable to SRGBV.

Therefore, SRGBV projects and programmes such as awareness-raising trainings and the implementation of reporting structures, must have a gender and disability dimension.

2.

Implement sex education into national curricula and emphasise the importance of informing students about their sexual reproductive health rights.

Too often, these topics are taboo. Inclusive education is essential.

3.

Make funding available to support proven approaches to preventing, addressing, and reporting on SRGBV.

Funding should also be made available to comprehensive research in order to better understand which groups are most affected by SRGBV and inform the most effective strategies to address it.

4.

Create mechanisms such as advisory councils, to ensure that key stakeholders are meaningfully included in all processes.

Set up youth advisory councils. As those most affected by SRGBV, youth are key partners in decision making, and should be included and recognised as such.

Ensure collaboration and cooperation across sectors, including the legal system, health, police, and social services.

Educators

1.

Implement gender-responsive education sector plans.

We must eliminate harmful gender norms communicated through textbooks, teaching methods, classroom dynamics and policies.

2.

Equip schools with support programmes or services for students who have experienced SRGBV.

This includes enforcing proper redressal mechanisms for perpetrators.

3.

Be advocates for students and take a stand against SRGBV.

For example, create spaces for youth to have dialogues around SRGBV, and work to remove the taboos around reporting channels and the stigma attached to being a victim of SRGBV.

4.

Organise teacher training sessions to inform teachers about the gender and social norms that perpetuate SRGBV, and how to respond to incidents of violence.

5.

Reach out to parents and the wider community.

This will challenge and remove the cultural beliefs, traditional practices and gender norms that are the root causes of SRGBV.

Young people

1.

Host dialogues to raise awareness on SRGBV across communities, schools, and social networks. Best practices must be shared.

2.

Identify, call out, and address the harmful gender norms in and around schools.

3.

Keep the conversation going - hold governments, organisations, teachers, schools, and each other accountable.

We, the young people of the world, must be free to learn in safe and inclusive environments. We must be heard, and we must be partners for change.

We wish to see all governments, education organisations, global partnerships and civil society commit to the elimination of SRGBV, ensuring that schools are safe spaces for all young people to learn and grow.

Not only is a safe and quality education for all youth essential to achieving the 2030 Global Goals Agenda, it is our most basic human right.

It's time to take it forward.

We, the youth of the world, share a common goal: to make schools safe spaces by ensuring that, when it comes to gender-based violence, it's Not My School.

