

Feminist Coalition Letters

Comprehensive Sexuality
Education

Letter 2: Anna



In September of this year, UNGEI convened its first meeting of the Global Feminist Coalition of Transformative Education, the convening was a powerful opportunity for civil society organisations and young feminist activists to come together, learn and share evidence. During the convening, the coalition dedicated time to mapping solutions for different thematic priorities for gender equality in education and felt that the power of stories is un-matched when showcasing the need for action in each of these themes. So, after careful reflection and collaboration, the coalition put together a set of stories on children that may be hypothetical in name but are not hypothetical in experience.

Speaking on behalf of children demanding Comprehensive Sexuality Education, here is a letter from Anna

Dear education leaders,

My name is Anna. I am 14 years old and I live in Kenya. I live with my mother and my younger brother and sister. My family is strictly religious and I go to the local catholic public school. I am not sure if I like girls or boys, or anyone at all. I think I am a trans-girl because I don't feel comfortable as a boy. I told my mom about this but she told me not to say this to anyone because they will want to hurt me. My school has a program about health but they only tell us that sex is bad and to wait till we are married. My friends and I spend a lot of time talking about and googling our questions about sex and relationships. I like to make Tiktok videos with my friends. I know a girl who is trans through TikTok but she gets a lot of hateful comments on her posts and I am scared that if I came out as trans, I would be treated the same way. Some of my friends have already had sex, I wonder if I should also have sex right now.



I want to be able to ask questions about my body without feeling bad or guilty about it. I wish I could talk to someone at school who will not tell me that my feelings are “wrong” or “immoral.” I wish the doctor at the public health clinic would come to my school and help me understand what I’m feeling. I also want to know why the girl in our community who got pregnant stopped going to school and why we don’t see her around anymore. I wonder if there is a way to stop the pregnancy so she could come back to school but my mother said that it is not legal. I want to stop feeling afraid when I go to school. I wish the teachers would make me feel safe.