

Feminist Coalition Letters

Climate Justice

Letter 3: Maria



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 suffering from the effects of climate change, here is a letter from Maria

Dear leaders,

My name is Maria, I am 10 years old and I live in the rural area in Colombia. My family expects me to help in the household and care for my siblings, although sometimes it feels like all of these responsibilities are put on me and the women in the house. I usually do all the cleaning and I also have to walk for hours to gather wood and water for the kitchen. This leaves me very little time to do my schoolwork. I'm always afraid when I go get water, I fear I will be attacked or even raped. The drought has made everything worse, there is less and less water every time. In school, my friends and I asked the teacher what we could do protect our village from droughts and floods, but she just said that little girls can't find solutions to big problems.



But I have so many ideas. I wish the teacher would let me talk in class, like she does with the boys. I wish we would learn about what causes the droughts and the floods, and how to protect our mother earth. Some organizations came to our school and they let us share our ideas. But then they left. They said that they only had money to work with us for a short time. Perhaps they will come back some day and listen to our ideas again.