



EUROPEAN WEEK OF  
**ACTION FOR  
GIRLS**

## **VOTE for GIRLS**

### **Commit to girls' rights everywhere**

#### **ABOUT THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF ACTION FOR GIRLS 2018**

Every year, the European Week of Action of Girls (EWAG) organises events and activities around the International Day of the Girl Child (11 October). Since 2012, EWAG has been pushing for the rights of girls to be better protected and championed by the EU, in particular through its external action. It is organised by a coalition of civil society organisations, and has been supported by the European Institutions and UN Agencies. This year's edition takes place from 8 - 12 October 2018.

The European Week of Action for Girls 2018 will again give space to girls to bring their voices to EU decision-makers and help shape a better world for all girls. They will take this opportunity to urge EU leaders on what needs to be done to overcome the barriers they face, and to ensure their rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Through a series of policy, advocacy and campaign activities, EWAG partners and young leaders will push the EU to abide by its commitments for gender equality and the protection of girls. This means doing more, investing responsibly, and recognising the active role girls play in their communities and societies.

This year, the EWAG will particularly focus on promoting girls' right to education, to live free of violence, to be economically empowered and to participate in decision-making processes.

#### **WHY THE EU?**

The EU plays a vital role for girls all over the world. Its decisions and policies affect millions of girls within the EU and even more girls outside of the EU. The EU and its Member States is the largest aid donor worldwide and has the potential to reach millions of girls through its external action.

The EU's policies directly impact girls - they have the potential to enable girls to be better protected from harm such as child, forced and early marriage, to have access to quality education, to learn skills required to live independently during adulthood, to have safe environments where to learn and to become empowered, strong and active citizens.

EWAG provides concrete, implementable recommendations to the EU on how to better protect and promote girls' rights and their empowerment through EU policies, practices and programmes so that they especially benefit the most marginalised and hardest to reach girls.



## WHY NOW?

The coming years will see some important changes for the European Union - we will see a new European Parliament, a new College of Commissioners and a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which will determine if priority is given to girls' rights. The EU needs to use this opportunity to ensure the new European Union scales up its commitment for girls to pursue their goals and achieve their dreams. The European Union must become a global champion for girls and for their active participation, supporting their right to live the life they choose and thrive.

In May 2019 the European elections will put a new European Parliament in place, paving the way for a new College of Commissioners. The newly elected EU leadership will set the vision for the EU and it will be crucial that this builds on the current momentum towards greater gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In addition, the new MFF will be thoroughly discussed before and after the European elections, creating a huge opportunity for increased and better investments for girls up to 2027.

The EU has made strong promises to girls in line with the SDGs through its policies and initiatives such as the new EU Consensus on Development, the Spotlight Initiative, and the Gender Action Plan II. Now it's time for the current and future EU leaders to continue putting girls at the centre of their external action and deliver on their promises!

## WHAT WILL WE DO?

The 2018 European Week of Action for Girls will put girl advocates at the centre of debates during the week and create the space for them to bring recommendations to EU policymakers on how the EU can champion girls rights.

During the week, we will organise an advocacy seminar for the girl advocates to increase their knowledge of the EU institutions and processes. This will prepare them for the planned direct engagement with EU policymakers and candidates for the European Parliament elections, as well as other events organised during the week.

Throughout the week, girl advocates will be given opportunities and tools to put their leadership skills into practice. The week also contributes to strengthening the abilities of the current generation of strong, vocal, female citizens/girl advocates who ensure the EU policymakers are kept accountable for the promises they made.



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The European Week of Action for Girls is organised by

