

YOUTH MANIFESTO

EQUAL POWER

NOW



#EqualPowerNow

[plan-international.org/equal-power-manifesto](https://plan-international.org/equal-power-manifesto)



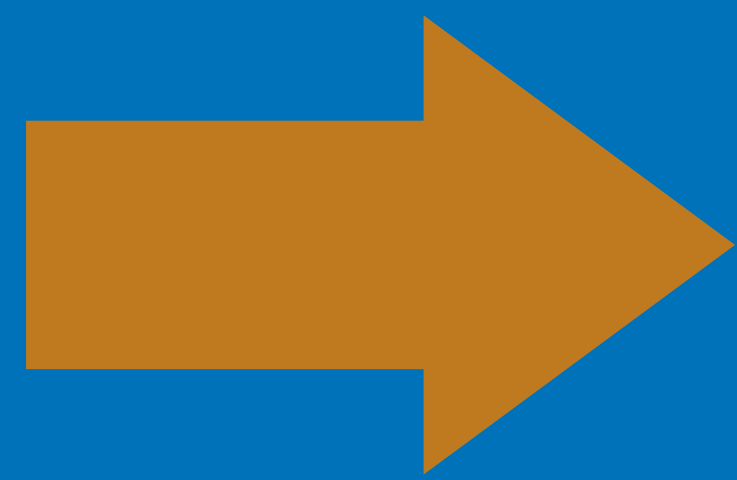
# WHY DO WE STILL LIVE IN SOCIETIES DOMINATED BY INEQUALITIES?

We're done with being silenced, underestimated and ignored. **Young people, girls, and women in all their diversity** are facing barriers and pushbacks when it comes to participating in politics.

**We now explode into action!**  
We think it's about time we  
Get Equal Power Now.

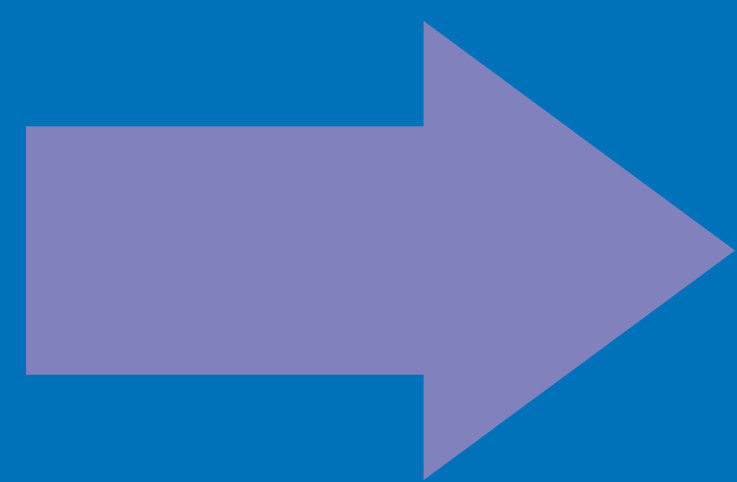


# HERE IS OUR **MANIFESTO**



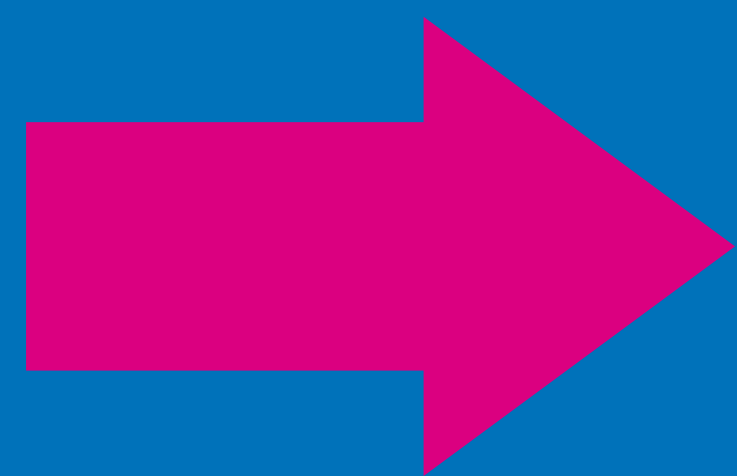
**WE BELIEVE**

in the potential of girls, women  
and young people, in all their diversity.



**WE ASPIRE**

to be included in  
all decision-making spaces.



**WE WANT**

to see more girls and young women  
as movement leaders, activists,  
changemakers, and politicians.

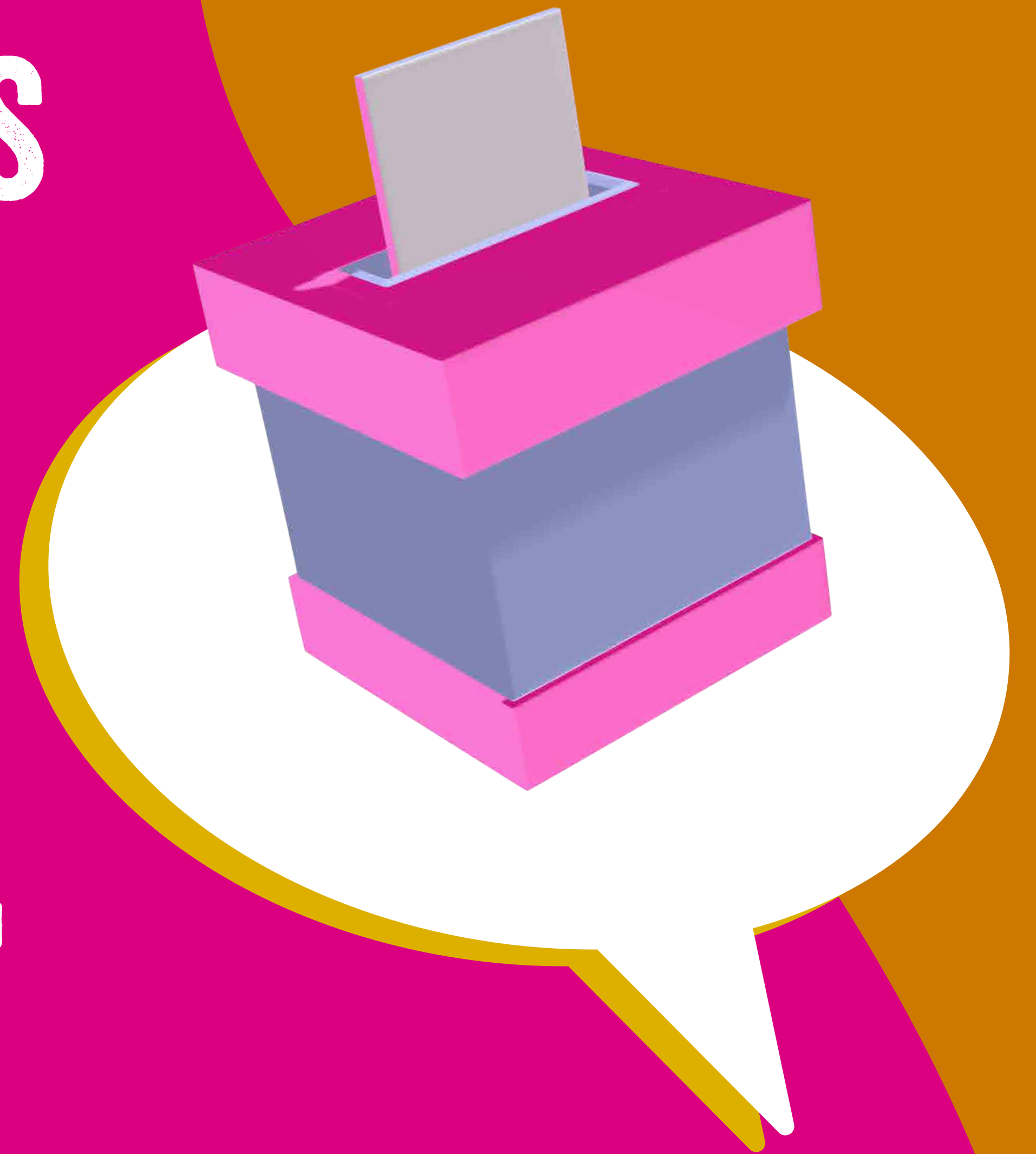




**WE DEMAND THAT  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
AND NATIONAL LAWS**

**DO MORE**

**TO PROTECT  
OUR RIGHT TO  
PARTICIPATE**





Our manifesto calls  
on decision-makers  
to open

**SAFE  
INCLUSIVE  
ACCESSIBLE  
& SUSTAINABLE**

pathways to participation.





We want to pioneer  
our own future and claim

# **EQUAL ACCESS**

to safe and inclusive  
decision-making  
spaces!





WE ARE TIRED OF THE PATRIARCHAL  
NORMS THAT DEFINE US

WE ARE **READY**



TO BREATHE  
IN EQUAL  
POWER





We call on  
power holders  
all over the world:

# **LISTEN TO OUR VOICE**

and become  
part of the  
solution!





**WE ASK YOU,  
WHAT WILL YOU DO  
TO ENSURE THAT  
GIRLS GET  
EQUAL POWER  
NOW?**



# IN SOLIDARITY

A young woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white crop top and a plaid jacket.

**ASTRID**  
PERU

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt.

**BARRY**  
GUINEA

A young woman wearing a black hijab and a light orange blazer.

**DEDEOU**  
MALI

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt.

**EVELIN**  
BOLIVIA

A young woman with long braids, wearing a white cap and a black t-shirt, making a peace sign.

**INÈS**  
BENIN

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a white shirt and a yellow tie.

**KEIVER**  
COLOMBIA

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a black top.

**NYASHA**  
ZIMBABWE

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink top.

**SANDRA**  
USA

A young man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a light green shirt.

**SAFAL**  
NEPAL

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt.

**JAHIR**  
BANGLADESH

A young woman with long reddish-brown hair, wearing a blue t-shirt.

**HARLEEN**  
AUSTRALIA

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt.

**TIEN**  
VIETNAM

A young woman wearing a brown hijab and a white floral patterned top.

**YASMINE**  
INDONESIA

A young woman with short dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt.

**ZVIKOMBORERO**  
ZIMBABWE



# OVER 29,000 GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN ACROSS 29 COUNTRIES

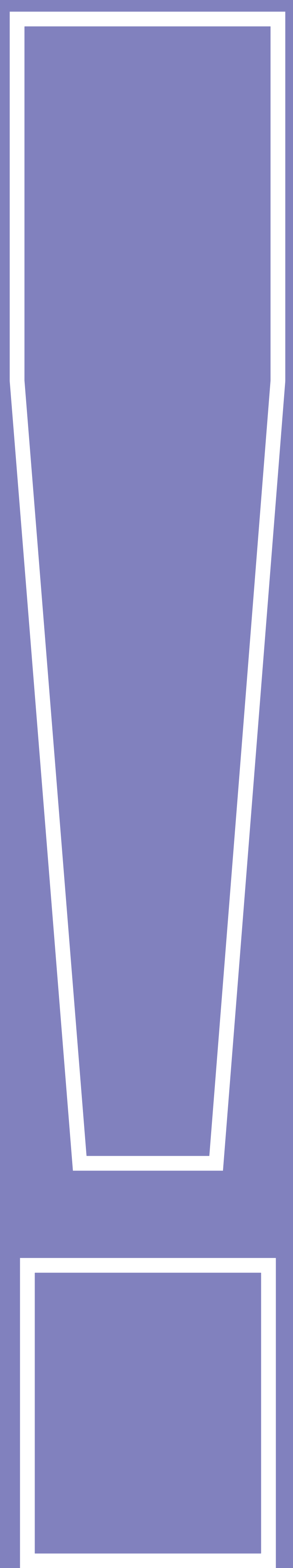
have shared their views and experiences of political participation in this year's State of the World's Girls report – *Equal Power Now: Girls, Young Women and Political Participation*.



**Their experiences make clear that more needs to be done by decision makers at every level of society to uphold girls' rights to participation.**



**FOUR**  
**PATHWAYS**  
**TOWARDS**  
**GIRLS' GREATER**  
**POLITICAL**  
**PARTICIPATION**





# DECISION

# MAKERS

# AT ALL LEVELS

## MUST INSTITUTIONALISE

the meaningful and safe participation  
of girls and their groups through the adoption  
of fully resourced and accountable  
policies, strategies, and frameworks.



1



# NATIONAL AND LOCAL

# GOVERNMENTS

## MUST ENSURE

access to diverse and inclusive pathways  
toward political participation:  
including resourcing and strengthening civic  
education and leadership opportunities  
and facilitating girls' inclusion  
in local decision-making processes.

2



# GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES

## MUST ADDRESS

the violence experienced  
by women politicians and girl activists  
by adopting a zero-tolerance approach to violence.  
The media can support by promoting positive  
images and by calling attention to violence  
experienced in both online and offline spaces.

3





# UN, GOVERNMENTS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

SHOULD RECOGNISE

girls' vital and distinct role in civil society  
and provide accessible resources  
so that girls' organisations are resilient  
and sustainable in the face of crises  
and external threats.

4



THANK  
YOU



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