

Global Count

# Interim Findings

# INTRODUCTION

**31600**  
**Responses**

**173**  
**Countries**

**17**  
**Languages**

The Global Count (GC) is a global mapping project designed to ensure that individual women's and gender-diverse people's opinions, needs, and perspectives inform the Global Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality formed by each Action Coalition (AC) at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) 2021.

At the close of a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic when human rights authorities declared that gender-based violence and inequities in the workplace are as bad as they were 25 years ago, in 2021, it is more crucial than ever to get an accurate and comprehensive picture of how individuals around the world are being impacted by gender inequality. The post-pandemic "Global Reset" allows us an opportunity to give people from all contexts and walks of life the opportunity to define the issues affecting their lives and inform how we rebuild our systems and societies in an equitable way.

The Global Count is an opportunity to ensure the voices of women and gender-diverse people define what is needed when it comes to funding and policy-making decisions that will impact them.



## Generation Equality

**The Global Count is poised to hold Global Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality to account.**

The **Global Count** gives unique insight into the experiences and needs of women and gender-diverse people across the world and lays the groundwork for filling the gaps when it comes to quality data on key issues impacting these groups. What it also offers is an accountability mechanism to ensure policies, funding and program decisions around key themes that affect women and gender-diverse people's lives match the lived reality and needs they have cited themselves.

We hope to be able to demonstrate its function as a mechanism to strengthen the Action Coalitions' plans to accelerate gender equality, and to guarantee the efforts of all at the GEF can have lasting and irreversible impacts. Women themselves are the key to understanding how we can tackle gender inequality – now is the time to integrate their voices fully into our efforts to uplift and help all women and gender-diverse people thrive.

# INTRODUCTION

A substantial lack of data on the lived experiences, opinions and perspectives of women and gender-diverse people results in inaccurate funding and policy initiatives intending to support women on a global scale. A 2017 report found data is either [completely missing or irregular](#) when it comes to tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). When it comes to gender-related SDGs, UN Women's 2019 Women Count Report found [only 31%](#) of gender-specific SDG indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level.

The connection between a lack of data on women, and consequential unreliability of funding and policy initiatives to progress women's equality is evident: [only 1% of gender focused aid](#) went to women-led organizations in 2016/2017. That meagre 1% is made even less effective by the fact that the bulk of it remained in "[donor countries](#)" and did not reach those in need on a local level.

At the close of a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic when human rights authorities declared that [gender-based violence](#) and inequities in the workplace are [as bad as they were 25 years ago](#), in 2021, it is more crucial than ever to get an accurate and comprehensive picture of how individuals around the world are being impacted by gender inequality. The post-pandemic "[Global Reset](#)" allows us an opportunity to give people from all contexts and walks of life the opportunity to define the issues affecting their lives and inform how we rebuild our systems and societies in an equitable way. The Global Count is an opportunity to ensure the voices of women and gender-diverse people define what is needed when it comes to funding and policy-making decisions that will impact them.

Unable to take to the streets for its anniversary march in 2021, Women's March Global (WMG) and 60+ partner organizations launched The Global Count (GC) in lieu of the annual global event. The GC Steering Committee members include representatives from [White Ribbon Alliance](#), [CIVICUS](#), [Girl Up](#), [Global Fund For Women](#), [Care International](#), [Facebook](#), and [Impact Mapper](#) as well as local movements and partners including [Akili Dada](#), [Akina Mama Wa Afrika](#), [BONELA](#), [ASTRA Network](#), [ARROW](#), and [New Women Connectors](#). These partners were chosen for their ability to reach global networks as well as local communities and their expertise in engaging women and gender-diverse people. The Steering Committee members enable the GC to reach millions of women and ensure a diversity of data and perspectives, while Facebook subsidized targeted ad credits to help reach women and diverse people across the globe. (Please note: Facebook has had no access to the GC data or survey platform provided by SurveyMonkey.)

# INTRODUCTION (cont.)

At the core of the GC is the coming together and collaboration of like-minded movements and networks to center the voices of women in the 'global reset' and ensure that the information is extensive and representative enough to tangibly inform the 2021 Generation Equality Forum (GEF) accountability mechanisms and the [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#). The GC envisions that accessible, translatable gendered data can result in a radical shift in funding, policy, and programming when applied deliberately, transparently and with integrity. **The GC is formed on the basis that the development of any agenda that does not include the perspectives, views and experiences of those who will be affected will fail to meet the need.** Informed by the GC, stakeholders at the GEF can set policy and make funding decisions based on women's definitions of the issues impacting them, the barriers to progress, and the organizations that are driving change.

These Interim Findings are a snapshot of what the GC will be able to accomplish over time, as it continues to collect data, analyze, visualize, and translate it into actionable insights. Most notably, the Interim Findings are a snapshot of the information that will be made accessible technologically and linguistically, as well as cross-referenced with other studies through the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#). The mechanism with which this project seeks, communicates, and translates the opinions and perspectives of women and gender-diverse people on their empowerment is poised to hold the ACs at the GEF accountable.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender data, and the lack thereof, has become an important topic for the feminist and development sector as the power of data and the recognition of its potential continue to grow. The GC is part of this movement, and as far as we can confirm, it is the first study of its kind specifically poised to provide value to the Global Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality. The GC's merit comes from the amount and demographic diversity of participants—a current total of 31,600 women and gender-diverse people from 173 countries—and also the breadth and depth of questions asked.

Over the past few years, the development community has consciously acknowledged gaps in data on women and gender-diverse people. [UN Women, the Equal Measures Data Hub](#) and the work of [Data2x](#) have expressed a need for better data collection on the Sustainable Development Goals, and have advocated for strengthened data collection and better use of gendered data within decision-making bodies. However, the problem persists: there is still a lack of grassroots collection that gives respondents agency over funding and policy-making decisions that impact them.

A January 2021 report by [Focus 2030](#) and [Women Deliver](#) studied what people think about gender inequality. The survey reveals that across all countries, the global public unanimously supports gender equality and a resounding majority is ready for their governments to take action to address it through political and financial measures. This research is important in painting a picture of the necessity of the GEF, and in securing support for the GEF's plans.

However, a 2019 report, [Women's Assessments of Gender Equality](#), shows that there is disparity between what women want and what feminist activists think women want, further highlighting the need for bottom up approaches to data collection that focus on ordinary women and gender-diverse people. With the GC, women across the globe are given a platform to describe issues that are critical to *them*, what *they* believe are the greatest barriers to progress, and the organizations *they* rely on for support. Importantly, the purpose of the GC is to ensure that women and gender-diverse people's perspectives are represented and inform activists, governments, and NGOs that come together at the GEF.

These studies underscore the need and set the stage for the GC. In turn, the GC provides a foundation for how data collection of this breadth can be done at scale and should be used as an accountability mechanism for any major gender agendas like the actions set to come out of the GEF.

# METHODOLOGY

The GC was launched by [WMG](#) in January 2021, with the support and partnership of 60+ entities—including both international women’s rights organizations and an extensive network of grassroots movements spanning all continents—and is gaining new partners regularly.

The project is currently in a data collection phase, in the form of a short online poll hosted by SurveyMonkey that takes around 10 minutes to complete. It is distributed digitally via our partners, and with the support of subsidized Facebook ads. The Interim Findings analyzed in this report will look at the data collected thus far, with the full knowledge and understanding of its preliminary nature. This report will consider responses collected from 21 January to 2 June 2021, which provides a total sample size of 31,600. In the interest of ensuring statistical significance, there are over 1000 responses from 17 different countries, which allow us a sizable data set for analysis and comparison. There are over 500 responses from respondents in 22 countries, and over 100 from respondents in 39 different countries

The questions in the poll are designed to decipher a) The critical issues women face in their community, b) The barriers to progress, and 3) Organizations that are driving change. Each question was optional. The issues respondents are asked about are based on both the Beijing agenda, as well as WMG’s Unity Principles: ending violence, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, workers rights, civil rights, disability rights, immigrant rights, indigenous rights and climate justice.

Furthermore, participants were given the opportunity to answer an open-ended question, namely, ‘What does progress for women’s human rights look like for you in 10 years?’. This question allows us to have strong, qualitative data and stories that provides color and narrative to the quantitative results, and gives unique insight into how participants, in all their diversity, view progress for gender equality.

The poll itself is peer-reviewed by sector leaders including Kimberlé Crenshaw, University of Maryland and Survey Monkey. The poll is largely a [non-probability sampling](#), to ensure the study was a random selection of women and gender-diverse people across the world, primarily through Facebook ads targeted to women in 99 different ad sets in 21 different languages.

To ensure ethical considerations are met, the online poll has a description of the study and why it was conducted, and respondents were required to confirm consent in order to be taken to the poll. They were asked not to provide any names but to keep all responses anonymous. Further, the poll did not collect any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in order to ensure the anonymity of the respondents.

# LIMITATIONS

The Action Coalition for Feminist Movements and Leadership (AC6) envisions that by 2026 “feminist leaders, movements, and organizations... are fully resourced and supported to become sustainable, can carry out their work without fear of reprisal, and advance gender equality, peace, and human rights for all.” It is critical that alongside feminist groups, the ordinary voices of women and gender-diverse people are defining what is needed in order to (1) properly direct funding (2) create, expand and protect civic space (3) advance gender parity in decision-making, and (4) strengthen youth movements. Without this, the actions risk creating a gap between what feminist groups predict women want and the issues and solutions women perceive through lived experience.

Qualitative and quantitative data from the Global Count (GC) can help in closing this gap in three ways.

**Firstly**, it gives a clear overview of the issues that are currently impacting women globally and the ability for this data to be translated into actionable insights locally. To underscore this point and simultaneously give a nod to the accuracy of the GEF’s focus, as it stands globally, 48.1% of respondents selected ‘Ending Violence, Harassment & Abuse’ as one of the most important issues to them and it is emerging as the top issue in nearly every country. This result gives credence to the merit of the study, as alongside the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, [UN Women reported](#) an alarming rise in domestic abuse, dubbing it the ‘shadow pandemic’. These findings show that in building and supporting feminist movements, there needs to be a special focus on organizations and groups that provide solutions to gender-based violence (GBV), as it is the main issue as cited by individuals themselves.

**Secondly**, it gives an overview of the perceived barriers by respondents themselves, therefore showing exactly where interventions, resourcing and advocacy should be directed to overcome these issues. For example, across the Americas, a majority (51%) of those who selected ‘Ending Violence, Harassment & Abuse’ as a critical issue to them saw ‘cultural/social’ barriers as the main hindrance to progress on this issue. These findings show that in supporting feminist movements to ‘thrive without fear of reprisal’, as stated in the mission statement of AC6, there needs to be a focus on creating social and cultural environments that enable these groups to thrive in the first place.

# LIMITATIONS

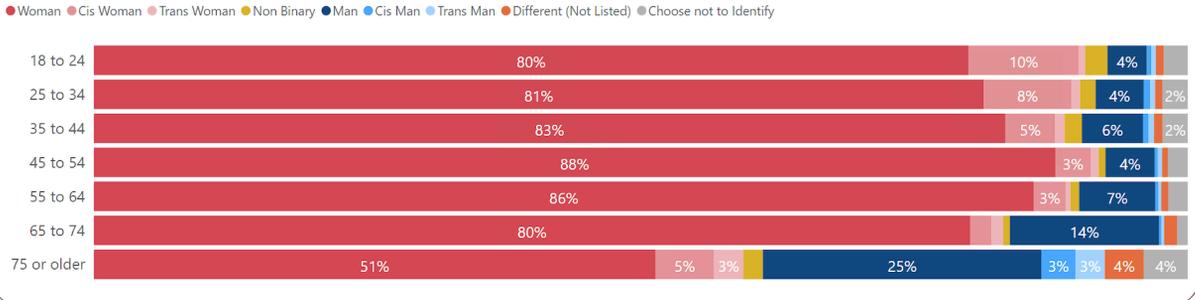
**Thirdly**, the Global Count has a wealth of data on organizations effectively working in these areas as cited by respondents themselves. This means that the organizations named are (a) already working on the ground and known to local women and gender-diverse people, and (b) they already have good relationships with local communities and can therefore continue to make an impact. For example, a respondent from Zimbabwe cited [GALZ Zimbabwe](#) as an organization working to advance LGBTQIA+ rights there. As part of the AC mission to elevate diverse leaders working across the spectrum, they should ensure organizations like GALZ are properly resourced and there are thousands more results from the Global Count to help do this.

For the AC on Feminist Movements and Leadership to truly eliminate barriers to feminist mobilization in all the diversity of the world's women, the Coalition can use information from the Global Count, which provides responses from individual women all over the world on the priorities for their own empowerment, as they define them. In the next sections, we will outline more specifically how data from the Global Count can be used to advance the specific actions outlined in the blueprints for the Action Coalition, allowing the actions to have the best chances at accelerating gender equality for women and gender-diverse people everywhere.

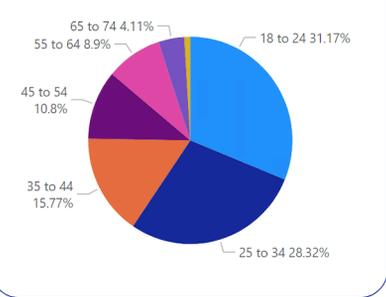
# DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

The most responses (31.2%) collected at this point came from the 18 to 24 age group. The next greatest percent of responses came from the 25 to 34 age group at 28.3%. That being said, it is interesting to note that we received representation from older groups too, including from women and gender-diverse people over the age of 75 years at 0.9%. The youngest and oldest age groups are the most gender-diverse and include some of the highest proportions of gender minorities.

**Gender Diversity by Age** (Respondents may choose multiple identities)



**Age of Respondent (who answered the question)**



**Gender Identity by Region** (Respondents may choose multiple identities)

Region	Woman	CisWoman	TransWoman	NonBinary	Man	CisMan	TransMan	Different	Nolidentify
Africa	32%	10%	62%	27%	26%	35%	59%	37%	50%
Americas	14%	19%	10%	14%	4%	10%	6%	18%	9%
Asia	18%	12%	11%	11%	27%	12%	19%	16%	19%
Europe	35%	58%	14%	48%	43%	41%	15%	27%	21%
Oceania	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>								

# DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

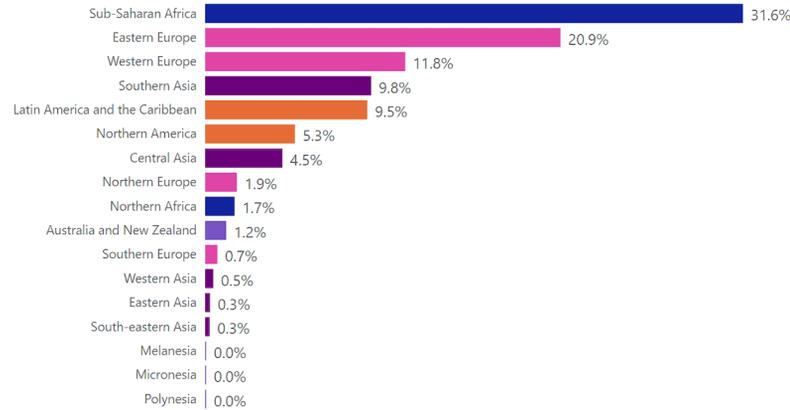
## Race

Of those that answered the question, the majority of the responses (6,823) at 31.4% identified as 'white', followed by 21.9% (4,759) of respondents identifying as 'Black'. Those identifying as 'Asian' made up 9.5% of responses (2,071), followed by 8.3% of respondents identifying as 'Indigenous' (1,791). Lastly, 5% (1,091) indicated they were 'biracial', 4.9% identified as 'different' and 1.7% (368) identified as 'North African'. 13,805 (43%) either didn't answer or selected "I choose not to identify".

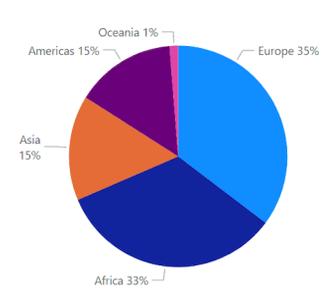
Distribution of Racial Identity by Region

Region	Asian	Biracial	Black	Hispanic	Indigenous	Indigenous South American	Middle Eastern	Native American	Native Hawaiian	North African	Pacific Islander	South Asian	South-East Asian	White	Different / Not Listed	Choose Not to Identify
Africa	4.2%	11.8%	93.9%	2.9%	11.1%	32.4%	37.9%	39.6%	54.2%	93.5%	41.4%	19.5%	29.9%	2.0%	25.4%	35.4%
Americas	3.6%	14.7%	4.4%	89.9%	4.8%	57.4%	11.2%	43.8%	10.4%	1.6%	31.0%	14.1%	11.3%	14.1%	8.2%	14.0%
Asia	87.2%	27.5%	0.5%	1.4%	24.7%	6.3%	31.9%	9.4%	29.2%	2.7%	10.3%	58.4%	43.3%	8.0%	12.5%	19.7%
Europe	4.8%	45.1%	1.1%	5.5%	59.1%	3.4%	18.2%	6.3%	6.3%	1.9%	10.3%	7.6%	13.4%	74.1%	52.2%	29.9%
Oceania	0.2%	0.8%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	1.0%		0.3%	6.9%	0.5%	2.1%	1.9%	1.6%	0.9%

Responses by Sub-Region

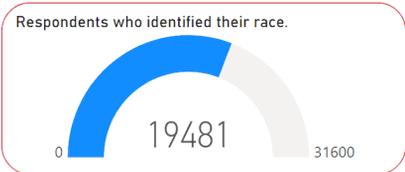


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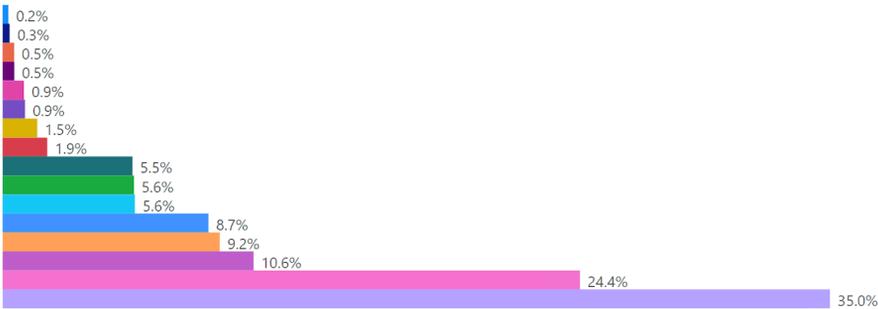


# DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

## Racial Identity Distribution



- Racial Identity**
- Native Hawaiian
  - Pacific Islander
  - Native American
  - South East Asian
  - Indigegnous to Central & South America
  - South Asian
  - Middle Eastern
  - North African
  - Different from those listed
  - Hispanic or Latinx
  - Biracial
  - Choose Not to Identify
  - Indigenous
  - Asian
  - Black or of African Decent
  - White



Respondents were invited to select one or more identities.

## Language

To be able to reach as many women and gender-diverse people as possible, we offered the GC poll in 17 different official languages to widen the types of respondents we would get. We ran Facebook Ads in different languages to allow women and gender diverse people to understand the questions. These languages included English, Russian, Spanish, Hindi, French, Ukrainian, Farsi, Portuguese, Saudi Arabic, Iraq Arabic, Arabic, German, Chinese Traditional, Indonesian, Italian and Portuguese Brazilian.

# Action Coalition 6: Feminist Movements and Leadership

The Action Coalition for Feminist Movements and Leadership (AC6) envisions that by 2026 “feminist leaders, movements, and organizations...are fully resourced and supported to become sustainable, can carry out their work without fear of reprisal, and advance gender equality, peace, and human rights for all.” It is critical that alongside feminist groups, the ordinary voices of women and gender-diverse people are defining what is needed in order to (1) properly direct funding (2) create, expand and protect civic space (3) advance gender parity in decision-making, and (4) strengthen youth movements. Without this, the actions risk creating a gap between what feminist groups predict women want and the issues and solutions women perceive through lived experience.

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# Action Coalition 6: Feminist Movements and Leadership

**Thirdly**, the Global Count has a wealth of data on organizations effectively working in these areas as cited by respondents themselves. This means that the organizations named are (a) already working on the ground and known to local women and gender-diverse people, and (b) they already have good relationships with local communities and can therefore continue to make an impact. For example, a respondent from Zimbabwe cited [GALZ Zimbabwe](#) as an organization working to advance LGBTQIA+ rights there. As part of the AC mission to elevate diverse leaders working across the spectrum, they should ensure organizations like GALZ are properly resourced and there are thousands more results from the Global Count to help do this.

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# AC6 Action 1: Fund and support feminist and women-led organizations, funds, activists and movements

Sub Action 1 makes the ambitious goal of “doubling the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to feminist and women-led organizations, funds, groups, activists, and movements in all their diversity”. To ensure this funding goes to organizations and groups that are effective in communities, we need to listen to women directly.

Responses from the GC give a clear picture of organizations that are effective in responding to critical issues and thus furthers the need for any actions from the GEF to focus on funding at the grassroots level. For example: a woman from ILe-Ife, Nigeria between the ages of 55 and 64 picked ‘Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse’ as a top issue in her country with ‘economic’ marked as a barrier to progress. She believes that grassroot organizations and movements make a difference in her community. When asked ‘What does progress for women’s human rights look like for you in 10 years?’, she said: “If grassroot (*sic*) NGO that are closer to the people are strengthened and we continue to work as a formidable team then in 10 years, the barrier against women’s human rights would have been dismantled.”

This highlights the appetite on the ground for real investment in grassroot organizations and movements that work closely with the people at community level. Therefore, efforts to double funding to feminist organizations should run in parallel with a reform in funding practices that finds ways to target smaller, grassroots and often ‘unofficial’ networks who can have the most impact in the communities. This is in line with [findings from the OECD](#) that show the bulk of international aid money went to international organizations based in the donor countries, rather than feminist groups who have specialist knowledge and context-specific solutions.

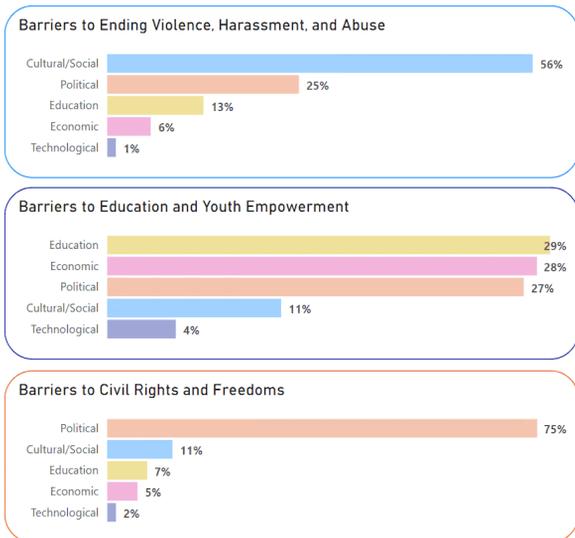
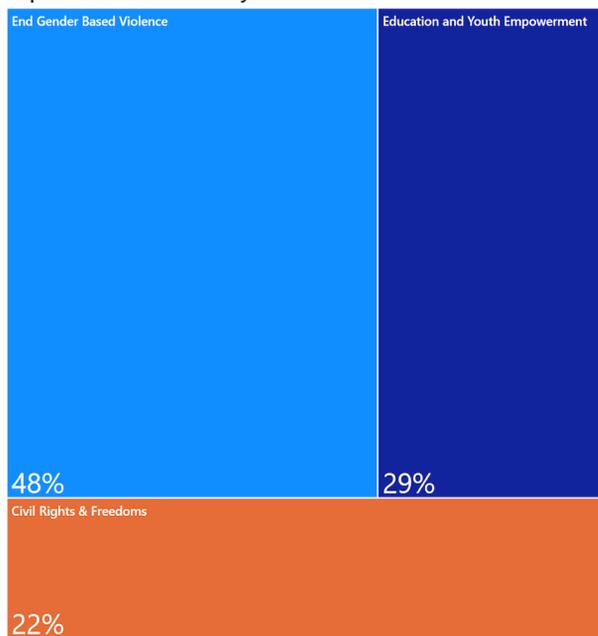
In another example, a woman from Arva, Estonia, between the ages of 35 and 44 cited ‘Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse’, ‘Economic and Workers’ Rights,’ and ‘Education and Youth Empowerment’ as the three top key issues to her. She felt that ‘political issues’ were the biggest barrier to progress in all three of these areas and cited two organizations, [FemLens](#) and [Vita Tiim](#), as working with women in these areas. When asked ‘What does progress for women’s human rights look like for you in 10 years?’, she commented: “Women and workers are represented in politics at all levels, and politicians are not career hunters but people who care about society.”

# AC6 Action 2: Create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing

In order to create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing, we must be informed by barriers women experience, and apply pressure or protection where women and gender-diverse people define it is needed, tailoring interventions to their circumstances and contexts. Respondents of the GC had the opportunity to answer if barriers to their progress were (1) political, (2) cultural/social, (3) educational, (4) economic, and (5) technological. By looking at the barriers to progress in this way, we will be able to direct efforts to advance protection measures through laws and policies and expand civic space for action and organizing. Here we will look closer into the sector barriers that are barring women and gender-diverse people from realizing progress on the issues most critical to them.

The top three issues respondents chose as most critical, globally thus far, are **'Ending Gender-Based Violence' at 48%**, **'Education and Youth Empowerment' at 29%**, and **Civil Rights and Freedoms' at 22%**. Here, we will analyze responses to the top three issues globally, and their greatest barriers to progress in relation to Feminist Movements and Leadership.

## Top Three Issues Globally



# AC6 Action 2: Create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing

The fact that 'Ending Gender-Based Violence' at 48% was the most prominently chosen issue amongst those who responded to the question reflects the reality that we see in the volume and focus of feminist action and organizing around the world. In just the first 6 months of 2021, increasing, widespread and prevalent violence against women triggered mass protests in [Austria](#), [Turkey](#), [Mexico](#), [Australia](#), [India](#) and [the UK](#). In every region, (Africa, Asia, Europe the Americas, Oceania) the majority of respondents to the GC –56% globally–chose 'cultural/social' as the biggest barrier to advocating or campaigning to end violence. That 'cultural/social' was chosen instead of 'political', 'educational,' 'technological,' or 'economic' options for barriers, means respondents are pointing to the cultural and social environment as a promulgation of violence, harassment and abuse. This speaks directly to "norms", and the AC's plan to "eliminate harmful stereotypes that reinforce discrimination, entrench inequality, and stigmatize feminist activists, organizations, and movements."

In order to eliminate harmful stereotypes that reinforce discrimination, respondents to the GC direct us to priorities resources on changing cultural and social norms about violence, harassment and abuse.

For example, we can look at the story of a woman who lives outside of Lagos, Nigeria aged between 25 and 34, who identified that the most important issue for her is 'Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse,' and that 'social/cultural' issues were the biggest barrier to progress on this issue. When asked what organizations have been useful on the issue, she listed a radio programme called the Berekete family radio programme as effective in mobilizing to end violence, harassment and abuse in her local area. This example could be used to make an argument that increasing investments and attention could focus on ensuring the Berekete family radio programme mentioned can scale its work to implement cultural and social change, by changing hearts and minds on the subject of violence.

This example represents the value in listening to the voices of women and gender-diverse people about the issues and barriers that impact their individual progress toward equality, and it provides a tangible pathway for the plan to "eliminate harmful stereotypes that reinforce discrimination, entrench inequality, and stigmatize feminist activists, organizations, and movements."

# AC6 Action 2: Create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing

## Civil Rights and Freedoms and the Political Barrier

In application to the need to create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing, we can look at qualitative and quantitative results from the second-most prominently chosen issue, 'Civil Rights and Freedoms.' The majority—75%—chose the 'political' barrier as the greatest hindrance to progress on 'Civil Rights and Freedoms.' The political sector acting as a barrier to progress on women's violence is in line with the reality we have seen through feminist organizing in 2021.

In many cases around the globe, a singular narrative ties feminist activism together: women are organizing in collective action against rape culture promulgated by authoritative systems and are violently shut down and silenced by branches of the same governing systems as reported by the [Human Rights Watch](#). When thousands of women gathered in [Mexico City](#) in March to protest the high rates of femicide in the country, law enforcement sprayed the activists with tear gas. A few days later in [London](#), hundreds gathered for a memorial for a young woman who had been kidnapped, murdered, and dismembered by a police officer, and the vigil turned into a violent clash with police officers who belonged to the same force as the murderer. In [Turkey](#), activists have organized mass protests against the government pulling out of the Istanbul Convention to protect women against violence, and police have arrested over a dozen women. In [Australia](#), tens of thousands of activists organized protests in response to allegations of sexual assault by members of Australia's parliament. Women all over the world are being met with violence and sexual abuse when organizing for women's rights, protection and empowerment. When the systems designed to protect and support are the very systems that are violently shutting down women's voices, we can confirm a shocking institutional neglect that underscores the need for radical pressure on the political sector.

That the majority chose the 'political' barrier as the greatest hindrance to progress gives direction to the intention to "advance protection measures, policies, and enforceable legislation to protect the human rights and security of feminist activists, organizations, and movements."

# AC6 Action 2: Create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing

Open-ended answers from the question ‘What does progress for women’s human rights look like for you in 10 years?’ can inform the AC for Feminist Movements and Leadership how to approach that advancement. In many responses, women describe an appetite for an intersectional approach to police reform, and ensuring that women are empowered to leadership positions in authoritative institutions such as law enforcement.

For example, a woman from Montana, USA, responded “To me (progress for women’s human rights) looks like a total restructuring of our society, meaning patriarchy is not the dominant structure and that our governments, policing system, economy, schools and jobs are less hierarchical, less fueled by toxic masculinity, and more collaborative.” This response provides a vision for a world which recognizes the role that patriarchal power structures play in the activities associated with governance, and the prevalence of a culture of masculinity and rape, where sexual violence is condoned by the [constructs of the society](#) which are set up so that women have less power than men. The need to radically change how institutions operate, and the appetite for that change is evident through responses to the GC.

## Youth Empowerment and the Educational Barrier

Lastly, we look at qualitative and quantitative responses included in those who selected ‘Education and Youth Empowerment’, which is thus far, marked as the third most critical issue globally. The most popular barrier cited for this area was ‘education’ with 29% of respondents selecting it. In this case, it can be interpreted that a lack of education is the problem when related to youth empowerment, and access to education is the solution.

Sub action four of AC6 intends to “strengthen adolescent girls and young feminist leaders, their movements and organizations,” yet young women’s leadership is [undermined](#) in the civic space despite the advances in youth engagement over the years. The current configuration of youth organizations is not enough to ensure or sustain the effective leadership of young women in international development and any progress within youth spaces is still largely affected by the preferences of young men in power. Within the current global context, women are given promises of equal representation but often find the reins of power in the hands of others. The need for radical change in how the systems support young feminist activists and movements is particularly urgent across the African continent, where nearly [60%](#) of the population is under the age of 25. In a report by the [World Bank](#) currently, less than 10% of African students are enrolled in higher education. This explains why the majority of the young people identified access to education as youth empowerment.

# AC6 Action 2: Create, expand and protect civic space for feminist action and organizing

Open-ended answers from the question, 'What does progress for women's human rights look like for you in 10 years?', can inform the AC for Feminist Movements and Leadership how to approach education in relation to youth empowerment.

For example, a respondent from the UK wrote that she envisions progress for women's human rights as the "girls I work with having (*sic*) aspirations for their lives and full ownership of their own bodies – an understanding of their rights. And, conversely, the young men I work with understanding (*sic*) what respectful relationships look like and being able to break free of the culture of toxic masculinity many of them are embedded in." This response underscores the need to involve young men in the project of empowering young girls. Further, it proposes advancing a culture change by ensuring young people of all genders are enabled, via access to education, to build societies that embody gender equality as a foundational value.

Centering the experiences and expertise of young people is key to ensuring their voices are heard and enacted upon. The GEF's approach to including youth is welcoming but it is how young people are included in decision-making beyond just conferences that will enable institutional change and this starts with giving young people the tools and resources to lead.

In recent years, [governments have adopted new laws and policies](#) that shrink civic spaces, taking away rights and freedoms and using the police as a force to dismantle peaceful protests and deter freedom of speech and assembly. Whilst women turn out in the thousands all over the world to protest against institutional violence, it is time to redefine how global institutions work toward gender equity, and time for women to be informing solutions to problems that have festered for centuries. For us to have a world free from poverty and violence and where equity and dignity is possible, women and youth must drive the development agenda and be active agents of change

# AC6 Action 3: Advance gender parity in decision-making and leadership

To better understand how to advance gender parity in decision-making and leadership, we must ensure a culturally appropriate lens. While Western countries' general understanding of leadership is on a professional setup, we must be informed that this is not the case for many women across the globe. An article by [Cătălina Radu](#) highlighted that for many women, 'leadership' is not about a paid, authoritative role, but it is about being able to be respected as members of society and afforded the same dignity and autonomy as men.

When asked what progress for women's human rights would look like in 10 years, respondents highlighted the need to change decision-making and leadership as key solutions to advancing women's rights.

In one example, a woman from Kitwe, Zambia identified 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as a major issue affecting her and the barrier to advocating for this issue as 'political'. Women's human rights for her meant something very simple: "Equal representation in parliament." According to a [WomenDeliver report](#) in 2017, only 31 countries in the world had 30% or more women ministers and roughly 23.8% of parliamentarians globally were women in 2018. This woman's call for equal representation in parliament speaks directly to sub action three under Feminist Movement and Leadership which notes the need for policies and laws in place to advance gender parity, including gender representation. Furthermore, as she selected 'political' as the biggest barrier to tackling economic issues, this shows how important political representation is, as for her it impacts wider issues.

Another woman from Zambia had different views on what women's human rights meant to her. She wanted "Equal top position jobs for both men and women qualifying for the job. A world where women take on jobs and careers known to be manly, I want to see more women engineers, pilots, politicians, surgeons, sports personalities etc." Leadership for this woman meant challenging social stereotypes, being able to do what society had dictated she was not capable of doing. This points to the need for actions on leadership to not only focus on quotas or numbers but to challenge cultural understandings of who can lead and to ensure women have the tools to become leaders in whatever sector they choose to go into.

# AC6 Action 3: Advance gender parity in decision-making and leadership

In another example, a woman from Harare, Zimbabwe picked 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as a critical issue and 'cultural/social' as the major barrier. Responding to the question, 'What does progress for women's human rights look like in 10 years?', she responded: "A woman is an independent, respected unit of society who has the right to control her own body, has the right to vote in all spheres, equal to a man, and is also protected by the state from violence (both moral and physical) and insults associated with her gender." Leadership for this woman meant to be able to uphold her dignity, to be respected by the society and accepted for who she was. To truly say we have advanced gender parity means this woman is able to live with dignity in her community.

AC6 action 3 intends to challenge existing norms by addressing harmful stereotypes and gender norms to ensure decision-making power and leadership for feminist activists, organizations, and movements. In order to support culturally relevant change, we must ensure motivations are bespoke to the societies in which the solutions are applied. What is acceptable in one society may be interpreted as an 'abomination' in the other. This is evidenced on LGBTQIA+ and abortions rights; in some countries like Sweden, abortion and same sex marriages are legal, while in some countries, like Egypt, both can be punishable by death sentence. This is why grassroots and community-based solutions are important as they hold the best knowledge about culturally appropriate solutions.

AC6 action 3 has a mammoth task in changing norms and challenging harmful cultural practices. Culture is an ever-evolving conversation, with particular challenges coming from generational gaps. The GC can be impactful by providing insight into the ever-evolving conversation. Young people have been leading the way in changing harmful socio-cultural ideologies such as ending child marriages and female genital mutilation. In the next section, we will demonstrate the need to support adolescent and youth movements so that they can strengthen advocacy on such issues.

# AC6 Action 4: Strengthen adolescent girl-led, youth-led and youth-serving movements and organizations

Despite a renewed focus to engage youth over the years, especially in recognition that as of 2019, [60% of Africa's population was under-25](#), young women's leadership continues to be undermined in civic space. According to a study by [Plan International](#), 76% of girls and young women surveyed aspire to be a leader in their country, community or career but as it stands, only 24% of parliamentarians worldwide are women and only 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs. This disconnect between the passion and aspirations of young women, versus the reality of gender-discrimination that limits their potential is shocking and demonstrates the exclusion of young voices in decision-making structures. If the AC is to be successful in strengthening youth-led movements, it will be key to understanding how this gap between aspiration and reality sets in.

The passion and determination of young people and youth issues is evident in results from the GC so far. 29.4% of respondents highlighted 'Education and Youth Empowerment' as a key issue to them, making it the second most popular issue selected. In addition, when looking at the demographic break up of respondents, our largest age group of respondents with 31.1% was 18 to 24-year-olds, with just under 60% of all respondents overall coming from the under 35's group. This exhibits real willingness by young people to engage with these topics and have their voices heard, and the value of a data set that has such a strong youth voice.

To underscore the value the GC can bring to the plan to strengthen adolescent girl-led, youth-led and youth-serving movements and organizations, we can look at an answer from a woman from Kitwe, Zambia between the ages of 45 and 54. She identified that 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' was one of her top three critical issues, along with 'Education and Youth Empowerment.' She said that the biggest barrier to progress was 'cultural/social' and identified that the YWCA is an organization that has been effective in her area. When asked, 'What does progress for women's human rights look like in 10 years?', she commented: "Education has made women independent and they are no longer dependent on men to lead their lives. Business laws have changed to allow more women in the workplace and give them a comfortable environment to work in."

# AC6 Action 4: Strengthen adolescent girl-led, youth-led and youth-serving movements and organizations

This woman's story can inform AC6 Action 4, because it shows a vision and roadmap for the future: she sees education and youth empowerment as key to realizing progress on gender equality, and she sees the YWCA as effective in empowering youth and ensuring girls can gain independence in her area. Her answer gives depth: she views the project of women's equality as a pipeline: we must ensure girls are confident and empowered, and that they are provided safe, comfortable work opportunities as they enter the working world to ensure that they can sustain their independence.

Furthermore, participation in political spaces and in leadership positions was also linked to achieving women's rights by a young woman from Nakonde, Zambia aged between 25 and 34. She identified 'Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse' and 'cultural/ social' being the barriers to progress. She highlighted the importance of "replacing harmful social norms that hinder women and young people to speak out," and wrote that she "wants to see women and youth economically empowered to be able to participate in various leadership positions without being used as agents of violence." Her response in the open-ended comments direct our attention to the need to enable young people to lead the changing of social norms which aim to control women's and girls' sexuality. Ensuring young people are enabled to speak out can pave a path to allow norms to be challenged and changed for generations to come.

Given part of the commitment in this area is to "invest and promote accountability of decision-makers to the issues and solutions advocated on by adolescent girl-led and young feminist movements", the results of the GC can give the AC a starting point for this, offering perspectives from young women and gender-diverse people as an accountability mechanism. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the answers above, young people are very aware of the issue impacting them and the barriers to success for young women in particular. This points to a real need for AC for Feminist Movements and Leadership to focus on the pipeline from youth to adult, starting with meaningful participation of young feminist movements within formal policy and decision-making spaces that we are not yet to see, and a challenging of non-youth spaces to ensure they are safe and open to listening to and acting on the voices of young women.

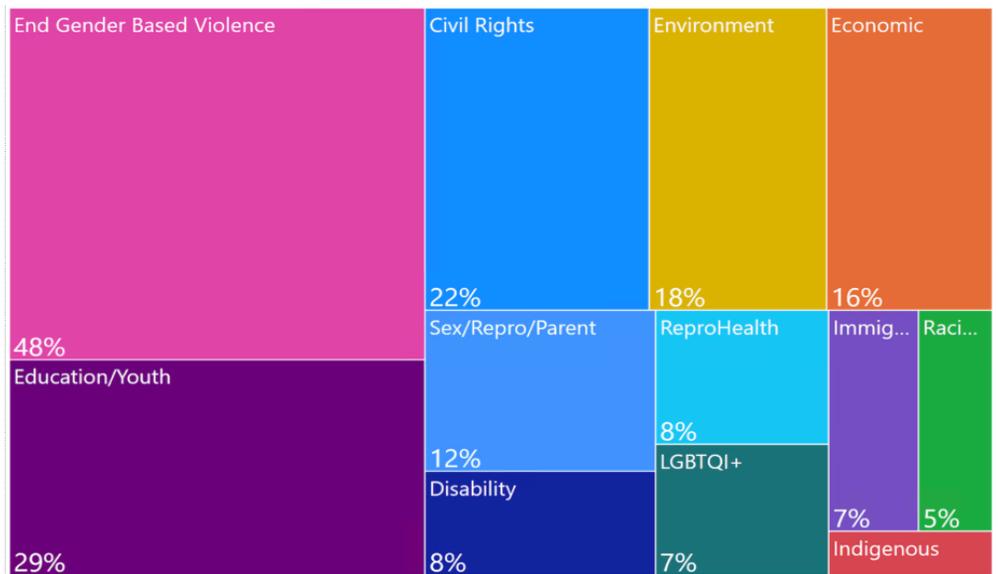
# Feminist Movements and Leadership Conclusion

The GC gives a unique insight into the experiences and needs of women and gender-diverse people across the world and lays the groundwork for filling the gaps when it comes to quality data on key issues impacting these groups. What it also offers is an accountability mechanism to ensure policies, funding and programme decisions around key themes that affect women and gender-diverse people's lives match the lived reality and needs they have cited themselves.

We hope to be able to demonstrate its function as a mechanism to strengthen the AC for Feminist Movements and Leadership's plans to accelerate gender equality, and to guarantee the efforts of all at the [GEF](#) can have lasting and irreversible impacts. Women themselves are the key to understanding how we can tackle gender inequality – now is the time to integrate their voices fully into our efforts to uplift and help all women and gender-diverse people thrive.

# Ending Gender-Based Violence, Harassment, and Abuse

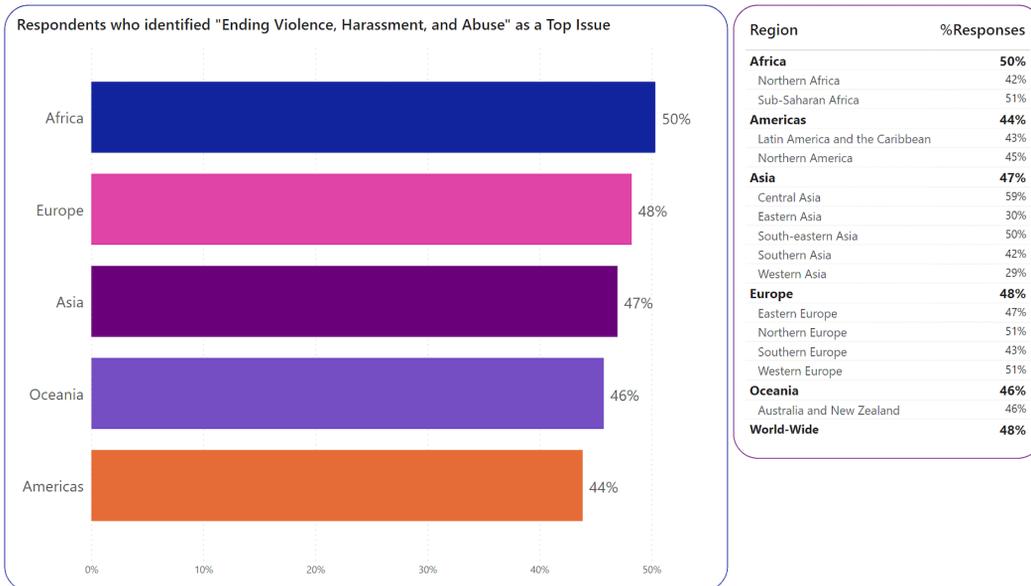
In every region in the world, 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse,' at 48% is the most prominently chosen response to the question, 'Which three issues are the most critical for you as a person?'



When broken down by region, the Global Count offers us the ability to compare:

- **In Africa**, the majority—50.4%—of respondents who answered the question chose 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as the most important issue to them. 'Education and Youth Empowerment' was a close second at 44.7%, and 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health' at 16.7%.
- **In Asia**, most—47%—of respondents who answered the question chose 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as the most important issue to them. 'Education and Youth Empowerment' was the second at 27.7%, followed by 'Civil Rights and Freedoms' at 22.9%.
- **In Europe**, most—48.2%—of respondents who answered the question selected 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as the most important issue to them. 'Civil Rights and Freedoms' was the second at 36.5%, followed by 'Environmental Justice' at 30.5%.
- **In the Americas**, most—43.9%—of respondents who answered the question chose 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as the most important issue to them. 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the second at 24.7%, followed by 'Education and Youth Empowerment' at 21.2%.
- **In Oceania**, most—45.8%—of respondents who answered the question chose 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' as the most important issue to them. 'Environmental Justice' was the second at 24.5%, followed by 'Civil Rights and Freedoms' at 16.5%.

# Ending Gender-Based Violence, Harassment, and Abuse

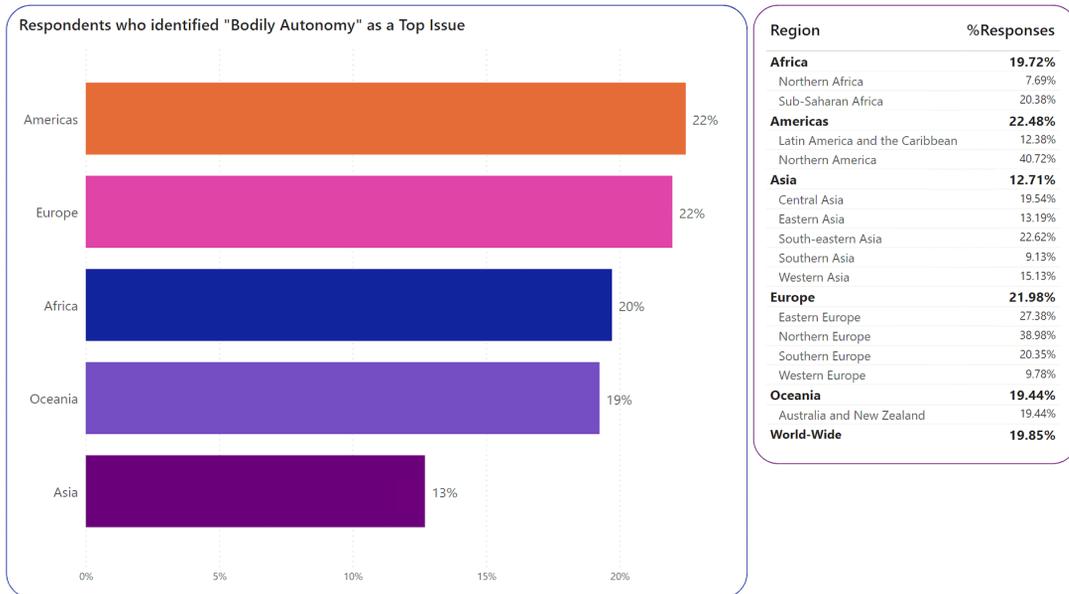


It is interesting to note that in every region around the world, 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse' is the most prominently chosen issue, but each region's second and third most prominently chosen issue are different to one another. It paints a picture of the urgency with which we must approach the issue of ending violence, harassment and abuse of women around the globe, and the unity women have on this issue, despite geographic and demographic differences including age, culture, and race.

In Africa, where nearly [60%](#) of the population is under the age of 25, respondents chose 'Education and Youth Empowerment' as a close second after 'Ending Violence, Harassment and Abuse,' reflecting the evidence and need for improved youth engagement and programming across the continent. According to the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa 2017 Report](#), young people must be meaningfully involved in the implementation and tracking of the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063.

In contrast, in Oceania, which is especially [vulnerable](#) to the impacts of the Climate Crisis, 'Environmental Justice' was the second most prominently chosen answer. This is again contrasted with the Americas where 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the second most prominently chosen answer, which gives a nod to the struggle for [equal pay](#), [labor protections](#), and [sufficient maternity/ parental leave](#) that have been well publicized in both North and South America.

# Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



The right to sexual and reproductive health and bodily autonomy is critical for women's empowerment and the project of gender equality globally. At present, nearly half of women in 57 developing countries are denied the right to decide whether to have sex with their partners, use contraception or seek health care, according to UNFPA's 2021 [State of World Population](#) report.

To note: From its inception the GC had a thorough peer review by sector leaders including Kimberlé Crenshaw, University of Maryland and SurveyMonkey. With their leadership, the issues of 'Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)' as defined by the AC3 were split into two categories: 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health,' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy.' This was done in order to separate the distinct but overlapping issues of access to sexual, reproductive, and parental health services (including but not limited to: family planning support, products, and procedures; education, contraceptives, and medication to combat sexually transmitted infections). However due to the fact that the cultural element is often a significant barrier to the accessibility of services, and that all of these issues are a part of one GEF AC (3), the two categories were combined for analysis in application to AC3.

Interim Findings from the GC can provide direction on the issues of bodily autonomy and SRHR. Among the respondents who answered the question, 19.9% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as one of the top three most important issues to them.

# Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

When broken down by region, the GC offers us the ability to compare:

- **In Africa**, 19.7% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health,' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as the most important issues to them.
- **In Europe**, 22% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health,' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as the most important issues to them.
- **In the Americas**, 23% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as the most important issues to them.
- **In Asia**, 13% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health,' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as the most important issues to them.
- **In Oceania**, 19% chose 'Sexual, Reproductive and Parental Health,' and 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' as the most important issues to them.

Open-ended comments allow us to see a more in-depth picture of women's perspectives, in all their diversity: in one example from open-ended comments, a trans woman from outside of Berlin identified 'Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse,' 'Reproductive Freedom and Bodily Autonomy' and 'LGBTQI+ Rights' as issues most critical to her. She identified that 'Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse' was most hampered by 'social/cultural issues', with the other two issues being held up by 'political barriers'. She named [TransInterQueer](#) as a key organization working on these issues. When asked, 'What does progress for women's human rights look like for you in 10 years?', she commented: 'I think one of the most important issues is access to reproductive technology, which includes supporting those who want to get pregnant through non-traditional means and support for access to abortion.'

The response presents an opportunity to fully integrate LGBTQIA+ perspectives into SRHR actions to ensure groups are not left behind. Research from [the Guttmacher Institute](#) found queer women do not access routine preventive screenings for breast cancer and cervical cancer at the same rate as their straight peers, meaning LGBTQ individuals have fewer treatments and diagnoses than their straight counterpart. This data also demonstrates the need to not holistically combine issues as they impact different people differently. If we are to achieve bodily autonomy and empower all people to feel in control of their sexual and reproductive health, we must take an intersectional approach to any actions committed in this area and that begins with listening to the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people.

The data presented by the GC is a clear indication of the need to separate issues as they all affect women and gender-diverse people differently. We also need to prioritize bodily autonomy to LGBTQIA+ communities as they continue to be left behind.

# Economic Justice and Rights

The COVID-19 pandemic had ripple effects on economies across the world with women bearing the brunt of the burden, manifesting in more job losses and increased insecurity. A [report by McKinsey](#) last year showed that women's jobs were 1.8 times more vulnerable to the crisis than men's jobs, and despite only making up 39% of global employment, women accounted for 54% of overall job losses. Among the respondents who answered the question, globally, 16.5% chose 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as the most important issue to them. When the data is broken down regionally it gives us direction to create bespoke responses to the issue based on local needs.

- **In Africa**, 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the fourth most prominently chosen answer at 13.5%. Respondents identified the most prominent barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as being 'political' barriers at 46% followed by 'economic' barriers at 33%.
- **In Asia**, 'Economic and Workers' Rights' tied with 'Environmental Justice' as the fourth most prominently chosen answer at 12.2%. Respondents identified the most prominent barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as being both 'political' and 'economic' at 36%.
- **In Europe**, 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the fifth most prominent response, at 17.6%. Respondents identified the most prominent barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as being 'political' barriers with 45%, followed by 'economic' barriers at 36%.
- **In the Americas**, 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the second most prominently chosen answer at 24.6%. Respondents identified the most prominent barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as the 'political' sector with 47%, followed by 'economic' barriers with 33%.
- **In Oceania**, 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was the fourth most prominently chosen answer at 14.8%. Respondents identified the most prominent barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' as 'political' barriers with 63%, followed by 'cultural/social' barriers at 12%.

Furthermore, in open-ended comments reviewed only in English, issues around the economy, such as pay, parental leave and equal pay, were stated often, with hundreds of respondents mentioning the need for recognition for unpaid care work. This compliments and confirms the plans of the AC for Economic Justice and Rights' to increase the number of countries investing and implementing laws and reforms to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work.

# Economic Justice and Rights

In every region around the globe, most of the respondents (45% of the total number who responded to the question) said the greatest barrier to progress on 'Economic and Workers' Rights' was 'political'. This data should inform the efforts and interventions of the AC for Economic Justice and Rights to focus on political influence, and to encourage member states to lead the way on policy that upholds labor practices that support women and gender-diverse people. This is particularly relevant when thinking about issues such as parental leave and unpaid care where policies globally continue to rely on women bearing the burden of this. The [OECD Report](#) on unpaid care work suggests that there is a need for society and policy makers to address the issues concerning care as this has serious implications on achieving gender equality.

In one example, a woman aged between 55 and 64 from Deal, UK cited 'Economic Worker's Rights' as one of the issues most important to her and chose 'political' barriers as the greatest hindrance to making progress in this area which is in line with the global trend. When asked 'What does progress for women's human rights look like for you in 10 years?', she wrote: "Equal pay as a normal, not denigrating work done predominantly by women to pay them less than men doing commensurate work. (We need) tax loopholes and schemes closed so that there are abundant funds for childcare schemes for all." Her comments speak directly to Action 4, and the intention to "promote gender-transformative economies and economic stimulus." By pointing to the political arena as a barrier and mentioning "tax loopholes and schemes," the respondent highlights opportunities and focus areas the AC for Economic Justice and Rights should focus on political pressure to enact change, particularly with a focus on the UK. By working to ensure more public funds can be directed to the care economy, especially with the support from public momentum as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we can "reform and implement national laws and policies on the care economy" as the Draft Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality suggests.

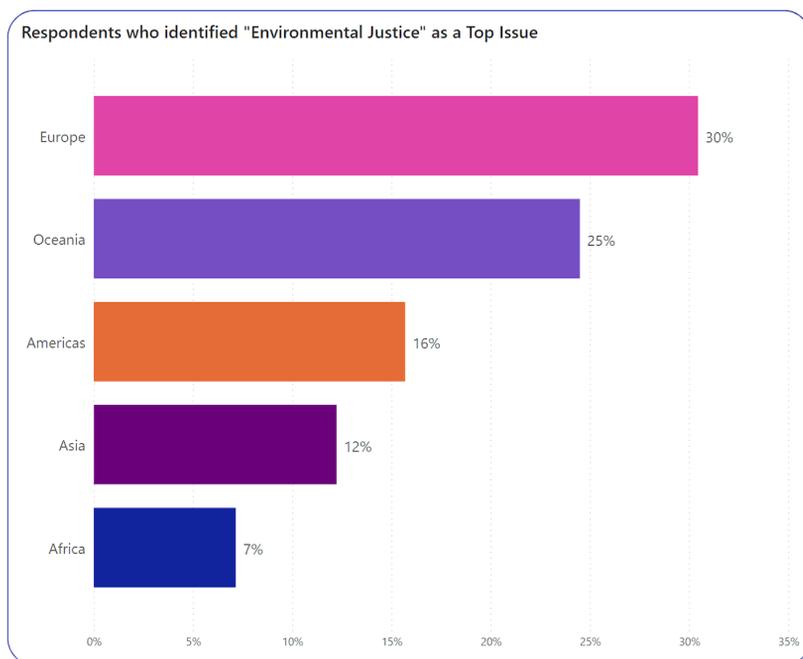
'Economic justice and rights' will be interpreted drastically differently according to each woman's socio-economic standing and geographic location. In order to realize the elimination of gender-discriminatory policies and adopt and implement laws to ensure "strategies and investments are underway that realize women's and girls' access to and control over productive resources and assets," as is the ambition of the draft Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality, the response must be bespoke to the region. The Global Count provides an insight into the national and local issues and barriers and from there, tailored approaches and interventions can be developed.

# Climate Justice

Among the respondents who answered the question, 17.6% chose 'Environmental Justice' as the most important issue to them, making it the fourth most important issue to respondents globally.

When broken down by region, the GC offers us the ability to compare:

- **In Africa**, 'Environmental Justice' was the seventh most popular issue with 7.2%. Respondents cited 'political' barriers as the biggest hindrance to progress with 32%, followed by 'education' with 22%.
- **In Asia**, 'Environmental Justice' was the fourth most important issue with 12.3%. Respondents noted 'cultural/social' barriers as the biggest obstacle to progress in this area with 33%, followed by 'political' barriers with 27%.
- **In the Americas**, 'Environmental Justice' was the fifth most popular issue with 15.7%. Respondents noted 'political' barriers as the biggest obstacle to progress with 49%, followed by 'cultural/social' barriers with 18%.
- **In Europe**, 'Environmental Justice' is identified as the third most important issue with 30.5%. Respondents noted 'political' barriers as the biggest hindrance to progress in this area with 41%, followed by 'economic' barriers with 29%.
- **In Oceania**, 'Environmental Justice' was the second most important issue for respondents with 25%. Respondents noted 'political' barriers as the biggest hindrance to progress in this area with 75%, followed by 'economic' barriers with 11%.



Region	% Responses
<b>Africa</b>	<b>7.16%</b>
Northern Africa	8.61%
Sub-Saharan Africa	7.08%
<b>Americas</b>	<b>15.69%</b>
Latin America and the Caribbean	10.01%
Northern America	25.95%
<b>Asia</b>	<b>12.24%</b>
Central Asia	25.05%
Eastern Asia	15.38%
South-eastern Asia	14.29%
Southern Asia	6.50%
Western Asia	4.61%
<b>Europe</b>	<b>30.45%</b>
Eastern Europe	22.63%
Northern Europe	32.03%
Southern Europe	17.26%
Western Europe	44.91%
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>24.81%</b>
Australia and New Zealand	24.81%
<b>World-Wide</b>	<b>17.63%</b>

# Climate Justice

Despite the Climate Crisis being the biggest challenge facing the world today, results from the GC do not correlate with this urgency, with many respondents not considering it as prevalent an issue as others. Comparisons across regions also paint an interesting picture: 'Environmental Justice' is the second most popular issue in Oceania and the third most popular in Europe, whereas in Africa, it emerges as one of the least important. This is interesting as according to the [Global Climate Change Index 2021](#), five out of the top ten countries affected by extreme weather are in Africa. This points to a disconnect between the impact of the Climate Crisis and the awareness of it as an issue, and it correlates with findings from a [2015 study](#) that showed countries in the Global South had a much lower awareness rate of the impacts of the Climate Crisis than countries in the Global North. Results from the GC can provide direction to the AC on Climate Justice in relation to gender justice. For example, a woman from Cambridge in the UK who identified 'Environmental Justice' as one of the top issues critical to her, wrote that "Climate change will have a greater impact on women than men and therefore progress on addressing climate change will be key to tackling gender inequality." As this GC respondent points out, women are more vulnerable to the effects of the Climate Crisis than men. According to [the UN](#), women represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood and these are the types of communities climate change will impact first and in recurring ways.

Therefore, it is important that any actions in relation to the Climate Crisis take an explicitly gendered view and integrate the voices of women, particularly those from poorer communities. According to [Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change](#), women in rural areas of developing countries are most impacted by the Climate Crisis as they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. The AC can use the findings to analyze where issues relating to the Climate Crisis and environmental justice are emerging and direct resources to address the barriers in understanding and action on climate.

Furthermore, given that for many women and gender-diverse people, the Climate Crisis is of lower priority than other issues, there is work to be done to raise awareness of the effects of the Climate Crisis in order for programs to, as the ACs state, 'enhance capacity of millions more women and girls to build resilience to climate disaster risks' to succeed. If awareness is not present, these programs may struggle to thrive and have the lasting impact that is needed.

# Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

To be advantageous in a 4th Industrial Revolution shaped by technology, as noted by the AC for Technology and Innovation, we must ensure that we address the gender data gap. A substantial lack of data on the lived experiences, opinions and perspectives of women and gender-diverse people results in inaccurate funding and policy initiatives intending to support women on a global scale. A 2017 report found data is either [completely missing or irregular](#) when it comes to tracking the Sustainable Development Goals. When it comes to gender-related SDGs, UN Women's 2019 Women Count Report found [only 31%](#) of gender-specific SDG indicators can be reliably monitored at the global level. The connection between a lack of data on women, and consequential unreliability of funding and policy initiatives to progress women's equality is evident: only [1% of gender-focused aid](#) went to women-led organizations in 2016/2017. That meagre 1% is made even less effective by the fact that the bulk of it remained in "[donor countries](#)" and did not reach those in need on a local level.

At the close of a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic when human rights authorities declared that [gender-based violence](#) and inequities in the workplace are [as bad as they were 25 years ago](#), in 2021, it is more crucial than ever to get an accurate and comprehensive picture of how individuals around the world are being impacted by gender inequality. The post-pandemic "[Global Reset](#)" allows us an opportunity to give people from all contexts and walks of life the opportunity to define the issues affecting their lives and inform how we rebuild our systems and societies in an equitable way. The Global Count presents a platform to rebuild systems, institutions and establish policies that are more equitable. The GC is an opportunity to ensure the voices of women and gender-diverse people define what is needed when it comes to funding and policy-making decisions that will impact them.

Unable to take to the streets for its anniversary march in 2021, Women's March Global and 60+ partner organizations launched the GC in lieu of the annual global event. The GC envisions that accessible, translatable gendered data can result in a radical shift in funding, policy, and programming when applied deliberately, transparently and with integrity. **The GC was formed on the basis that the development of any agenda that does not include the perspectives, views and experiences of those who will be affected will fail to meet the need.** Informed by the GC, stakeholders at the GEF can set policy and make funding decisions based on women's definitions of the issues impacting them, the barriers to progress, and the organizations that are driving change.

The GC is designed to be made accessible technologically and linguistically, as well as cross-referenced with other studies through the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#). The *mechanism* with which this project seeks, communicates, and translates the opinions and perspectives of women and gender-diverse people on their empowerment is poised to hold the ACs at the GEF accountable.

# Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

The GC seeks to expand its approach to accountability and transparency by partnering AC leadership structures with invested tech companies to continue measuring progress on the Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality. This speaks directly to the AC for Tech and Innovation's interests in 'innovating finance mechanisms for a gender-diverse digital evolution.' We envision data from the GC being used to hold stakeholders accountable to commitments made at the GEF. Our partnerships with Facebook and SurveyMonkey can be the beginning of the conversation about harnessing tech companies' resources and the momentum of movements to create new solutions to old problems and ensure accountability to individual women all over the world.

Further, responses to the GC lends itself to the need for tech and innovation to advance gender equality. For example, a young woman aged between 18 and 24 from Pol-e-Khomri, Afghanistan, indicated that she sees technology as a driving force for change in her local area. She identified 'Ending Violence, Harassment, and Abuse' as a critical issue in her community and identified technology as a barrier to progress. When asked, 'What does progress for women's human rights look like for you in 10 years?', she responded: "Technology can be the cause of progress for awareness of our families and advancing human rights."

This response evidences the motivations behind the AC for Technology and Innovation's Actions, including Action 1: Bridge the Gender Gap in Digital Access and Competencies. Since Afghanistan's national ban on internet access was lifted in 2002, technological developments have supported women's empowerment. Shifts currently being observed in Afghanistan demonstrate that when women have access to technology, human rights awareness improves, they have a platform to advocate and build movements; access to information facilitates their education and empowerment. The GC seeks to expand on this notion.

In regard to the AC for Technology and Innovation's motivation to make digital spaces safer, Facebook and invested tech companies have confirmed their interest in partnering with the GC to improve the platform to ensure women's safety and protection. Facebook had no access to our data, and we worked with them for the sole purposes of distributing our poll on their platform.

# The Global Count Next Steps

Before looking to the future of the Global Count and what's next, it's important to reflect on the expertise of those who brought this unique and challenging project to light. A variety of communications, advocacy and data specialists gave their time to the Global Count with a shared passion to hear from the voices of women and gender-diverse people globally. We would like to thank the board of Women's March Global, Global Office Consulting, Sarah Dickins, SurveyMonkey, our partners at Facebook, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Munroe Bergdorf, Uma Mishra-Newbery, V (formerly Eve Ensler), Sanctuary Studios, and Activism.Media.

This project is an important step forward in closing the gender gap and provides key learnings of how to conduct a study of this size and breadth. As we look to next year and the possibilities of running the survey again, we continue to foster new partnerships and discuss opportunities for collaboration, particularly with invested companies who are trying to use their products for good.

The use of data and its importance will only continue to grow therefore cementing the need for an annual Global Count that is integrated into mechanisms for gender equality.

# Glossary and Acronyms

## ABSTRACT:

The Global Count (GC) is a global mapping project designed to ensure that individual women's and gender-diverse people's opinions, needs, and perspectives inform the Global Acceleration Plans for Gender Equality formed by each Action Coalition (AC) at the [Generation Equality Forum](#) (GEF) 2021.

## GLOSSARY:

- **Action Coalition (or AC):** This refers to the coalition of stakeholders driving forward the 6 key areas of the Generation Equality Forum.
- **Sub Action:** Refers to the sub actions within each Action Coalition theme.
- **Bodily Autonomy:** This refers to the right to govern one's own body and captures wider issues than those just relating to reproductive health, for example, the right to wear religious clothes.
- **Interim Findings:** These Interim Findings are a snapshot of what the GC will be able to accomplish over time, as it continues to collect data, analyze, visualize, and translate it into actionable insights

## ACRONYMS

- **GC:** The Global Count
- **WMG:** Women's March Global
- **SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals
- **GEF:** Generation Equality Forum
- **AC:** Action Coalition

# STEERING COMMITTEE



# PEER REVIEWERS

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# STRATEGIC PARTNERS



# TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS



# SUPPORTING PARTNERS

