



16 June 2015

UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-Ninth Session  
15 June – 3 July 2015

Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

**Panel discussion on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education  
by every girl (16 June 2015)<sup>1</sup>**

Mr. President

Amnesty International welcomes the holding of this panel discussion on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, which takes place at a key moment, when UN member states are negotiating the targets, indicators and mechanisms for financing, implementation and monitoring of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order for the SDGs to be a truly transformative agenda and deliver for all women and girls, states must ensure that gender equality is enabled across all goals, targets and indicators, including by identifying and removing gender specific barriers that prevent women and girls from fully enjoying their rights, including the right to education.

All individuals have the right to available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable education, free from discrimination. Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. Girls face multiple barriers in accessing their right to education linked to persistent gender discrimination and inequality in society. Gender stereotypes portraying women's primary role as mothers and treating girls solely as potential child-bearers; attitudes towards sexual activity before marriage and adolescent sexuality influence the beliefs of families, communities and officials working in education institutions in many countries. Such beliefs negatively influence the development of laws, policies and programmes and lead to poor educational outcomes for girls impacting on their enjoyment of other human rights such as the rights to health, work and those supporting public participation.

Amnesty International has submitted a written statement in connection with this Panel discussion.<sup>2</sup> The statement illustrates the impact of persistent gender discrimination and inequality in society in creating barriers to full enjoyment of the right to education and other human rights by women and girls. We call on this Council to urge States to, inter alia, introduce gender-sensitive educational curricula and teaching methodologies, provide comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school, address gender-based violence, and ensure accountability and access to remedies for violations of the right to education and other related human rights. A more detailed list of recommendations is available in our written statement.

Thank you Mr. President.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/watch/panel-discussion-on-realizing-the-right-to-education-7th-meeting-29th-regular-session-of-human-rights-council/4301225669001>

<sup>2</sup> "The UN Human Rights Council must urge States to address barriers to girls' right to education", UN document **A/HRC/29/NGO/114**, available as AI document at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1703/2015/en/>