



INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL

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IIW UN Representative, New York, October 2025

International Day of the Girl Official Theme “The Girl I am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis”

Introduction

This theme, developed in collaboration with girl-led networks and UN agencies, highlights the resilience and leadership of girls, particularly those living amid conflict, displacement, and climate-related crises. The 2025 observance sought to amplify the voices of girls who are not only enduring crises but leading change within their communities. It reaffirmed the global commitment to empowering girls as key agents of transformation, rather than passive recipients of aid.

Overview of the Event

The celebration took place at the ECOSOC Chamber at the UN Headquarters, hosted jointly by UNICEF, UN Women, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The event brought together girl advocates, youth leaders, government representatives, diplomats, and UN officials for a day of storytelling, advocacy, and dialogue.

Girls from crisis-affected regions, including Afghanistan, Sudan, Gaza, Haiti, and Ukraine, shared their lived experiences through speeches and multimedia presentations. The program highlighted their courage in advocating for education, peace, and equality despite immense challenges. Unlike traditional UN events, the program was designed for girls to lead. Young women moderated sessions, directed discussions, and questioned decision-makers directly, emphasizing the message that girls are leaders of change.

Key Outcomes and commitments

- Recognition of Girls as Leaders
- Policy and funding pledges
- Creation of safe and inclusive spaces
- Global solidarity campaign: the UN launched a digital campaign, #The ChangeLead, encouraging individuals and organizations worldwide to share stories of girls driving transformation in their communities.

Challenges highlighted

Despite global efforts, speakers pointed out persistent challenges:

- Continued barriers to education for girls in conflict zones.
- Rising gender-based violence and early marriage in crisis settings.
- Underrepresentation of girls in leadership and decision-making roles.
- Limited funding for girl-led initiatives compared to large-scale institutional programs.

The message was clear: achieving gender equality requires addressing structural barriers with urgency and sustained political will.