

UN Human Rights Council
Annual day on the rights of women and girls: panel on social protection and participation

30 June 2023, Geneva, Switzerland and online

Child-friendly concept note

This is a child-friendly version of the **concept note** for the **panel** on “social protection: women’s participation and leadership”, that will happen at the [United Nations Human Rights Council annual day on the rights of women](#) on 30 June 2023.



A **concept note** is a document that explains an event, for people who want to learn about it.



A **panel** is a discussion that happens at the **United Nations**, where experts, States and organization talk about **human rights**, important issues and problems and how to solve them.



The **United Nations (UN)** is an organization made up of many countries working together. It works to make the world a safer and better place.



Human rights are the things that every person has and should be able to have, by law.

This concept note explains:

- 1) What the panel is about
- 2) How will the panel look like
- 3) What will be the main questions
- 4) What happens after the panel



Some of the **difficult words** are in **blue** and are explained at the bottom of the document.

1. What the panel is about

Every year, the **United Nations Human Rights Council** has a discussion about the human rights of women and girls.



The UN **Human Rights Council** is a place where many States discuss human rights and learn how to do better to protect them.



States learn from experts, other States, and discussions and can use what they learn in their laws.

A **panel** is one of these discussions.



Women and girls are sometimes the most discriminated against all over the world. This is why it is important to have discussions that only talk about their rights.

Every year, the Human Rights Council has a panel about the rights of women and girls, which is called **annual day on the rights of women**.

This year, the theme of the annual day will be **social protection** and **women and girls' participation**.



Social protection is laws and programmes that help people who are poor or vulnerable to cover their needs and rights.

When there is social protection for everyone, people are safe even when they cannot work and earn money.

For example, when a person is sick and cannot go to work, social protection can help to make sure they eat, have a home, and get health care.



This means that if this person has a child, they can continue to go to school, eat and be safe from poverty.



Women and girls' participation is when women and girls have a say in discussions about them and their rights, and influence the decisions and law.

Social protection and participation are human rights of all.

2. How will the panel look like



The panel will last 2 hours, on Friday 30 June 2023. Depending on where you are in the world, the time may be different. In Geneva, it will be in the afternoon, from 4 to 6.



There will be four speakers who will talk about social protection and participation of women and girls.

After the experts talk, States and civil society organizations will also speak.

There will be some opening speeches to welcome everyone and say how important the panel is. The opening speeches will be by:

- Her Excellency Ms. Maira Mariela Macdonal Alvarez, the Vice-President of the **UN Human Rights Council**
- Mahamane Cisse-Gouro, a director representing the **United Nations Human Rights Office**

The speakers will be:

- Olivier De Schutter, the UN **Special Rapporteur** on poverty (he is the **moderator**)
- Michele LeVoy, the Director of the **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants**
- Yamikani, a **girl activist** from Malawi
- Monica Ferro, the director in Geneva of the **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)**.



Some speakers will be present in Geneva. Some others will be participating online.

All of the speakers will have a speech at the beginning of the panel, and then can also speak at the end to answer some questions.

The panel will be accessible to people with disabilities and will also be shown on internet TV.

Do you want to watch the panel? You can connect on webtv.un.org/

3. What will be the main questions

The moderator is the Special Rapporteur on poverty.

The moderator will help the speakers in the discussion by asking some questions. Some questions will be:

- What is the situation of migrant women and girls? What problems do they face with social protection? How can they contribute to the decision-making process?
- Why is it valuable that young women and girls participate in the decision-making processes on social protection? What are some good examples?
- What is the importance of women and girls' participation in society and decision-making processes and in being actors of change in social protection?

4. What happens after the panel



After the panel, the UN will write a report to summarise the discussion.

The report will be published online in 6 languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian).



The UN and States will be able to use the report from this panel to inform their decisions and their work to protect human rights of women and girls.

Next year, there will be other discussions both on social protection and children's rights and on the human rights of women and girls.

5. What the words mean

Human Rights – basic rights and freedoms that should happen for every person in the world.

Moderator – a person who guides other speakers in a discussion.

Panel discussion - A panel is a discussion that happens at the United Nations, where experts, States and organization talk about human rights, important issues and problems and how to solve them.

Participation – when people can use their right to have a say in discussions about them and their rights, and influence the decisions and law.

Social Protection - laws and programmes that help people who are poor or vulnerable to cover their needs and rights.

Special Rapporteur – a person working for the UN who helps countries understand what they need to do to make sure people get their rights.

UN Human Rights Council – a group of States that talk together, make decisions and write documents about the human rights of all, and learn how to do better to protect them.

United Nations (UN) – a group of 193 different countries that work together to try to make the world a better and safer place for everyone.