

5 PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The movement to end FGM would be incomplete and unsustainable without mobilising, working alongside and preparing the next generation of activists for the tasks ahead. In order to end this harmful practice within this generation, young people need to be at the very heart. If you want to understand effective strategies that will make a difference in working with youth to tackle FGM, here's how!



I. COMMUNICATE APPROPRIATELY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



All communication should be done in clear and accessible language, have a youth-friendly tone and be interactive. Times for planned activities and locations should be adapted to the youth's needs. This is also true for all resources and materials. Virtual communication must take place on platforms used by young people.

II. BUILD YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Young people should be involved in all processes from A to Z. They should shape all projects and activities they are going to be involved in. The young people should be encouraged to provide their feedback and necessary follow-up should be done accordingly. Youth should be recognised for their work and input.



III. SAFEGUARD YOUTH



Young people should feel safe and protected at all times. Ground rules should be set during all events involving youth, and should include, where necessary, trigger warnings and where to go for support. Young people should be told what to expect in advance. Professionals working with young people should receive up-to-date safeguarding training.

IV. LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Professionals working with young people should be open-minded and respectful. Young people should be given the opportunity to define their own terms, be taken seriously and never underestimated. Professionals should reach out and listen to diverse groups of young people across cultural and economic backgrounds.



V. FOSTER EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Engagement should always be beneficial to young people. They should have access to relevant training and other opportunities to ensure their personal capacity-building and empowerment. After trainings and activities, youth should receive certifications, which can build their CVs and help them in their professional growth.

HEAR DIRECTLY FROM OUR YOUTH AMBASSADORS



HADEEL ELSHAK

Principle 1

“Young people are crucial to any form of activism and it’s imperative that we are communicated with respectfully to consult and collaborate on ideas, policies and campaigns to make a much more inclusive effort to create sustainable change”

Principle 2

“The youth that we are today, are the next generation and the leaders of tomorrow”



ANA AUA SÓ

Principle 3

“Feel and demonstrate availability when dealing with young people”



FATU BANORA

Principle 4

“To the young people here and to the young people out there. Do not ever let anyone make you feel like you don’t matter”



VERONIQUE AHJEE

Principle 5

“Remember that we are never too young to change the world. There’s no age to stand up and defend your ideas”



SALAMATA WONE

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