

Statement - Third thematic session: Inequalities, social inclusion and rights

20 October 2023 - 14:30 - 15:30

Statement of ICPD 3 -- 3 minutes

Hello everyone. I am Deniz, and I am here to share with you **our common problems as young people of this region**. We have **limited representation**, we struggle with **systematic discrimination, stigmatization and racism every day** and we are here to voice our concerns and tell you **how you** can help! As young people, we are **oppressed** and **intimidated** in many countries when we try to raise our voices. Nevertheless, we strive to voice our **demands**, **propose our solutions** and be the **core actors in their implementation**.

In our relentless pursuit of equality, we **must confront** persistent **gender inequalities and harmful practices** that perpetuate the cycle of **discrimination, exclusion and harassment**. Women, refugees, migrants, HIV-positive people, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ youth **bear the brunt of systemic injustices**. At the intersection of multiple marginalized identities, these issues are aggravated. **Shocking statistics** reveal the alarming prevalence of harassment, giving credence to the **urgency** of our struggle.

Guaranteeing human rights in conflict zones and occupied territories **requires** the implementation of comprehensive human rights education for all, shedding light on the rights denied to migrants, and emphasizing that refugees and migrants with all different backgrounds and identities have access to the **same opportunities as citizens**. This multifaceted approach not only promotes awareness and understanding of fundamental human rights, but also underscores the urgency of addressing inequalities faced by displaced persons and ultimately fosters a more **just and inclusive society**.

In the living fabric of social inclusion and rights, this narrative unfolds with a **strong call to action**. The diverse youth need to be given space to work on **their own needs, and full and comprehensive support to realize their potential**. It is imperative that they are given the opportunity to **shape their own destiny and equally participate** in the policy-making processes, such as inviting young refugees and migrants to have a seat at the table, recognizing their unique perspectives and empowering them to make decisions that affect their lives. **We must** provide them with the necessary resources to **not only survive, but also to thrive**: HIV treatment, health, freedom from violence and access to food **cannot remain** elusive dreams until the legal residence is granted. **It is a human right and states must deliver on their duty**.

Last but not least, we were happy to hear Niel Datta highlighted the Istanbul Convention. It is of critical importance, It must be signed and fully and unconditionally implemented to ensure gender equality. **"The Istanbul Convention keeps us alive!"**