



She
LEADS



GYW CALL TO ACTION



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



Girls first

We are the Pan African Advisory Board Members from She Leads. We represent the voices of other girls in the different regional spaces. She Leads seeks to increase the participation of Girls and Young Women-GYW in leadership and decision-making spaces in both formal and informal institutions. In achieving this it has three (3) domains which are the Social Cultural domain, Civil Society domain and institutional domain. The pan Africa Advisory Board functions as an advisor to the She Leads consortium partners and influences politics at Pan African Level.

In December 2023, we conducted the conversations with GYW in 7 countries in West and East Africa: Ghana, Mali, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on Children.

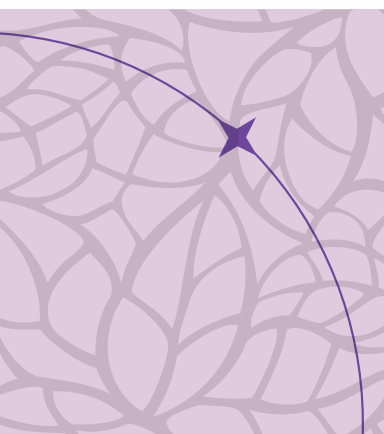

We decided not to stop there, but to explore how this exploitation is taking place in the digital world. Which led to our research initiative, carried out by the youths themselves and based on the evidence, the cases related by youths who are mostly victims of this phenomenon.

Despite the efforts of governments, technical and financial partners, parents, and youth, we are convinced that much remains to be done at all levels. And this deserves a synergy of action on the part of all stakeholders and at all levels: local, national, regional, and international.





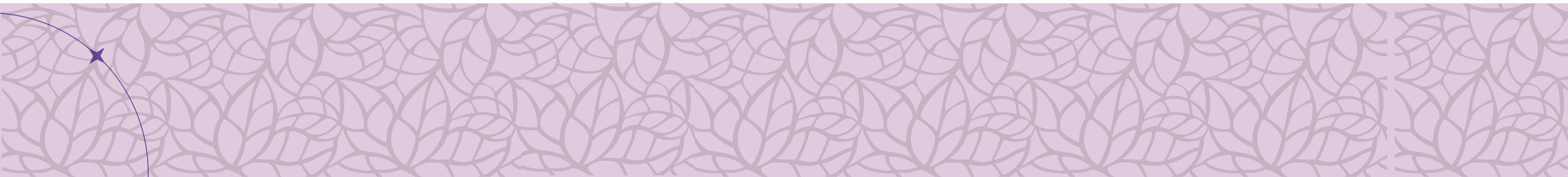
1. To National Governments/ Regional and International institutions:

- Provide appropriate training to law enforcement bodies to enhance their understanding of sexual exploitation cases and strengthen laws and their implementation to provide better legal protection for victims and ensure efficient justice implementation.**
 - Promote digital literacy and safety among GYW, equipping them with the tools to navigate online spaces securely.**
 - Established safe spaces where GYW can report exploitation, access support services, and engage in empowerment activities. These spaces should offer confidentiality and a supportive environment for survivors to heal and rebuild their lives.**
 - Create safe employment opportunities for young women, providing them with economic independence and reducing their vulnerability to exploitation. These opportunities should be regulated to ensure safe working conditions and fair wages.**
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2. To CSOs:

- **Fight stigma, discrimination, and speak out on SEC issues, contributing to a collective effort to combat exploitation.**
- **Promote cultural and societal change to challenge harmful norms and attitudes towards gender and sexuality, fostering an environment where victims feel safe to speak out and seek help.**
- **Launch vast public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the signs of Commercial Sexual Exploitation on Children, children's rights and the importance of reporting and intercepting cases of suspected exploitation.**
- **Increase funding for the implementation of policies and initiatives to support the efforts to fight SEC**
- **CSO and GYW are urged to equip themselves with knowledge on policies to advocate, defend and protect GYW against SEC.**





3. To the Community (parents, local leaders, teachers, etc):

- **Prioritize open communication with girls, creating a safe environment for reporting and supportive environment for victims and survivors.**
- **Sensitization of members of the community on child sexual exploitation and abuse issues and promote the community-driven solutions.**

