



**Event suggestions:
themes, topics and
questions**

**Her rights! Money,
power, authonomy**

Create a ‘Her rights!’ event

Women’s economic empowerment is necessary for global sustainable development. The exhibition ‘Her Rights! Money, power, autonomy’ aims to open for dialogue about how economic equality and women’s economic autonomy are connected to, dependent on, and a prerequisite for all other aspects of gender equality and women’s and girl’s rights.

In the process of following up on the milestone ‘Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action’ from 1995 through the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City and Paris during 2021 – and knowing that we have less than ten years to deliver on the SDG promises – UN Women has invited a wide range of actors to join coalitions aiming to achieve tangible results. ‘Her rights!’ builds on Sweden’s involvement in the Action Coalition ‘Economic Justice and Rights’.

With this part of the ‘Her Rights!’ toolkit we want to inspire Swedish embassies to contribute to change. A common thread in the exhibition is that increased gender equality never comes of itself. We invite you to use ‘Her Rights!’ as a steppingstone and collaborate with local partners in offering a platform and being part of a dialogue for change.

Co-creation and collaboration

We encourage a co-creational approach from beginning to end of the event process. The aim of applying a co-creational approach is to create a unique meeting place where participants can contribute to the content as well as the outcome of the discussions. The agenda and topics of the event should therefore be set in close dialogue with local partners – preferably from different sectors – with the local context and interest of the participants at heart.

Local partners and experts

Make sure your partners are on board as early as possible and together identify relevant experts from the region. Possible partners and speakers include representatives from civil society (experts and activists), government, private sector, academia, journalism and the arts. To complement the local expertise, you may also invite experts from Sweden (SI gives financial support for inviting Swedish experts; please find further information in the Manual). SI also has partners in Sweden that can help you connect with local organisations.

UN Women have local offices in many countries. They can also be an important contributor and partner in planning events and sharing input on relevant actors in the country. UN Women may also be of help in identifying local partners who are involved in the global processes of following up on the Beijing Platform for Action, the Generation Equality Forum and the SDGs.

The countries and actors who are Sweden’s leadership partners in the Action Coalition ‘Economic Justice and Rights’ may be of particular relevance when organising an event. The partners are: countries (Germany, Mexico, South Africa and Spain), international organisations (OECD), UN agencies (UNCDF), civil society organisations (The African Women’s Development and

Communication Network, Care, International Trade Union Confederation, Huairou Commission, Women Working Group on Financing for Development), philanthropies (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), youth-led organisations (An Yar, Manki Maroua), and the private sector (PayPal).

Format

The format of the local event could be a seminar, panel discussion, roundtable discussion or a combination of these. Roundtable discussions are suitable for high level decision-makers, NGO leaders and experts, but this format is most effective in combination with a seminar including a wider target group. You can also choose a more dynamic format, for example an interview or dialogue setting. All discussions should be guided by interactivity, inclusion and an atmosphere of generosity and co-creation.

Moderator

Ideally, the event should have a local moderator, perhaps a person from an NGO or a journalist. Choose a moderator with interest in and knowledge about women's rights and gender equality, and if possible, with specific knowledge about the theme you have chosen for the event. Involve the moderator as early as possible in the process.

Contact person

The contact person at SI is [Ulrika Rosvall](#).

Themes, topics and questions

'Her Rights!' is structured around themes, with the aim to open for a dialogue on how women's economic empowerment is connected to all other aspects of gender equality and women's and girls' rights. The themes listed below follow the structure of the exhibition. Under each theme we present a key message from the exhibition, and list some of the topics that are brought up. They are followed by questions that may be used as a point of departure for inspiration and for opening a dialogue. These questions are by no means exhaustive. Please use them if you find them relevant – as steppingstones to build on and help you to identify what is most important in your context.

We recommend that you and your local partner emphasise the interrelated character of the themes and topics when you plan the event. Start the planning process by asking: What ideas, initiatives, actions, projects, companies and/or people have you come across that inspire you in this field?

'Her Rights!' points at the fact that generation-defining challenges such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic hit women and girls particularly hard. In the battle against the virus, women face heavier burdens of unpaid care work and higher risks of losing their jobs. With curfews and lockdowns, domestic violence against women also increases.

A climate perspective is incorporate in some of the questions below, and at the end you will find questions relevant for the challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Historical perspective

In the exhibition each theme brings up the historical perspective, using Sweden as an example. A historical perspective is key to identify what still needs to be done, but also – and perhaps most importantly – to celebrate achievements and pay tribute to those who made progress possible. When you plan an event, explore ways to make visible the historical journey in your context.

Story

The exhibition presents a story under each theme. When people's everyday life is used as a point of departure, opportunities and challenges become more tangible and it is possible to reach beyond policy and have a more fruitful dialogue. In your planning, spend time to think about how this can be done in your context.

Education – opportunities for individuals and society

Key message

Women's economic empowerment depend on the possibility for girls to realise the universal rights to quality education and lifelong learning. Education is a lifeline to a better future: it opens doors to participate in society on equal terms and influence one's living conditions.

Topics

Access to quality education; lifelong learning; education a prerequisite for sustainable development; consequences of educating girls (and not); progress in some fields and remaining differences in others (for example in STEM and ICT).

Questions

- What is the situation for girl's access to quality education and lifelong learning in your context?
 - Where do you seen substantial progress? Do you see any consequences of this progress?
 - Where do you see the challenges? How are they tackled?
- In many countries, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) are areas where huge differences remain.
 - In which areas do you see that girl's education and workforce participation lag?
 - What are the obstacles that need to be removed to make a change?
- Increasing evidence shows that educating girls is one of the most effective and yet overlooked ways of mitigating climate change.

- How do we ensure that girls have the resources to become part of the climate solution?
- How can we build life skills for a green economy at an early stage?

Gender equal labour, economy, and trade

Key message

For economic empowerment to be fully realised among women, and to accomplish gender equality and sustainable societies, there need to be changes in the labour market, financial market and in international trade.

Topics

Gender pay gap, labour force participation gap, and access to full-time formal employment; access to financial services; secure and decent working conditions; women in economic decision-making, in management and as entrepreneurs; welfare system as a prerequisite for women's economic empowerment; unpaid care work; inclusive and sustainable trade.

Questions

- What is the current situation for women in the labour force in your context?
 - Do women have access to full-time formal employment?
 - How wide is the gender pay gap? Do you see any progress?
 - Do women have access to secure work and decent working conditions?
- Do women have access to bank accounts, credit, financial services?
 - If there are hindrances to this access – what are the consequences for women's rights and power over their own life?
- What is the relationship between the welfare system and the distribution of the unpaid care work between men and women – and the participation in the workforce?
- What is the situation for women in economic decision-making at different levels – from the household to the parliament?
- Do you see good examples of government or other support offered to women entrepreneurs that has fostered the viability/sustainability/growth of their businesses?
- How is the private sector including women in the creation of jobs, in promotions and in allocating funding to businesses owned by women?
- Why do we want to see more women engaged in trade?

- What do individuals, societies, and companies lose when women are not engaged in trade to the same extent – and on the same conditions – as men?
- What is the business case for women's involvement at different levels?
- What is the case for sustainable development?

Policy-making and legislative efforts

Key message

Legal, economic and social reforms based on gender equality strengthen women's economic justice and rights.

Topics

Discriminatory policy and legal frameworks; securing women's legal rights to education, work, security, political participation, family life, control over bodies, and the rights to inherit, own, cultivate land and natural resources; well-developed and affordable welfare; gender equal taxation, gender mainstreaming; engagement of men and boys for gender equality.

Questions

- In your context, in which areas do policies and legal frameworks still discriminate against women?
 - What about the rights to inherit, own and cultivate land and natural resources?
 - What about taxation?
 - Apply an intersectional perspective: how do different forms of discriminatory policies and legal framework intersect?
- What possibilities do policy and legal frameworks give for women to combine family and working life?
 - Do women and men have access to parental leave?
 - Are there affordable and well-developed welfare systems in place?
 - Who pays for parental and sick leave: the state or the employer? And what are the conditions and consequences of your system?
- Many institutions – state as well as civil society organisations – have ambitious gender equality policies. But in practice, often huge gender inequalities prevail.
 - Where do you see the largest gaps between policy and implementation?
 - What are the lessons learned from the process of developing and implementing gender equality policy?
- Do you see any successful examples of gender mainstreaming in policy and law-making?

- Gender analysis is a prerequisite for gender mainstreaming. Make an exercise and do a gender analysis of a specific policy, law, political initiative, et cetera. What do you see?
- Gender mainstreaming requires both targeted (directly aiming to change gender inequalities) and integrated efforts and measures (to bring a gender perspective throughout). Why? How can they be used in combination?
- If you do the same exercise with gender budgeting – what do you see?
- How are efforts to engage boys and men as agent for gender equality working out in your context?
 - How can we work with boys and young men to prepare them for a more equal, less violent world?
 - How can we engage adult men – including leaders such as national and local politicians, religious leaders, teachers and trainers – in the work towards gender equality?
 - What is the relationship between policy change and change in attitudes and behaviour?
 - UN Women’s HeForShe campaign has brought international visibility to the issues. Has this – or other initiatives to engage men and boys – made a difference on the ground?

Fundamental right to bodily integrity

Key message

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a matter of women’s power over their own life. When women have the rights to decide and exercise control over their own body – it increases their prospects of participating on a more equal footing with men in society, including in the workforce.

Topics

Rights to sexual identity and orientation; gender-based violence; safe reproductive health; contraception and abortion rights; sex education; connecting fertility control and education and decent work; SheDecides.

Questions

- In many places, SRHR are controversial. What is the situation in your context?
 - In which areas do you see progress? Do you see any consequences of this progress?
 - Where do you see the challenges? What forms do they take and how are they tackled?
- How do the connections between fertility control, education, and access to decent work play out in your context?

- How can women and girls be supported in articulating their rights to sexual and reproductive health?
 - How can we make stakeholders listen to girls and women?
 - How can you make local use of global initiatives such as SheDecides?
 - What role does sex education play?

- In what way is gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment connected?
 - Examples: the cost of violence, violence at workplaces, the economic possibilities to leave a violent man
 - How can we make these connections visible?
 - How can we bridge the gap between legislation/policy and implementation in the overlap between violence against women and women's economic empowerment?
 - What are some of the new, emerging and evolving risks of gender-based violence facing girls and young women today (such as on social media)?

Political participation – equal value as citizens

Key message

Economic autonomy is a prerequisite for women's agency and power – over their own life and in the wider community, for women's involvement in civil society and contribution to political and economic decision.

Topics

Political participation at all levels; women's leadership; women in parliament; women as agents in climate change solutions; organising feminism; women's movement; intersectionality; #metoo; Fridays for Future.

Questions

- How does power play out in your context?
 - How is privilege connected to gender and how does this interact with entitlement/compensation to use force/violence?
 - How can women and men be engaged in understanding masculinity, patriarchy and male privilege?
 - What does an intersectional power analysis need to take into consideration? How do we approach differences?

- What role does the women's movement play in women's economic empowerment?

- What is the history of the women's movement pushing for changes towards women's economic empowerment in your context?
 - How does the women's movement define the priorities today?
 - What are the good practices for women's rights advocacy?
 - What do the new, emerging ways of organising feminism look like – particularly among young women?
- What is the situation for women's political participation in your context?
 - Women's participation as political leaders is increasing very slowly across the world. Does a gender equality policy help to address this? How?
- In many countries all over the world we see a trend of shrinking space for democratic actors. Is this visible in your context? If so:
 - How does this impact the freedom of association – to organise for gender equality?
 - How does this impact the financing of women's movements and women's economic empowerment?
- What are the possibilities – and obstacles – to women's effective participation in climate change planning, policy making and implementation?
 - How are we addressing these obstacles on a structural/systemic level as well as a local level?
 - What can we learn from the broader experience of promoting women's participation?

The Covid-19 pandemic

- Women are at the forefront of the health care systems' battle against the Covid-19 pandemic; their care work burden becomes heavier and they face higher risks of losing their jobs. Closed schools may have a more severe impact for girls than for boys, with high risks of school drop-out.
 - What do you see during and in the wake of the pandemic if you look at your context from a gender perspective?
- UN Women, along with many other national and international actors, warn that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to heighten gender-based inequalities around the world, with long-term consequences.
 - With a long-term perspective on the gendered consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic: what do you see?
- One of the reported consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic is increased domestic violence along with a situation where seeking help has become more difficult, sometimes impossible.

- What may the short-term and long-term impact of increased domestic violence be in your context?
- How is violence against women a hindrance to women's economic empowerment?