

YOUTH DELEGATE COMMUNIQUE

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THE FUTURE YOUTH WANT,
THE ACTION WE NEED

YOUNGA™
by BridgingTheGap Ventures



The Future Youth Want, The Action We Need

I was first inspired to create the **YOUNGA Forum** as a response to a call by His Excellency António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, on member states to host the largest, most inclusive global dialogue on the future we want in commemoration of the UN's 75th anniversary.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has served as the world's largest town hall of today's leaders coming together to build action plans for equality, peace and global cooperation for all. But what is the role of young people in UNGA?

To successfully build action plans for future generations, I believe it is crucial that we involve the voices, ideas and active participation of the nearly two billion young people under the age of 30 around the world—for we will be the generation of leaders that will be living through the outcomes and dealing with the consequences of the decisions made today.

And so, **YOUNGA** was established—creating a global platform where the leaders of today, and tomorrow, can unite to co-create solutions for a better future.

Kelly Lovell

CEO of BridgingTheGap Ventures
and Founding Chair of YOUNGA



Inaugural YOUNGA Forum

The [2020 YOUNGA™ Forum](#), organized by [BridgingTheGap Ventures](#), made history as the first-of-its-kind global youth takeover of the United Nations. Through an inclusive, forward-looking youth-driven dialogue using VR and XR technology, YOUNGA virtually connected young people directly with influential decision-makers and industry leaders to co-create solutions for a more inclusive, sustainable world.

Our inaugural Youth Delegation consisted of +1,800 young people ages 15-30 across 114 countries.

Innovation Masterminds

Hosted alongside the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with the facilitation of programming partners on September 28-30, these +35 hours of live sessions connected Youth Delegates directly with thought leaders, fellow changemakers, celebrity activists and decision-makers, including UN officials, in an intimate setting to discuss global challenges and co-create solutions.

Leadership Program

Following our kick-off event, Youth Delegates received access to a four-week bespoke leadership and advocacy training program along with curated career advancement and networking opportunities.

Global Broadcast

During YOUNGA 2020's finale event, live-streamed worldwide on December 5 and open to the public, viewers experienced celebrity guest cameos, keynote remarks and intergenerational fireside chats between influential leaders and young changemakers on the action we need to create a more inclusive, sustainable world.

Working Groups

We ensure all members of the BridgingTheGap community don't just have a voice—they have a role in co-creating solutions with serious impact. Each of us has unique life experiences and challenges that will influence our thought process and approach—naturally, our solutions should reflect this diversity.

Between the Innovation Masterminds and the Global Broadcast, Youth Delegates were invited to participate in working groups around five thematic tracks that were the focus of the programming agenda during the 2020 YOUNGA Forum:

- Climate Action and Sustainable Living
- Equality and Inclusion
- The Future of Education and Work
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Peace and Justice

Each working group was led by a number of Youth Delegates particularly passionate about its cause, who in turn guided their members and liaised with the BridgingTheGap team. These working groups met over the course of four weeks to...

- Understand the priorities
- Identify the external factors, challenges and opportunity gaps
- Summarize the results and develop recommendations for action

With our theme, **The Future Youth Want, The Action We Need**, the 2020 YOUNGA Forum has worked to not only amplify the voices of young people but also call upon our leaders to act upon the hopes and concerns young people have for our future. To this end, this communicate summarizes the recommendations and tangible action steps our 2020 Youth Delegation wants to see our current decision-makers implement.

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Climate Action and Sustainable Living



>ISSUES

The oil industry equates a successful clean by having only

15% of the spilled oil recovered¹

Conscious Production and Consumption

The attempts of local and global communities to curb the climate crisis are currently failing to properly achieve climate justice. Insufficient climate change education prevents individuals from being empowered to make conscious, local consumption choices and these decisions become intensified when they're made on a global scale. For example, renewable energy made up only 11% of global primary energy in 2019,² despite it being cheaper and more sustainable than fossil fuel.³ Furthermore, a lack of platforms for underrepresented and underserved communities to voice their experiences and ideas regarding climate change prevents inclusivity in creating sustainable climate solutions.

Stakeholder Accountability

Currently, governmental and corporate systems fail to hold themselves accountable for environmental destruction and an unsustainable economy. Not only can 71% of global greenhouse gas emissions be traced back to just 100 companies,⁴ but the air pollution alone caused by the fossil fuel industry is estimated to cost the global economy \$2.9 trillion dollars per year.⁵ Without government accountability and corporate social responsibility, greenhouse gas emissions will continue to affect global temperatures, ocean levels and ozone layer depletion, not to mention severe economic consequences.

Protecting Vulnerable Ecosystems

Failure to standardize policies protecting agricultural and marine ecosystems has resulted in several harmful environmental effects such as a loss of crop genetic diversity, oil spills, deforestation, soil degradation and animal species being put at risk⁶—almost 90% of the world's marine fish stocks are being exploited.⁷ With 40% of the global population working in agriculture⁸ and more than 3.5 billion people depending on marine ecosystems for their livelihood,⁹ failure to transition to sustainable agricultural and marine systems will have dire repercussions for two of the Earth's most biodiverse and fruitful ecosystems.



>RECOMMENDATIONS

01.

Improve climate action education at all levels and sectors.

- Expand and improve the implementation of formal, non-formal and informal environmental climate change education through multi-stakeholder partnerships with young people, academic institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector.
- Promote environmental and climate change education, training and public awareness, along with increased public participation and public access to information at all levels and sectors, with special emphasis on small actions, reducing both consumption and waste, and sustainable actions for daily life.
- Increase access to and quality of climate and environmental education for young people, including the addition of climate action projects in school curriculums.
- Create training in decision-making with an environmental perspective for companies, governments and any organization interested in or with an impact on the environment.
- Broaden the climate change curriculum and messaging to recognize that funding and policy changes are not the only challenges; there is a need to think radically different and recognize the intersectional issues that make up the climate crisis and take action to address them.

“
Increase access to and quality of climate and environmental education for young people



Secure climate justice for climate-vulnerable countries



> Sofie Lindquist / Sweden, Europe

02.

Make further strides toward green and renewable energy.

- Facilitate access to green energy for groups vulnerable to climate change including women, Indigenous peoples, youth, rural people and marginalized communities.
- Implement carbon taxes that put a cap on the burning of fossil fuels. End tax cuts, benefits and subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and enabling industries, making efforts to support the transition of fossil fuel jobs to green jobs via incentives and training.
- Encourage the use of renewable energies, including subsidies to underserved groups (i.e. women).
- Provide financial benefits to small and medium-sized companies that generate new technologies or use existing ones to generate clean energy.
- Promote small installations of solar panels both in buildings and in cities that may not have access to energy, in turn making energy sources more accessible and democratic.
- Raise awareness about the need to save energy and optimize the use of electricity in appliances and machinery, and give tax benefits to companies and households that make their energy use more efficient.
- Governments need to take drastic action on transforming energy supply management and work to adopt green energy.

03.

Ensure climate justice and inclusion for underserved communities.

- Require governments and companies at a local, country and regional level to comply with environmental laws and establish transparent and inclusive corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies.
- Secure climate justice for climate-vulnerable countries through urgent and collective climate action at all levels.
- Achieve equitable representation of climate-sensitive communities and countries in international decision-making.
- Invite young people to participate in environmental consultations and in the development of policies favourable to climate action.
- Better recognize and support the role of young people in the creation and implementation of ecological initiatives.
- Include the voices of children, women, people of colour, the elderly, ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, farmers and rural populations in dialogues about the environment and ensure that they have the same authority for decision-making and opportunity to contribute solutions.




Create laws and effective sanctions for the protection of green areas inhabited by protected species

04.

Promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable agroecology.

- Urge public policies at all levels of government to promote agroecology and give benefits to farmers who make the transition from intensive agriculture to sustainable agroecology.
- Emphasize the benefits of agroecological products to companies and markets able to distribute such products, and the importance of fostering transnational and international cooperation. Special attention should be placed on financing these developments and providing financial aid to developing countries that seek to transition to sustainable agriculture growing programs.
- Create laws and effective sanctions for the protection of green areas inhabited by protected species.
- Increase regulations to prevent fires and deforestation for economic purposes, especially in regions where there are native species, and promote the non-commercial use of burned soils.
- Advance efforts to disseminate the importance of biodiversity conservation as a means to combat new setbacks.
- Governments and related institutions should create funds for sustainable agriculture research and development projects to stop illegal expansions, thereby contributing to the protection of our biodiversity.

A portrait of Florencia Linarez, a young woman with dark hair, smiling and wearing a yellow sweater. The background is a warm, textured wall. In the top right corner, there are decorative purple and teal curved lines.

> Florencia Linarez /
Argentina, South America

05.

Develop an environmentally sustainable economy.

- Promote further diversification and technological innovation of the green economy to curb climate change, and reduce environmental risks and ecological shortages.
- Generate international cooperation projects between investors, start-ups and youth ventures, with special emphasis on those in the Global South, to promote new green technologies that are favourable to climate change mitigation and adaptation, with local and regional approaches that may have an international reach.
- Encourage cooperation between academic institutions, companies and industries to equip young people with the knowledge to understand and employ sustainable and green technologies.
- Create international cooperation networks—both financial and educational—with special emphasis on transferring them from developed countries to developing countries.
- Transform our perspectives on economies, investment patterns, consumption patterns and means of production to account for the 5Ps (planet, prosperity, people, peace and partnership) of the 2030 Agenda.
- Simplify processes and reduce barriers to submitting project proposals that promote environmental sustainability in order to make them more accessible, especially for young people, closing the gap between available funding and unfunded green projects.
- Balance the spending between green and non-green spending so it is more favourable in terms of supporting positive environmental outcomes. Financial groups should consider the great impact green initiatives can generate in the community when evaluating potential projects.

Promote further diversification and technological innovation of the green economy



06.

Conserve and protect our marine environments and oceans.

- Promote sustainable tourism in marine protected areas (MPAs) as a means to generate green jobs, care for the environment, and support local communities and Indigenous peoples that conduct sustainable fishing.
- Increase fishing restrictions, especially in industrial and commercial fishing worldwide, encouraging international fishing ports to increase safety and carry out detailed controls of fishing boats.
- Enforce fish catch limits, in accordance with the population data of specific species, and give tax and financial benefits to the small fisheries who adopt sustainable methods.
- Urge the prevention of oil disasters by promoting action plans and making the entity responsible fund the cleanup, restoration work and pay taxes when oil spills occur.
- Encourage the inspection of oil tankers, as well as promote the evaluation of shipping and transportation route plans to avoid MPAs, specifically damaged areas and habitats deemed crucial, and move in compliance to weather hazard recommendations.



Promote sustainable tourism in marine protected areas (MPAs)

Equality and Inclusion

A portrait of Azzez Tobi Abubakar, a young Black man with short hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses, a white shirt, a blue patterned tie, and a dark blue suit jacket. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a solid dark grey. In the top right corner, there are decorative glowing purple and blue lines.

> Azzez Tobi Abubakar /
Nigeria, Africa

>ISSUES

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The number of years it's estimated to take to close the gender gap¹⁰

Digital Inclusion

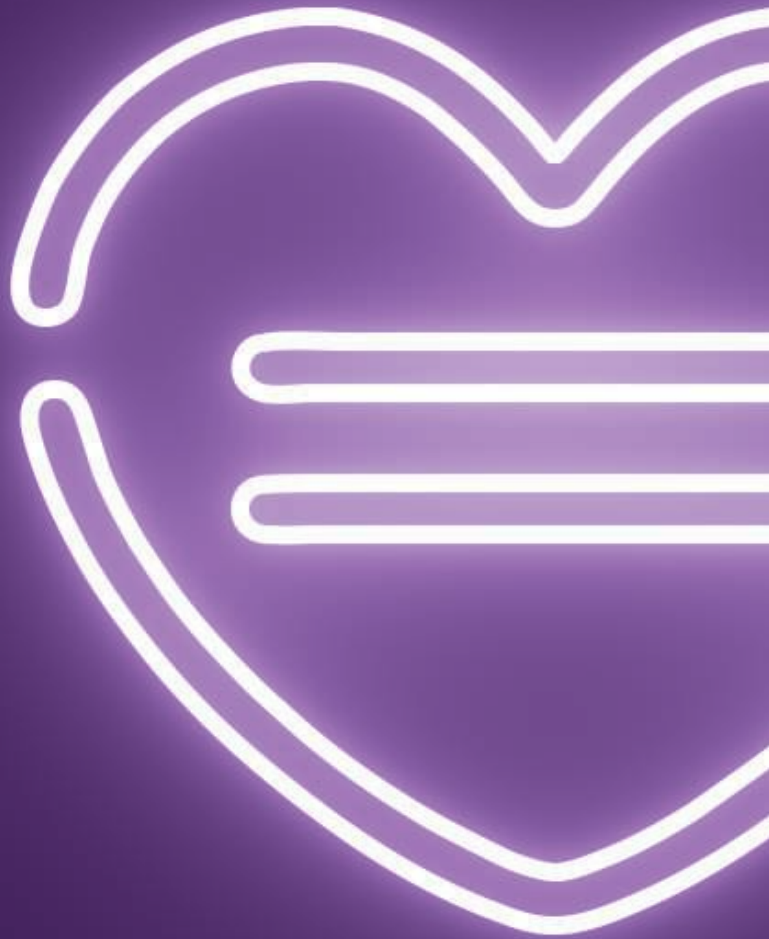
The digital divide—the gap between those able to benefit from modern information and communications technology (ICT) and those without or with restricted access—has emerged and widened, privileging those with Internet access and digital literacy skills. With more than one billion students having transitioned to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic,¹¹ digital inclusion has become more essential than ever. However, only 55% of households globally are able to access the Internet, with fewer than one in five people in developing countries connected to the digital world¹²—preventing access to the education, jobs and connection digital inclusion creates.

Inclusive Public Policies

Underrepresented and underserved groups—such as women, persons with disabilities, refugees, immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities—are frequently excluded from public policies protecting human rights, as well as access to employment, education and healthcare. For example, almost 40% of the world's population has no health insurance or access to national health services, with 100 million people becoming impoverished each year because of medical expenses.¹³ Not only does this highlight the barriers to equal access but it also demonstrates how the lack of policies protecting vulnerable communities prevents social inclusion.

Platforms for Youth Input

The global tendency for the average government official to be of middle-age or older—for example, the average American is 20 years younger than their representative in Congress¹⁴—excludes youth voices from policy-making and decision-making processes. Furthermore, with COVID-19 deepening inequalities for low-income youth in developing countries,¹⁵ the lack of platforms for young people to share their ideas, concerns and priorities prevent stakeholders from forming a holistic and authentic approach to increasing equality and inclusion worldwide.



A photograph of two young women with dark hair, smiling and looking at a tablet together. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow and white striped shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a black top. They are both looking at the tablet with interest. The background is a warm, reddish-brown wall. There are decorative blue and purple circular lines in the top left corner.

>RECOMMENDATIONS

01.

Improve digital inclusion for underserved communities.

- Governments, businesses and educational institutions must intensify efforts and initiatives to promote digital literacy, prioritizing digital inclusion for disadvantaged populations who are excluded from the digital world and lack access to technology.
- Governments and educational institutions need to foster access to technology for students from underserved communities and provide ongoing capacity building and skill development through digital education.
- Governments, nonprofit organizations and industries must work to raise awareness around digital inclusion through campaigns, training opportunities and career-sharing programs in the technology industry.

Governments and educational institutions need to foster access to technology for students from underserved communities



> Jessie Chung /
China, Asia

Work to
empower girls
and women to
amplify their
own voices in
society



02.

Advance gender equality on a systemic level.

- Governments must establish public policies and laws geared toward inclusion and gender equality in order to foster public awareness-raising, capacity-building and leadership for women.
- Governments need to provide public policies and laws intended to protect women and girls in vulnerable circumstances to prevent abuse and violation of their rights.
- Eradicate harmful stereotypes of women that tend to generate more violence and discrimination, and work to empower girls and women to amplify their own voices in society.
- Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and businesses need to create positions of power and leadership for women, and establish advisory groups on gender issues.
- Governments must develop gender impact assessments for any large-scale initiatives and investments to ensure accountability and transparency.

03.

Increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

- Governments should provide tax incentives to the private sector for employing people with disabilities in order to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as other key stakeholders and labour agencies, must ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to education, health and economic opportunities.



04.

Create equal opportunities for visible minorities and minority groups.

- Governments, businesses and educational institutions need to create spaces for visible minorities and minority groups (refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ+, BIPOC) to voice their opinions.
- Improve efficiency and equity in addressing the insufficient, or lack of, access to health care, education and economic development.
- Facilitate banking regulations for visible minorities and minority groups (refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ+, BIPOC) to access loans, and support minority-run businesses to ensure business diversification.
- Encourage a partnership among leaders to provide visible minorities and minority groups (refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ+, BIPOC) with early networking and equity education programs at the secondary and post-secondary levels.



Key stakeholders need to create spaces for visible minorities and minority groups to voice their opinions



05.

Provide greater opportunities for young people to participate in civil society.

- Governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses need to integrate youth leaders from all regions into policymaking, decision-making processes and practical action in order to improve the quality of life of young people in four regions of the developing world: Latin America, East Africa, Southern Africa and South Asia.



Key stakeholders need to integrate youth leaders from all regions into policymaking, decision-making processes and practical action

Future of Education and Work



>ISSUES

40 million join the labour market each year¹⁶

Access to Education

Despite education being declared a universal human right,¹⁷ many people are unable to access quality learning resources, especially those who are low-income or without access to technology during COVID-19. For example, a 2019 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report found that more than 7.1 million child refugees—over half of young refugees worldwide—have no access to education. In developing countries, the amount of students who withdraw from school prematurely can range from 33-42%,¹⁸ demonstrating how a lack of legal requirements for young people to complete a minimum level of schooling lowers global education rates. Until the gaps in opportunity and accessibility are bridged, education will never be adopted as a universal human right.

Flawed Curriculum and Education Systems

Many current models of teaching have become outdated, including prioritizing theoretical over practical learning and the lack of focus on mental health awareness and supports. The need for experiential learning programs—including mentorship, internships, co-op, entrepreneurship—has grown,¹⁹ and often these programs are exclusionary or unavailable to underserved groups. Furthermore, teaching styles do not always account for individualized ways of learning, and those with different learning styles, needs or disabilities are the most affected. Schools need to rethink the way they teach as the transition to digital education becomes more prevalent, as well as what the curriculum includes to keep up with societal progress and global challenges.

Skills and Opportunity Gaps

With the UN estimating that 73 million young people are currently unemployed, the lack of upskilling resources prevents youth from thriving professionally. The skills gap—the discrepancy between skills required for employment and the skills individuals actually possess—is estimated to affect 1.3 billion people worldwide and two out of every five working individuals in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are required to upskill and reskill to meet changing workplace demands.²⁰ Without measures to help young professionals, opportunity and skills gaps in the workplace cannot be overcome.



>RECOMMENDATIONS

01.

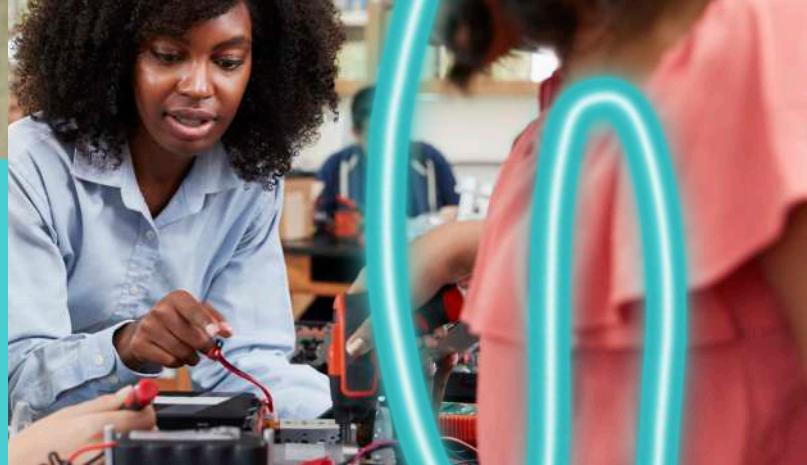
Provide access to education for all.

Pass legislation to ensure the mandatory education of young people up to the age of 18 or age of maturity

- Pass legislation to ensure access to education is mandated for young people up to the age of 18 or age of maturity in their country or region.
- Ensure all people have access to education regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, caste, location, social and/or economic status.
- Decentralize the education gap through agreements between the government and local regions.
- Prioritize access to education for young people in refugee camps and war zones.
- Consult with Indigenous groups on how their education systems can be supported but not dominated or changed with the vested interests of society.
- Give teachers and students access to increased technology and the ability to establish and attend virtual classes, improving access to global education.
- Improve access to education for students in rural and remote areas through educational programs distributed via the radio.
- Bridge the opportunity and curriculum gaps between the private and public schools, including specific courses about soft skills, financial education, leadership, entrepreneurship, business and life skills.



Invest in a personalized digital education system led and created by youth



02.

Transform the education system.

- Invest in a personalized digital education system led and created by youth to help young people grow, find community, peer and skill mentors, foster their passion and creativity, and be ready to impact the world. This would be available to teachers, families and students who have access to digital devices, and hopefully expanding from there.
- Go beyond grades, instead create an individualized education system based on growth, projects and reflection.
- Eliminate the use of tests as the only means of assessment and understanding.
- Prioritize personalized ways of learning over memorization and theoretical learning to accommodate the different ways students learn.
- Promote skills-based education and interests of students as well as explorative education that will enable students to know themselves and what they want to achieve.
- Include a dedicated course on Indigenous peoples in high school to educate youth about the past so they can make better decisions for the future of Indigenous peoples.
- Provide education around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the curriculum.

03.

Create more experiential learning opportunities.

- Change the focus of education from theoretical learning to practical and experience-based learning, and make co-op programs more accessible.
- Provide high school students with access to mentorship platforms so they can shadow and learn from mentors.
- Bring UN youth programs into schools so they can intern at UN-based organizations during the school year to ignite their interest in social impact.
- Increase the advertisement of internship programs for high school students that have a real-world impact.
- Pilot hiring students to provide additional educational support and peer-to-peer connections, emphasizing building skills, exploration, wellness and reflection.
- Offer funding for young people to launch social projects and entrepreneurial ventures by creating high school grants so that high school students can start projects to benefit the community.
- Develop programs that offer job training in sustainable and regenerative climate, agriculture and energy fields to serve as an alternative path to university education.



Include entrepreneurial and leadership skills into the curriculum

04.

Prepare young people with the necessary skills to adapt to the changing workplace.

- Teach soft skills including empathy, ethics, social awareness, emotional intelligence and critical thinking as part of the curriculum.
- Include entrepreneurial and leadership skills into the curriculum, as well as other tools to thrive in today's globalized world. Empower young people to become entrepreneurs for the Global Goals.
- Add information and communications technology (ICT), and digital literacy training in the curriculum.
- Prioritize the teaching of life skills like financial education in the education system.

05.

Ensure young people can thrive in the world of work.

- Consider the implications of AI on the future of education and work, and create solutions to address these effects.
- Assure compensation is focused on a living wage, not minimum wage.
- Provide upskilling training and resources, and access to career counselling and job placements to prepare young people for the workplace.
- Create and train for the jobs needed in the changing workplace.
- Develop programs that promote intergenerational collaboration and career mobility within existing work hierarchies.

06.

Better support teachers.

- Provide better training and access to training for teachers and educators, including teachers in rural/remote areas.
- Give teachers the technology they need.
- Write new books and corresponding training materials on education available in multiple languages to go further than devices for rural teachers with technology limitations or lack of access.

07.

Prioritize the wellbeing of students.

- Improve the parent-teacher relationship in order to communicate effectively about each student's wellbeing.
- Incorporate education around mental health, mental wellbeing and dealing with social stigmas in the school curriculum.
- Provide access to mental health and wellbeing resources, and certified and capable mental health counsellors in schools as students shouldn't have to look elsewhere for support.



Provide access
to mental health
and wellbeing
resources

Mental Health and Wellbeing



>ISSUES

Suicide is the
**second
leading**
cause of death in
youth ages 13-24²¹

Healthcare Accessibility

There are numerous barriers between health-related resources and those who are most vulnerable and have the most need for them. Underprivileged groups often have difficulty accessing healthcare services because of the lack of medical resources in low-income or rural areas, inaccessible infrastructure for those with disabilities, privatized healthcare systems as well as social taboos. For instance, a lack of abortion clinics and stigma around female sexuality contribute to approximately 22 million unsafe abortions that occur globally each year.²²

Resources for Mental Health and Digital Wellbeing

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one in four people experience a mental health disorder during their lifetime, and yet, mental health support remains inaccessible for many. In fact, mental health workers account for only 1% of the global health workforce and 45% of the world's population lives in a country with less than one psychiatrist per 100,000 people.²³ Furthermore, excessive time spent on social media has been linked with increased stress, anxiety and depression, as well as lowered self-esteem,²⁴ showcasing how a lack of digital wellbeing resources will prevent individuals from fostering a healthy relationship with the ever-encroaching digital world.

Pandemic Preparedness

Healthcare systems and their related legal structures have problematic gaps in their policies for disease, injury and violence prevention, as well as epidemic preparedness. Despite the urging of WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, that there was a need to develop universal health coverage and emergency response in 2017,²⁵ the current COVID-19 situation has shown how many countries were unprepared to respond quickly and decisively to an outbreak. This illustrates how deficient health-related policies can lead to life-threatening situations on a global scale.





>RECOMMENDATIONS

01.

Ensure the availability, affordability and accessibility of health care services, resources and infrastructure.

- Accelerate and invest in the national health sector to achieve universal health coverage without discrimination or bias by 2025.
- Special attention should be given to vulnerable groups and minorities, seeing that their right to health is met through the use of evidence-based policy development.
- Proper regulation of the pharmaceutical industry to control the overpricing of medication.
- Civil society, advocacy groups and media must collaborate to reduce and prevent misinformation, as well as raise awareness about safety and hygiene practices.
- Optimize healthcare resources and supply chains, and make them accessible to all.
- Include adequate health-related subjects and first aid training in the education curriculum.
- Acknowledge and uplift the voices of refugees, people with disabilities, minorities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+, people living with HIV, people with lived experiences of mental and physical health, young people, women and children.

Special attention should be given to vulnerable group and minorities



02.

Prioritize mental health alongside physical health.

- Recognize mental health and wellbeing as part of SDG 3, and make mental health services accessible and available to all by 2030.
- Allocate national health budgets for mental health programs and resources, and subsidize mental health care costs.
- Properly address mental health concerns and make them as important as physical health concerns.
- Educational institutions and their concerning government authority need to educate and include mental health—its importance and issues—in their curriculum and provide support, guidance and counselling to their students.
- Media and media personalities should use their platforms and presence to normalize mental health, raise awareness and talk about mental health stigmas



Make mental health concerns as important as physical health concerns

03.

Advance sexual and reproductive health for all.

- Legalize sexual and reproductive health (SRH), with young people and women having equal and inclusive access to its services and information.
- Increase national budgets to ensure equal access to SRH services, and reframe laws and comprehensive education related to family planning, safe abortion, and sexual and reproductive safety by 2030.
- Governments, civil society and media should promote more conversations around SRH, reframing it as a health issue rather than a moral one.
- Include age-appropriate reproductive health education as part of school curriculums.
- Recognize the sexual and reproductive rights of LGBTQ+ and ensure their diverse and equal representation in all policy and decision-making roles.
- Protect women, children and adolescents experiencing homelessness from abuse, violence and exploitation as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child by establishing shelter homes and strong child protection agencies.
- Civil society organizations and advocacy agencies must collaborate to increase dialogues and awareness around infant and maternal health.
- Make menstrual hygiene a basic right for people who menstruate and address period poverty. Eliminate taxes on menstrual hygiene kits and provide government subsidies and support, making it accessible to all by 2030.



**Recognize
digital health
and wellbeing
as a subgoal
of SDG 3**

04.

Assure safety and wellbeing in the digital world.

- Recognize digital health and wellbeing as a subgoal of SDG 3.
- Governments, local bodies, civil society organizations and media companies must develop and expand digital wellbeing awareness and literacy programs to ensure digital safety and proper use of digital platforms by 2025.
- Draft an international framework on cybercrimes and their effects on the mental and physical health of individuals, in conjunction with the mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) by 2025.
- Government authorities must formulate and implement proper cyber legislation to regulate the digital world, its content and predatory practices that encourage digital addiction, aggression and violence among its users.
- Social media companies should be held accountable and liable for harmful content—such as suicide dares—through the International Court of Justice.
- Adopt the International Labour Organization's (ILO) international governance system for digital labour platforms, offering certain minimum rights and protections for all workers and employees in response to the changing dimensions of remote work due to COVID-19.



Collectively build global support and heavily invest in the research and development of vaccines

05.

Better respond to and address COVID-19 and its impacts.

- Improve response to the ongoing global health crisis of COVID-19 with effective and timely actions and contingency plans to contain the spread of the virus by early 2021.
- Collectively build global support and heavily invest in the research and development of vaccines, with the goal of developing a vaccine by early to mid-2021 and having it accessible to all countries by 2022.
- Provide assistance through donations and funding to developing countries for better COVID-19 response and accessibility of vaccines.
- Give priority to mental health issues as a result of COVID-19. Increase awareness and ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of mental health first-aid, services, counselling and support.
- Quickly and effectively respond to the increasing domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and abuse of any kind as a result of a partial or full lockdown due to COVID-19, and provide access and availability for resources such as counsellors, undercover police, shelters and emergency hotlines.
- Digitize health information, data and diagnoses to accommodate patient-doctor interaction during COVID-19 and provide real-time updates on health-related issues for groups vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Invest in and put greater focus on disease, injury, violence and epidemic prevention and preparedness.



06.

Address the climate crisis and its effects on health.

- Recognize ecocide as an international crime in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Government, corporate, industry and individuals must heavily invest in sustainable green technologies and solutions, lower carbon emissions and making healthcare information, services and awareness related to pollution-borne diseases accessible and affordable to all by 2025.



Government, corporate, industry and individuals must heavily invest in sustainable green technologies and solutions

Peace and Justice

> James Peak/
Unites States, North America

>ISSUES

Young people are not at the center of political decision-making even though

almost half
the world's population is under 30 years old.²⁶

Youth Civic Engagement

Young people should be a part of the conversations that lead to decisions affecting their lives and the global community. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), only 1.65% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20's and for a third of countries, eligibility for national parliament starts at 25 years old with the average age in parliament being 53 years old. To make matters worse, the UNDP has found that two out of three countries do not consult young people as a part of the civic engagement process, such as preparing poverty reduction strategies or national development plans.

Government Accountability

A global lack of governmental transparency and voting accountability denies citizens the political agency required to ensure that their government acts in the best interest of its people. Furthermore, governments either taking advantage of unethical legal loopholes or legalizing unethical practices, especially regarding electoral processes, is a common form of political corruption. Without proper measures to hold governmental systems accountable for misuse of power regarding financial management, electoral processes and communications to the public, political justice cannot be achieved.

Accessing Social Services

A lack of equal access to social resources and basic necessities due to gender, socioeconomic status and societal marginalization often prevents individuals from seeking governmental assistance and embracing their rights. Without people of all backgrounds and abilities feeling as though they can rely on governmental support and basic human rights, we risk excluding the voices and needs of all social groups in our quest for peace and justice.



>RECOMMENDATIONS

01.

Increase youth civic engagement through capacity-building.

- Strengthen and increase youth capacity, creating new opportunities for young people to participate in political processes and peacemaking.
- Provide civic education programs and platforms to educate young people on government processes and increase youth involvement and inclusion in policy work.



Provide
civic education
programs and
platforms to
educate young
people



Create policies to prevent any forms of corruption



02.

Ensure government accountability.

- Create policies to prevent any forms of corruption or violence towards people.
- Improve transparency in communications between the government and citizens by way of a platform that details government spending, finances and budget to the public.
- Implement voting accountability to ensure there is not a misuse of power or resources by government officials.
- Hold government officials accountable for reports of misdemeanour by an individual or the media.

03.

Address the barriers to seeking governmental assistance.

- Government, non-governmental organizations and the technology sector need to establish supplemental programs to provide support and resources to bridge the inequality gap.
- Government, non-governmental organizations and the technology sector need to conduct educational workshops to teach people how to find resources to support the health and wellbeing of their communities.
- Implement digital literacy programs to spread awareness and educate people about how technology and the Internet work.



04.

Enforce fairer laws and elections.

- Push for fairer laws and elections in collaboration with the United Nations Fair Elections Commission, the judicial systems, citizens, political parties and the media.
- Remove loopholes and vague wording within laws as well as age barriers when running for political office in order to ensure a stable legal system.
- Implement a political system reliant on an individual's merit rather than status or wealth, and establish term limits for political positions.
- Rigorously monitor the progress of elections and conduct a third-party economic analysis of political parties during election season.
- Ensure a budget is set for each election campaign in order to provide equality, fairness and transparency during election season.
- Create an education program for different elective and judicial bodies to ensure better performance accountability of candidates.



Implement a political system reliant on an individual's merit

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About BridgingTheGap Ventures



BridgingTheGap was founded with the goal of bringing together the world's top decision-makers and industry leaders with young changemakers to usher in a new era for a humanity that is more empowered, connected and collaborative than the status quo.

BridgingTheGap Ventures connects stakeholders to emerging talent through curated forums, insights and tools to bridge opportunity gaps, prepare for the future of work and foster inclusive innovation. Our work focuses on the role of future skills training and multi-sector collaboration between generations and underrepresented groups, with an emphasis on youth, women and minority groups.

BridgingTheGap® Forums

We bring decision-makers—from business, government and community sectors—together with emerging young talent to bridge opportunity gaps, build their careers, pursue innovation and solve community challenges.

BridgingTheGap® Insights

An ongoing research series investigating shifts, gaps and opportunities in the changing workforce of the next generation to help employers, educators, influential decision-makers and policymakers adapt to the future of work. Our presentations and proprietary research focus on how generational differences, gender and the employer-employee relationship affect workplace culture, needs, expectations and desired supports of Millennials and Generation Z talent.

BridgingTheGap® Alliance

A global coalition of youth-focused organizations and industry leaders dedicated to creating pathways for the next generation to thrive. Our mission is to unite, amplify and measure the collective effort of partner organizations as they strive to motivate, serve and assist young people in creating positive change.

BridgingTheGap® Training

We use our latest research to inform our tailored workshops and educational programs designed for employers, organizations, educators and young talent as they navigate the changing workplace and workforce. Our areas of expertise include preparing for the future of work, reducing the skills gap, fostering inclusive innovation, and Millennials and Generation Z.

Footnotes

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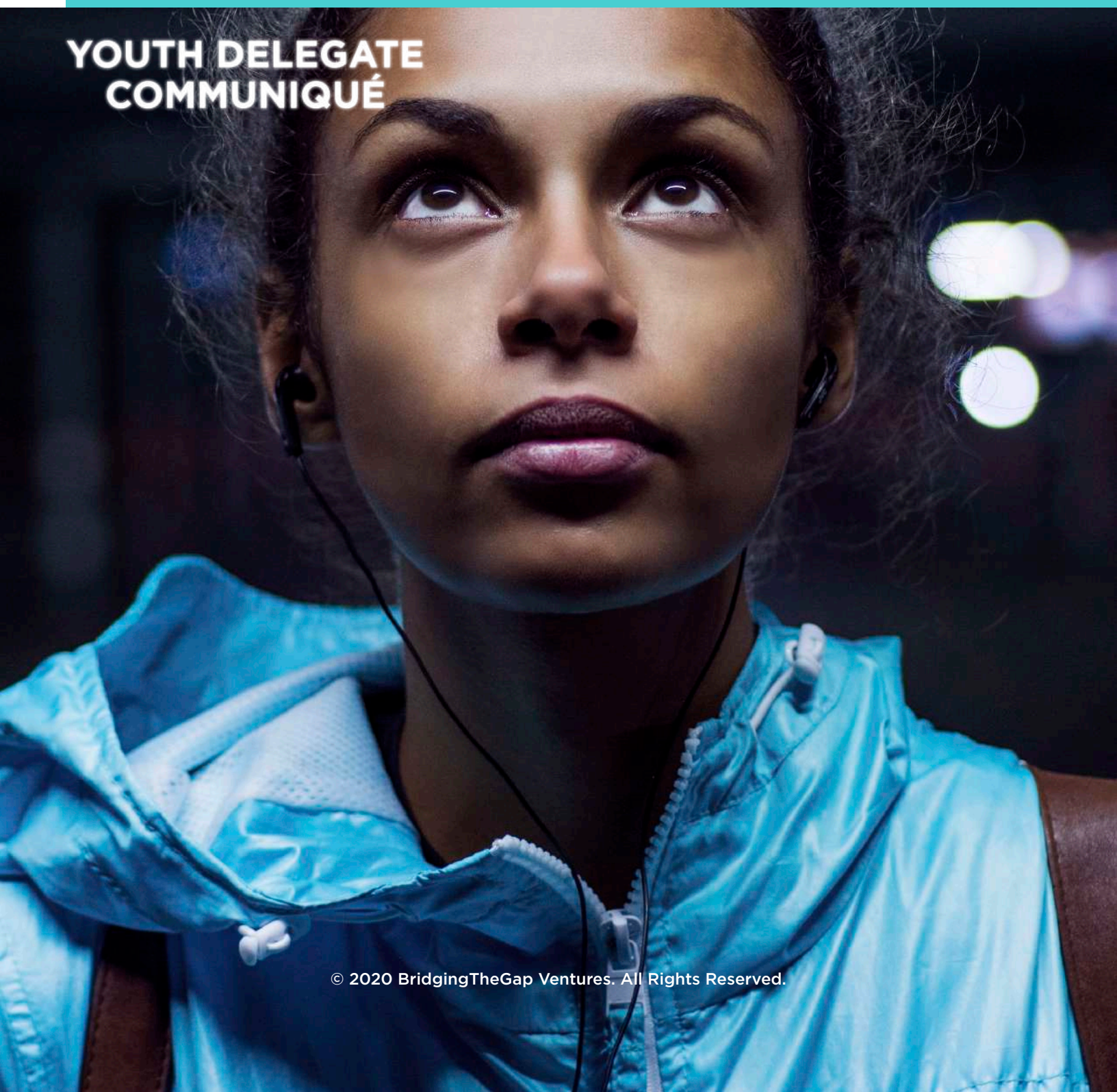


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