



THE BEIJING DECLARATION & PLATFORM FOR ACTION +20

BACKGROUND

In 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women took place in Beijing. 17,000 participants from 189 governments attended the conference, while another 30,000 non-governmental activists from around the world took part in a parallel forum. The theme of the conference was gender equality and the empowerment of all women, everywhere.

Over the two weeks of political debate that followed, the government representatives hammered out a series of historic commitments. The result was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a defining and progressive framework for change that aimed to advance women's rights and empowerment everywhere. The Beijing process gave women's empowerment new visibility and connected women's movements around the world.

THE VISION

The Beijing Platform for Action imagines a world in which every woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work.

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

The Beijing Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern:

- Women and the environment
- Women in power and decision-making
- The girl child
- Women and the economy
- Women and poverty
- Violence against women
- Human rights of women
- Education and training of women
- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Women and health
- Women and the media
- Women and armed conflict

PROGRESS SINCE 1995

The Platform for Action has supported tremendous progress and improvements in women's lives, ushering women into political office and creating new laws against gender-based violence. Progress has been regularly reviewed every five year.

WHAT NEXT?

No country has yet achieved the Platform's vision of full gender equality in all areas of life. Women still earn less than men, 800 women die in childbirth every day and a third suffer physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

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Empowering women empowers humanity and the twentieth anniversary of Beijing is an opportunity to reconnect, review progress and mobilise action.

"The Beijing Platform for Action, still forward-looking at 20, offers important focus in rallying people around gender equality and women's empowerment. Its promises are necessarily ambitious. But over time, and with the accumulating energy of new generations, they are within reach." — UN Women.

More information: www.beijing20.unwomen.org

wenwales.org.uk  



Government
Equalities Office