

MY DREAM OF A GENDER EQUAL WORLD



OUR VOICE OUR POWER
Empowering Young Voices Through Feminist
Storytelling and Digital Advocacy.

PREFACE

The future of gender equality lives in the hearts and imaginations of young people.

It lives in classrooms where girls and boys sit side by side, dreaming without limits.

It lives in conversations where courage replaces silence, where both girls and boys learn that equality isn't a favour, but a right.

Adolescence is a powerful time, a time when voices begin to form, when questions become visions, and when change starts with a single dream. These essays remind us that young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the dreamers of today, shaping the kind of world they hope to inherit.

Through their words, we glimpse a generation that dares to reimagine what fairness, freedom, and respect can look like — one where everyone has a seat at the table, and no dream is too big for anyone to chase.

The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

—Gloria Steinem

This book celebrates those dreams, bold, brave, and beautifully human, through the eyes of adolescents who believe in a gender equal world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the adolescents who courageously shared their voices, stories, and dreams through this project. Your reflections embody hope, resilience, and the vision of a future where equality is not just imagined but lived.

*To the facilitators of the Our Voice, Our Power project, **Opeyemi Adenikan, Ogri Caro-ann Aricha, Priye Diri and Elizabeth Kedonojo Umoru**, thank you for your dedication, wisdom, and mentorship. Your guidance created safe spaces for young people to speak, learn, and lead with confidence.*

*We are profoundly grateful to **Heinrich Böll Stiftung and FemBudNG** for their steadfast support and partnership. Your unwavering commitment to amplifying young voices and advancing gender equality continues to inspire lasting change.*

*To **Ere Amachere**, our Project manager, thank you for your guidance, clarity, and unwavering commitment throughout this journey. This publication from its earliest sketches to its final form, carries your fingerprints. You reviewed every page, every detail, every tiny line with such care, ensuring that the voices of these young people were presented with dignity, accuracy, and beauty. Thank you for trusting us to bring this publication and the entire project to life with excellence.*

This publication stands as a collective testament to what is possible when we listen to, believe in, and invest in young people, the true architects of an equitable future.

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MY DREAM OF A GENDER EQUAL WORLD

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PUBLISHED BY:  HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
ABUJA
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A FAIR FUTURE



A Story by Miracle
Omokhale
18yrs

I want to take you on a walk through my dream of a gender equal world.

In my dream, every boy or girl has the right to live their life the way they choose, without discrimination or double standards. A world where it doesn't matter your gender, religion, tribe, language, colour, profession, or social status, you are valued the same. You know why this matters? Because so many of the problems we face today, even here in Nigeria, are rooted in gender inequality. And it's not just a "poor country" problem. Even in some developed countries, women still face bias and unequal treatment.

Gender equality simply means giving both men and women equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Yet, all over the world, women's rights are still being violated. Women face barriers to education, good jobs, leadership positions, and decision-making spaces. They do more unpaid work than men, cooking, cleaning, caregiving, often two to ten times more. This lack of economic independence keeps many women stuck in harmful situations, including abusive marriages, because they are thinking of how to feed their children and survive.

Girls also face discrimination from birth, less access to good healthcare and nutrition, which increases child mortality. As they grow into their teenage years, the gap widens. Issues like child marriage hit girls the hardest.

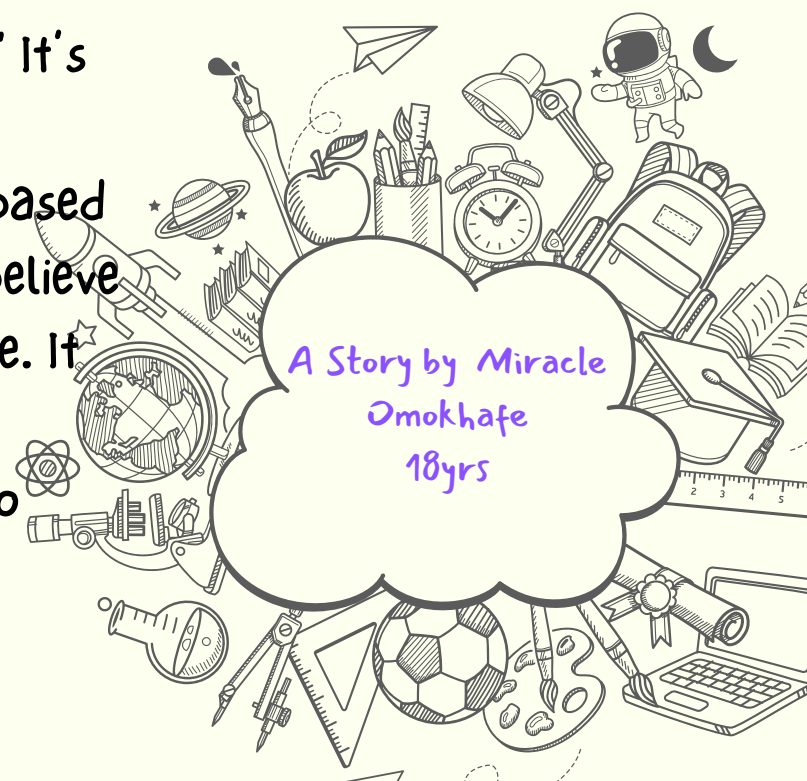
Around the world, nearly 15 million underage girls are married every single year.

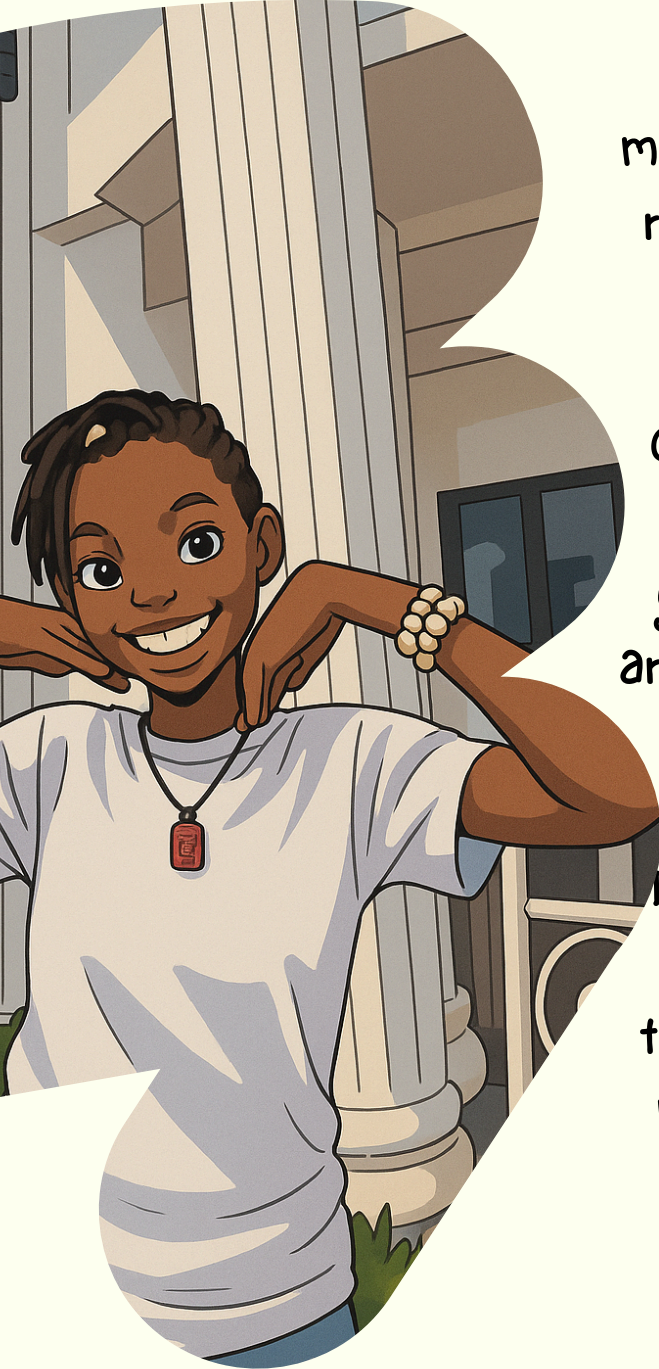
In my dream world, we fight this with education.

When girls are educated, doors open. They gain skills, get jobs, earn their own money, and can stand on their feet. Employment is empowerment; it gives women choices. Another step is closing the gender pay gap so women earn as much as men for the same work. We must also end all forms of violence against women and girls on the streets, in homes, and in schools. I admire organisations like the Dorothy Njemanze Foundation (DNF), a survivor-led organisation in Nigeria that works to protect women's rights and fight gender discrimination. Their vision is a society where women's and girls' rights are recognised, protected, and celebrated. They also challenge harmful practices like early and forced marriage. In my dream, more women take leadership roles in politics, business, education, and community life. Seeing women in power inspires other women and girls to step forward. It also ensures that decisions are made with women's needs in mind. Women must also have equal access to land, property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources because control over resources is control over destiny.

Gender equality is about more than just "men" and "women." It's about identity, dignity, and the freedom to live without being judged for who you are. As a survivor of sexual and gender-based violence, I know the damage inequality causes. That's why I believe gender equality is not just a women's issue, it's a human issue. It makes the world fairer, safer, and better for everyone.

Working towards gender equality is something we must all do because the future will only be bright if it is fair.





A story by: Asuquo
Bella
Age: 15

A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE

My dream of a gender equal world is a dream where everyone, male or female, rich or poor, able-bodied or disabled, has the same rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. In this world, people are valued for who they are and what they can do, not judged or limited because of their gender.

Gender equality means women and men enjoying the same access to education, jobs, decision-making, and resources. But where gender inequality exists, women and girls are often the ones who are excluded or disadvantaged. This is unfair because when women and girls are given the tools and opportunities to succeed, the whole society benefits.

In my dream world, boys and girls go to school in equal numbers. Girls can take leadership positions just like boys, and both are trained and guided the same way. Men and women earn the same money for the same work. Violence against women and girls is no more, and somethings like early and forced marriage no longer exist.

I believe that equality is not just about being fair; it is about building a better future for everyone. When women get educated, are employed, and respected, they contribute more to their communities and the economy. When men are taught to respect women and share responsibilities, society becomes stronger and more united.

In conclusion, gender equality means giving everyone the same chances in life, no matter their gender. This is the kind of Nigeria and the kind of world I dream of, one where no one is held back just because they are a girl or a boy, but where everyone can rise to their full potential.

DREAMS WITHOUT LIMIT

My dream of a gender equal world is simple but powerful. It is a dream where everyone, male or female, is treated with the same respect, given the same opportunities, and allowed to live their life without discrimination.

I want to see a world where both boys and girls can dream without limits. If a girl wants to be a president, engineer, or pilot, she should be able to. If a boy wants to be a nurse, teacher, or fashion designer, he should be able to. No one should be told, "You can't do that because of your gender." In my dream, our voices matter equally. If boys are listened to, girls should be listened to as well. What we say should carry the same weight, whether we are male or female. I dream of schools where boys and girls sit side by side with the same confidence, and of workplaces where men and women earn the same money for the same work.

Gender equality means fairness, and when you are fair, it benefits everyone. When both boys and girls are given the same chances, society becomes stronger and better.

This is the world I want to live in, a world where equality is not just an idea but a reality, where what we say matters, where we are valued the same, and where our dreams are never cut short because of whether we are boys or girls.

That is my dream of a gender equal world.



A Story By Isaac Aniete
Age: 13



A Story By Ayemi Dorcas
Age: 14

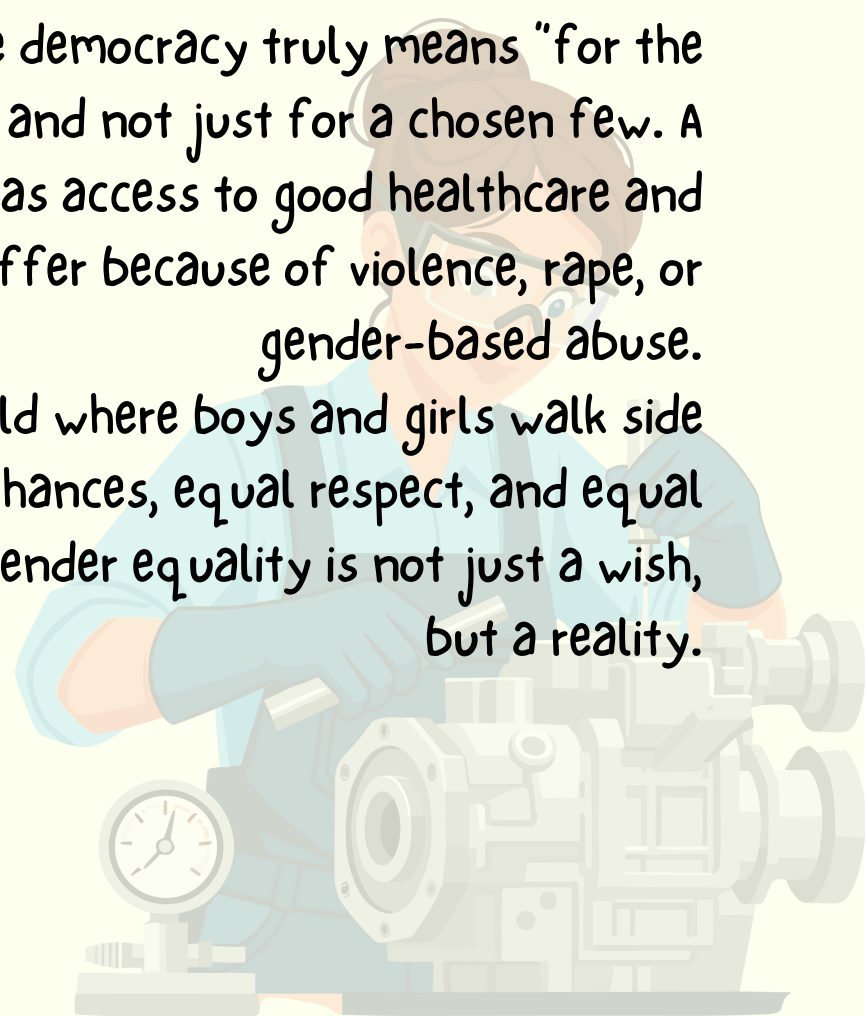
EQUAL VOICES EQUAL DREAMS

My name is Ayemi Dorcas, and my dream of a gender equal world is a world where no one is treated differently because of their gender. I dream of a world where every human being, boy or girl, is valued, respected, and given the same opportunities.

In my dream, every child goes to school, no matter their gender. No girl is told to stay at home while boys go to learn. Women are not treated as slaves, but as leaders, role models, and ambassadors of the world. They can stand for elections, win positions, and make decisions without anyone saying, "You can't, because you're a woman."

I dream of a world where our votes matter and our voices are heard. A world where democracy truly means "for the people, by the people," and not just for a chosen few. A world where everyone has access to good healthcare and where no one has to suffer because of violence, rape, or gender-based abuse.

This is my dream: a world where boys and girls walk side by side, with equal chances, equal respect, and equal rights. A world where gender equality is not just a wish, but a reality.



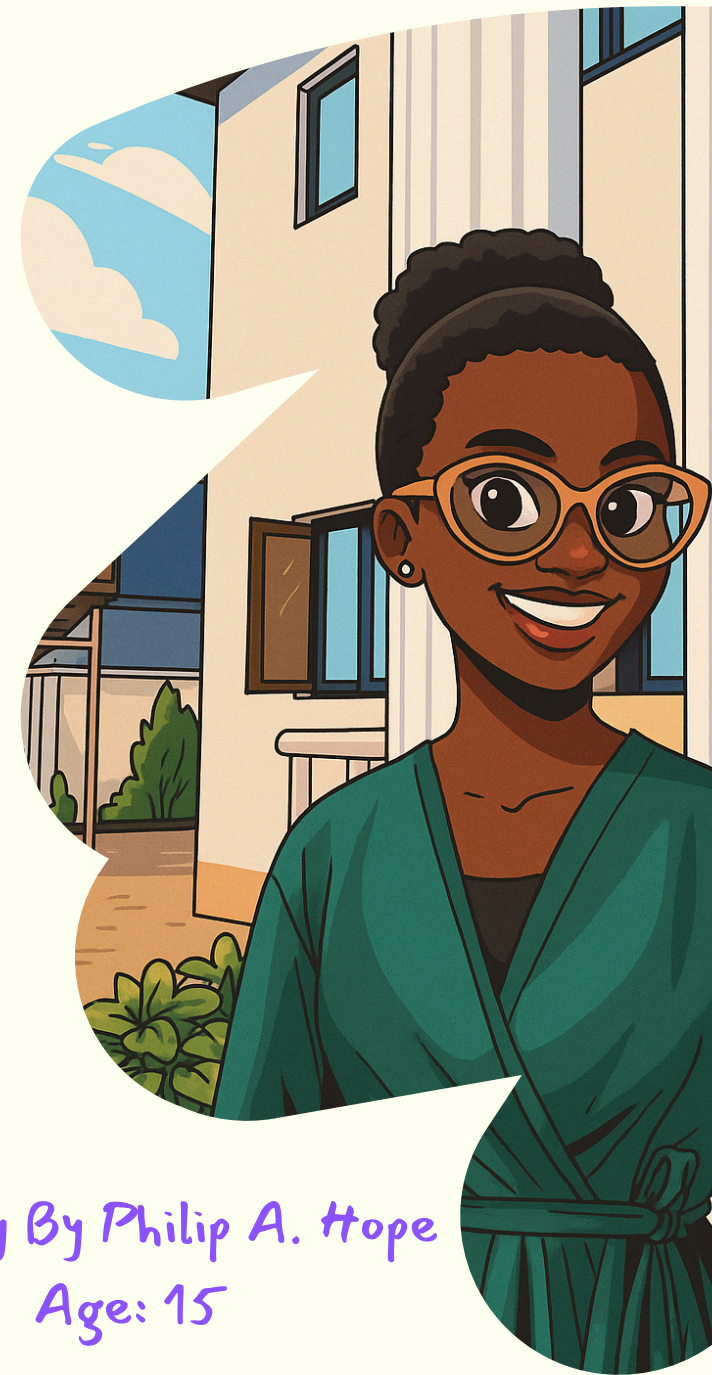
A WORLD WITHOUT LIMITS

A gender equal world is a place where men and women are given the same rights, where no one is treated as more important simply because they are male or female.

In places where one gender is given more rights than the other, there is no growth. People with big dreams are discouraged, and their goals are cut short. Sometimes, those dreams even "die" before they are born, because discrimination has killed the hope of dreaming. When more attention is given to only one gender, the other gender is often left feeling depressed, powerless, or even harassed. In my dream world, this will not happen. It will be a world where everyone is free to live their life to the fullest, without fear of bullying, violence, and gender-based discrimination. It will be a place where growth has no limits, where everyone supports one another, and where kindness is stronger than unfair treatment.

In this world, boys and girls will go to school equally, get the same opportunities in jobs and leadership, and be respected in the same way. No one will be judged based on whether they are male or female only on their talents, ideas, and actions.

This is my dream of a gender equal world: a world without gender-based violence, without unfair treatment, and without limits on what anyone can achieve



A Story By Philip A. Hope
Age: 15



A story By Yusuf Shagari
Age: 14

THE BRIGHT TOMORROW I SEE

In my dream, I see a world where boys and girls are treated the same. A world where my sister and I can both go to school, learn, and become something great in the future. I want to be a doctor one day, and I want my sister to have the same chance to be something great.

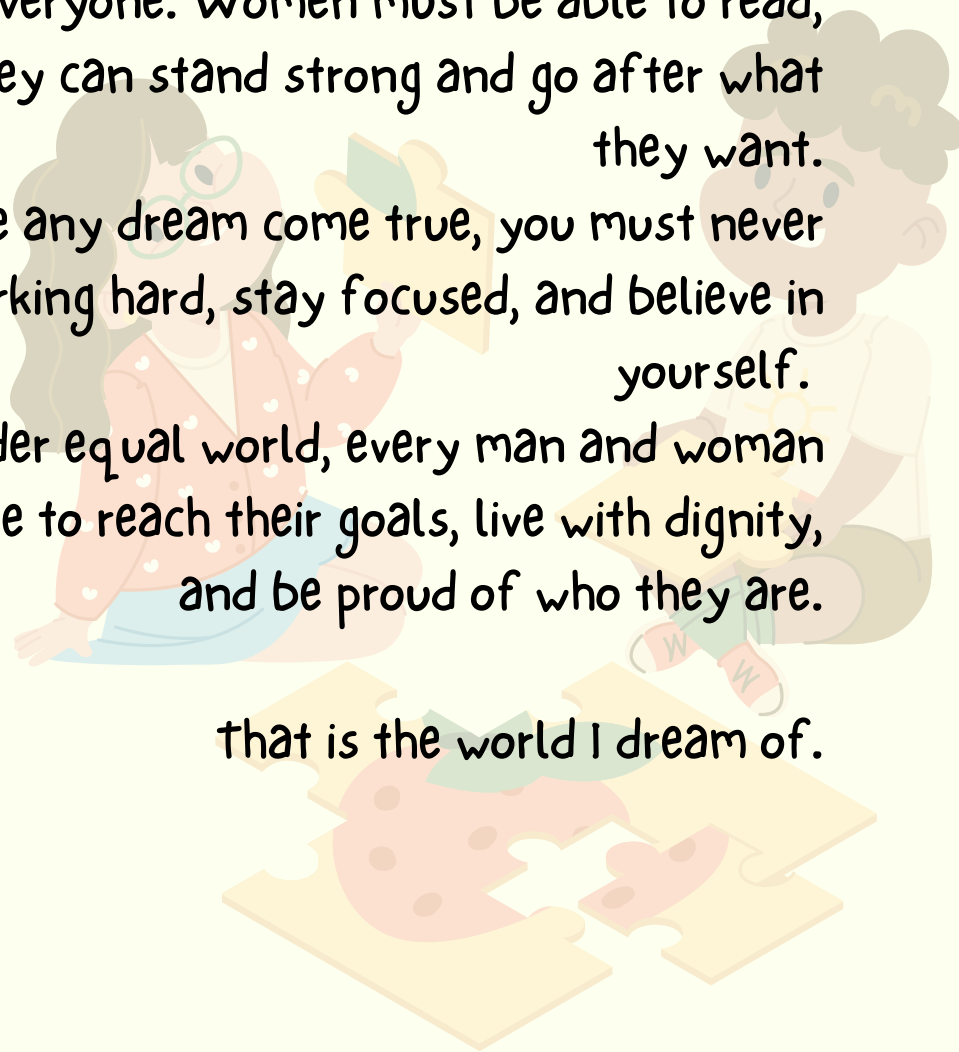
Men and women are equal. What some women can do, men can also do. And what men can do, some women can even do better. If women are given the same opportunities, they can achieve amazing things. I have seen how hardworking women can be, and I believe they deserve the same respect and chances as men.

In a gender equal world, no dream is too big for a girl or a boy. Education is for everyone. Women must be able to read, write, and learn so they can stand strong and go after what they want.

I believe that to make any dream come true, you must never give up. Keep working hard, stay focused, and believe in yourself.

In my dream of a gender equal world, every man and woman will have the chance to reach their goals, live with dignity, and be proud of who they are.

That is the world I dream of.



WHERE DREAMS HAVE NO GENDER

Imagine waking up in a world where what you can achieve has nothing to do with whether you are a boy or a girl. A world where your gender does not decide your future. That is the world I dream of.

My dream of a gender equal world is a world where gender never decides a person's worth. A world where both men and women have the same opportunities to learn, to lead, and to succeed.

In my dream, girls can dream big without fear, and boys can express their feelings without being judged. Every child is raised with love and respect, not trapped by wrong beliefs about what boys and girls "should" or "should not" do.

Education is not a privilege for a few, but a right for everyone. Workplaces value talent, not gender. Leadership is shared equally, with both men and women making decisions side by side.

I dream of communities free from violence, where safety and dignity are guaranteed for all. I see women standing boldly in positions of power, and men standing proudly beside them, not as competitors, but as allies. I imagine a society where both boys and girls are encouraged to be the best they can be, without limits or labels.

A gender equal world is a peaceful, fair, and thriving world. It is a world where every person's potential can shine. I believe that through awareness, action, and unity, we can make this dream a REALITY.



A Story By
Peculiar Istifanus

Age: 15

TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE

My dream of a gender equal world is big and important to me. It is the best dream I have ever had because I believe it will make life better for everyone.

In my dream, boys and girls, men and women, have equal rights, equal chances to speak, to lead, to dream, and to succeed. It is a world where your gender does not decide your future. No one will say, "Men should work in government while women belong in the kitchen." Instead, people will be judged by their ability, their qualifications, and their character, not by whether they are male or female.

Right now, in the world we live in, many women are treated unfairly. They are sometimes denied opportunities or disrespected just because of their gender. This is wrong. There is a proverb that says, "If you throw a stone in the market, it might hit someone you love." If we treat women badly, we are hurting our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, and our friends.

I respect women because my mother is a woman, and I know how much she has done for me. The same respect I give to her, I believe every woman deserves. Women and men should work together, side by side, helping each other to build a better world.

In my dream of a gender equal world, everyone is treated with dignity, kindness, and fairness. No one is silenced, no one is looked down on, and no one is held back because of their gender.

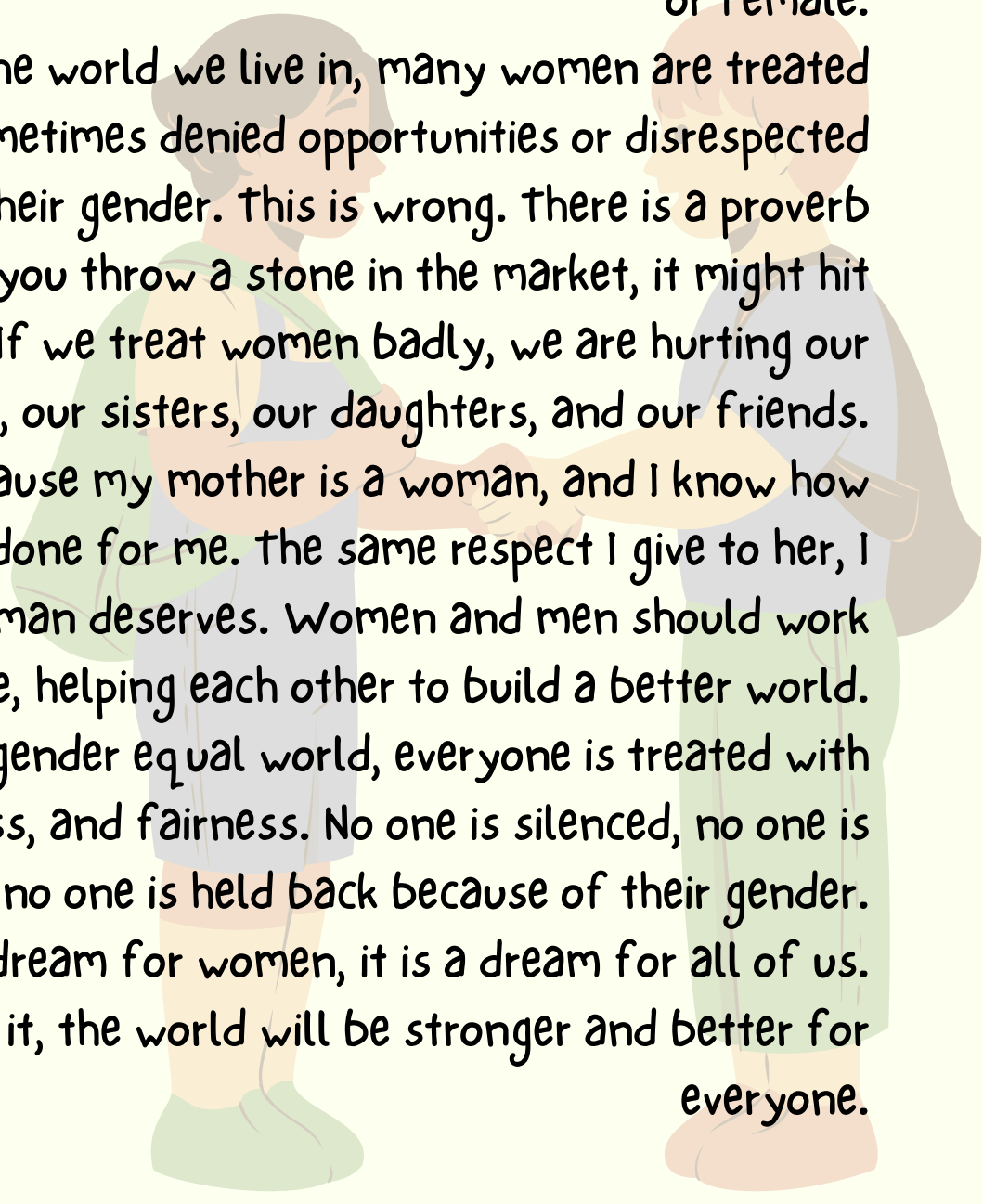
This is not just a dream for women, it is a dream for all of us. When we achieve it, the world will be stronger and better for everyone.



A Story By

Isaac Kufreabasi

Age: 15



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

My name is Umar Abubakar. I live in an IDP camp, and I have seen many hard things in life. I have seen families lose their homes, children lose their schools, and dreams cut short. But I have also seen something that should never happen—girls being left behind simply because they are girls.

My dream of a gender equal world is a dream where this changes. It is a dream where boys and girls are given the same chance to go to school, to work, and to follow their dreams. Being a woman does not mean you must always stay in the kitchen, and being a man does not mean you cannot cook or take care of the home. Men and women are equal, and both should share responsibilities.

In the world we live in now, people often believe men have more power than women. But I have seen women who are stronger, braver, and more hardworking than many men. In my dream, no one is judged by whether they are male or female, only by their abilities, their character, and their effort.

Jobs like carpentry, bricklaying, and farming are not only for men. Cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children are not only for women. We are all human, and God created us equal.

I want to remind my fellow Nigerians: do not hold women back. Let boys and girls work together, learn together, and share responsibilities equally. In the IDP camp where I live, I know that when men and women help each other, everyone is stronger.

This is my dream of a gender equal world—a world where no child's future is decided by their gender, and where everyone has the chance to rise, no matter where they are born or what challenges they face.



Umar Abubakar

Age: 14

A WORLD BUILT ON RESPECT

My name is Faith, and I live in a women's shelter. I have seen how life can be hard for women and girls, and that is why my dream of a gender equal world is so important to me.

In my dream, boys and girls are treated the same. People are judged by their character, their abilities, and their actions, not by whether they are male or female. Women and men have the same rights, opportunities, and responsibilities. Everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

In this world, girls go to school just like boys. Women can work in any job they choose whether it is in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or anything else. They can lead, make decisions, and have their voices heard. No one tells them they must stay at home just because they are women.

A gender equal world also helps boys and men. They would be free to choose the work they love, even if people say it is "for women." They could show their feelings and ask for help without being laughed at.

In my dream, people of all genders work together. They challenge stereotypes, stand up for fairness, and help each other succeed. Gender equality is not just for women. It is for everyone. When everyone is given the same chance to reach their full potential, the whole world becomes better.

I believe this dream is possible. If we all work together, we can create a future where every person is treated with respect, has the same opportunities, and can live without fear or limits. That is my dream of a gender equal world.



A Story By Faith Nwosu
Age: 16

THE WORLD I DREAM OF

When I wake up every morning, the first thing I hear is the sound of children laughing boys and girls, running together to school. In my world, school is for everyone. No girl stays back to fetch water all day while the boys learn. No boy is told he must "act tough" and never cry. Everyone learns together, plays together, and dreams together.

I walk through the market and see men and women working side by side both selling, both doing construction, both fixing roads, both caring for children. No job is "only for men" or "only for women." Everyone does what they are good at, and everyone's work is valued.

In my community, there is no fear. Girls walk safely to school, and boys walk safely home at night. There is no violence, no abuse, no one being treated as less. Respect is given to every person, no matter who they are.

Even in my family, things are different. My father cooks dinner sometimes, and my mother makes decisions about our future. They share responsibilities and teach us that fairness begins at home.

This world feels peaceful, fair, and full of hope. But the truth is, this world does not exist yet. I still live in an IDP camp where many girls do not go to school and where boys are told not to show their emotions.

This is why I dream of a gender equal world. Because I believe that one day, if we work hard enough and work together, the world I have just described will not just be in my imagination but it will be real.

A Story By Usaini Usman
Age: 13





By Destiny Ozor

Age: 15

EQUALITY IS HUMAN

Imagine a world where your gender never decides your future. A world where every person, boy or girl, has the same chances to learn, to lead, and to succeed. That is the world I dream of. My dream of a gender equal world is built on mutual respect, understanding, and empathy. It is a world where girls and women are valued and empowered to reach their full potential, and boys and men are encouraged to express their emotions and fears without judgment.

In a gender equal world, stereotypes would disappear. Women would be equally represented in leadership positions across all industries. Men, on the other hand, would feel free to pursue careers in nursing, teaching, and other fields where most women are. The idea that certain jobs or activities belong to only one gender would no longer exist. In my dream world, girls would be encouraged to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Women would have equal access to education and economic opportunities, and they would be paid fairly for equal work. They would also have strong voices in decision-making, both in their personal lives and in professional spaces.

Gender equality is not just a women's issue but it's a human issue. In a gender equal world, men and boys would benefit from a healthier understanding of masculinity. They would be able to express emotions and vulnerabilities without fear of judgment or ridicule. Men would be supported as caregivers and have equal access to parental leave and childcare benefits.

Respect would be a basic value upheld by everyone. People would treat each other with dignity, regardless of gender. Harassment, violence, and discrimination would not be tolerated, and anyone who engages in such acts would be held accountable.

WHERE DIGNITY BELONGS TO ALL

Imagine a world where everyone is treated equally, no matter if they are a boy or a girl. A world where everyone enjoys the same opportunities, rights, and freedoms. This is my dream of a gender equal world.

In this world, girls can play sports, become leaders, and pursue any career they choose. They can be doctors, scientists, engineers, or artists, just like boys. Boys, on the other hand, can cry, laugh, care for others, and take care of kids at home without fear of being judged. They do not have to fit into certain laid-down rules or norms.

In a gender equal world, everyone is valued and respected. People are judged by their abilities, actions, and character, not their gender. This means that everyone has an equal chance to succeed and reach their full potential.

I believe that a gender equal world would be a happier and more peaceful place. People would feel free to be themselves, without fear of judgment or discrimination. They would be able to follow their passions, build their talents, and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

To make this dream real, we must start by treating everyone with kindness and respect.

We must support and encourage one another, believe in ourselves, and work together to create a society where equality is normal.

In conclusion, my dream of a gender equal world is a place where everyone enjoys the same thing. I believe that if we all play our part, this dream can one day become real, and we will all live in a world where dignity and equality are for everyone.

By Chidinma Nwosu
Age: 13



I like fixing things: wires, engines, machines. When something stops working, I always believe it can be repaired. I think the same way about our world. Gender inequality is a problem, but I believe it can be fixed too.

In my dream of a gender equal world, boys and girls get the same chances to do what they love. If a girl likes repairing engines or building robots, people should cheer her on, not laugh at her. And if a boy wants to be a nurse, a teacher, or stay home to care for his kids someday, that's fine too. Everyone should be respected for what they do, not judged by whether they are male or female.

In this world I dream of, boys and girls learn together, work together, and share responsibilities. No one says "this is for boys" or "that's for girls." At home, in school, and in leadership, everyone has a voice. Education is one of the best ways to make this happen. If we teach both boys and girls about equality, respect, and teamwork, we can start changing things early. Girls should be encouraged to go into science, technology, or engineering if they want. Boys should learn that showing kindness and emotions doesn't make them weak it makes them human. I also think the media should do better. We should see more strong, smart women and caring, respectful men in movies and shows. What we see every day shapes how we think, and that can help change people's minds.

My dream world is one where everyone feels safe and respected – where no one is left out or made to feel less because of their gender. I know it won't happen overnight, but if we all work together and challenge unfair ideas, we can fix this.

Because just like a machine, the world works better when every part every person, is treated equally.

FIXING WHAT'S BROKEN



By Benjamin Joseph
Age: 17



BUILDING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER

In this world, women and men share responsibilities and decision-making roles in all areas of life, including politics, business, education, and family. Stereotypes and biases that limit potential are dismantled, and individuals are free to pursue their passions without societal constraints.

Education plays a vital role in achieving this equality. By promoting inclusive curricula, encouraging girls and women to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and teaching boys and men about empathy, respect, and consent, we can build a more equitable society.

In my dream world, everyone has the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and live without fear of discrimination or limitation based on gender. By working together to challenge old norms and promote inclusivity, we can make this vision a reality.

In my country, Nigeria, gender equality is still growing. For example, Nigeria has never had a female president or head of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) (Atleast to the best of my knowledge). However, through the contributions of individuals and advocacy for gender equality, more women are now holding leadership positions than before. This progress shows that when we commit to equality, we move our country forward and open the door to development.

By Andrew Gawsu
Age: 17

The background of the entire image is a large, faint illustration of a diverse group of people. In the center, a man and a woman are shaking hands. The man is wearing a light green jacket over a yellow shirt. The woman is wearing a grey hijab and a yellow patterned dress. Surrounding them are several other people of various ages and ethnicities, all smiling. The overall tone is positive and inclusive.

What does a Gender Equal World Looks like to You??




Join the Conversation by leaving your thoughts using the [#agenderequalworld](#)

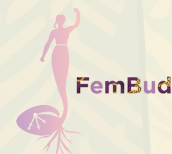


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Published by

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Designed by
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