

TEN ACTIONS FOR A MORE EQUAL WORLD

UNITED NATIONS, New York – Vast inequalities threaten economies, communities and nations, says [The State of World Population 2017](#), UNFPA's flagship report.

Yet these inequalities are not simply a matter of wealth. Social, racial and political inequalities are all mutually reinforcing, trapping people in a cycle of poverty and marginalization, says the report. And around the world, [gender amplifies these inequalities](#). Too many women and girls do not have access to [sexual and reproductive health care](#), which means they are unable to receive family planning services or antenatal care, and may be forced to give birth in unsafe conditions. Pressed into motherhood [early](#), or repeatedly, these girls and women are more prone to [maternal injuries, disabilities or even death](#). They are less able to finish their educations or enter the paid workforce, leaving their families poorer and their children with bleaker futures. These inequalities could undermine the [global community's goals](#) on ending poverty, eliminating preventable deaths and achieving sustainability. But there are clear steps that can help level the playing field. Below are 10 actions to create a more equal world.

- 1. Meet all commitments and obligations to human rights agreed in international treaties and conventions.**

All countries must uphold the rights to work, education and health – including reproductive health. These rights are articulated in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), the [1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development](#), as well as other widely agreed human rights documents.

- 2. Tear down barriers that prevent young women from accessing sexual and reproductive health information and services.**
- 3. Reach the poorest women with essential, life-saving antenatal and maternal health care.**
- 4. Meet all unmet need for family planning, prioritizing women in the poorest 40 per cent of households.**
- 5. Provide a universal social protection floor, offering basic income security and covering essential services, including maternity-related benefits and support.**
- 6. Bolster services, such as childcare, to enable women to enter or remain in the paid labour force.**
- 7. Adopt progressive policies aimed at accelerated income growth among the poorest 40 per cent, including through stepped-up human capital investments in girls and women.**
- 8. Eliminate obstacles to girls' access to secondary and higher education, and to their enrolment in courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.**
- 9. Accelerate the transition from informal jobs to formal, decent work – focusing first on sectors with large concentrations of poor, female workers – and unblock women's access to credit and property ownership.**
- 10. Work towards measuring all dimensions of inequality and how they influence each other, and strengthen links between data and public policy.**

Want to know more? Here is the link to UNFPA page. <https://shar.es/1PuzIH>

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