IWD 2026

SCHOOLS FUNDRAISING AND EDUCATION KIT

#BalanceTheScales

For ALL Women and Girls

www.unwomen.org.au

UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Australian Government
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Gaganjit Singh, UN Women

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SIMONE CLARKE

Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to create change, and classrooms are where ideas for a better world start. This Schools Kit is designed to help teachers and students explore gender equality through real stories, thought-provoking activities, and opportunities for action.

This year's International Women's Day theme, ***Balance the Scales***, is all about fairness – making sure everyone has equal and fair access to justice, opportunities and rights, regardless of their gender. Around the world, too many women and girls still face barriers that stop them from reaching their full potential. Together, we can help change that.

Inside this kit, you'll find inspiring stories of women and girls creating real change in their communities, as well as activities that encourage discussion, empathy, and action. These resources are here to spark big ideas and show how every person – no matter their age – can play a role in building a fairer world.

Teachers, thank you for leading these important conversations in your classrooms. Students, thank you for bringing your energy, curiosity, and creativity to them. By learning, questioning, and taking action, you are helping to ***Balance the Scales*** and shape a future where equality and justice belong to everyone.

Simone Clarke

Simone Clarke
CEO
UN Women Australia

ABOUT UN WOMEN

UN Women Australia exists to raise funds for and awareness of UN Women's work to end violence against women, promote economic empowerment, advance women in leadership, and ensure women's participation in peace processes to accelerate gender equality worldwide.

UN Women is the United Nations agency for women's empowerment and gender equality, delivering programs and transforming policy to enable a brighter future for women and girls in more than 100 countries worldwide. Created in 2010, UN Women brought together various UN agencies working on gender quality and the empowerment of women. These international agreements below guide the work of UN Women.

1979

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

CEDAW sets out the rights for women in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural fields across 16 articles and provides a definition of discrimination against women. The 'women's bill of rights' is a cornerstone of all UN Women programs. 189 countries have committed to take: *all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men*.

1995

BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (PFA)

Developed at the 4th world conference on women in Beijing, China, it sets out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in life across 12 critical areas of concern including poverty, health, armed conflict, power and decision-making, violence, and the girl child. Adopted by 189 governments, member states review and report on their progress every 5 years.

2000

WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY (WPS)

The UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognised the need to implement different gender perspectives in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and humanitarian planning. There have been seven subsequent resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and together, the 10 resolutions represent a critical framework for improving the situation of women in conflict-affected countries. Based on four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and peacebuilding & recovery.

ABOUT IWD

International Women's Day (IWD) occurs annually on March 8 to celebrate the wonderful achievements of women. 1911 marked the very first IWD as 30,000 women protested across Europe to fight for equal working rights. Australia's first IWD was held in 1928 and nowadays, it provides an opportunity to shine a light on the progress still to be made in achieving full gender equality.

#BalancetheScales this International Women's Day.

Balance the Scales is a promise that every woman and girl - regardless of background or identity - deserve to be safe, respected, and free to shape their own lives.

Yet in 2026, too many across Australia and the world are still denied that fair go. Discriminatory laws, harmful practices, and gender-based violence remain widespread, while structural barriers continue to block access to justice.

These barriers are not inevitable. They were built - and they can be dismantled.

Equality is not about advantage for some; it's about dignity, safety, and fairness for all. When women and girls stand equal, families are stronger, workplaces are fairer, communities thrive, and society becomes safer for everyone.

True progress requires more than words. By breaking down these barriers, we can build a future where equality is no longer the exception, but the rule.

This International Women's Day let's Balance the Scales - together.

FIRST NATIONS WOMEN

First Nations women in Australia face unique and complex challenges in accessing justice. Over-representation in the criminal justice system, intergenerational trauma, and limited access to culturally safe legal support are just some of the barriers.

Justice for First Nations women must be community-led and grounded in respect for self-determination. By centering First Nations women's voices and leadership, and ensuring communities play an active role as partners in change, we can drive meaningful change and create pathways to justice that are culturally informed and truly inclusive.

ACCESS

Across the globe, women and girls continue to face significant barriers to accessing justice - barriers rooted in discriminatory laws, social stigma, and under-resourced legal systems.

From gender-based violence and discrimination to economic injustice and sexual violence, the challenges are complex and deeply rooted. In Australia, legal protections exist on paper, but the justice system often fails women in practice. Many women face high costs, delays, and limited legal aid. Legal processes can retraumatise, dismiss, or fail to support survivors. Additionally, women from marginalised communities - including First Nations women and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds - face additional disadvantage.

Achieving real justice means transforming our systems - globally and here at home - to be accessible, survivor-centred, and truly responsive to the needs of every woman and girl.

CLIMATE

Climate change is not gender neutral. In the Pacific and across our region, women and girls are on the frontlines of climate impacts - yet are often excluded from legal protections and decision-making. Displacement, loss of land, and increased vulnerability to violence compound the challenges they face.

Australia plays a critical role in supporting regional leadership and resilience, ensuring women's voices - including those from First Nations and culturally diverse backgrounds - shape solutions to both climate and justice challenges. Climate justice is gender justice.

JOIN US THIS IWD

This International Women's Day, UN Women Australia invites you to be part of a national movement for justice. Hear from an extraordinary line-up of leaders, legal experts, advocates, and changemakers who are driving real change for women and girls.

Our 2026 events will showcase trailblazers working to reform legal systems, eliminate discriminatory laws, support survivors, and champion First Nations and Pacific women's justice. You'll hear powerful stories from human rights lawyers, survivor advocates, climate justice leaders, and those shaping Australia's regional role in gender equality.

This is your opportunity to be inspired, to connect with a community committed to action, and to stand together with women and girls in building justice and equality for all.

Find out more at **iwd.net.au**

Ryan Brown, Cameroon, UN Women

DID YOU KNOW?

3.9 billion

Globally, 3.9 billion women and girls live in countries with at least one law restricting their economic opportunities and access to justice.
(World Bank, 2025)

119.3 million

Today 119.3 million girls remain out of school, down by 5.4 million since 2015
(UN Women, 2024)

11%

Conviction rates for sexual assault in Australia remain low — just 11% in NSW — highlighting how justice is out of reach for most survivors.
(NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2025)

34x

First Nations women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-Indigenous women in Australia.
(AIHW, 2023)

1 in 3

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, yet most will never seek formal help or justice.
(WHO, 2023)

less than 40%

Women make up less than 40% of judges globally, and in some regions, less than 10%.
(UN Women, 2023)

28 countries

While 28 countries have no female justices at all, only 24 percent of constitutional court justices globally are women.
(UNODC, 2021)

158 million

Climate Change could push 158 million more women into extreme poverty by 2025
(UN Women, 2024)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

#BalancetheScales #ForALLWomenAndGirls #IWD2026

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Amanda Voisard, Youth-led Climate Strike, UN Women

NATIONAL SCHOOL COMPETITION

Calling students across the country!

Are you ready to shape the future of justice and equality in Australia?

UN Women Australia invites **years 10-12 students in ACT, QLD, NSW, VIC and WA** to take part in a powerful national competition that puts climate justice and gender equality front and centre.

This is your chance to be heard, be recognised, and be part of real change.

YOUR MISSION - ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Imagine you are a senior decisionmaker in Australia, working with partners across the AsiaPacific on climate action. You know that women in the region are often the most affected by climate change but are also key leaders in building community resilience. If you could choose one initiative to support both gender equality and climate justice in the region, what would it be and why?

CHOOSE YOUR FORMAT:

- A 200-word written pitch (Word or PDF)
- A 30-second video message (.mp4 or .mov)

KEY DATES

LAUNCH: 11 October 2025 (International Day of the Girl)

DEADLINE: 23 January 2026

SUBMIT TO: communications@unwomen.org.au
(attach signed parental consent form if sending a video entry)

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

- **One winner per state** will be invited (with 4 guests) to attend:
  An official **International Women's Day Lunch** in their state
  Or **Parliamentary Breakfast** for ACT winners
- **Meet & greet with VIP speakers**
- **Official certificate presentation at event**
- **2-week remote work experience** with UN Women Australia
- **Social media spotlight** for state winners and also shortlisted entries

WHY IT MATTERS

This competition connects young Australians with policy makers, amplifies youth voices, and supports Australia's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

WHETHER YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT CLIMATE, JUSTICE, OR EQUALITY—THIS IS YOUR PLATFORM TO LEAD, INSPIRE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

START THE CONVERSATION IN YOUR CLASSROOMS TODAY.

T&Cs

Competition is open to all year 10-12 students in ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC and WA 2. All submissions must be sent to communications@unwomen.org.au by 23 January 2026 3. All shortlisted entries and state winners will be notified on 30 January 2026 4. One winner from each state will be selected and will be invited to attend an official International Women's Day lunch in the state they reside in 4. The winner is permitted to bring four guests to the lunch 5. Transport costs to the event for each winner (and 4 guests) will be covered up to the amount of $2,500.

CASE STUDY

WOMEN-LED GROUPS STRENGTHENING DIGITAL ACCESS AND DEFENCE AGAINST ONLINE HARASSMENT

In Southeast Asia, women-led civil society organisations (CSOs) are at the forefront of advocating for gender equality and human rights. But as their work becomes more visible online, many face significant challenges from technology-facilitated violence.

A 2024 study found that 73% of these CSOs experienced online harassment, 71% faced trolling, and 61% were victims of doxing (the sharing of private information without consent). These forms of abuse aim to silence women's voices and limit their participation in digital spaces.

For women-led CSOs in Cambodia, these threats are particularly pressing.

Chhun Sokchan, from the women's rights group Klahaan explains, *"As organisations advocating for women's rights, we face harassment and hate speech all the time. It's part of the job, but it shouldn't be normalised. ... I hope we keep working together and stay true to our feminist values as we build a safer digital future."*

PIC ABOVE: Members of the youth group Breakthrough (from left) Ung Rong Phaltevy, Sinoun Poev and Bodalin Heng, shown in Phnom Penh on 2 July 2025, are among activists of women-led Cambodian civil society groups facing increasing online risks. UN Women recently organised a workshop to bolster the cybersecurity skills of these groups. Photo: UN Women/Lim Sophorn

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

UN WOMEN PROUDLY WORKING ACROSS THE GLOBE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

To address the issue, UN Women, with support from the Australian Government's Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program, brought together 28 representatives from 12 CSOs in Cambodia for a workshop on cybersecurity capacity building. The training combined practical sessions with e-learning tools, helping women activists strengthen their digital skills and protect themselves from online abuse.

Pho Sophea, from Rainbow Community Kampuchea said,

> *"We learned practical things like how to create strong passwords and back up important documents - essential not just for ourselves but for our organisations."*

Cambodia's rapid digital growth has outpaced digital literacy, with only 30% of the population having basic digital skills. This gap creates fertile ground for cyberattacks like identity theft, impersonation, data breaches and ransomware.

By equipping women-led groups with knowledge and tools, these initiatives are not only strengthening digital resilience but also empowering activists to reclaim online spaces. Their efforts ensure that women's voices continue to be heard and that future generations of women activists in Cambodia inherit safer, more inclusive digital environments.

Support from UN Women and the Australian Government is making a real difference. By building vital cybersecurity skills, resilience, and solidarity among women's rights defenders, these initiatives ensure activists can continue their vital work for gender equality safely and effectively.

Fitria Rifkii, UN Photo

Janet Ramo, former President of the Auki Market Vendors Association (left) in the Solomon Islands, and her sister Naomi (right). Photo: UN Women/Caitlin Clifford.

WOMEN VENDORS
LEADING MARKET TRANSFORMATION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the heart of Malaita Province, Solomon Islands, the sound of market life begins before sunrise. Joy Frank, a determined vendor, paddles her canoe across the lagoon each morning to reach Auki Market. Her journey is more than physical, it's symbolic of the resilience and leadership women are bringing to Pacific markets through UN Women's Markets for Change program.

Launched in 2014, Markets for Change spans 26 markets across Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The first phase (2014–2021) was funded by Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, with a second phase (2022–2026) supported by the Australian Government. To date, the program has reached over 50,000 market vendors—transforming markets into spaces of empowerment, leadership, and recognition for women.

Joy Janet Ramo, former President of the Auki Market Vendors Association, recalls how things used to be: "The market manager began to listen to us, which had never happened before. We asked questions about market fees and created opportunities for women to save their money and improve their businesses." Under her leadership, women vendors negotiated fairer fees, improved sanitation, and built stronger relationships with market authorities.

Training sessions have equipped women like Joy Frank with practical skills, from food safety to financial literacy.

> *"Just by practicing proper food handling, my sales have increased,"* she says, smiling as she arranges her produce. These small changes have led to big results: cleaner markets, safer spaces, and thriving businesses.

The program also introduced accommodation centres for rural vendors, offering safe overnight stays and doubling as hubs for workshops on climate resilience and customer service. These centres have become places of empowerment, where women gather not only to rest, but to learn, lead, and lift each other up.

This transformation is not just about infrastructure, it's about dignity, agency, and visibility. Women vendors are no longer operating on the margins; they are shaping the future of Pacific markets. As the program continues to grow, it offers a blueprint for inclusive development—one where women's voices lead, traditions are respected, and economic empowerment is rooted in community strength.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How can Indigenous women lead market development while preserving cultural knowledge?

Reflect how programs like UN Women's Markets for Change can go beyond inclusion to empower Indigenous women as decision-makers. Consider the importance of respecting traditional practices, community leadership, and their unique contributions.

Vendors from Auki Market, Solomon Islands, participate in a Markets for Change workshop.
Photo: UN Women/Marni Gilbert.

EMPOWERING RESILIENCE THROUGH SOLAR IN VANUATU

UN Women/VANWODs Solar Project

When a powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck Port Vila in December 2024, the village of Melemaat was plunged into darkness. Power and water were cut off, and families scrambled to find ways to stay connected and preserve food. But one home became a lifeline for the entire community.

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Leslie David, a mother and entrepreneur, had recently installed a solar energy system through the VANWODs Solar Project, supported by UN Women's Women's Resilience to Disasters program funded by the Australian government. Her home, powered by the sun, became a hub of hope. "They came running to charge their phones. They came with small meats to keep in the freezer," Leslie recalled. "The freezer was a very big blessing."

Leslie didn't just offer help; she offered dignity. Charging phones and storing food for just 100 vatu, she supported her neighbours while earning a small income to repay her solar loan. "It made life easier for my family and the whole village," she said. Her solar-powered freezer, lights, and phone chargers became essential tools for survival and solidarity.

Leslie is one of 60 women who have benefited from the VANWODs Solar Project, which provides concessional loans for solar systems that power small businesses and homes. These systems are more than appliances; they're resilience tools. Sewing machines, lights, and freezers help women generate income, care for their families, and support their communities during crises.

"When I saw that everything was intact after the earthquake—my solar system, my freezer—I thanked God for protecting it," Leslie said. "I knew this was a blessing for me and my community." This story shows how renewable energy, when placed in the hands of women, becomes a force for resilience, leadership, and recovery.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How can renewable energy projects empower women to lead disaster recovery and build community resilience?

Think about how access to solar power helped Leslie support her village after the earthquake. Consider the role of women in managing resources, providing care, and leading local solutions during crises.

DISCUSS WITH FRIENDS...

How can schools and communities in Australia support young women and activists in staying safe online, especially when facing harassment or trolling?

Explore how digital tools and cybersecurity training help women-led organisations in Cambodia, like Klahaan, protect themselves and continue advocating for gender equality.

How can learning about activism in Southeast Asia inspire young Australians to take action on issues like gender-based violence, digital safety, or climate justice?

Consider how storytelling, digital media, and global solidarity can amplify underrepresented voices and drive change both locally and internationally.

Sri Lanka Jeewan, Vithanage Vimukthi Maduwantha Raveendra Rohana, UN Women

HOW YOU CAN HELP

UN Women Australia is calling on students, teachers, and schools to **take action** and Gather for Good to raise funds this IWD**. Raising funds is a tangible way your school can support programs and policy that will set change in motion.**

You can Gather anytime in March to celebrate IWD and **no matter how big or small your event is, it's all about coming together, taking the chance to connect, raise awareness, and fundraise for a better, more equitable future.** You can register to Gather for Good here.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS:

1 Ribbons, Ribbons, Ribbons

A simple and impactful way for students to support gender equality and fundraise, is through **selling IWD ribbons**. Schools simply let us know they'd like to participate, and we'll send a box of 50 beautiful IWD ribbons—ready to go. Each ribbon is sold for $5, and every box includes a QR code for easy, cashless payments.

Follow these simple steps to get started:

STEP 1: Decide how many ribbons your school will be able to sell at school and in the community

STEP 2: Email fundraising@unwomen.org.au with the following information by 9 February

a) Teacher contact name and email
b) School Name and mailing address
c) Number of ribbon boxes requested

STEP 3: Ribbons will be sent to your school

STEP 4: Sell ribbons anytime in February and March!

This initiative is a fantastic opportunity for student leaders to take charge - organising sales, promoting the cause, and managing funds while championing gender equality. **With no upfront costs, minimal admin, and a strong social message, this fundraiser is perfect for busy schools looking for an easy win.**

2 Screen a Film

Host a film screening in your school hall one day in March and choose from a selection of inspiring films inspiring films such as *Hidden Figures*, *Barbie*, *Legally Blonde*, and *He Named Me Malala*—each offering strong messages of gender equality, resilience, and empowerment.

Charge a $5 entry fee, with donations made via your school's online fundraising page, and treat attendees to a cup of popcorn as they enjoy the show.

Films are a compelling way to explore themes of leadership, equity, and social change, making this initiative both educational and impactful. It also provides a platform for student leaders to take the reins: from promoting the event and managing logistics to hosting discussions and encouraging peer engagement. A film screening is a fun, thoughtful way to raise funds while deepening students' understanding of gender equality.

3 Hold an afternoon tea on Wednesday 4 March and stream UN Women Australia's IWD live events

Did you know UN Women Australia's official IWD events are available for live free-streaming to all secondary schools? Take advantage of this and host a school-wide afternoon tea to coincide with the livestream from 12 - 2.30pm.

Ask volunteers to bake and donate sweet treats, and sell them to raise funds while students and staff tune in to hear from inspiring speakers championing gender equality across industries and communities.

An initiative that brings the global IWD movement into your school in a meaningful and memorable way that also presents a wonderful way to foster student leadership and involvement from the wider school community.

To access the livestream, simply email tickets@unwomen.org.au for your free virtual pass.

JC McIlwaine, Sudan, UN Photo

HOW CAN DONATIONS HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS?

- Expand educational opportunities for girls in underserved regions.
- Support programs that protect women and girls from violence.
- Empower women to access leadership roles and financial independence.
- Provide resources for health, safety, and career development.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HOW CAN DONATIONS HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS?

$44
could help provide a young migrant worker in Asia with financial literacy training so she can open her own bank account and save for her future.

$89
could provide two Syrian Refugees with access to an education.

$179
could provide a woman entrepreneur in Myanmar with training and coaching to grow her business.

$298
$298 could provide vocational training and business skills to 20 refugee and asylum-seeking women survivors of human trafficking in Serbia.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Reaching gender equality helps everyone in communities, not just women and girls. **Here are some activities suitable for primary aged children that can help guide conversations about equality in an age appropriate and engaging way.**

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

STORYTIME AND DISCUSSION

Suitable for grade 4 - 6

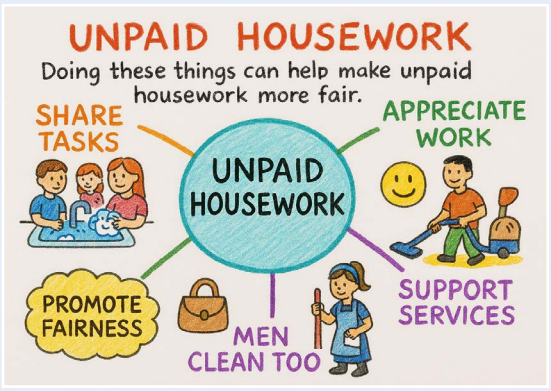
Choose one book from the recommended list that aligns with your students' interests and reading level. Before reading, introduce the theme equality, explaining why it's important to learn about diverse experiences and voices. As you read, **encourage students to notice how female characters overcome challenges, break stereotypes, or make a difference in their communities.** After reading, facilitate a class discussion with open-ended questions like: ***"What did you admire about the main character?", "How did the story challenge ideas about what girls can or can't do?", and "What can we do to support fairness and equality in our own lives?"***

Use student responses to connect the story to real-world issues and inspire thoughtful reflection.

- **"The Breadwinner" by Deborah Ellis**
- **"Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World" by Kate Pankhurst**
- **"Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition" by Margot Lee Shetterly**
- **"Front Desk" by Kelly Yang**
- **"Matilda" by Roald Dahl**

MIND MAPPING FOR A FAIRER WORLD

Suitable for grade 3 - 6



Students will create a mind map to explore solutions to big challenges such as **unfair pay**, **unpaid housework**, **lack of women leaders**, or **climate change**. Starting with a central topic (e.g., "Unpaid housework"), they'll branch out with ideas using **words, drawings, symbols**, or **magazine cut-outs**. Each mind map should include a **title** and a **1–2 sentence explanation** of how their ideas promote fairness. Students will then present their maps to the class to spark discussion and reflection.

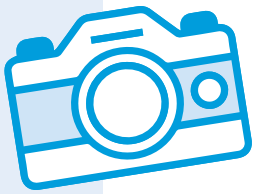
This activity encourages creative thinking and social awareness. Guide students to choose a challenge they care about and brainstorm practical or imaginative solutions. Use visuals to make ideas engaging and accessible. Presentations help build confidence and foster peer learning around themes of equality and empowerment.

FRIENDSHIP BRACELET MAKING:

Suitable for grade 2 - 4

Provide students with **beads, threads, and charms** to design friendship bracelets featuring empowering words or phrases like **"HOPE," "EQUALITY,"** or **"BALANCE."** Set aside a morning for crafting, and encourage students to **trade bracelets at lunch** to spread messages of unity and empowerment throughout the school. Each bracelet becomes a symbol of connection, kindness, and shared values.

This hands-on activity fosters creativity, self-expression, and peer connection. Encourage students to choose meaningful words that reflect fairness and empowerment. Trading bracelets helps build a sense of community and reinforces positive values in a fun, memorable way.



SHARE

Snap pics of students doing one of these activities and share them with our UN Women team. Include quotes or testimonials on how the activities helped lift the veil on gender inequality for your students. We can't wait to hear from you, email events@unwomen.org.au

Sri Lanka Jeewan Vithanage Vimukthi Maduwantha Raveendra Rohana, UN Women

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

MEDIA ANALYSIS:

Students will analyse **advertisements, news articles, or media campaigns** that address women's access to justice—such as legal rights, representation, safety, or equality under the law. They'll explore how these portrayals shape public understanding of justice-related issues and discuss whether the media promotes fairness or reinforces barriers. The activity encourages critical thinking about how media influences societal attitudes toward gender and justice.

This activity develops students' media literacy and awareness of gender justice. Provide a range of media examples and guide students to examine how women's legal rights and access to justice are portrayed. Encourage discussion around stereotypes, gaps in representation, and the role of media in shaping public opinion. This is a powerful way to connect classroom learning with real-world issues and inspire advocacy.

SIMULATION/ROLEPLAY

Students participate in a simulation where they roleplay individuals from different backgrounds and scenarios, focusing on women's access to human rights such as education, healthcare, freedom of movement, and equal pay. The activity includes scenario briefs, guided discussion, and a reflection segment to encourage critical thinking about systemic barriers and solutions.

Divide students into small groups (4–6 per group).

Provide each group with a role brief that details a specific character's situation. For example:

- A teenage girl from a rural community without access to secondary education.
- A single mother in a low-income job fighting for equal pay.
- A young environmental activist running a grassroots organisation.
- A young woman advocating for reproductive healthcare in a region with limited access to services.

Scenario Simulation:

Groups will act out their assigned roles in a simulated decision-making process, where they advocate for their character's access to a specific human right.

Each group will receive "resource cards" representing obstacles and opportunities (e.g., "Denied Access to Education," "Support from Local NGO," "Government Restriction on Speech").

Groups must navigate these resources to achieve their character's goal while engaging with other groups or a "governing body" (played by a facilitator or teacher).

Head to our website to download resource cards for this activity.

ALLYSHIP ACTION PLAN

Encourage students to reflect on their individual role in promoting gender equality and create a personal action plan, with emphasis on how boys and men can be a part of the solution and thrive from the outcome.

- Begin with a short video or article on male allyship (e.g., men supporting women in leadership, standing against violence, or challenging stereotypes).
- Facilitate a discussion: *"What does it mean to be an ally?"*
- Put students in mixed gender groups to write an **"Allyship Action Plan"**:
- One thing they'll do to support gender equality at school
- One stereotype they'll challenge
- One way they'll support a friend or peer

This activity promotes reflection, accountability as well as a visible commitment to change.

TIME CAPSULE

Students write a letter to themselves, 5 years in the future and seal it in a vessel. Follow and print the template from our website to guide the student's letter writing process. The purpose of this exercise is for students to reflect on how gender equality affects them today and how they hope it will be in 5 years' time.

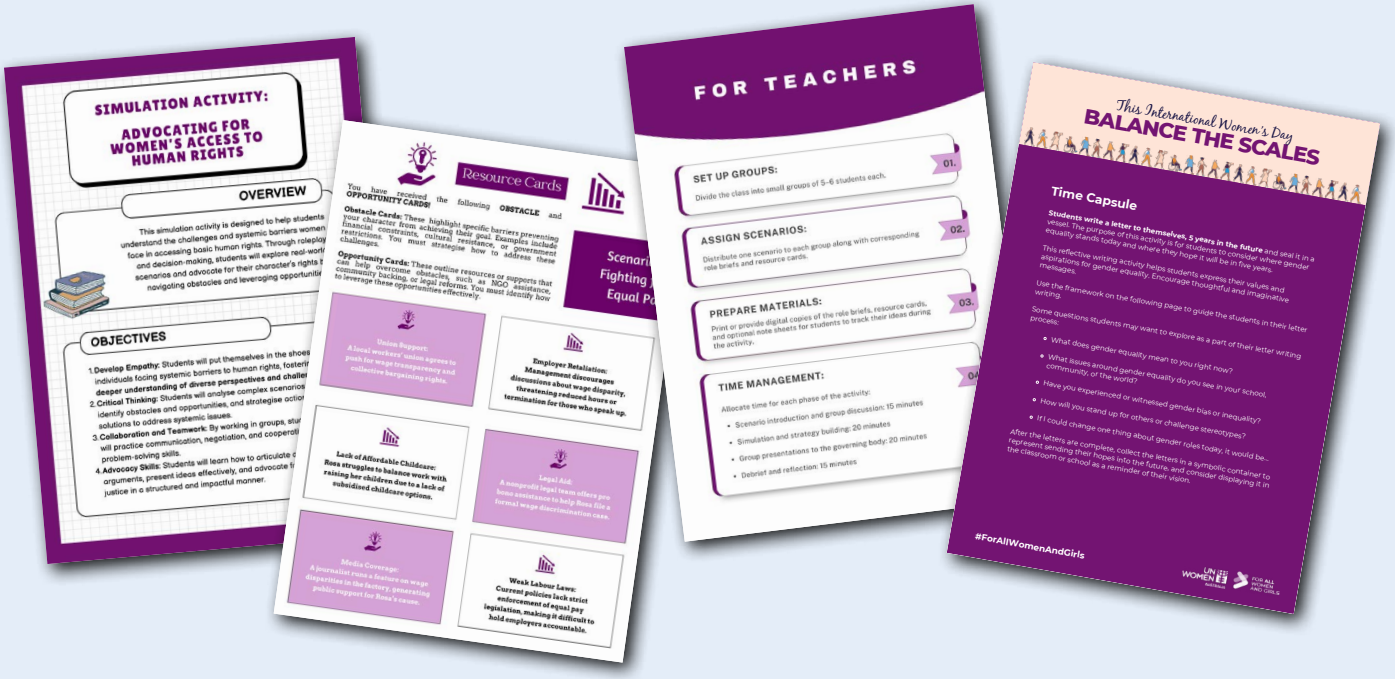
This reflective writing activity helps students express their values and aspirations for gender equality. Encourage thoughtful, imaginative messages that inspire future generations. Collect the letters in a symbolic container to represent sending their hopes into the future, and consider displaying it in the classroom or school as a reminder of their vision.

PHOTO BOOTH

Using the hashtag #BalanceTheScales, design accessories for a photobooth. This could include a social media profile frame, headbands, hats, glasses, signs, speech bubbles or wherever your imagination takes you!

Once complete, students will use the accessories to take photos and share them on the school's or their personal social media platforms tagging UN Women Australia on Facebook and Instagram.

This activity blends creativity with social awareness. Encourage students to design bold, meaningful accessories that reflect themes of justice, equality, and empowerment. Set up a photobooth space in the classroom or school, and guide students in sharing their creations online using the hashtag **#BalanceTheScales**. Tagging UN Women Australia helps connect students to a broader movement and amplifies their voices



Eskinder Debebe, UN Photo

THANK YOU

Balance the Scales is a promise that every woman and girl - regardless of background or identity – deserve to be safe, respected, and free to shape their own lives.

Your fundraising efforts are helping to turn these promises into progress, bringing women and girls closer to a future where they are safe, empowered, and able to reach their full potential. Together, we are challenging barriers, amplifying voices, and creating opportunities for women and girls to thrive as leaders and changemakers.

Thank you for being part of the movement to
#BalanceTheScales
and for your commitment to creating a brighter, more equal future for everyone.

Darfur UN photo Albert Gonzalez Farran

STAY CONNECTED

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https://www.youtube.com/user/UNWomenAustralia

UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA