The persistence of gender inequality globally causes women and girls in every country to suffer in varying degrees in political, economic, social, and domestic spheres. Violence against women and girls is prevalent worldwide at all ages. Discriminatory laws and legal gaps continue to prevent women from enjoying their full human rights. Additionally, the socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected women, pushing the world further off track from achieving gender equality by 2030.

The adverse impacts of global gender inequalities range from poor physical and mental health to chronic poverty and abuse. A universal lack of data on women’s lives and women’s underrepresentation in leadership and decision-making positions in both public and private sectors means their needs are often overlooked and misunderstood.

Bold new partnerships, like White Ribbon Alliance joining forces with Women’s March Global, are strengthening global, intersectional organizing efforts to position women’s rights as human rights and to promote compassionate, respectful maternal healthcare. Meanwhile, hyper-local solutions are emerging, like small women’s collectives common in Southeast Asia pooling their resources to improve health, education, and other services in their communities. These efforts highlight how centering the shared suffering of women and working together in integrated, coordinated ways on global and local fronts can accelerate change.

The connection between women's human rights, gender equality, socioeconomic development and peace is increasingly apparent.

— Mahnaz Afkhami