

2023

Manifesto on:

# MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



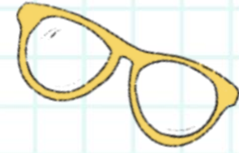
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
WHAT IS ABLEISM? .....	6
WHAT IS AGEISM? .....	6
NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE BARRIERS? .....	7
<b>WHAT IS A PRINCIPLE? .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES .....	14
FOR CONVENERS.....	14
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>19</b>



# INTRODUCTION

---



## Letters from the editors

“ This Manifesto elaborates on the work that we have done during the past three years collectively with the Generation Equality (GEF) youth movement. In 2021, the youth constituencies of the GEF put together the Young Feminist Manifesto (YFM) as a response to the exclusionary and oppressive practices faced by youth in the space. Unfortunately, we know youth with disabilities and their agendas are seldom represented in these spaces - so, we created this document to bring together a response to the exclusion of youth with disabilities, in collaboration with the Global Network of Youth with Disabilities and UNFPA.

Through efforts like this document, we want to push for substantive participation of young people in all our diversity. This entails us making meaningful contributions that reflect our collective vision as youth. As a unified movement, we raise apprehensions about the allocation of funding towards establishing new networks of youth, rather than strengthening and reinforcing the existing ones that are already well-organized. An organization being youth-led does not automatically guarantee its affiliation with or alignment to the global-south youth movement's agenda, and we appeal to funders to critically assess the youth-focused initiatives they support.

As a person with a neurodevelopmental disability and a human rights-lawyer actively involved in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) since 2014, the disability rights and justice agenda holds particular importance for me and the vision of the leadership of the Youth Coalition. We recognize the exclusion faced by young people when attempting to engage in advocacy spaces: the diversity of our experiences as youth is not considered. Youth is not a homogenous group! Youth and feminist movements come from many different backgrounds and experiences: one such intersection that is often overlooked is the reality of youth with disabilities.

Welcome, and we hope that this document represents a tool to build a more inclusive global feminist movement!

**EUNICE GARCIA**

Executive Director, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

“ As a queer person with multiple disabilities, the Youth Coalition has been such an affirming space for me to learn and unlearn. What many of us don’t realize is that we are so valuable and our engagement is powerful!

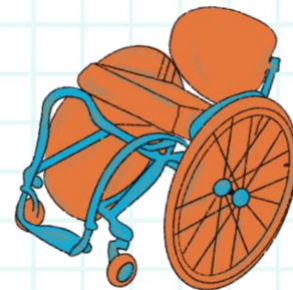
As an activist, I’ve been invited to many spaces that are exhausting: it feels like people don’t care about really getting to know our community, like I was included merely as a token, with my contributions being disregarded or undervalued. This gives our communities an illusion of youth engagement while failing to incorporate our genuine experiences and recommendations. Afterwards, I see many organizations collecting clout about the diversity of representation they had.

This kind of exclusionary practices treat youth with disabilities as sources of information and inspiration, without offering meaningful support, collaboration, or reciprocity. We are tired of being seen as inspiration porn, which involves exploiting personal narratives of young individuals with disabilities for inspiration or as marketing tools. This reduction of our experiences to mere anecdotes undermines our agency, and fails to acknowledge the complex realities we navigate daily.

To create meaningful change, it is essential to ensure young individuals with disabilities are empowered to shape policies and practices that affect their lives. As a young person with disabilities, advocating for meaningful youth engagement in advocacy spaces is not just a passion but a necessity. Stakeholders need to understand that by implementing this manifesto, they are making their spaces more sustainable and enriching. By including individuals with disabilities, spaces become more representative of the full spectrum of human diversity. This fosters creativity, innovation, and problem-solving, leading to better outcomes and a broader range of ideas”.

## **SHIVANGI AGRAWAL**

Member of the Global Network of Youth with Disabilities and  
Member of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights



# What barriers do young persons with disabilities face to engage meaningfully in advocacy spaces?



The barriers that young persons with disabilities face when engaging in advocacy have to do with how power dynamics and systems of oppression manifest themselves. At YCSRR we define power as the capacity to decide over or influence the distribution of resources, labor, agenda-setting power, and important decisions. Power can manifest in three different ways:

## 1. VISIBLE or DIRECT POWER:

Visible power is the kind of power we easily see every day. It's about clear, explicit decisions made by people in leadership positions or institutions. It determines who participates, who is excluded, the structure of budgets, and big decisions. It is the kind of power that we see in the hands of political leaders, police, military, and the judiciary.

## 2. HIDDEN or DIRECT POWER:

This is the kind of power that is exercised behind the scenes, also called agenda-setting power. Agenda-setting power allows groups or people to decide what issues are important and which are not, even without having the explicit right to do so.

## 3. INVISIBLE POWER:

This is the most complex form of power because it involves how people think and feel about themselves and the world. Ideology is a very prevalent form of invisible power, as it supports social norms, ideas, and beliefs that uphold social systems of oppression. Ableism and Ageism are two value systems that are particularly important for youth with disabilities, as they play a big part in exclusion from high-level advocacy spaces. However, other systems of oppression such as sexism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, and colonialism also affect our engagement negatively.

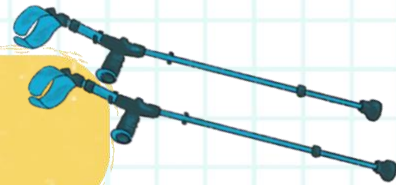


# What is ABLEISM?

**Ableism** is a value system that establishes a hierarchy between bodies: those it considers “normal” are at the very top, ranked through standards of appearance and ability. People with bodies that deviate from this norm (because of disability, illness, or challenge-imposed standards of health or aesthetics) are systematically excluded, marginalized, and discriminated against.<sup>1</sup> That is, we are given a markedly different treatment from others whose bodies are considered “normal”.<sup>2</sup>

Ableist ideas are behind a lot of the barriers that young persons with disabilities face when trying to engage meaningfully in advocacy spaces. For example, the idea that persons with disabilities are not capable of leading on our own agenda means that we are rarely consulted directly or perceived as experts in our own reality, or that caregivers speak for us. Sometimes inadvertently, and sometimes purposefully, youth with disabilities are excluded.

# What is AGEISM?



**Ageism** is a value system that establishes a hierarchy of people based on their age. Thus, the way that we think of people, how we feel about them, and how we engage with them change based on how valuable we perceive them to be in the age hierarchy. This often affects children and young people who are trying to engage in decision-making spaces: we are seen as inexperienced and incapable when in reality we are the ones who know best what we need. However, ageism also affects elderly people, who often see their autonomy questioned and threatened as they age. In summary, ageism puts adults above people on both ends of the age spectrum: on one side above youth and children, and on the other side above elderly people. Even though addressed separately in this section, ableism and ageism are often intertwined. They also overlap with other systems of oppression, such as racism and sexism.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rachel Adams (ed.), Benjamin Reiss (ed.), David Serlin (ed.) - *Keywords for Disability Studies*-New York University Press (2015).pdf

<sup>2</sup><https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/346/54/PDF/G1934654.pdf?OpenElement>

# Now, Let's talk about the barriers?

Now that we've discussed power dynamics and systems of oppression like ableism and ageism, we can map out how they show up as barriers for young persons with disabilities in our activism and advocacy, and why these recurring issues make the spaces exhausting.

## 1. LACK OF AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH:

Intersectionality is a lens through which we see the world, and ensure to take into account the overlapping situations of privilege and oppression that people face. An intersectional approach goes further than just making sure you have checked all the boxes for inviting folks from historically marginalized communities: it means that the entire space should be in detriment systems of oppression like racism, ableism, transphobia, and colonialism, among others. Not taking this into account when designing advocacy spaces, means that historically marginalized communities remain excluded.

## 2. COLONIAL DYNAMICS AND WHITE SUPREMACY IN ADVOCACY SPACES:

When we talk about colonial dynamics, we talk about Global North-South dynamics that follow and enhance the power differentials present between powers with a past as colonizers and colonized. An example of this is how, in a lot of SRHR feminist spaces and disability spaces, leadership tends to be white and from the global north. Another way in which this shows up in advocacy spaces is through ideas of who can legitimately occupy these spaces, and who is thought of as an expert. These systems privilege post-secondary degrees, academia, etc., and devalue lived experiences, situated knowledge, and ancestral knowledge.



For young people with disabilities from the global south, colonial dynamics further exclusion.



### **3. EXTRACTIVISM<sup>3</sup> OF EXPERIENCES OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES:**

Adult stakeholders often seize the knowledge of young persons with disabilities in advocacy spaces, without meaningfully engaging us. This is an extractive practice, where the experiences we have doesn't benefit us or the community, yet is used to legitimize the diversity of spaces and events. Information is extracted from us without being incorporated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects and policies. We are called upon to give our views as youth and persons with disabilities, but then the decisions are taken by people without disabilities. Our participation is taken lightly and often used only to demonstrate the diversity of a space in a report. We might be given a seat at the table, but still have no say. Our ideas and opinions are not taken into account. These are all tokenistic practices backed up by ableism, and they make it very difficult, frustrating, and tiring for young people with disabilities to actively participate in decision-making spaces.

### **4. INSUFFICIENT ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES:**

Often, the advocacy spaces and decision-making spaces where choices about the lives of young people with disabilities are made, are severely lacking in accessibility. This represents an extra barrier for folks with disabilities to engage. An example of this is infrastructure not being adapted to the needs of all: distances between conference spaces not being taken into account can be challenging for people with a physical disability whose mobility needs are not met. When trying to engage, we often face harrowing physical requirements that don't take diversity into account. In a lot of global south countries, general infrastructure is not in good shape, which affects young persons with disabilities disproportionately. Another example is the fact that a lot of meetings are virtual: in an attempt to cut costs, spaces are held via the internet, but there isn't always the support to make sure everyone can engage - such as image descriptions, sign language interpreters, live closed captions, etc.

### **5. LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS YOUTH:**

Even though the right of young persons with disabilities to be meaningfully engaged in the decisions that affect us is enshrined in the CRPD, a lot of stakeholders and decision-makers don't make an effort to implement this. In our experience, there is also no accountability for how funds are used and who they reach. This lack of transparency and follow-up doesn't allow youth with disabilities to participate, as donors, other organizations, and the disability movement as a whole are not held accountable for their use of resources and the implementation of CRPD principles.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://copadas.cl/2021/07/10/que-es-el-extractivismo-academico/#:~:text=Mar%C3%ADn%20Torres%20acla%C3%B3%20que%20el,en%20pro%20de%20tu%20beneficio%E2%80%9D> .



## 6. LIMITED RESOURCES AND LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE YOUTH-LED MOVEMENT:

Another barrier for youth with disabilities to engage meaningfully is the lack of access to resources. Resources touch on capacity building, skills, internet access, and economic resources. On the one hand, we face financial barriers to accessing services like education and health, which affects our ability to participate in decision-making. Young people generally have limited access to resources, but in the case of youth with disabilities, this is compounded and exacerbated. Attending conferences requires money for tickets, emergencies, registration, accommodation, caregivers, visas, and meals. Oftentimes we cannot afford that, so we can't meaningfully engage in these spaces. This is how the economic exclusion of youth with disabilities represents a barrier to our advocacy and activism.

## 7. LACK OF SPACES FOR YOUTH ORGANIZING AND MOVEMENT BUILDING:

There are not a lot of spaces for youth with disabilities to organize and create alliances! Facing larger advocacy spaces becomes easier when we are unified as a movement, and for that, we need disability-led and youth-led spaces to create community. Until that happens, it will remain a challenge to engage.

## 8. NOT ENOUGH SAFE SPACES & YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES:

Lack of safe spaces when trying to engage is a huge barrier that keeps youth with disabilities out of decision-making processes. In the best-case scenario, recurring issues make the spaces exhausting and make us not want to return. Other times, we need to be aggressive to even have our voices heard, but then are tone-policed by other people in attendance. In the worst-case scenario, such as in conflict zones, we receive threats and intimidation. We are told that our safety cannot be ensured because of our disability. This lack of safe spaces -in all different levels and variations according to context- is also a barrier that keeps meaningful engagement very challenging.



# Principles of Meaningfull Youth Engagement

---

Meaningful Youth Engagement (MYE) is a participatory process in which young people's ideas, expertise, experiences, and perspectives are integrated within programmatic, policy, and institutional decision-making.

The objectives of MYE are:

- Shifting power dynamics that affect young people's political participation
- MYE must be oriented to strengthening the youth movement

It is key to understand that Meaningful Youth Engagement is implemented in the process - we believe that throughout the process is where we can best share power with young people. What's important is that MYE practices are included in the methodology rather than just in the outcome, and that they are applied regularly in each process that involves young people. Meaningful youth engagement is not just about how many young persons are engaged; it is about how much power those young people are granted.

Meaningful youth engagement also means taking the necessary steps for ALL groups of young people to be able to engage, especially those that tend to be at the margins and excluded from decision-making spaces. Thus, MYE practices are closely linked to disability justice and inclusion, as well as dismantling other systems of oppression.



# What is a PRINCIPLE?

A principle is a basic rule, with general and abstract content, meant to dictate general guidelines for behavior. In this case, the principles of Meaningful Youth Engagement are meant to serve as a compass for action: they can be applied in a variety of ways, depending on the context, but should always be respected in order for youth to be meaningfully engaged.

In a nutshell, if you ever wonder “Is this practice aligned with meaningful youth engagement?”, you can use the principles below to help you answer that question.

PRINCIPLE	WHAT IS THIS PRINCIPLE ABOUT?	HOW DOES IT HELP DISMANTLE POWER DYNAMICS?
YOUNG FEMINIST LEADERSHIP	<p>Feminist leadership is key as it challenges traditional power dynamics in leadership. It is collaborative, relational, transformative, consensus-building, open, intersectional, inclusive, and participatory and aims to challenge patriarchal dynamics to which marginalized folks have been subjected, such as youth, women in all their diversity, persons with disabilities, racialized folks, and many others.</p>	<p>This principle challenges hierarchical structures and top-down decision-making. Young Feminist Leadership helps to dismantle entrenched ageist and ableist beliefs and practices. It is a practice of sharing power inclusively.</p>
CO-OWNERSHIP	<p>Ownership of projects, initiatives, and political spaces should be held between young people and non-youth stakeholders, within the various decision-making bodies.</p> <p>Co-ownership recognizes that decision-making spaces, projects, and initiatives must be democratized as they also belong to youth in all their diversity.</p>	<p>Co-ownership challenges the idea that only some people and some experiences are valid in certain spaces. This is super important for making sure that youth with disabilities are present in all stages of a project.</p>

## SUBSTANTIVE PARTICIPATION

This essentially means having appropriate representation of youth in all their diversity in decision-making processes, projects, and initiatives—without tokenization.

Appropriate representation means involving representatives from the youth/disability movement and allowing them to consult with their constituencies. Efforts directed at engaging young people at an individual capacity can't be called MYE.

Young activists can do more than just "have a seat at the table." Our voice should be incorporated in the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages. Our roles should include decision-making, leadership, strategizing, and co-ownership of the development and shaping of the project so that we can move from descriptive to substantive representation of youth.

This principle challenges tokenism and it's a good way of ensuring that the needs of youth in all their diversity and the priorities of their movements are taken into consideration.

Substantive participation is important to ensure that the voices of the youth movement and their agendas are incorporated and that we aren't there just to meet a diversity quota.

## TRANSFORMATIVE DESIGN AND LEADERSHIP

This principle addresses the need for sustainable change and addresses the root causes of inequalities. It challenges and shifts power and helps dismantle systems of inequality and oppression.

Transformative design means experimenting with how we participate, being creative, exploring innovative ways to include everyone, and making sure that we don't settle for the way things have always been done.

Transformative design and leadership aim to change traditional ways in which decision-making processes operate.

It also allows sharing agenda-setting power, co-ownership, and co-design of spaces.

## CO-CREATION

This principle helps us tap into our collective knowledge. It is about sharing the power or even giving away power to young people in all our diversity so that we can do things differently. It challenges top-down thinking and changes how we approach ownership.

In practice, co-creation plays an important role in sharing agenda-setting power and defining how processes should look to engage young people in all their diversity.



## INTERSECTIONALITY

Intersectionality is a lens through which we can view the overlapping dynamics of privilege and exclusion, to effectively address the systems of oppression that affect young people's participation. An intersectional approach means taking into account that value systems like ableism, sexism, and racism condition our participation.

Intersectionality must not be understood as a synonym for inclusivity and checking boxes of how many identities are represented in a space. All the actions of a space need to be aimed at dismantling systems of oppression, which challenges pre-existing power dynamics.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is transparency in decision-making, as well as sharing outcomes and results. We need an enabling environment to allow youth to hold stakeholders accountable.

Youth-led accountability gives the power back to us, as it allows us to be the ones to decide whether the interventions held are working to strengthen our rights and benefit us directly.

## FLEXIBILITY

Young people organize differently, and advocacy spaces need to adapt to the realities of youth organizing. As a best practice, there should be flexibility in all stages of decision-making as this allows young people to shift to new approaches and adapt to new modifications when the need arises throughout decision-making, and to adjust to the needs of youth organizing.

Flexibility is a good way to ensure that the realities of youth in all their diversity are taken into consideration when engaging them in a process. This is so that advocacy spaces are responsive to everyone, and not just adult stakeholders.

## PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

A participatory process ensures everyone has a voice in decision-making, their participation is welcomed and respected, and the process is not dominated by any individual or group, or by a single point of view.

This principle is important as it allows sharing power and involving people from target groups to be part of the design, implementation, and MYE. It also fosters dialogue, collaboration, and movement-building.

# SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Now that we have touched on the principles of meaningful youth engagement, and the barriers that youth with disabilities face when trying to engage, we would like to share some concrete recommendations that you can follow to support our participation.

## For Young People with Disabilities

As a young person with a disability, the things in the list below can be specific points that you bring with you and present to organizers and decision-makers when you are invited into an advocacy space. These are concrete things that they can do to make your experience better! These are also things that they are obliged to do, because you have the right to political participation, according to Article 29 in the CRPD. Also, because organizations of young persons with disabilities were recognized by the CRPD Committee for the purposes of consultation and participation under articles 4.3 and 33.3 (GC7).



## For Conveners

If you are the convener or organizer of an advocacy space, these are things that you **SHOULD DO** to make sure that you uphold the right of youth with disabilities to be meaningfully engaged in decisions that affect us. Doesn't matter if you are a civil society representative, a government official, UN agency staff, or a local politician in your community - we urge you to take the following points into account when designing a space.



# Our recommendations

## **1. PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND YOUTH IN GENERAL, TO NAVIGATE SPACES.**

When we are first approaching high-level advocacy spaces as young people, they can be confusing and intimidating. This is especially true for folks with cognitive disabilities, as they can experience sensory overload. For youth with physical disabilities, navigating a space can also be quite challenging. That's why we recommend providing maps, ushers, or simply a point person to help youth navigate the space.

## **2. ENSURE THAT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.**

Information needs to come in a format that everyone involved can understand. Sometimes, this means procuring sign language and closed captions for an event for folks with a hearing impairment and information processing disorders, as well as providing image descriptions and braille options. Other times, it means writing easy-to-read materials, which are concrete and simple, and supporting both young people who aren't familiar with the space and neurodivergent folks to engage. This also ensures that youth whose first language is not English can engage with the information provided.

## **3. ENSURE THAT THE PHYSICAL SPACE IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.**

Infrastructure should be responsive for all types of bodies, through measures like providing alternatives to stairs, spacious seats and toilets, planning for service animals, and providing tactile guides.

## **4. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON ACCESSIBILITY.**



### **YC TIP**

*We always ask people to identify their own accessibility needs and reasonable accommodations. Remember, no one knows more about their own needs than youth with disabilities! We usually provide a Google form to participants before events, where they can outline their needs, and we'll do our best to provide an accessible space.*

## **5. BUILD INCLUSIVE BUDGETS.**

If you are implementing or funding advocacy, there needs to be a budget line for accessibility. It is expensive, so there should always be resources reserved for guaranteeing the basic human rights of youth with disabilities.

## **6. TAKE AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE APPROACH TO ENSURE THAT YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES TO ENGAGE PROPERLY**

Remember that youth with disabilities face a lot of economic exclusion, and do your best to take that into account when planning for our participation. That can look like support for the internet or data bundles, attendance, caregivers, accessibility, and reasonable accommodations.

## **7. FUND YOUTH-AND-DISABILITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES DIRECTLY**

Making young people go through I-NGOs and non-youth stakeholders for access to funding is not meaningful youth engagement. Make sure to support our grassroots, by-and-for organizations directly!

## **8. AVOID EXTRACTIVIST AND TOKENISTIC PRACTICES.**

It's important to take a step back and let youth with disabilities lead on their own agendas. Youth with disabilities are not just props to make your space more diverse - we need to be heard, our views incorporated, and we need to be part of the follow-up, as well as involved in implementation and accountability. The young people you work with also need to be connected to the movement, to represent constituencies of young people rather than just their own, individual experience.



### **YC TIP**

*Make sure that what you are creating with the knowledge that people have shared with you has the objective to benefit the community and strengthen the movement. Give it back and follow through!*



## 9. ALLOW YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO CO-LEAD!

### YC TIP



*Young people have different skills than non-youth stakeholders. It is important to have a conversation on how to leverage what youth partners and non-youth partners bring to the table. We can bring our creativity, resilience, innovation, and digital expertise. Non-youth partners can leverage funds, expertise, resources, and access to spaces and high-level stakeholders. Building meaningful partnerships with youth in this way is key.*

## 10. ENSURE THAT DESIGN OF THE SPACES AND PROGRAMMING IS PARTICIPATORY AND CO-CREATED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Make sure young persons with disabilities have agenda-setting power and are involved in co-designing spaces from the outset.

## 11. RESPECT YOUTH ORGANIZING BY ALLOWING ENOUGH TIME FOR CONSTITUENCIES TO PROCESS AND CONSULT INFORMATION, AS WELL AS PROVIDE FEEDBACK.

When young people are engaged, we must be there as representatives of a MOVEMENT, not just as individuals. So, it is important to allow time for youth to consult back with their constituencies and bring the perspective of the youth-and-disability movement. We need time to process, discuss, and generate consensus.



## 12. INVEST IN TRANSFORMATIVE DESIGN AND PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES.

Young people have been making an effort to transform what advocacy spaces look like for years. Inclusivity and meaningful youth engagement happen in the methodology, not in the outcome. So, creatively rethinking the processes through which we build advocacy spaces is key.

### **13. HAVE CLEAR AND DEFINED TIMELINES FOR DECISION-MAKING, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND EXPECTATIONS IN THE DESIGN METHODOLOGY.**

Make sure that youth have clarity in roles and responsibilities, expectations, and timelines - ideally, set these expectations in partnership with youth. Remember that youth organizing is generally volunteer-based and that young people have other responsibilities. Timelines and expectations must respond to the reality of youth organizing. Also, take into account that time looks and feels differently for youth with disabilities: be mindful of “crip time”, and challenge the speed at which advocacy spaces move to be inclusive of everyone.

### **14. MAKE SURE TO USE ANTI-OPPRESSIVE MESSAGING AND LANGUAGE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS.**

Messaging can challenge or reinforce power structures. Make sure that the messages you create don't build on the stigma and exclusion of youth with disabilities or any other groups of historically marginalized groups.



#### **YC TIP**

*create a social media toolkit if you are worried about language and messaging, to guide fold through talking about difficult topics. An excellent resource for anti-oppressive advocacy messaging is the Oxfam inclusive language guide.*



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The Youth Coalition would like to thank every single person who was involved in the creation of this manifesto - we couldn't have done this without you!*

A huge thank you to **UNFPA**, who believed in us and supported this project, specifically **Leyla Sharafi**, **Nathaly Guzmán Figueroa**, and **Kadambari Mainkar**, who worked closely with us to make this happen. We would also like to thank the **Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities**: specially **Ramisha Ijaz** and **Daniela Gordon**, who worked tirelessly over the past year to make sure our work was aligned and to move the project forward. Dani is also responsible for the fantastic editorial design of this document.

We would also like to thank **YCSRR's** staff and membership; **Shivangi Agrawal**, who invested their time and energy in this project at every stage; **Eunice Leyva García**, who brought her experience and knowledge, as well as her personal process with her disability to this document; **Juan Arboleda** and **Ryan Yevack**, who kept all the governance of the project in order; **Ruth Mbone Agala**, who supported with advocacy research and all of her knowledge; and **María León G.**, who took care of the programmatic work behind this document. We also want to thank **Tania Sánchez**, the illustrator who gave this document unique and beautiful images.

Finally, we want to highlight the contribution of the young activists with disabilities who participated in the Amplify your voice short course and provided their input for the collaborative creation of this document. They are **Abubakar Mumbu Idris**, **Achola Synthia Wanjiku**, **Adenike Fabusuyi**, **Anderson Foster**, **Aquayemi-Claude Garnett Akinsanya**, **Bartholomew Adamu Bondo**, **Bartholomew Okoudo**, **Charles Okadapau Emuria**, **Clement Kitila**, **Clive Eyimearelu Otaigbe**, **Doris Mukami Maina**, **Dorothy Mwendu Mueni**, **Dr. Lukong Hubert Shalanyuy**, **Dr. Mukuhwa Tanaka**, **Edwin Ndeda**, **Euphres Anyango Atinda**, **Faith Kioko**, **Farida Malome**, **Haiyae Ephantus Boro**, **Higenyi Stuart Cyprian**, **Jackline Ndungwa Waiharo**, **John Ndicu**, **Joseph Onyisi**, **Justus Kimilu**, **Kambale Maboko Alain**, **Kennedy Kimeli**, **Leku Sylvie Nakou**, **Lily Cherotich**, **Mercy Mubeezi**, **Meshack Sisenda**, **Michael Tela Nabwana**, **Muteti Mutunga**, **Mutimba Reagan Nambwaya**, **Newton Kinoti**, **Obedi Ombasa Ondieki**, **Patience Achieng**, **Ronny Obuolo**, **Tante Theresia Sirri**, **Trizah Lemiso**, **Tshepo Mafereka**, **Valary Olesia**, **Winfred Wanja Kirumia**, and **Winnie Koki Gitau**.

We are lucky to be part of such a powerful activist community!