# Table of Contents

**Vision and Mission**

**A bit of history**

**Foreword**

**Membership**

**Advocacy Highlights**
- RFSU Body Rights 2030
- Power, Progress and Change – We Found Plenty at Women Deliver 2019
- European Expert Group for Sexuality Education
- Inspire for the Future’ - Inspire Conference 2019
- 17th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development
- Nairobi Summit on ICPD25

**Projects**
- Systematic Approaches for the Equality of Gender
- Pharmacy access to Emergency Contraception in Europe
- The European Parliament, Our Ally

**Financial overview**

**Social Media Presence**

**Partnerships**

**Publications**

**Thank you**
Sexuality is accepted as a positive aspect in life and where the SRHR of young people are realized, young people have access to accurate information, as well as youth-friendly services and can decide freely and responsibly about all aspects of their sexuality and reproduction.

YouAct, the European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights is an independent organisation that aims to empower young people to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), by joining forces in Europe to make our voices heard.

We believe that active and meaningful youth participation is essential in creating a world, where:

- Sexuality is accepted as a positive aspect in life and where the SRHR of young people are realized,
- Young people have access to accurate information, as well as youth-friendly services and can decide freely and responsibly about all aspects of their sexuality and reproduction.

SRR are universal human rights, essential for better health and well-being. They ensure dignity, respect, equality, and integrity. Sexual and reproductive rights should apply to young people as much as they apply to adults. YouAct believes that it is crucial for young people to be aware of the full scope of their rights and entitlement.
YouAct was founded in 2004 to strengthen and unify the voices of European youth advocating for the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

YouAct as a pan-European youth network is a significant one since the European region provides a broader scope of opportunities for young people to be involved in policy development and decision making. This gives our organisation and our members a platform to build from and to ensure substantial and respectful youth engagement.

Nationally, members continue to experience different levels of opportunity for involvement. Therefore, YouAct aims to ensure a high level of youth participation in decision making on SRHR across Europe as a region and within the Council of Europe countries.
We are very pleased to introduce YouAct’s 2019 Annual Report, which demonstrates our members’ shared commitment to advance young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. This has been a very successful year for us. Our membership has expanded greatly over 2019 and we have made a number of notable achievements.

A major development has been the change of the Steering Committee. Anamaria Suciu and Anuki Mosiashvili stepped down from their positions as the Chairperson and the Internal Communications Officer respectively. The entire membership is thankful for Anamaria Suciu and Anuki Mosiashvili commitment to the network throughout the years, and it is a privilege to continue learning from them.

At our Annual General Meeting, we appointed Sophie Beria (Chairperson), Panayiotis Elia (Treasurer), and Eylem Dedeoglu (Internal Communications Officer). Later we welcomed Frida Gunnarson as Interim External Communications Officer.

The network’s success rests on the enthusiasm and dedication of our members. Our achievements are the result of the uncompromising values, professionalism, and innovation brought by them. However, YouAct has also faced some financial challenges in this time of shrinking resources, especially for youth-led and volunteer-fueled organizations. In order to address these issues, we are looking into ways to diversify our funding sources.

In summary, this past year has provided many new and exciting opportunities for us to advance the youth SRHR agenda on local, regional and international levels. We continue motivated for the journey ahead.
YouAct is an ever-dynamic youth-led organization where members can immerse themselves deeper in their areas of interest and establish their own working area. They can develop new areas of knowledge, collaborate with other members who are eager to support and provide complementing angles of SRHR as well as be a part of the larger SRHR community. In this way, our network is a collection of individual members’ vision and passion for SRHR under the broader organizational principles. Therefore, Youact is a living youth SRHR network which pools information and experience from young people of different countries, ethnicities, genders, age intervals, religions and cultural backgrounds, and transfers from one young person to another young person creating a collective understanding. In summary, our network could not exist without its members and we would like to thank every member for their attention and contribution to YouAct now and ever.

In 2019, YouAct welcomed 8 new members to its family:

- Beatriz Rötoli (Italy/ Brazil)
- Chantal Buerger (Germany/ Poland)
- Chenai Muchena (Denmark/ Zimbabwe)
- Carson Emma (Netherlands/ US)
- Katinka Goffin (Norway)
- Lucrezia Vittori (Italy/ UK)
- Margherita Logrillo (Italy/ Belgium)
- Maria Codina (Spain/ UK)
However, we had to say goodbye to a few members of the network as well. We would like to thank them and wish success in future endeavours:

- Serkan Kasapoglu (Turkey)
- Haralambos Drousiotis (Cyprus)
- Hawa-Idil Karakow (Denmark)

Finally, we would also like to thank our active members who have already dedicated several years of membership in YouAct:

- Anamaria Suciu (Romania),
- Anuki Mosiashvili (Georgia/Sweden),
- Camila Ochoa Mendoza (Sweden/Spain),
- Eimear Sparks (Ireland/Belgium),
- Laura Honders (The Netherlands),
- Martin Karadzhov (UK/Bulgaria)
- Gersi Gashi (Kosovo).
Reflecting YouAct’s values, during 2019 our members took part in exciting opportunities, advocacy events and youth engagement campaigns.

**RFSU Body Rights 2030**

RFSU (the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education) launched an ambassador programme funded by SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, aiming to educate the Swedish public on the importance of SRHR issues for global development and Agenda 2030. Adriana Pereira and Frida Gunnarsson attended a training in Stockholm to become ambassadors for the project and subsequently to hold trainings for youth political parties in Sweden on how abortion rights, comprehensive sexuality education and sexuality rights are crucial for global development.
The **Women Deliver 2019 Conference** took place on 3-6 June 2019 in Vancouver, Canada, and was the world’s largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women in the 21st century. More than 8,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists, and journalists gathered in Vancouver with the drive to accelerate progress for girls and women everywhere.

The conference presented new knowledge, promoted world-class solutions, and engaged a broad spectrum of voices. It focused on several issues from health, nutrition, education, economic and political empowerment to human rights, good governance, and girls’ and women’s agency and equality.

Our network was represented by two members, Anamaria Suciu, Women Deliver Young Leader and Anuki Mosiashvili, member of the Women Deliver Youth Engagement Working Group. Anamaria presented the latest [YouAct project funded by Generation Now](https://www.youact.org), who brought young advocates face-to-face with Members of the European Parliament. Anuki told her story about how she started community-based activism in her municipality to change narratives around sexuality education in Georgia and how she ended up doing youth-led advocacy at the European Parliament in Brussels.

On June 6th, YouAct and DSW co-facilitated a special event called “The Power of Community: Advocates from Europe”, aiming to bring European advocates together to network, identify common and specific goals and priorities and ways of collaborating as members of this community of practice.

You can have a glimpse into the conference by watching this [4-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example_video_id).
YouAct was invited to be a member of the European Expert Group on Sexuality Education. The Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) is a WHO Collaboration Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health that focuses on sexuality education for children and young people. The European Expert Group on Sexuality Education is formed by international experts in the field, with whom the BZgA works closely together. Amongst others, there are representatives from UNESCO, IPPF, Rutgers and several universities. YouAct’s role is to ensure that the youth perspective is also included. The aim of the expert group is to advocate for and promote holistic sexuality education, to develop documents and materials which support the implementation of sexuality education programs and to enhance the communication between different actors working in the field of sexuality education.

The central themes of the annual meeting in Cologne in June 2019 were the sexuality education for and the inclusion of children and youth with a disability, and dealing with pushback. Our member Laura Honders attended the annual meeting and took part in the buzz group that is reviewing the guidance document that is being written by Rutgers on sexuality education for children and youth with a disability in the WHO Europe Region.
The Inspire SRHR Partnership Conference “Inspire for the Future: A Journey towards Success” took place in Athens, Greece between 30 September and 2 October 2019. YouAct was present with six members.

Our network’s Chairperson, Sophie Beria, was one of the minds behind the organisation of the conference as the member of the Conference Organising Committee. She organised and co-facilitated Inspire’s Youth-Led Pre-Conference “New Perspectives for Change”, as well as led the workshop “Accelerating the promise towards Nairobi and beyond”, which was focused on the preparation towards the then-upcoming ICPD+25 Summit in Nairobi.

Frida Gunnarsson, our External Communications Officer, co-facilitated the “Nairobi Summit” discussion group during the Youth-Led Pre-Conference.

Eylem Dedeoglu, our Internal Communications Officer, and Laura Honders, our network’s longtime member, also contributed as workshop speakers: Eylem shared her expertise during the workshop “Medical abortion as a tool for women’s empowerment and reproductive justice: focusing on the positive aspects & recognising the challenges”, and Laura spoke about the history and current state of sexuality education for youth with disabilities during the “History of sexuality education for LGBT youth & youth with disabilities” workshop.
Eimear Sparks, another longtime YouAct member, played a key role as master of ceremonies of the conference and moderated the panel “Celebrating our successes, how far have we come as SRHR community and partners in bringing about change?”

Finally, the newest member of our YouAct family, Lucrezia Vittori, attended as the Events and Communications Officer in charge of the conference’s logistics and communications’ management.

In this Youth and SRHR video from the Inspire 2019 conference, YouAct chair Sophie Beria and member Eimear Sparks shared their insights on how to ensure that youth can have a meaningful place in discussions around sexual and reproductive health and rights.

17th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development

More than 100 delegates from 35 countries who are representing different stakeholders involved with SRHR, gathered in Berlin between 24 and 25 October 2019 for the 17th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development to discuss the mutual relationship between Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health (SRHR).

Panels were delivered on how UHC could be designed and implemented to lead to quality and affordable SRH services, how to adapt health systems of individual countries to comprehensive UHC, how to steer the SRH discussion from the political arena back to human rights centre and why an early investment in SRH within UHC is more cost-efficient than expected and should be considered by the governments.
The meeting highlighted the need for collaboration of stakeholders from different sectors and expertise during high-level discussions for Universal Health Coverage and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the current climate of increasing pushback. All participants agreed that the intertwined nature of UHC and SRHR presented an opportunity for SRHR stakeholders to collaborate with unexpected partners in discussions.

Our Internal Communications Officer, Eylem Dedeoglu represented YouAct in the 17th Dialogue and contributed in floor discussions regarding how to provide space for young people to be present and vocal in UHC and SRHR discussion. After that, the participants wrote their visions on postcards and placed them inside a suitcase during the 17th Dialogue, this suitcase was delivered to Dereje Wordofa of UNFPA at the end to be delivered at the Nairobi Summit.

Nairobi Summit on ICPD25

2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where 179 governments adopted a landmark Programme of Action which set out to empower women and girls for their sake, and for the benefit of their families, communities and nations.

The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 remembered those decisions and again mobilized the political will and financial commitments that are extremely needed to finally and fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

The outcomes of the Summit resulted in a report.

YouAct was represented by six members engaged at different capacities.

Our longtime member, Martin Karadzhov, gave two speeches about LGBTQ+ rights, Laura Honders attended and spoke on a side event organized by Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters and This-Ability Trust with a focus on SRHR and women with disabilities, Eimear Sparks spoke on several panels, representing SheDecides, and Anuki Mosiashvili both facilitated and spoke at different occasions about the importance of raising awareness on data protection and engaging more youth in the prevention of personal information abuse.

Our chairperson, Sophie Beria, represented our network tirelessly with stakeholders to build new partnerships and our interim external communications officer, Frida Gunnarsson spoke on a panel with Family Health Options Kenya on behalf of RFSU, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education.
Systematic Approaches for the Equality of Gender

Systematic Approaches for the Equality of Gender (SAFER) is a 2-year European funded project where the Association for the Prevention and Handling of the Violence in the Family (SPAVO) acts as a project coordinator with the support of Vilniaus University (Lithuania), Profexcel.Net Ltd (Ireland), Neophytos CH. Charalambous (Institute of Development) Ltd (Cyprus), CESIE (Italy), Grantxpert Consulting Ltd. (Cyprus), Hellenic Association of Positive Psychology (Greece), YouAct (United Kingdom) as partners.

The aim of the project is to educate children from a young age to build healthy relationships in order to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). The project aims at sensitizing and raising awareness of primary school teachers, students, parents and relevant stakeholders regarding GBV; and supplying teachers with relevant classroom material enabling them to discuss GBV in their classroom, challenge existing gender stereotypes and ultimately preventing GBV.

YouAct’s role and added value is to provide and highlight youth perspective throughout the entirety of the project.

In the consortium, we are the only youth-led NGO working in the field of SRHR and GBV, which is crucial when working closely with children and teachers.

This year YouAct presented SAFER to the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights in Brussels and for Petra Bayr, member of the Austrian parliament and long-term activist for gender equality. YouAct contributed to the overall dissemination and outreach of the project via social media and newsletters.

For more information about the project, you can visit its official website: [https://gendersafer.eu/](https://gendersafer.eu/).

Disclaimer This project has been funded with support by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020). This publication (communication) reflects the views only of the author. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.
Pharmacy access to Emergency Contraception in Europe

YouAct signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Consortium for Emergency Contraception (ECEC) and developed a survey project on pharmacy access of Emergency Contraception (EC) in Europe. As the overall aim of the project, we wanted to:

- Learn how EC products are placed and stocked in community pharmacies;
- Identify different EC counselling practices and models;
- Assess if different post-coital contraceptive choices are offered to individuals;
- Update information on the cost of EC pills.

This project is done with technical and logistical support from a research team from the University of Ottawa (Canada) and inspired by a similar initiative conducted by the American Society for Emergency Contraception (ASEC).

Following this collaboration, our Coordinator, Adriana Pereira, joined the ECEC Board as its youngest and newest member of the Board to ensure young people’s perspectives are included in their work and programs.
The European Parliament, Our Ally

Between December 2018 and April 2019 the project “The European Parliament, Our Ally” was implemented with a grant from Generation Now: Our Health, Our Rights partnership. The aim was to facilitate discussions between youth advocates and decision-makers regarding the importance for young people to have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information, education and services, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

The project included capacity-building, empowering young people to become effective advocates for youth SRHR and face-to-face meetings between youth advocates and Members of the European Parliament. Because YouAct believes in solidarity, we documented this initiative and developed a toolkit, aiming to share the lessons learnt with other interested organizations and support them in making the case on why the European Parliament should be taking access to CSE forward. The results of this successful project were shared at the Generation Now Pre-Conference at Women Deliver 2019.
The two charts below provide an overview of the annual finances for the tax year and annual accounts submitted to Company House.
In 2019, YouAct has grown its social media and online presence in relation to both followers and engagement. Along with Facebook and Twitter, we also launched a brand new Instagram profile to expand our reach!

In 2019 we reached 3001 likes and have 3010 followers! Over the year we gained 286 likes and 290 new followers!

248 new followers! We now have 1981 followers in total. Twitter impressions reached 57,764. 73 Retweets of our posts. 211 Likes on our posts.

Our new account now has 137 followers! Our post was reached 1048 times! Instagram impressions reached 1591.
PARTNERSHIP

Young Activist Network for Abortion Advocacy (YANAA)

YANAA is a new international network by and for young people that focuses on activism and advocacy in relation to safe abortion. In October, our longtime member Camila Ochoa Mendoza joined the YANAA organising team as the representative for the Europe region.

Steering Committee of the Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement Accountability System

Following the 2018 endorsement of the Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement, YouAct coordinator Adriana Pereira joined the Steering Committee in 2019 representing a youth-led organisation that endorsed the statement. The committee was set up to ensure that all 250 signatories implement the statement in their own work and advocacy activities. The Steering Committee for the Reporting Process is responsible for leading the reporting process of the accountability system with support from International Youth Alliance for Family Planning.
PUBLICATIONS

The European Parliament, Our Ally in advancing comprehensive sexuality education. Advocacy Toolkit. To view the publication, [click here](#).
THANK YOU!

A special thanks to Copenhagen Business School Feminist Society and CBS Film Society, for donating all the proceedings of the Danish documentary, Venus - Let's Talk about Sex by directors Mette Carla Albrechtsen and Lea Glob at the entirely volunteer ran Husets Biograf.