

Dear European decision makers,

It's a crucial year for shaping future relations between the EU and the African continent. We hope future relations will allow us, young people to engage and participate in matters that will impact our present and our future.

Here are some of DSW Youth Champions' thoughts and priorities on how to unlock the potential of the largest youth generation in history.

We look forward to working with you,

DSW Youth Champions.







Youth rights must be respected & promoted.

Supporting young people to be informed about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as being empowered to become active citizens are equally important in them realising their full potential! - Andrew Wachelon, Kenya



Youth must have access to education.

130 million girls worldwide are not in school. In many countries around the world, including Uganda, social and cultural norms still exist that reinforce gender stereotypes, preventing girls from attending school. This has to change! An extra year of secondary schooling for girls can increase their future wages by 10 to 20%. - Peace Kimono, Uganda



Youth must be healthy.

HIV has claimed more than 32 million lives so far. We want to be the generation that sees the end of HIV & AIDS. Through reshaping healthcare, engaging young people and through the development of innovative tools, delivered by the community at the community level – I am confident we can succeed! - Eddie Kimani, Kenya



Youth voices must be heard

If we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we have to ensure that youth are empowered to raise our voices and advocate for policies that ensure a bright future for our generation! - Charles Reuben, Tanzania



Youth must be equal.

We must stand up for the rights of girls around the world, and fight for our right to freely make decisions about our health, our bodies, and our futures. - Mercy Kioko, Kenya



Youth must be economically empowered.

No nation can enjoy a sustainable and inclusive economy if young people do not have access to decent jobs. Too often youth - especially young women - are not able to avoid unintended pregnancies, can not access child care and suffer from violence such as forced marriage. They need to understand their rights and have access to sexual and reproductive health to be economically independent. - Yordanos Wolde, Ethiopia