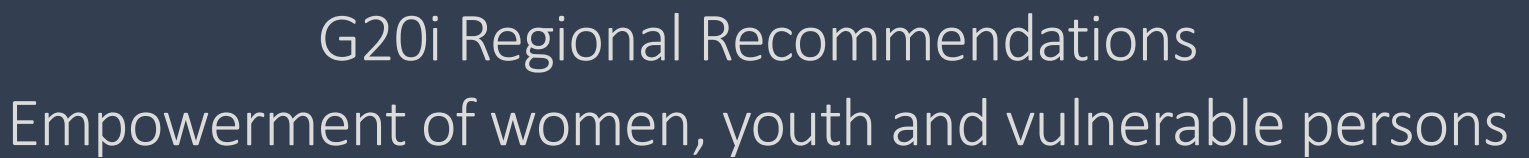


Work in progress and under revision



G20 Interfaith Forum

Bringing Faith and Policy Together



G20i Regional Recommendations

Empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable persons

In order to achieve full inclusion at all levels of society in decision making processes, it is necessary to include and empower youth and women by increasing their access to knowledge. Exclusive power structures and decision-making mechanisms must be overcome so that relevant knowledge and up-to-date skills can make the youth employable and allow them to actively participate as citizens in their societies. Interreligious dialogue principles, skills and techniques can be incorporated within existing education mechanisms to help facilitate inclusion in ways that promote life-long learning and advance respect for difference, acceptance of pluralism and encourage social harmony.

Between June to September 2020, a series of Regional Consultations took place in 6 regions: Africa, Arab region, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. These gatherings produced thematic recommendations that are collected in this document.

Asia

Recommendations on Gender

1. Equal education attainment must be prioritized.
2. Faith inspired perspective on early marriage, equal opportunity, gender based violence, etc highlighted in education and through civil society activism.
3. Training on gender equality for both men and women.
4. Deeper engagement of faith traditions by women must be more formally encouraged so that women can acquire religious authority and becomes spokespersons for religion.

Recommendations on Youth

1. Youth need to be educated towards tolerance, beyond religious practice and towards effective non-verbal communication such as mindfulness, mindful language
2. Youth need to be familiar with global issues and priorities- such as transnationalism, displacement, refugee concerns and citizenship rights.
3. Youth voices must receive centre stage where their perspectives, aspirations and challenges are actively solicited by policy makers.
4. Create avenues for youth participation in research, activism and internships so that they know how to engage real life situations and negotiate challenges productively and meaningfully.

Arab Region

Recommendations

1. **The agreement of religious leaders and religious institutions amongst each other and with policy-makers upon encouraging leaders in the Arab region to develop (reinforce) institutions and grievance mechanisms which allow addressing human rights violations and corruption; guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities; and monitoring and evaluating results.** This would contribute to: achieving social cohesion by reinvesting in social rights and in a cohesive society; building an Arab edifice of shared and social responsibilities; strengthening representation and democratic decision-making, and expanding social dialogue and civic engagement; building a secure future for all.
 - a. Encourage countries to restructure their national legal and political systems in order to address all forms of human rights violations and all manifestations of corruption in the political and administrative sectors, while developing policies that enshrine justice, transparency, responsibility and accountability.
 - b. Strengthen the role that religious institutions and leaders are – and may further play – in preventing/counteracting all forms of human rights violations and corruption.

Europe

Recommendations

1. Structural inequality and gender inequality

- a. Governments implement policies to abolish discrimination against working mothers and fathers regarding access to work, including abolishing the gender pay gap after the first child.
- b. Governments implement policies to improve the balance between work and private and family life, especially for single parents.
- c. Governments work with religious leaders and communities and civil society in addressing gender misrepresentations, discrimination and violence.
- d. Governments encourage religious leaders to interpret their religion in such a way that it does not pave the way for a possible justification of any violence against women and girls (including inhuman or degrading treatment; the so-called “forced marriage” that entails forced conversion; and other crimes such as abduction, rape and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); or the use of any type of sexual violence as a method of war).
- e. Governments are encouraged to work closely with religious leaders and communities in advocating for health workers and other essential workers’ fair salaries and working conditions.
- f. Religious institutions and FBOs are encouraged to implement gender equality strategies, while respecting the principle of autonomy of religious institutions and FBOs, and their ethos.. Governments promote and implement policies that enable companies to employ young people, people with disabilities, people of different ethnic or national origins, and people over 50, who might struggle to find work in a post-pandemic economic recession

2. Refugees, migrants and trafficking

- a. Governments continue their efforts to uphold the access to international protection, including asylum, taking into special account the vulnerable situation of unaccompanied minors, women and girls and victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

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- b. Governments continue their efforts to respect the fundamental rights of migrants and families, including family unity.
- c. Religious leaders and religious communities continue their work around the integration of migrants and on the prevention of radicalisation and extremism.
- d. Governments, religious leaders and religious communities work together to create mechanisms aiming to abolish the practice of so-called “forced marriage”, to combat human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- e. Governments intensify the fight against sexual exploitation online, in particular of children. Specifically, through preventative measures addressed to families, parents and their children, and school communities. And to provide them with the skills to manage themselves properly in the digital environment.

3.

The role of religion in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation

- a. Governments, religious leaders and civil society work together to create the conditions for respectful and fruitful dialogue that engages all communities and addresses the real challenges facing our societies.
- b. Government and religious leaders build bridges among communities, and emphasise, in their processes, and by their example, the importance of peace and reconciliation, including committing to this as a way of life for religious communities and not just a response to current challenges.
- c. Government and religious leaders acknowledge the importance of human rights and the need to teach them in the formal educational system and to promote a social knowledge and acceptance of human rights rooted in human dignity.
- d. Religious leaders continue to foster capacity building in spiritual resilience, showing and promoting openness, respect, compassion and active engagement in dialogue, whilst holding on firmly to the core of human values promoted by religious traditions.
- e. Governments and multinational institutions put more effort and resources into developing training for staff in engaging religious actors in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes, considering the complex role of religious actors in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes

Latin America

Recommendations

1. **Increase multilateral cooperation within the framework of a new consensus that includes environmental sustainability and job creation, with projects that favor the entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and solidarity, as opposed to extractive and speculative investment.**
2. **Recognize the importance of civil society as a major actor in achieving social transformation.**
 - a. .
3. **Promote policies of inclusion and sensitivity toward indigenous peoples.**
4. **Create protocols and implement campaigns to prevent gender violence, whether symbolic or substantive.**
 - b.