Background: WHO estimates show that by the time adolescent girls are 15-19 years of age, nearly 1 in 4 have experienced intimate partner violence, setting many of them on a lifetime trajectory of adverse health and wellbeing outcomes ranging from unwanted pregnancies, school drop outs, substance misuse, unhealthy relationship patterns into adulthood and more. The rates of violence in the adolescent girls population have remained largely unchanged for the last decade when WHO first published global and regional estimates in 2013. Moreover, intimate partner violence in adolescent girls is also closely linked to high rates of child marriage in many settings, and rates of child marriage remain high in these settings.

While all violence against children and adolescents including against boys is important to address, adolescent girls face particular challenges related to becoming pregnant too early, too soon and before they are physically or emotionally ready to have children and therefore need particular/specific attention separate from violence faced by boys. The burgeoning evidence on preventing violence against adolescent girls that is captured in two UN evidence-based packages – INSPIRE and RESPECT, highlight that transforming gender norms requires not only requires challenging men’s and boys’ privilege, but also norms that subordinate girls and women. It requires interventions to empower adolescent girls including those that keep them in schools through cash transfers, that create safe spaces for them, that keep them safe from sexual abuse in schools and that prevent early, forced and child marriage that exposes them to risks of violence. It requires that health services are prepared to respond to risks of sexually abused adolescent girls with pregnancy prevention. This does not preclude attention to boys and indeed available evidence highlights the needs to have efforts that focus on boys and girls, addressing their separate/distinct needs, risk factors and consequences for maximum impact.

Objectives are to:

- identify particular vulnerabilities of adolescent girls faced with violence;
- highlight evidence and good practices from Member States, Partners on prevention efforts focused on adolescent girls and highlight any gaps; and
- explore how evidence packages such as INSPIRE and RESPECT can contribute to advancing programming for adolescent girls.

**Format:** Panel discussion facilitated by a youth moderator.

**Speakers:**

Moderator – Youth Moderator

2 Ministries of Health and other sectoral ministries (e.g. child or social development or gender)

1-2 Adolescent girls/young woman representative from a community/civil society/activist organization working with adolescents and young women on violence

1-2 UN and multi-lateral agency – PAHO, World Bank

1-2 Civil Society partners working with adolescent girls

**Expected outcomes:**

- Increased awareness of the need to address specific vulnerabilities of adolescent girls
- Increased knowledge of good/promising practices to prevent violence against adolescent girls
- Increased knowledge of evidence-based resources/packages for policy makers.

**Registration:** Eventbrite registration link will be posted on the conference website in September 2024. Only those who RSVP and present their event ticket will be admitted.