



We Matter, Value Us

Ethical Engagement of Young People in the Global SRHR and HIV Field

Facilitator: Modester Mangilani
Y+ Global



Kingdom of the Netherlands

What is ethical and meaningful engagement?

Lets talk about it!

Why does it matter?



Introduction to ethical and meaningful engagement?

Ethical and meaningful engagement of young people means involving young people in ways that are genuine, respectful, safe, and empowering, ensuring they are not just present, but are actively influencing decisions, shaping programs, and benefiting from the experience.



7 Foundations of is ethical and meaningful engagement?



1. Keeping Young People Safe
2. Valuing The Contribution Of Young People
3. Ensuring Diverse Representation Of Young People
4. Providing Support
5. Building Positive Youth Partnerships
6. Investing In Young People And The Sustainability Of Youth-Led Organisations
7. Promoting Greater Accountability To Young People

1. Keeping Young People Safe

Common Issues:

- Unsafe travel/accommodation
- Pressure to disclose status
- No consent/safeguards

Solutions:

- Safeguarding policies
- Risk assessments
- Advance info and support



2. Valuing the contribution of young people

Common Issues:

- Used only for stories
- Not involved in planning
- Unpaid work

Solutions:

- Involve youth from the start
- Compensate for time and skills
- Recognize more than storytelling



3. Ensuring Diverse Representation of Young People

Common Issues:

- Same youth invited
- Marginalized youth excluded

Solutions:

- Intentional outreach
- Work with youth-led orgs
- Provide translation and access



4. Providing Support

Common Issues:

- No per diem, data or preparation
- Unsafe bookings

Solutions:

- Pay in advance
- Provide all logistical info
- Orientation and translation



5. Building Positive Youth Partnerships

- Power-sharing, not control
- Trust youth orgs with resources
- Mentorship and leadership pathways
- Plan for aging out and next generation



6. Investing in Young People and the Sustainability of Youth Led Organizations

- Trust youth orgs with resources
- Mentorship and leadership pathways
- Technical support in building the capacity and governance structures of youth orgs



7. Promoting Greater Accountability to Young People

Youth Want:

- Feedback
- Transparency
- Decision-making roles
- Tools to assess organizational performance

Use the Y+ Scorecard:

- Safety
- Inclusion
- Payment
- Representation
- Long-term commitment



Commit to Ethical and Meaningful Youth Engagement

For Organizations:

- Use the guide's checklists and scorecards
- Create space, shift power, fund youth leadership
- Train your teams and include youth in decisions

For Young People:

- Know your rights
- Use the tools to advocate and assess
- Speak up, lead and collaborate

One thing I will demand in future youth engagement is...



Resources

We Matter, Value Us!

<https://readymovement.org/we-matter-value-us/>

THANK YOU

