



Youth oral statement for the 4th Session of the Commission on Population and Development 2009

Chairperson and distinguished
representatives,

It is an honor and a privilege to stand before
you today as a youth delegate and - in
partnership with Action Canada for
Population and Development - to share
perspectives from my generation and the
who are younger still.

[Why young people?]

My peers and I make up the largest, youngest generation in history. We may not all have finished school,
but we do have our own values and perspectives that we do not always share with older generations.

Indeed, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the goals set at the ICPD in Cairo,
you, esteemed representatives of the world's governments, will have to pay attention to us.

Only today, more than three thousand people under the age of 24 have been infected with HIV/AIDS.
In fact, young people ages 15-24 account for almost half of all new HIV infections worldwide. Among

my peers are the most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. They lack the skills to start up for
their own sexual and reproductive health, and they have insufficient access to much needed con-
traceptive and family planning services. They are also more likely to be sexually exploited and have
unsafe sex. They are also more likely to be sexually exploited and have unsafe sex.

[What do we want?]

This is why we call upon you. We demand, first of all, that you be empowered through comprehensive
evidence-informed sexuality education. Knowledge is the key to making the right choices.

Secondly, we claim our right to access to effective family planning services and safe abortion for
young people. Without this, we will have insufficient autonomy over our lives, in particular to exercise
our right to reproductive health.

Thirdly, we claim our right as agreed on in the ICPD PoA to be meaningfully involved in the design,
implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies that touch our lives in the most intimate and
direct ways. We are here at the ICPD because we need you to listen to our needs and openly talk with you.

[Closing]

Ladies and gentlemen, we ask you to move beyond the rhetoric of goals and targets, to take concrete
steps. We urge you to encourage your governments to comply with agreements made. And we trust
you will take up your responsibility to address young people's needs and rights in the resolution that
will be adopted here.

We are the present and the future. No youth means no change.

Thank you.

This youth statement is supported by the [redacted] health program in contact for more information. [redacted] [redacted]

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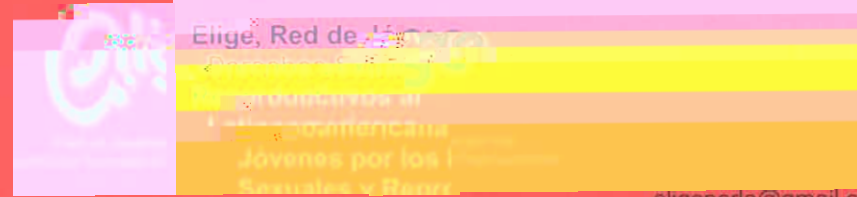
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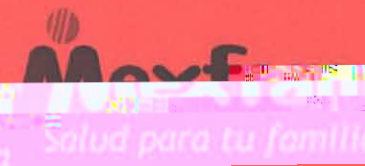
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Mexfam, Salud para tu familia

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