

Dear Representatives, esteemed delegates and colleagues from all over the world,

I am a youth advocate representing the young people of Kenya, and I am pleased to

participate in the 10th International Conference on Adolescent Reproductive Health, organized by the African

Union of Youth Organizations (AYO) and the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

I am honored to be part of this important gathering and to share my views on the state of adolescent reproductive health in Kenya and Africa.

Adolescents are exposed to a variety of risks, including early and forced marriage, child marriage, and

sexual violence. These risks are often exacerbated by poverty, lack of education, and cultural practices that

normalize early marriage and childbearing. In Kenya, the prevalence of child marriage is estimated to be

15%, with a significant proportion of girls being married before the age of 15. This is a serious concern as

early marriage and childbearing have negative impacts on the health, education, and economic prospects of

adolescents. It is therefore essential that we work together to address these issues and ensure that all

adolescents have access to comprehensive reproductive health services and information.

One of the key challenges in addressing adolescent reproductive health is the lack of comprehensive

sex education in schools. In Kenya, only a small percentage of schools offer comprehensive sex education,

and the quality of the education provided is often poor. This leaves many adolescents with limited knowledge

and skills to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. We need to invest in quality sex

education that is age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and based on scientific evidence. This should include

information on family planning, safe sex practices, and the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted

infections. It should also address the rights of adolescents to make their own decisions about their bodies and

relationships. We need to ensure that all adolescents, regardless of their background, have access to this

essential information and services. We need to work together to ensure that all adolescents have access to

comprehensive reproductive health services and information, and that they are able to make informed

decisions about their reproductive health. We need to work together to ensure that all adolescents have

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