

Issues Paper
CSW Interactive Panel Discussion on
“Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality:
through the eyes of young women and men”
9 March 2005, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Background

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) noted that “discrimination against women begins at the earliest stages of life and must therefore be addressed from then on onwards” (para 38). It gave specific consideration to issues of young women in nine¹ out of the twelve critical areas of concern. It recognized youth organizations as important and effective partners in development programmes and young women were encouraged to participate in youth organizations. The vulnerability of young women and adolescents, particularly in relations to HIV/AIDS, discrimination, mortality and access to education, was addressed. The need to take up special measures to ensure that young women have

The Commission on the Status of Women discussed issues concerning young women and men in agreed conclusions from its annual sessions from 1997-2004, covering inter alia, violence against women, human rights, the girl child, media and information and communications technologies (ICT) and poverty eradication.⁴

The Commission highlighted the role of youth organizations in preparing young people to build a society based on respect and solidarity. The Commission also emphasized the important links between girls, gender stereotyping and the media, as well the need to ensu