

MENENGAGE AFRICA

SRHR PROGRESS 2026

Call For Abstracts

PROGRESS 2026: MenEngage Africa SRHR Learning and Exchange Symposium

Theme: “Reclaiming Autonomy: Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Justice in the Face

Dates: 10–14 August 2026

Venue: Mombasa, Kenya (TBC)

Submission Deadline: 20 March 2026

About the Symposium

Building on the success of PROGRESS 2024, the MenEngage Africa SRHR PROGRESS 2026 Symposium will convene youth leaders, civil society organizations, policymakers, government representatives, healthcare providers, academic institutions, researchers, international and regional partners, as well as religious and traditional leaders from across the continent. The goal is to strengthen collective action toward advancing sexual and reproductive justice in Africa.

The Organizing Committee invites submissions of abstracts showcasing cutting-edge research, program implementation strategies, advocacy outcomes, and best or promising practices. These will be shared at the MenEngage Africa Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Learning and Exchange Symposium 2026, themed “**Reclaiming Autonomy: Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Justice in the Face of Resistance.**”

What’s different in 2026: PROGRESS prioritises practice-to-policy transfer, youth co-leadership, and measurable accessibility. Selected sessions feed into an open SRHR Action Toolkit.

Inclusion commitment: We aim for ≥40% youth-led contributions and ≥15% led or co-authored by persons with disabilities.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of no more than **350 words**, including a brief description, methodology, and findings. All abstracts must be submitted by **Friday, 20 March 2026**, using this link:

<https://abstractwiz.com/submission/signup/9/>

Conference Tracks

Authors should submit their abstracts under **one** of the following tracks. Each track includes guidance on its thematic scope.

- **Track 1: Countering Backlash and Shrinking Civic Space**

Focus: Strategies to resist regressive policies, conservative narratives, and hegemonic masculinities; defending SRHR language and advocacy; protecting activists; and building resilient movements amid nationalist politics and funding cuts.

- **Track 2: Financing and Resource Justice for SRHR**

Focus: Innovative, locally driven financing models; addressing global funding deficits; promoting accountability in resource allocation; and securing sustainable SRHR funding for marginalized communities in restrictive economic contexts.

- **Track 3: Bodily Autonomy and Inclusive Service Delivery**

Focus: Realizing bodily autonomy beyond Western framings; gender-transformative, youth-friendly, and disability-responsive health systems; reducing provider bias; ensuring access to comprehensive SRHR care—including safe abortion and contraception—and addressing service delivery for LGBTQI+ persons.

- **Track 4: Norm Transformation and Community-Led Action**

Focus: Transforming harmful social, religious, and cultural norms; engaging men and boys as allies; exploring the role of religious and traditional leaders; promoting community accountability; and scaling effective community-based interventions.

- **Track 5: Positive Masculinities & Accountability**

Focus: Men and boys as allies; fatherhood; dismantling harmful norms; and co-authored pieces with women and youth partners prioritised.

- **Track 6: Knowledge, Data, and Evidence for Advocacy**

Focus: Decolonized research and data systems; generating evidence for SRHR justice; measuring progress toward the SDGs, Agenda 2063, and Agenda 50:50; and using research to inform policy and counter opposition narratives.

- **Track 7: Intergenerational & Intersectional Movement Building**

Focus: Strengthening meaningful youth leadership—including youth with disabilities; fostering intergenerational dialogue and solidarity; building inclusive coalitions; and leveraging arts, media, and storytelling for narrative change.

- **Track 8: Accountability and Implementation of Regional Frameworks**

Focus: Evaluating the effectiveness, adoption, and gaps in regional and international SRHR frameworks (e.g., the Maputo Protocol); strengthening governmental accountability; and designing actionable, measurable accountability mechanisms to accelerate progress toward 2030 goals.

- **Track 9: Sexual Diversity and Rights: inclusive SRHR work in hostile environments**

Focus: Advancing evidence-based strategies and frontline models that promote and protect the sexual health, rights, and well-being of LGBTQI+ and other marginalized populations in legally restrictive or socially hostile contexts; navigating political and cultural opposition; and building resilient, intersectional programming that ensures safety, dignity, and access to services for all.

- **Track 10: SRHR and Climate Justice: connections, tensions, and approaches**

Focus: Examining the intersecting pathways between climate change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); addressing the compounded vulnerabilities of women, girls, and marginalized populations in climate crises; and exploring integrated, rights-based solutions that build resilience, ensure bodily autonomy, and advance gender equality within climate action and policies.

- **Track 11: Youth-led SRHR Advocacy, including stories of resilience and resistance**

Focus: Centering the power and agency of young people as key actors in the SRHR movement; showcasing strategies for effective youth-led organizing, digital activism, and intergenerational partnership; and amplifying narratives of resilience, resistance, and innovation in the face of political, social, and systemic barriers to sexual and reproductive justice.

Submission Format and Presentation Types

Submitted abstracts may be considered for:

- **Oral presentations** (10–15 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&A)
- **Poster presentations** (including Accessible Posters: large-print/alt-text ready)
- **Flash talk** (for emerging ideas)
- **Innovation Demo** (tool, product, prototype; table + 8-minute demo)
- **Activism / Narrative Studio** (spoken word, short film ≤3 min, comic/illustration set)
- **Advocacy Simulation Lab** (interactive role-play, 45–60 min) Abstract Structure (≤350 words)

Abstracts should be structured as follows:

1. **Problem/Context:** (1–2 sentences, with setting)
 2. **Approach:** (what you did; who led—including youth, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ involvement)
 3. **Evidence/Learning:** (data, results, or insight)
 4. **Transfer & Replication:** (how others can adapt it; materials you can share)
 5. **Safeguarding & Ethics:** (consent, do-no-harm, data protection in hostile contexts)
- In addition, a plain-language summary (≤80 words) is required for accessibility and the programme.

Accessibility & Safeguarding Requirements

Presenters agree to provide a plain-language summary; high-contrast slides using the provided template; alt-text for images; and follow microphone etiquette.

Sessions may receive live accessibility feedback from the Accessibility Audit Squad; organisers will share quick-fix guidance on site.

If presenting on sensitive topics in hostile environments, authors may opt for anonymous programme entries, no-photo sessions, voice masking, and data minimisation as needed.

Accepted oral presentations will be allocated presentation times during symposium sessions. Poster presentations will be displayed throughout the event, with dedicated poster sessions for interaction with participants. All accepted abstracts will also be published on the MenEngage Africa website.

The official language of the symposium is **English**. Detailed preparation guidelines, including PowerPoint templates and poster specifications will be provided for acceptance abstracts.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Review Committee, which reserves the right to assign accepted abstracts to oral, poster, or flash presentation formats. Notification of acceptance will be issued by **31 May 2026**. All presenters must register as delegates, and standard registration fees will apply.

Open Outputs & Licensing

All accepted sessions must upload their materials (slides, templates, SOPs, datasets) for publication.

Evaluation Criteria

Abstracts that are judged to have low relevance to the overall conference (i.e. are not sufficiently related to the symposium tracks) will not be considered.

Submissions will be assessed based on:

- **Relevance & Rigor** (fit to tracks; clarity of evidence)
- **Practice-to-Policy Transfer** (replicability; tools or templates offered)
- **Inclusion & Leadership** (roles of youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups)
- **Accessibility & Design** (plain-language summary; alt-text/poster readability; high-contrast slides)
- **Safeguarding & Ethics** (risk-aware methods; consent; data protection)
- **Learning Value** (what others will do differently after this session)

In the case of tied scores, submissions that commit to publishing open materials within two weeks of the session will be prioritised.

Reviewers will apply tie-breaks in favour of youth-led and PwD-led or co-authored submissions. We aim for ≥40% youth-led contributions and ≥15% PwD-led or co-authored contributions across formats.

Timeline & Process

Early decision window: Abstracts submitted by 20 February 2026 may receive early outcomes to support visa applications.

Final submission deadline remains 20 March 2026. Notifications of acceptance will be issued by 31 May 2026.

Presenter Support

Limited bursaries and mentorship will be prioritised for youth and persons with disabilities to participate in the symposium.