

Initiative for Equality (IfE)

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF GIRLS & WOMEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

It is essential to protect the rights and lives of girls and women during the pandemic. They experience special risks and difficulties that may not be obvious to boys and men. Here are some suggestions for how to do that.

1. Make sure that you have one or two women helping you to plan your public education activities. Ask them how you can reach women, and how you can address the issues women face.
2. When you collect information on the difficulties poor communities are having as they try to follow the requirements for protection against COVID, be sure to ask women about any problems they are having, and what would help them.
3. Be sure to have one or two women helping during your public education activities. They will be able to speak to the women and girls more easily.
4. Your advocacy plan should also have input from women, and address the issues they prioritize.

Issues Faced by Girls and Women During the Pandemic

- Markets run by women vendors have been shut down
- Finding and preparing food is more difficult
- Extra work burden on women, including more childcare (with children home from school) and extra laundry
- Providing care to the sick and elderly, putting women at risk of COVID
- Managing the household budget has become more difficult, with less income and higher prices
- Increased levels of domestic violence during the lockdown, from which women cannot escape
- Increased levels of forced sexual activity and resulting pregnancies for girls who are out of school

Please ask women to learn about other issues they face, and share this information with other members of our project.