

# Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, VIVAT International and Medical Mission Sisters CSW67 Virtual Event Concept Note

**Title: Women and Girls in Digital Education for Gender Equality**

**When:** March 16 at 8am EST

**Via:** Zoom

**CSW 67 Priority theme:** Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Technology and its innovations are used in a number of ways to both positive and negative effect. It is used for efficient and wide-reaching dissemination of knowledge in forms of distance learning and online education that foster inclusive learning environments. It provides inclusive spaces for people to share experiences and concerns and allow people to develop connections and social circles which might not be possible otherwise.

And yet, halfway through the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, a digital gender divide persists with most of the 2.7B people who lack access to the internet being women and girls. Unfortunately, women and girls face numerous other obstacles to accessing technology, as the Secretary General's Report states these include, "affordability, digital literacy and skills, privacy and safety, content, relevance, ownership, awareness, agency and access to electricity" including "gender social norms."

Technology can provide opportunities for girls and women to reach their full potential and become change agents for themselves and their communities. They often use the power of social media to have a voice, raise global awareness, mobilize action, and make governments accountable for addressing women's and girls' rights. Online platforms have allowed girls and women to highlight difficult issues they face that are not normally discussed and enhance conversations around topics not covered by mainstream media.

In this webinar we will highlight what young women are able to achieve when barriers to technology are removed. How access to digital technology and education allows young women and girls to fulfill their potential, contribute to their community, become leaders and participate in the decision making process. They will also discuss the issues they faced and provide gender sensitive solutions.

We will hear the stories from:

- Community based NGOs who are addressing the barriers to education and technology in partnership with local communities
- Young women who have gained careers, education and qualifications when given access to digital technology
- Student advocates who have benefited from quality education including STEM and digital education
- Committed and passionate advocates of women and girls rights

Moderators: Youth

Panelists:

- Leonida Kwamboka Oriki IBVM - Executive Director of Women for Women in Afrika, Kenya
- Mary Selina Munala - A young woman from Kenya and former student and current volunteer at Women for Women in Africa, Kenya  
Mary is a recent graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Energy Technology from Kenyatta University. She grew up in Kibera, a community of overcrowded shacks and tenement buildings in the outskirts of Nairobi. Mary believes in the power of women to lead swiftly toward ensuring access to clean and affordable energy in the world and to end energy poverty in the global south. She is a volunteer at Women for Women in Africa while applying for work in the local energy sector.
- Director of NGO from Indonesia providing computer education
- Female student from Indonesia
- Female student from The Philippines
- Director of NGO from India providing computer education
- Female student from India
- Student Advocate