

A Call to Action by Young People for a Just Digital Future

#DigitalHealthWeek

Our Vision

We, the young people of Kenya, believe in a digital future that protects our rights, amplifies our voices, and leaves no one behind.

Digital health has the power to transform how we access care, share information, and make decisions about our bodies and our wellbeing. But this transformation must be fair, inclusive, and rooted in justice.

We Have Seen

- The potential of technology to enhance access to quality healthcare, optimize service delivery, and connect with underrepresented communities.
- The barriers that persist, such as high data costs, inadequate infrastructure, stigma, surveillance, and technology facilitated abuse.
- The disproportionate effects of these challenges on young women, LGBTQI+ and intersex youth, individuals in rural settings, and people seeking HIV or sexual and reproductive health services.
- The exclusion of youth voices in shaping digital health governance, which fuels systemic inequality and excludes many from lifesaving information.
- The increasing risk of online harm, including technology facilitated abuse, surveillance, privacy breaches, harassment, and the misuse of data, all of which deters and silences young people from participating in digital health environments and negatively impacts their wellbeing.

We Believe

In pursuit of a just and inclusive digital future, we affirm that:

- Digital safety is a fundamental right, not a privilege. Every young person should have the freedom to navigate digital spaces without the fear of being surveilled, exploited, or discriminated against.
- All digital health policies must prioritize accessibility and equity, ensuring that marginalized youth are equipped with the tools, skills, and confidence to safely utilize digital health resources.
- Digital health innovation should be guided by a people-centered approach, rooted in the lived experiences and leadership of young people.
- Digital literacy is power. Every young person should understand their digital rights, data privacy, and how to protect themselves online.

We Commit To

- Advocate for equity, gender equality, and human rights as the core principles of all digital health initiatives.
- Establish opportunities for collaboration and conversations among youth, communities, and policymakers to develop inclusive, ethical, and sustainable digital health solutions.
- Promoting digital rights awareness, ensuring that every young person can protect their privacy and make informed choices about their health in the digital age.

We Call Upon

- a. The Government of Kenya to integrate gender, equity, and human rights into all national digital health strategies and systems, ensuring that youth voices shape both the design and execution.
- b. The Private Sector and Tech Industry to uphold ethical data practices, safeguard user privacy, and prioritize the safety of marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- c. International Organizations and Partners, including the WHO and UN, to advocate for inclusive digital health frameworks and foster youth-led innovation across different nations.
- d. Policymakers and Regulators to create and implement digital rights legislation that shields young individuals from surveillance, data misuse, and online dangers.