



# GLOBAL MANIFIESTO THE LIGHT OF GIRLS 2022

## The 11 October is the International Day of the Girl.

This manifesto is the result of the work of over 100 girls in 9 countries grouped into 11 local participation councils. On 21 September 2022, we came together at the First Global Workshop of The LIGHT of GIRLS campaign, promoted by the Entreculturas, Fe y Alegría Foundation and the Jesuit Refugee Service. As representatives of the girls of the world, and in order to push for the effective protection of our human rights, we have given much thought to the situations of violence to which we are exposed. We demand the following from our States and governments:

### 1 Access to quality education for all girls around the world

Schools must be safe protective spaces, and school infrastructures must be appropriate and inclusive, promoting critical thinking and awareness on unequal gender norms that perpetuate violence against girls.

### 2 The eradication of gender-based and sexual violence, harassment and femicide

We seek protection as currently it is girls who are the most vulnerable to physical, verbal and psychological violence, sexual abuse and, above all, suicide.

### 3 Sound protection systems against violence against girls

As an initial step for the correct and effective investigation and enforcement of the law to avoid impunity, which is high in most of our countries, we want to bring about a culture of reporting and mindful attention in cases of violence against girls.



### 4 An end to child, early and forced marriage

Child marriage is a serious violation of girls' rights and is the most widespread form of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. It deprives us of basic rights to health, education and safety, and makes us more vulnerable to many forms of violence.



### 5 The eradication of female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is a practice that threatens the lives, health and rights of millions of girls and women all over the world. We condemn this form of torture that leads to serious physical and psychological harm for us, and prevents us from getting an education.



### 6 Protection from child labour

In many countries around the world, girls are considered of less value than boys. Many of us spend our childhoods doing unpaid household chores or working instead of going to school.



# SAFE AND SOUND!

The light of girls

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### **7 A war-free, safe and peaceful environment**

We staunchly condemn war and conflict as they severely affect children but in particular girls and displaced, refugee or migrant women, who are even more likely to suffer from some kind of violence or sexual abuse.



### **8 Access to education on sexual and reproductive health and menstrual management**

We need quality education on sexual and reproductive health and on menstrual management to prevent: early pregnancies; stigma and discrimination surrounding menstruation; and dropping out of school.



### **9 The reduction of child poverty**

Child poverty particularly affects girls as it pushes us into social exclusion, prevents us from fully exercising our rights and keeps us from getting an education.



### **10 Getting rid of stereotypes**

We want to bring an end to the gender stereotypes that surround girls and women so that we are all accepted for the way we are. We have the right to be valued and educated in a way that is free from the cultural patterns and stereotypes promoted by society itself, which pigeonhole us and prevent us from progressing.



### **11 Places to meet, for raising awareness and promoting non-violence**

We request spaces aimed at non-violence to be created –workshops, exchanges, ads in the media, counselling in educational centres or meeting places– that empower girls to identify violence and know the procedures on how to report it.

