



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The event was sponsored by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to encourage youth civic engagement.

The meeting took place at the Church Center at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, USA, on Friday, 15 July 2016.

Report submitted by Timothy Shi, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

The World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement was prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). The point of this document is to explore young people's participation in economic, political, and community life.

UN Women – Need to break down the cultural barriers that make it hard for women to get actively engaged politically. There is a huge untapped resource in young women, particularly in young women, that we should invest in. Therefore, investment in youth civic engagement will help achieve the momentum that the agenda 2030 outlines.

L- Leadership: The engagement of young women in policy making. In some societies, the idea of young women leadership is unheard of, and this barrier needs to be taken down.

E- Equality: Young women are marginalized in many ways, especially when it comes to economic equality.

A – Action: Need safe and enabling environments both online and offline.

P – Partnerships: Partner with young women and young women-led organizations. Partnering with young men and their organizations. Partnering with intergenerations.

Internships: Understand that internships are not just a passing phase, but are part of a tough part of life. However, employers and companies should be paying their interns because it's a basic part of humankind. The normalizing of unpaid internships needs to be stopped.

Online and Social Media

Three takeaways:

1. Youth civic and political engagement does not center around voting.
 - a. Participatory politics – No longer the institution setting the rules; rather, it's a dialogue between leadership and the youth, as well as their peers.
 - b. Although much of the digital engagement that youth have online (e.g., change profile picture to show support for LGBT), do not affect political decisions, it is still important for youth to change their peers' opinions about certain subjects.
2. Digital engagement is critical in the development of effective citizens.
3. Safe and equitable digital spaces are necessary to ensure youth participation.