Gender Equality is one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

In New Orleans, following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina...

83% of single mothers were unable to return home.

2/3 of the jobs lost were lost by women.

Climate change is not gender neutral. As a result of the existing inequalities, women and girls are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, and disease. The aftermath of natural disasters illustrates what’s at stake. Globally, women experience more poverty than men, have less access to financial independence, and are less likely to bounce back in terms of jobs and opportunities after climate disasters.

13% of the agricultural labor force are women.

60-80% of the world’s food is produced by women.

12-17% of agricultural land owners are women.

130 Million girls today are denied the right to attend school globally.

75% of girls start school; 8% finish secondary education.

Education of girls serves as a powerful lever in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty while mitigating emissions by curbing pollution growth. Obstacles to education include: cultural barriers, affordability, safety, risk of gender-based violence, health barriers, school quality, and community engagement.

Women comprise 51% of the world population, 39% of the workforce, and only 27% of managerial position globally.

24% women earn an average of 24% less than men globally.

43% of legislative body members globally are women (an increase from 19% in 2010).

Globally, women are active agents of conservation and restoration of natural resources. When women have a seat at the table in community decision-making bodies, there is a greater protection of common property resources, including forests. In a study of 130 countries, it was found that when women are in government positions, they are more likely to sign international treaties taking action against climate change.

Globally, women are stewards of the earth. Closing the agricultural gap would require creating more access to land for women. In order to end hunger, we need to empower women and provide equal access to opportunities and resources.
What Can You Do?

On Campus

1. Get involved with women leaders at the Campus Garden.
2. Take courses that focus on sustainability and gender equality.
3. Empower girls in the community to stay in school through programs like Wake Women LEAD and Project Launch.
4. Get involved with the Office of Sustainability, the Women's Center, the LGBTQ Center and the Intercultural Center, and attend events on campus.
5. Support and empower other women on campus.
6. Ask whose voices are missing and actively seek diverse perspectives.

In The World

1. Encourage girls to set aspirational goals and lead in their communities.
2. Think local - fight for women in your community and vote for women in local elections.
3. Become a mentor and advocate for women in your workplace.
4. Empower girls to stay in school and fight for girls' access to education.
5. Vote for women with records of climate-centered advocacy.
6. Work on the climate crisis and support women in the wake of natural disasters.
7. Make your voice heard through petitions, protests, rallies and activism.
8. Vote with your dollars to end human trafficking.