

BROADBAND COMMISSION

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Closing the gender gap in Internet access and use

The need for urgent action:

Effective, tangible and measurable action is urgently needed to overcome the digital gender gap in access and use to ensure that women and girls can benefit from the developmental capacity of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Internet access is important for women's individual empowerment as well as for broader societal and economic dividends – benefiting not only women themselves, but also their communities, business and the economy. It can help protect women's rights and contribute to their economic, social and political empowerment and development.

Recommendations for action:

Targeted action by policy makers, private sector, NGOs, inter-governmental organisations, academia and other stakeholders is required to address the gender gap in Internet access and use. Actions are required across a number of areas:



The Broadband Commission Working Group report on the Digital Gender Divide proposes a set of clear and specific actions different stakeholders can take to address barriers to women's access and use of the Internet. It also contains explicit and defined commitments from members of the Working Group on tangible actions to help take forward these recommendations.

TO FIND OUT MORE:

<http://broadbandcommission.org/workinggroups/Pages/digital-gender-divide.aspx>