

Ms. Marla Patricia de la Cruz Rivas, 22, Mexico



Marla de la Cruz is pursuing a double major in International Relations and Government and Public Transformation at Tec de Monterrey. Her interests in education accessibility, sexual and reproductive rights, and youth have motivated her as a gender and social justice activist since 2016. In 2018, she founded Girl Up CIDEB (Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de Educación Bilingüe), and in 2021, she became the President of Girl Up Tec de Monterrey. Marla was part of the First Adolescent Girls Advisory Council of the Global Fund for Women from 2020 to 2023 and is currently an Adolescent Girls Advisory Council Fellow. Through this, she has supported grant making processes giving over \$600,000 to girl-led organizations and awarded over \$117 million to 10 finalists through the LEGO Foundation as an expert reviewer on a panel for the "Build A World for Play" challenge.

Moreover, she has been part of research projects with the Reach Alliance, MexiCovidApp, Noria Research, and Impunidad Cero, among other institutions and organizations. Additionally, she is a Member of Generation Democracy and a TEDx organizer at her university since 2022.

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