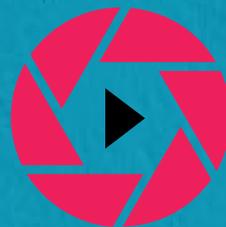


GIRL CONNECTED



WOMEN &
GIRLS LEAD
GLOBAL

ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT



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GIRL CONNECTED: THE FILM AND THE CAMPAIGN

"How stories are told, who tells them, when they're told, how many stories are told, are really dependent on power."

—Chimamanda Adichie Ngozi



They are athletes. They are artists. They are scientists. They are activists. They are leaders. **They are girls.** The *Girl Connected* campaign starts with a film about five amazing girls from five different countries and extends to girls and their allies everywhere.

As communities around the world come together to watch *Girl Connected*, they will witness and be inspired by the powerful examples of Ayesha, Josi, Latifa, Michelle, and Ghazal in their fight for the rights to education, safety, reproductive health services, leadership opportunities, and choices about their own futures.

It is all too rare to find girls' voices represented in media. In films around the world, **female characters are given far less screen time** (averaging around 30%), and almost never portrayed in successful careers or positions of power. Adolescent girls have enormous potential to lead their communities and help bring an end to some of the world's greatest challenges. Yet, without positive female role models in media, girls have fewer heroines to look to for guidance and inspiration, and their communities have fewer examples of how to help them succeed.

That is where you come in. As a convener and facilitator, you have an important role to play in bringing girls' stories to light. By organizing a *Girl Connected* screening, you are providing the platform for people in your community to listen to girls' stories, discuss the challenges they face, and take action to support their rights.

Welcome to the *Girl Connected* campaign!

THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit was designed as a guide for educators, community organizers, youth leaders, and anyone else passionate about learning from girls' stories.

Inside, you'll find tools to help you use the film *Girl Connected* (and films in general) to open up meaningful conversations about the interconnected issues girls face around the world and to inspire action in support of girls' rights. You will also find information about the *Girl Connected* campaign—including the *Girl Connected* Story Project—and ways for you and your community to get involved and to share experiences with girls and their allies all over the world.

Feel free to download, print, and share the entire toolkit or any parts of it you find useful. Each girl's section can be used as a stand-alone printout with her biography, a few facts, discussion questions, activities, and action items. If you want to learn and do more, check out the Resources section at the back of the toolkit. It provides information about key organizations fighting for gender equality.



USING THE FILM

SYNOPSIS

Girl Connected follows the lives of five real teenage girls who are using their individual strengths to tackle gender discrimination and violence in their communities in Jordan, Bangladesh, Peru, India, and Kenya. Each young woman finds her talents in a different field, and each inspires her peers to transform their own lives. Their stories portray hope for a brighter future for all young adults.

ONLINE PREMIERE MARCH 8, 2017

TOPICS ADDRESSED IN THE FILM

Girl Connected shows individual girls finding allies and taking action in their communities to make life better for their peers. The stories provide an opportunity to address many different issues, including:

- Women and girls' rights around the world
- Gender-based violence
- Child marriage
- Reproductive health and rights
- Girls' leadership
- Role models and allies
- Gender stereotypes
- Girls' participation in sports
- Girls' education and career opportunities
- The arts as a tool for advocacy
- Women and girls' representation in media
- Engaging men and boys in gender equality



Use this space to note examples from your own community or resources that you want to share with people who attend the *Girl Connected* screening:

USING THE FILM

HOW TO WATCH

You can find everything you need in order to watch *Girl Connected* for FREE on the Women and Girls Lead Global YouTube channel.

The Trailer: bit.ly/GirlConnectedTrailer

Get people excited for your screening during an earlier event, meeting or class, or promote it online on social media!

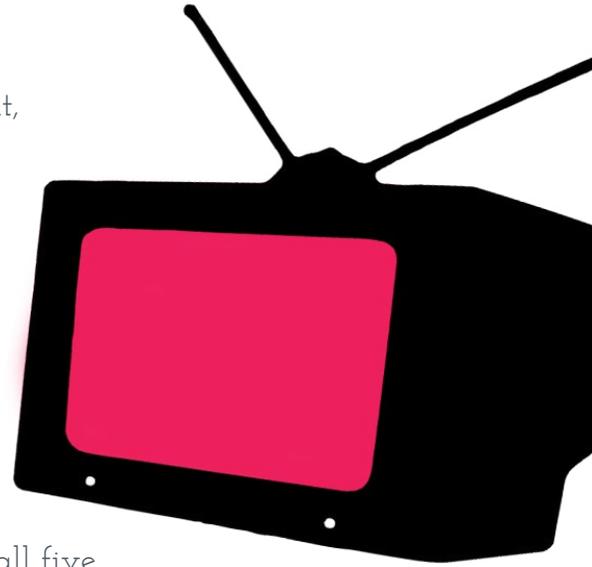
The Full Film: bit.ly/WatchGirlConnected

Engage more deeply with the film and explore connections between the five girls' stories, and the stories of girls in your own community or classroom.

Five Mini Docs:

bit.ly/GirlConnectedMiniDocs

Focus your conversation on one particular issue or country or organize a screening series to watch and discuss all five.



Organizing a Screening

There are many ways to share *Girl Connected* with your family, friends, and community. Get creative and have fun! Just make sure your event is free of charge.

- **SALON SCREENINGS** Invite a group of friends or peers for an intimate screening at home, in a community center, or even in a café (just not a movie theater!).
- **CLASSROOM SCREENINGS** Inspire a class project or help students learn more about the different countries in the film and the issues girls face around the world.
- **ORGANIZATION SCREENINGS** Invite members of your organization or club to a screening of the film, then discuss calls to action from the toolkit or promote your own.
- **ONLINE SCREENINGS** Encourage friends in your online network to watch the film, then discuss together on social media. Keep the momentum going by starting or joining an online petition for girls' rights.



SHARE YOUR STORY

- Share photos from your screening on **Facebook** or **Twitter** using the hashtag **#GIRLCONNECTED**. Follow **@womensgirlslead** to stay up-to-date on campaign activities and get involved.
- Use the **StoryCorps App** to record girls' stories in your community and add them to the *Girl Connected* Story Project! See more details about our StoryCorps initiative on page 21.



USING THE FILM

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCREENING

Set a Clear Objective

What do you want to achieve with your film screening? Do you want to inspire girls and young women? Engage women role models as mentors? Educate a group about international gender issues? Push men and boys to be supportive allies? Starting with a clear objective can help you focus your event and understand your impact.

Make It Work for Your Audience

Who is the audience you need to reach in order to fulfill your objective? Once you've determined that, you can make your event work for them. Think about where and when they are available, how long they may be able to stay for a discussion, the kinds of activities and/or guest speakers that will interest them, and how you can inspire them to take action. Don't forget to advertise your event to your audience! You can share event details on social media, through email, via phone calls, at other events or classes, and on posters and flyers.

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!

Watch the film all the way through at least once before your screening. Go through the toolkit and choose a few questions that can help you start a meaningful discussion. Prepare for any supplementary activities you've decided to do. Send invitations to any guest speakers and partner organizations. Make sure your space is reserved, you have enough seating, and you have all the equipment you need (projector, screen, laptop, speakers, Internet access, all cords and cables, etc.). Get there early to test your equipment and internet connection.

Save Time for a Call to Action

Take advantage of the momentum you've built by coming up with an action plan before people leave the room. A number of action ideas are included in the toolkit, including the *Girl Connected StoryCorps* initiative. It is often most effective to brainstorm multiple action ideas with your audience and help them find the one they are most excited about. Don't forget to follow up with them about their progress!



USING THE FILM

FACILITATING THE CONVERSATION

Unlike the job of a teacher, a facilitator's role is not to provide participants with answers or to interpret the film for them. Your job is to help people probe so they can learn from the film and from one another.

To show women and girls that their opinions have value, you'll want to be careful not to let your beliefs overshadow theirs by unintentionally implying that they should agree with everything you say. This is especially important when working with girls or women who have been silenced in their families or communities.

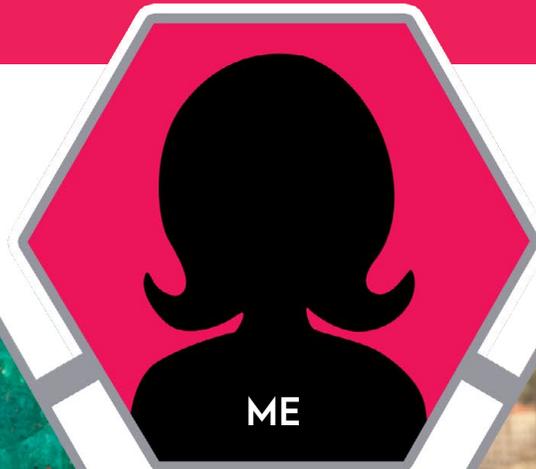
You'll find a number of discussion prompts in the next sections that can help you facilitate a meaningful conversation. Choose one or two questions that best fit your audience and objectives. Typically you'll need only one or two to launch a dialogue, and then group interests will move things along from there. It often helps to start with a more general question like "Did you see anything familiar in the film?" or "What do girls in your community have in common with the girls featured in the film?" Then you can dig deeper into a particular story or topic.

HINT: Use the Girl Connections map on the next page to help you start the conversation. Share the image on a projector or print it out as a handout for participants to fill in. From there, move on to the discussion questions, resources, and calls to action to help you dig into each girl's story and the issues she fights for.



GIRL CONNECTIONS

Think about the connections between each of the girls' stories and how they connect to your own story or the stories of girls you know. What challenges and strengths do they have in common? What about their dreams?



AYESHA

Fighting for GIRLS' SAFETY



KEY TOPICS

Gender-based violence, girls in sports, living with disabilities, girls' education, male allies

ABOUT AYESHA

Ayesha is a black belt karate champion from Calcutta, India, competing for national and international titles. Outside the ring, Ayesha fights her own battle with epilepsy every day. Despite the discrimination she faces because of her condition, Ayesha has fought to continue her education. Today, Ayesha teaches karate to other girls to help them protect themselves from assault and to build their confidence and self-esteem. Her coach, Ali, has been one of her biggest supporters and advocates since the very beginning of her karate career. Read more about Ayesha in her [Huffington Post](#) feature.

THE FACTS:

"When girls participate in sport, they challenge the core of GBV [gender-based violence]—inequity, patriarchy and rigid gender roles." –Women Win [huffingtonpost.com/women-win/gender-based-violence-sports_b_3348458.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/women-win/gender-based-violence-sports_b_3348458.html)



[unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#notes](https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#notes)



[unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#notes](https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#notes)



[womenssportsfoundation.org](https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org)

Discussion Questions

- Ayesha says, “When I’m doing karate, my voice gets louder. I become a lioness.” What about karate gives her a voice? Are there things you do (or could do) that make you feel like a “lioness”?
- Ayesha says, “I heard that a girl was raped in Delhi. Instead of getting scared, I decided to train girls [in karate].” What do you think makes girls feel unsafe in your community? What could you and your friends or family do to help girls feel safer?
- Ayesha shares, “My dream is to become a coach and train people in karate. I will boost their self-confidence and make them courageous. And they’ll get stronger.” What role do you think Ayesha’s coach plays in inspiring her dream? What difference might it make for girls to have female, as well as male, coaches?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Invite a self-defense teacher or law enforcement officer to come give a self-defense demonstration at your screening and to share information about classes available for women and girls locally. Check out tips and techniques from [Thousand Waves](#).



TAKE IT FURTHER

Organize a club or committee to take a stand against gender-based violence. Don’t forget to include men and boys as allies! [Futures Without Violence](#) has great resources for engaging young women and men, teachers, coaches, parents, and community ambassadors. You can even start your own chapter!

Collect and share resources available for people at risk of gender-based violence or abuse. [The Pixel Project](#) has resources for women and men on how to prevent violence against women and girls, including fact sheets, an online network, and calls to action. Follow the Pixel Project on [Twitter](#) to find local hotlines for reporting violence and supporting survivors.

CONNECTING WITH

JOSI

Rallying for **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**



KEY TOPICS

Reproductive health, teen pregnancy, healthy relationships, youth leadership, girls' education

ABOUT JOSI

Josi is a peer health educator and community organizer from a small village in the Amazon region of Peru. When she watched one girl after another drop out of school because of pregnancy, Josi was moved to take action. She and the other members of her youth organization believe that every young person should be educated about healthy relationships and reproductive health. They organize community events and produce film and radio programs to spread their rallying cry: "Infórmate!" Inform yourself! Follow Josi's work with the Peruvian organization Líderes/as en Tiempo Libre on [Facebook!](#)

THE FACTS:

"Women's and adolescents' right to contraceptive information and services is grounded in internationally recognized human rights." – United Nations Population Fund

unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Contraception.pdf

Only **50%** of teen mothers in the United States receive a high school diploma by age 22

www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/

Every day in developing countries, **20,000 girls** under the age of 18 give birth

That's **7.3 million births** every year

unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy#sthash.zhv5qTiz.dpuf

A child born to a literate mother is **50% more likely** to survive past the age of **95** years

care.org/work/education/girls-education

Discussion Questions

- Josi says, “We are the new generation, and we want our country to improve.” Do you feel like you have a stake in the future of your country? What does that mean to you? What do you think older people can learn from the younger generation about how to achieve a better future?
- When Josi asks the teens how they can prevent pregnancies, they are shy about answering. Why do you think so many teens feel uncomfortable discussing reproductive health, periods, and sex? How comfortable are you having conversations about sex and reproductive health? What might make you more comfortable? How does Josi’s team make such conversations seem normal?
- Josi reminds the boys that pregnancy prevention is “not just the women’s responsibility. It’s also up to the men.” Would people in your community agree? How about when she says that if a girl gets pregnant, “the guy is also responsible”? Do you think it is realistic to expect boys and girls to share the responsibility equally? Why or why not? What could boys or men do to be responsible partners?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Bring in poster board and markers or paint. Help participants decide on a health or relationship issue that’s important to them, then have them create a poster campaign to raise awareness. Use fact sheets from the [Working Group on Girls](#) or [Futures Without Violence](#) for ideas and come up with catchy slogans, like Josi’s call to “Inform yourself!” Make a plan to hang the posters in your school or community.



TAKE IT FURTHER

Organize a health fair where young people can get information and resources on reproductive health. Invite local clinics and teen health organizations to set up tables with information about their services. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) have planning tips on their site.

Encourage boys and men to join UN Women’s [HeForShe](#) campaign and commit to supporting the women and girls in their lives. Explore the campaign’s [Health Actions](#) page for ideas on how men and boys can advocate for their own health and the health of their partners.

CONNECTING WITH

LATIFA

Organizing to END CHILD MARRIAGE



BANGLADESH

KEY TOPICS

Child marriage, girls' education, community organizing, youth leadership

ABOUT LATIFA

Latifa is a self-trained community organizer from the small village of Gopalganj, Bangladesh. Almost forced into marriage as a young girl, Latifah's struggle began at home. After narrowly escaping the fate of a child bride and fighting for her right to finish school, Latifa now advocates for the right of other girls to do the same. She has mobilized and trained her own army of youth advocates who stop child marriage one family at a time.

THE FACTS:

"Child marriage is a complex issue. Poverty, lack of education, cultural practices, and insecurity fuel and sustain the practice." –Girls Not Brides girlsnotbrides.org/why-does-it-happen/

Every year of education:



- delays marriage for girls
- lowers their risk of dying in pregnancy or childbirth
- reduces the number of children they are likely to have

data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/#unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy#sthash.zhv5qTiz.dpuf

1 in 7 adolescent girls around the world is currently married or in a union



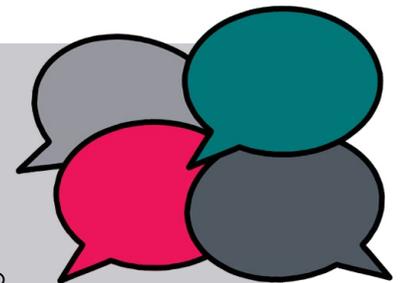
care.org/work/education/girls-education

Discussion Questions

- What did you learn from Latifah's experiences about the reasons that families agree to early marriages? Latifa doesn't think that those reasons are adequate. Do you? How would you convince families or policymakers to stop child marriage?
- Latifa recalls, "I began my work as an activist alone, but soon realized that people didn't care what a lone girl had to say. I asked a couple of friends to join me." Why is it easier to dismiss a lone girl than a group? If you wanted to work for change in your community, who are some people or groups you could you ask to join you?
- Latifa says that opponents wonder why she behaves like an activist because, they say, "This isn't children's work." She says, "We try and explain that it's because we've faced these problems ourselves. And that we work so that no girl should have to suffer such a fate." If elders were listening to the young people in your community, what messages would they hear about what girls want and need?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Help participants brainstorm an important issue holding girls back in their community. Have them role-play to practice their advocacy skills. Ask for a volunteer to act as a person who needs convincing. Ask other volunteers to practice convincing them. Come up with a plan to approach community leaders or school administrators to advocate for girls' rights.



TAKE IT FURTHER

Organize an event to educate people about child marriage around the world. Use the "Take Action" guide from [Girls Not Brides](#) for ideas on how to mobilize people around the issue and how to support campaigns fighting to end child marriage.

Encourage participants to join Plan International's [Because I Am a Girl](#) campaign. The campaign's advocacy toolkit, "[The Education We Want](#)," can inspire you and help you get organized to fight for girls' education.

CONNECTING WITH

MICHELLE

Mentoring for GIRLS' LEADERSHIP



KEY TOPICS

Women and girls' leadership, mentoring, girls' education, girls in STEM

ABOUT MICHELLE

Michelle is an aspiring aeronautical engineer from Nairobi, Kenya, with a passion for girls' empowerment. As the oldest child, Michelle began her leadership journey at home. Inspired by her training at Akili Dada, a leadership incubator for African girls, Michelle went on to start the Dream Sisterhood Foundation to provide mentoring and leadership training for girls in Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum. Visit the [Dream Sisterhood Foundation](#) and [Akili Dada](#) online to learn more about their work to connect girls with mentorship and leadership opportunities.

THE FACTS:

"Mentorship is especially important for women's success because they often have difficulty building social capital at work, particularly in settings where there are fewer women."

– Development Dimensions International ddiworld.com/ddi/media/trend-research/womenasmentors_rr_ddi.pdf?ext=.pdf

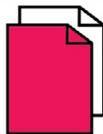
Only 12%
of engineers
in the United States
are women

Only 4% are
women of color



A résumé headed
with a man's name
is **more likely** to be

selected than
the **same** résumé
headed with a
woman's name



Just over 20%
of parliamentarians
worldwide
are women



Women continue to be underrepresented
as voters, party leaders and elected officials

aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/#awards

aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/

ndi.org/what-we-do/gender-women-and-democracy

Discussion Questions

- Michelle insists, “Women like us have rights.” Do you think that women have the right to be leaders? Is that right honored in your community? Are there rights you think you should have that you don’t? What could you do to fight for those rights?
- Michelle identifies a lack of role models as “a really big issue.” How do role models increase the chances that girls will become leaders? Who are the role models for girls in your community? What could you do to help girls connect with role models?
- Michelle recalls, “When we started, my class had 24 students, and only six of us were girls. The boys in my class used to look down on us, like, ‘Really, why are you doing engineering? You’re girls. You should go work in a hotel somewhere.’” Have you ever seen or experienced anything similar? Can you think of any ways that you could change men’s and boys’ attitudes toward girls?



BONUS ACTIVITY:

Bring in magazines or photos that feature strong, smart women and girls, scissors, glue or tape, markers, and large pieces of construction paper. Ask participants to make a collage of their leadership goals like the girls in Michelle’s leadership group did.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Help participants sign up or **volunteer** as mentors for a local **Girl Guides** or **Girl Scouts** program. Explore programs in your area with their **interactive map** and learn more about their approach to cultivating **girls’ leadership**.

Organize a career fair or job-shadowing day for girls and young women. Be sure to invite representatives (ideally, women) from careers in **STEM** and **political leadership**, areas in which women are underrepresented. The **World Pulse** online community can also help girls seek advice and learn from **Impact Leaders** virtually.



CONNECTING WITH

GHAZAL

Encouraging **GIRLS' CREATIVE EXPRESSION**



JORDAN

KEY TOPICS

Gender stereotypes, girls in the arts, girls' online networks, media literacy

ABOUT GHAZAL

Ghazal is a boundary-breaking artist from Amman, Jordan. She started painting when her family stopped her from playing football. From photographing for *Humans of Amman* to organizing community craft and mural-painting projects to sharing her work on Instagram, Ghazal's art is her voice. Despite the strict gender norms in Jordan, Ghazal is determined to do what she loves and believes in and to help other girls do the same.

THE FACTS:

"Because women and girls have effectively been left on the sidelines of the global technology revolution—considered 'consumers,' but not 'creators'—today's technology does not reflect the diversity of women's experiences, imagination, or ingenuity." —Musimbi Kanyoro, Global Fund for Women

ignite.globalfundforwomen.org/gallery/technology-womens-human-rights-issue

Work by women artists makes up only 3-5% of major permanent collections in the U.S. and Europe

nmwa.org/advocate/get-facts

62% of NEWS in the U.S. was generated by men in 2014

Female journalists were least likely to write or report on politics, criminal justice, science, sports or technology

wmc3cdn.net/83bf6082a319460ebl_hsrn680x2.pdf

Worldwide, 200 million more men than women have access to the Internet

That means women have less access to social networks, health resources, and online banking

globalfundforwomen.org/our-approach/initiatives/technologyinitiative/#.WK0vSRlrJE4

Discussion Questions

- Ghazal says, “They accuse me of encouraging girls to overstep boundaries.” Which boundaries does she cross? Who created those boundaries? What do you think gives Ghazal the courage to push the boundaries?
- Ghazal recognizes, “Many girls don’t even have the freedom to study or work or do the things they like to do. ...What I want to communicate to my followers is for them to look at things in a different light.” How does art help people see things differently? How would your community change if people looked at girls “in a different light”? If girls looked at themselves “in a different light”?
- Why is it important for girls’ voices to be represented in art and media? Do you feel like you see enough examples of art and media by girls, about girls? Where can you go to find more girls’ voices?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Have participants pair up and interview each other, like Ghazal does for Humans of Amman. Use the instructions and sample questions on page 21 to record the stories with the StoryCorps App! And don’t forget to use the hashtag **#GirlConnected** to **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!** Every story needs an audience!



TAKE IT FURTHER

Watch more media by girls, about girls! [Global Girl Media](#) has a great collection of videos and stories from talented girl producers. Use one of their [recommended apps](#) to help girls produce their own films or encourage girls to [sign up](#) for a chance to participate in a filmmaking training at Global Girl Media.

Make a plan to paint a mural in the community highlighting women’s and girls’ contributions. Form a committee to find a location and get permission to paint. Invite a talented woman or girl artist to direct the project, and recruit volunteers to help paint. Get started with some useful tips from the [Creative Action Institute](#), and check out the [Women’s Building](#) in San Francisco for inspiration.

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS

Girl Connected can be a valuable tool for engaging men and boys in the conversation about gender equality. By focusing on the important roles they play—whether as fathers, brothers, partners, friends, teachers, coaches, or colleagues— you can help men and boys find meaningful ways to stand beside the women and girls in their lives.



Engagement Ideas

- Host a father-daughter film screening and encourage girls to share their dreams for the future.
- Host a screening exclusively for boys and young men. Invite a peer educator or counselor to come lead a discussion about positive relationships.
- Encourage men and boys to interview a girl or young woman in their life as part of the *Girl Connected* Story Project (more details on page 21).

However you decide to invite men and boys into the conversation, be sure to emphasize their role as allies—equal partners, empowering mentors, and supportive friends. Remind them of Michelle’s point: **“Women’s empowerment doesn’t rob men of their place in society.”** When girls and women are supported, their entire families and communities benefit.

Explore key organizations listed below for facts and resources, local engagement opportunities, and calls to action.

Futures Without Violence

Through their programs to engage men and boys, Futures Without Violence aims to develop new male leaders in the field who are willing to publicly speak and act to oppose violence against women and girls. They strive to create a ripple effect, encouraging men in many more communities to get involved.

HeForShe

A solidarity movement created by UN Women, HeForShe invites people everywhere to come together as equal partners to craft a shared vision of a gender equal world and implement specific, locally relevant solutions for the good of all of humanity.

Man Up Campaign

A global campaign to activate youth to stop violence against women and girls. Their call to action challenges each of man and boy to “man up” and declare that violence against women and girls must end.

MenEngage

An alliance of NGOs working together with men and boys to promote gender equality. MenEngage members work collectively and individually toward advancing gender justice, human rights and social justice to achieve a world in which all can enjoy healthy, fulfilling and equitable relationships and their full potential.

THE GIRL CONNECTED STORY PROJECT

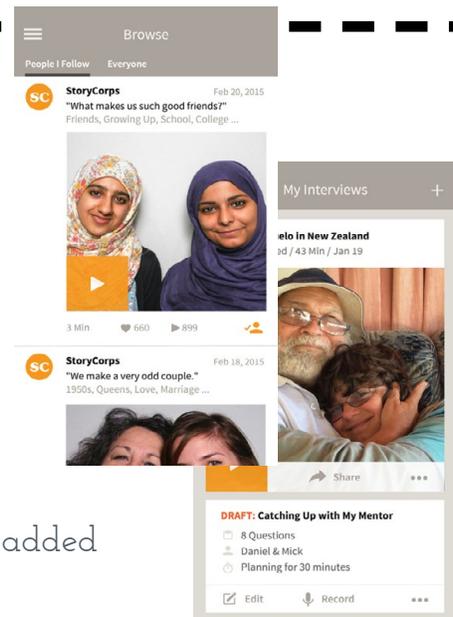
Like Women and Girls Lead Global, StoryCorps believes in the power of storytelling and works to record and amplify the stories of diverse people across the United States and around the world. That's why we're so excited to use the StoryCorps App to widen the net of *Girl Connected* stories.

Just as Ayesha, Josi, Latifa, Michelle, and Ghazal's stories connect across continents, girls all over the world share important similarities in the challenges they face and in the ways they fight for equality. By encouraging your community to contribute their own *Girl Connected* stories, you can help illuminate those connections and bring girls' voices into the spotlight.

The Storycorps App

The StoryCorps App was developed to enable people anywhere to record and archive the stories of their families and communities. Create an account on [StoryCorps.me](https://www.storycorps.me), and download the app to start recording. Explore the site for useful tips and important [guidelines](#).

After you sign up, be sure to join the [Girl Connected Story Project](#) on StoryCorps.me and use the keyword GirlConnected so that your story is added to the collection.



THE GIRL CONNECTED STORY PROJECT

The Prompt

Interviews for the *Girl Connected Story Project* should include a girl or young woman's voice—either as the subject, the interviewer, or both—and help listeners understand what it means to be a girl in today's world. The rest is up to you.

Feel free to choose from the questions below or come up with your own. Check out the [Question Generator](#) on StoryCorps.me for more ideas. Be creative and have fun!

- What do you think is the most challenging thing about being a girl today? What is the most exciting thing?
- Can you tell me about someone who has had a big influence on your life? Would you tell me about some of the most important lessons that person taught you?
- What are you proudest of? Why does it make you feel proud?
- How has your life been different from what you imagined it would be?
- Tell me how you would like people to remember you.
- Imagining your life years into the future, what do you see?



Ways To Engage

There are many opportunities to encourage your audience, family, and community to participate in the *Girl Connected Story Project*. Examples are listed below.

- Have participants interview each other at your screening.
- Assign students to do an interview as homework, then listen together in your next class.
- Encourage girls to interview a friend or sister and then trade places.
- Encourage girls to have a conversation with an ally—a friend, partner, parent, teacher, or coach.
- Encourage adults and boys to interview the girls in their lives—daughters, sisters, students, classmates, and neighbors.

Don't forget to explore other stories in the collection! Find out how your story connects with others around the world.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Share your story on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) with the hashtag [#GirlConnected](#).

Email your story file to womenandgirlslead@itvs.org for a chance to be featured on the Women and Girls Lead Global blog or Facebook page.



KEY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS

There are many organizations around the world working to promote gender equality and empower women and girls. Explore key organizations below to learn more about their work, research, and calls to action.

CARE USA

CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty, and achieve social justice. CARE works in 95 countries to support more than 890 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects.

GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 600 civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential.

GEENA DAVIS INSTITUTE FOR GENDER IN MEDIA

The Geena Davis Institute is the only research-based organization working within the media and entertainment industry to engage, educate, and influence the need to dramatically improve gender balance, to reduce stereotyping, and to create diverse female characters in entertainment targeting children 11 and under.

GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

A global champion for the human rights of women and girls, the Global Fund for Women uses their powerful networks to find, fund, and amplify the courageous work of women who are building social movements and challenging the status quo. By shining a spotlight on critical issues, they rally communities of advocates who take action and invest money to empower women.

GLOBAL GIRL MEDIA

Through media, leadership and journalistic training, Global Girl Media is dedicated to empowering high-school-age girls from underserved communities around the world to have a voice in the global media universe and their own futures.

PLAN INTERNATIONAL USA

Plan works in more than 50 countries around the world to make a lasting impact on the lives of children, families, and communities.

UN WOMEN

All human development and human rights issues have gender dimensions. UN Women focuses on priority areas that are fundamental to women's equality and that can unlock progress across the board. [HeForShe](#) is UN Women's solidarity movement for gender equality, bringing together one half of humanity in support of the other half of humanity, for the benefit of all.

UNICEF

For 70 years, across 190 countries and territories, UNICEF has defended the rights of every child.

WORKING GROUP ON GIRLS

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is a coalition of more than 75 national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with representation at the United Nations. The WGG is dedicated to promoting the human rights of the girl child in all areas and stages of her life.

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world. Our diverse Movement represents ten million girls and young women from 146 countries.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



Koen Suidgeest (director, writer, producer)

"When asked what I believe is going to be required to lift people out of poverty and create a more tolerant and just society, I always say, 'Three things: education, education, and education.'"

Koen Suidgeest is a documentary director, writer and photographer. Koen's projects mostly deal with human rights issues with a recurring focus on the rights of women in the developing world. He likes to observe without judging and is known for his ability to get very close to his characters. With his documentary *Casting* (2006) he became the first Dutch filmmaker to be nominated for a Spanish Academy Award (Goya). His multiple award-winning *Karla's Arrival* (2011) was selected for more than 40 film festivals, broadcast in 14 countries, and won him widespread international recognition. In 2016, he delivered three films: *Out & About*, a collection of portraits of parents of gay children in Indonesia, Russia and Kenya, *Solo*, a personal film about grief, and *Girl Connected*.

Koen teaches documentary at a variety of universities, is a sought-after tutor for international writing and pitching workshops, and has served on the jury of several film festivals. He recently gave his first TED talk – a touching presentation about how babies born on the street inadvertently end up rescuing their own teenage mothers.

Christi Collier (producer)

"I saw the incredible engagement work being done in the five Women and Girls Lead Global countries—India, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kenya and Peru—and the positive impact those activities were having on the communities. I wanted to share those stories with a larger audience by focusing on a single girl from each country—a girl who is a role model in her community, who has overcome adversity, and is an inspiration to others."

Christi Collier has a diverse background in the creative and business side of the broadcast industry—from starting out as an editorial assistant in the news department to becoming one of the first women directors of nightly news. She is an award-winning producer and director of news and public affairs programming, documentaries, music, and performance specials. Her work has earned awards from the Chicago Film Festival and the New York Film Festival, as well as the Columbia DuPont Journalism award, the Los Angeles Emmy award and numerous Telly and PBS Marketing awards.

She has served as a consultant for The Independent Television Service (ITVS), supervising over 40 international documentaries including 2 Oscar nominated films, an Oscar winning feature documentary, a Golden Globe winning feature documentary, and a Peabody award winning series. She is also the co-producer of the ITVS documentary *Girl Connected*. Collier's passion is to tell the personal stories of everyday people as a way to bring awareness and knowledge to diverse groups of people.

ABOUT WOMEN & GIRLS LEAD GLOBAL

Women and Girls Lead Global uses the power of documentary film to inspire individuals across the world to act within their communities and transform their lives. We gather people in living rooms, community centers, and crowded classrooms to share stories and imagine solutions that lead to real gains—from accessing education and leadership opportunities to reducing child marriage and gender-based violence. As a facilitator for Women and Girls Lead Global, you are part of an international effort to celebrate, educate, connect, and inspire women, girls, and their allies through film.

Women and Girls Lead Global is a public-private partnership between USAID, the Ford Foundation, and ITVS. The initiative uses a 21st-century media strategy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It combines world-class documentary films, television partners, and local engagement campaigns to impact communities around the world by supporting ongoing NGO efforts to lift up women and girls. For more information, visit womenandgirlslead.org.

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