

Special edition of the GLUNN newsletter. October 2017



Celebration of the International Day of the Girl (IDG)

October 11, 2017, will mark the 6th annual International Day of the Girl (IDG), and the 5th annual Girls Speak Out event at the United Nations. It's a huge year for girls around the world. The International Day of the Girl Child was declared an international observance day in 2012 by the United Nations. It marks an annual celebration of girls across the globe, and reminds us of the barriers they face and the challenges they must overcome: gender inequality, gender-based violence, and child marriage. It's a day for sharing inspiration and spreading awareness. International Day of the Girl is about redoubling global efforts to improve their lives especially as in many countries, the situation is bleak.

In 2016, the Grail Link to the United Nations Network (GLUNN) initiated a celebration of the International Day of the Girl in different corners of the world where the Grail is. From Mexico to Mozambique, Portugal to Papua New Guinea, South Africa to Tanzania, to the UN headquarters in New York and everywhere in between, in 2016 there were Grail campaigns to raise awareness about girls' rights and so on. If you missed the reports we shared last year, write and we'll send them to you. They are truly inspirational.

We now proudly share below, how some Grail communities will celebrate the date in 2017.

MEXICO

The Grail in Mexico will celebrate the IDG by promoting workshops for girls and boys to have conversation about girl's rights, violence in society and the right to education for girls. These activities will be running in 3 different regions (Morelos, Los Reyes, Aguascalientes). This is especially a challenge and an important voice of hope after the earthquakes this year.

In Los Reyes de Paz... They will have a special day working with a group of girls on: what would you do if you had 24 hours to do anything you want? How can it be your perfect day? They will have a discussion on our Mother Earth through reading *Chief Seattle's letter* and connect with the current environmental and indigenous problems. Finally, they will make a mural about environmental problems and indigenous worldviews.

In Axochiapan... Axochiapan is one of the communities most affected by the recent earthquake. It is expecting around 200 girls and boys from 6 to 15 years. The Grail will work with the group on gender roles and have a workshop on teenagers and sexual health, hygiene and special care.

In Morelos... The Grail will promote a workshop on sustainable development: The too will reflect on the earth, our mother. They will discuss gender roles with a group of girls.

In Aguascalientes... Montse Fregoso together with her peers will go to an orphanage and lead them in leadership activities and handcrafts. They will see a movie and read a book about the 100 women: Good night stories for rebel girls. She also will go to a local school and do activities with students on the SDGs.

PORTUGAL

The Girl Effect in Coimbra and Madeira is working on a video to showcase the International Day of the Girl. In the video, girls will share experiences about what it means to be a girl. They will also each speak about a woman they admire and why.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Grail in Cape Town will celebrate the IDG by working in collaboration with a girl child movement NGO. The activities will consist of packing information and books about Girls Rights and distribute.

MOZAMBIQUE

In Maputo...The Grail will be having a full day of activities with a group of 25 girls between 4 – 22 years old who are part of an initiative to remove girls from the street to end prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse. The main goal of the activities will be introducing girls to their rights and expose them to what it really means to be a girl. The Grail is working with the group that is providing them shelter and helps them build self-esteem and recover their values.

In Beira...The celebration of IDG will consist of a parade addressing child marriage and the right of education for girls. The parade will join 50 girls from different parishes. The celebration will also include going to a local radio station and talk about the date and why is important.

TANZANIA

The Grail in Tanzania will observe the IDG celebration by gathering a group of 40 girls of a Girls Club nearby St. Theresa of Avila School. The Celebration will include dances, singing, role plays, presenting speeches all related to girls' rights, environmental issues and climate change.

ANGOLA

The Grail explorer group in Benguela will celebrate the IDG by visiting institutions that are working with Adolescents mothers and prostitutions. The group is working with the girls from local community on gain self-esteem, girls' rights through activities of identified problems that affect them.

UN Headquarters – New York

The central celebrations of the International Day of the Girl at the UN headquarters this year will consist of a Girls' Speak Out event where girls will present their work whether it be art, poems, music or videos. The presentations will be of both girls present at the UN headquarters and of girls who sent their works throughout the past months. For the first time, the Grail will have a girl from South Africa participating in the activities in person. Thandoletho Hlubi, 14 years old, will participate in the Girls' Speak Out for this year and share her perspective on **impact of climate change in the life of girls**. We will also have the work of Khensani Nhambongo from Mozambique showcased in the event. The event will be webcasted for everyone to watch it live on DayoftheGirlSummit.org on Wednesday, October 11th 3pm - 5pm EST. Attached are the two poems that Khensany wrote.

Since 2012, through the work of the Grail Youth Group in Mozambique we have been sending videos that were used at the UN for the IDG. The first was a testimony of Denise Milice and Timeika Mucambe; In 2013: Claudia Sigauque In 2014: Ludumila Massimana and Flavia Viana, and last year from Khensany Nhambongo and friends about girls

FACTS

- In a single day, 25,000 girls under eighteen become brides
- 800 women – mostly teenagers - will die in childbirth today
- In a developing country, half of all of the girls will become young mothers
- One in five girls in a developing country will never finish primary school

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

11 DAYS OF ACTION

Go to the website: dayofthegirlsummit.org or unwomen.org for more information. Below is the focus of each day leading up to the 11th. Activities for days 6 and 9 will unfold on those days.

DAY 1: THE STORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

- Why did the United Nations proclaim the first International Day of the Girl?
- The story of IDG and key examples of progress for girls' rights globally.
- Talk about the challenges still facing and impeding girls' rights.

DAY 2: GIRLS LIKE US

- Violence against girls and women is a global problem. What does violence against girls look like? How can you get involved with NGOs at the UN?
- Educate one another about violence against girls and women.

DAY 3: HER VOICE. OUR FUTURE.

- Celebrate girls' strengths: Share a photo or video of yourself showing us what you look like when you feel strong and a word that represents your strength!
- Make Girls tell their stories to strengthen their voices, mentor them to build courage and confidence in the face of adversity. With a strong voice, a girl becomes an advocate for herself, her community and her future.
- Stand alongside women and girls globally, to celebrate their strengths and make a pledge to take action.
- Listening to and taking action on girls' own stories so together we can build a better world.

DAY 4: WHAT WOULD YOUR ROBOT DO?

This Action is an opportunity for girls worldwide, especially girls in underserved communities and in some of the most volatile areas of the world, to talk about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

So take action answer these questions: If you could build a robot,

- What would your robot do?
- What would your robot do to help girls in war-torn and underserved communities?
- How could a robot help girls dealing with injustice and poor living conditions?
- How can your robot improve access to healthcare and education?
- How can your robot make a difference?

It may seem foolish to think that girls who live in crisis would want to learn about STEM while food, water, shelter and peace are the most significant concerns. But the hope a girl can discover when learning something new, knowledge which can be transformative to both her and her community, provides more than skill.

DAY 5: EDUCATE GIRLS 2017

- Focus on the power of girls' education!
- Did you know that a girl's future income increases by 10% every year she is in school?
- Talk about what girls' education means to you!
- Share a photo on Instagram completing the phrase "An educated girl..."

DAY 6: GIRL SCOUTS

DAY 7: JUSTICE FOR GIRLS

- Girl activists rock our world in their commitment to equality! Today we celebrate the power of girl activists and role models who inspire their work.
- Talk about what you do to demand #JusticeForGirls. Share a video or image on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook.

DAY 8: GIRLS RIGHTS

- IDG brings attention to the importance of girls' human rights in girls' everyday lives. Today, we want to talk about what girls' rights mean to girls around the world!
- We know that when girls' rights are respected, girls will thrive in their communities. Girls' rights are human rights and THIS brings #JusticeForGirls.
- Talk about what #GirlsRights mean to you! Post a photo on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook.
- Complete the statement "I need #GirlsRights because..."

DAY 9: SPARK

DAY 10:

- If we want to change the world, then we need to listen to girls!
- Talk about how adults can support girls to be leaders and activists in our communities! Share your voice and tell your story – because together, we will change the world.
- Post a photo on Instagram speaking up for girls' rights in your community!
- Share your message for girls around the world for #IDG2017!

DAY 11: DAY OF THE GIRL

- The Girls Speak Out at the United Nations.

AND IF THE GRAIL IN YOUR COUNTRY HAS AN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL OBSERVANCE, PLEASE SEND US A REPORT AND WE WILL PUBLISH IT IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!