

updates on Grail and UFER activities September/October 2018



GRAIL LINK TO THE UNITED NATIONS NETWORK

You are receiving this newsletter letter late as we wanted to share the amazing IDG stories.

GRAIL YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

At the end of program held between July 17th and August 1st, 2018, each participant committed to take back home her learnings and experience to work for her community on a project connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These commitments are meant to strengthen the Grail work worldwide in relation to the SDGs as that is the responsibility of each and every one of us. The projects vary: empowerment of girls and young women; workshops on domestic violence, reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, early marriage, early pregnancy, gender equality with girls and boys; recycling awareness program; radio programs; girls in ICT training; sustainable cities and communities initiative; mentorship and educational program with girls and young women; income generating program; refugee and immigrants citizenship test support, raise awareness about SDGs and the challenges.

Although some of the projects are already being implemented, a vast majority will only start in January as participants are still in the process of raising funds and coordinating with their local Grail to work together on these projects. Among the projects that are already being implemented is Caroline's income generating program for disadvantaged women at St. Agnes Parish.



THE GRAIL CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL 2018

In December 2011 the United Nations adopted October 11th as International Day of the Girl (IDG) as a key global moment to celebrate the power of girls and highlight the barriers they face. 2018 marked the 7th anniversary of the IDG as an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that girls face around the world.

The Grail International Day of the Girl networking (CSW participants, Sacred Activism 2015 participants, YMLTP participants, Grail members, friends) once again took over this platform acting in solidarity with girls through organizing a variety of events: from Australia (Brisbane) to Mexico (Morelos), From Brazil (Buritizeiro) to Kenya (Kisumu), From Tanzania (Kisekibaha) to Portugal (Madeira), from Mozambique (Maputo) to USA (Cincinnati), From Brazil (Belo Horizonte) to South Africa (Western Cape), from Kenya (Nairobi) to South Africa (Kwazulu Natal), from Mozambique (Beira) to Uganda (Mushanga).

WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR

Australia - Brisbane

Spent the day packing "Days for Girls" to send to Nepal and Papua New Guinea. Days for Girls package is changing the status quo, through menstrual care solution, health education, and income-generation opportunities.

Mexico – Morelos

We spoke at a local radio station talking about IDG and our activities as El Nido and the Grail, of course!

Portugal – Madeira

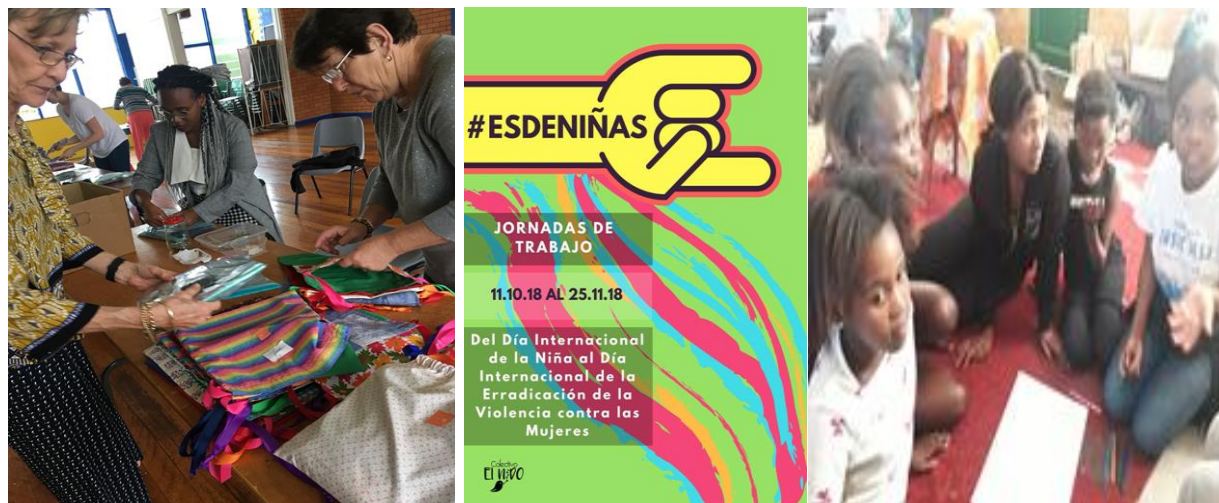
Create a paddy paper about girl's rights around the world in 4 different schools.

Brazil - Buritizeiro

Conversation with adolescents from the Imaculada Conceição Parish on issues of importance of being a girl and a boy - all in good time and building relationships of respect in a society full of stereotypes.

Kenya – Kisumu

Distributed sanitary towels (pads) to needy pupils from a local primary; engaged girls in talking about topics such as importance of educating a girl, roles of girls in the society, hygiene.



Tanzania

Advocated in the Maasai community about the importance of education for girls and enrolling girls in school next year.

Mozambique – Beira

The Day was marked by events focus on ending child marriage and girls' education. A march around the village of Dondo carrying posters created by the girls. The posters contained crying distress messages regarding the various problems that girls face in the case of early marriage and access to education.



Mozambique – Maputo

Hosted two celebrations with two groups of girls, one from a boarding school and another from a shelter for girls' streets (marginalized and vulnerable girls). The celebration focused on the need to address the challenges girls face and promoted girls' empowerment. Topics such as Girls' personal strengths and the potential they have. The girls also painted a banner with the message of the role of girls in society and had an awareness campaign on community action to protect the girls' rights.

USA – Cincinnati

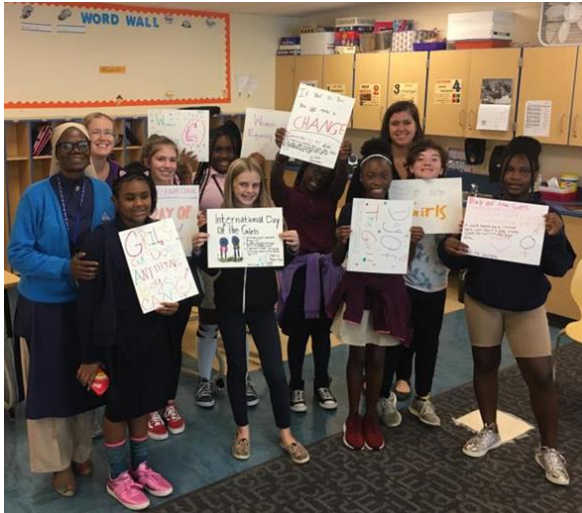
Spent the day at a Middle School talking about the importance of the Day of the Girl.

South Africa - KwaZulu Natal

Celebrated the day with approximately 500 high school girls with the help of WLTP and an inspiring NGO from US. Distributing reusable sanitary towels (pads) and school shoes. The girls were taught about menstruation and hygiene. Also gathered mothers and guardians to share how to support their daughter's sexual reproductive health in 3 communities (Hlokozi, Ukhahlamba and KwaMashu). Looking beyond harmful cultural practices to support their daughters.

Brazil – Belo Horizonte

On October 18th we met with girls 10 to 13 years old, residents of Bairro Jardim Felicidade, about the IDG. Girls were asked if they knew what was celebrated on October 11. Some knew, others not. The group talked a little about the importance of this day in order to give visibility to girls and empower them. After the conversation, they were given paper to express their dreams and anguish through drawings, words or phrases. This material was exhibited on the day of the anniversary celebration of the headquarters of the *Collective Youth Space Olga Benário*.



South Africa – Western Cape

Awareness campaign on menstrual health and distributed pads to a group of girls in Khayelitsha. They also practiced yoga.

Kenya - Nairobi

Met girls at an orphanage and talked about the challenges they face and the importance of education for girls. Distributed sanitary towels and tissue.



Mexico – Aguascalientes

Celebrated the Day with 36 girls from "La Casa Hogar de la Niña" and recreated a "Team Mini Master Chef" to strengthen teamwork, leadership, and creativity!



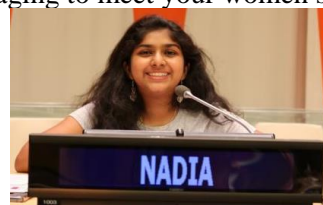
Uganda

Visited two primary schools, discussed with them what it means to be a girl, what they love about being girls, their challenges and plans for the future. Showed to them the importance of education that can shape their ideas and create a new reality. They stressed being empowered through education: personally, socially and economically. For adolescent girls, a quarter of whom remain unenrolled in formal school or vocational training, education can change their world!

It is estimated that this year The Grail IDG networking reached approximately 800 girls on the celebration of the International Day of the Girl. Since IDG 2012, the Grail through GLUNN has continued working to empower girls by providing opportunities that eliminate barriers to thrive in the paths they aspire to. **Yes. It's the time to bring GIRLS TO THE FRONT and learn from the amazing ways girl organisers are generating change in their communities.**

During the IDG Summit in New York, Nadia, a girl from Baltimore, Maryland via India stayed at the Bronx Grail Center. She gave a very important presentation on the environment. You can hear her speech at the following site: <https://youtu.be/KmAokdO0GgM>. It is so

encouraging to meet your women such as her.





GLOBAL GIRLS' SUMMIT 2018

October 10, 2018 Brussels, Belgium The event brought together 500 of the world's leading change-makers to celebrate the potential of girls and call for urgent action to support girls' power everywhere. The theme was: **HOW CAN WE UNLOCK GIRLS' LEADERSHIP, ACTIVISM AND POWER?** Girls and Young women shared their stories and among them was our own: Khensani Charllotte Nhambongo, representing FRIDA Young Feminist Fund and The Grail Mozambique. She spoke about how girl-led activism is changing social movements.

COMMISSION on the STATUS OF WOMEN 2019: 11-22 MARCH

CSW-63: Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

The GLUNN interns this year are Coline Brintjies from South Africa and Ana Barata from Portugal. We are looking forward to their arrival in January and have already put them to work reading documents, talking about community life at the Grail, etc. We also have received many applications to attend CSW in 2019. By the end of November, we will have selected those who will be able to attend.

We will again have both the girls' parallel event and the Sacred Activism event during CSW. It may seem strange to some to be having a 'spiritual' activity at CSW but all who attend are so grateful for the time to 'breathe' and be in a different space during the hubbub of CSW.



Sacred Activism panel in 2018. Abida(Mozambique) moderator, Veronica(Ecuador) prayer leader, the four panelists: Sofia(Portugal), Rachele(The Netherlands), Carolina(Mexico), Mary(The Netherlands/Kenya). Lisa(USA/Mexico) moderator, Simonetta(USA) GLUNN member organizer. Veronica lead us in a traditional indigenous prayer

CSW offers the opportunity to meet UN leaders. At CSW-62 Carolina Nava(Mexico) and Celia Gois (Portugal) met

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women.

