



GLUNN: GRAIL LINK TO THE UNITED NATIONS NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2019

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Since 2012, when the UN declared the International Day of the Girl (IDG), 11 October has been marked as a day to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The Grail Link to the United Nations Network (GLUNN) coordinated the celebration of the IDG in different corners of the world where the Grail is.

The celebration of this important day started with a marathon of **11 Days of Action** that is a virtual campaign where organizations, groups, women and girls join their voices through social media to advocate and speak out about girls' rights. This year we co-sponsored 'a day' with another three (3) organizations: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, School Sisters of Notre Dame and Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. **Day 4** was the one assigned to us that was related with *Advocating for Justice for Girls around the world*. During a period of 2 hours on that day, Twitter Chat was going on very intensively about #JusticeForGirls around the globe.

The IDG Summit event happened at UN headquarters in New York. Over the years, the Grail has contributed to this event by attending with women and girls based in New York and sometimes with girls from other countries. Always we have contributed with poems, stories, messages, drawings, videos and more about *what it is to be a girl in her community*. This year we were able to submit 10 applications from Brasil, Mozambique, Portugal and South Africa. From those, 6 were selected to be shared during the event. There were amazing, inspirational stories and messages. One of our interns from St. John's University, Megan Wolyniec, was key in preparing for the UN event. (The other intern is Zoe Sheppard who attended the RUN UN training for new NGOs. She'll help with an orientation to all others.

This year we received echoes of celebration with incredible events. From Mozambique (Maputo & Beira), to Portugal (Madeira Island & Sertã), New Guinea (Wewak), South Africa (Cape Town, Johannesburg & Matatiele), Mexico (Morellos & Los Reyes), Brasil (Buritizeiro & Pirapora), UN headquarters in New York and everywhere in between. In all these places, the celebration was marked by reflection of the importance of 11 of October, what problems girls face in their daily lives, what the causes are and what are possible solutions to the problems they face. Campaigns were raising awareness about girls' rights: **Shout out to Stop violence in the communities, Stop early and forced marriage, STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ABUSE IN THE FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND AT SCHOOL, Stop violence in the community.** There was also a quiz on social media and radio interview! Yoga and art projects, parades and games. In these various events, the girls presented theaters that also portray the reality lived by them. A big contribution of the Grail girls with stories, poem and message of empowerment, hope and activism to the world. You can see and read more at [#grailgirls2030](#) [#IDG2019](#) [#withgirlsforgirls](#)



An ORDER to a City Girl

Find old ladies
Tell them now is the time
Not to lie
Tell them to forget about negative thoughts

They are old vessels
But I say it helps
The great admiration meeting must be held
To honour the heroines alive

Who first knew that a girl
will be proud of her virginity
she is raised with paper fire
cooking vegetables

to be a rural girl isn't easy
you must make your whole book an essay
wake up early
sleep late

the soft-hearted no longer survives
in that place
You need to be secure
And be sure

Gather cow dung
Use it in two ways
The super will be done
The house will be warm

Poem by Xolliswa Mantshule, 17 years old, from Matatiele in Eastern Cape, South Africa. She works with Thando Nzimande, Grail member from kwaZulu Natal-South Africa, past CSW participant and Intern.

The floor needs to be nurtured
I don't wanna scare you
Go there you will find nature
Because its where it lies

You only get your space in the reed dance club
You will get your joy
Get to enjoy
Your moments there

This space is a steal
That can't be stolen
It gives you the right and responsibility
And restores the humility

Grass skipping ropes
Plastic balls
Hide and seek
Enjoy those games only at school

They are not empty vessels
They don't hold grudges
Or give revenge
they only wanna raise thee girl!

Find those old ladies
Find nature
Find the space
Be resilient

I am going to fly and shine someday

When I wake up early I think "I am a girl"
When I cook to my family I think "that is my job "
When I take care of my brother I think "I am the eldest sister"
When I go to school and the math teacher puts his hands on my boobs I think "That's normal"
When I go back home and see my father beating my mother I think "that is scaring"
When I see a girl on TV I think "They are so beautiful"
When I see my male colleagues respond the questions in class I think "That's their job"
When I sleep and dream of achieving my wildest dreams, I think "That's wrong"
When I wake up the next day I say " I am going to fly and shine someday, I swear will"

Poem by Kimy Makeda Chadreque, 14 years old, from Mozambique. She works with Khensani and Denise, young Grail members, past CSW participants and interns.





Being a girl like me in the region I live in is a bit complicated, because our city offers elementary school, high school, in the schools it has here, but when we look for something such as a technical course, a college, the city offers no opportunity for growth here. And we are also devoid of jobs, young people have no opportunity to grow up here.

I participate in a group of young people, but they are very rare. And these groups here are very few, because people get tired, people don't want to participate, no matter how much you explain it, it's losing the habit and it's hard to keep these groups here.

Most of the children ... there are places in town here that cannot afford, they have the school, but they cannot go to school. They don't have the material or clothes, are extremely needy people.

And from my point of view, being a person like me in my city is hard because for me to search for something for me to get something I have to get out of here.

For example, here we have no leisure things for girls my age. Like a club, a soccer field, teams, these things the city doesn't offer, neither for people like me, nor for younger children, nor for older youth. So I think it's complicated. So I seek to grow in both my professional and personal life and in my life as a student. And I see that it is a difficulty, because the city offers nothing, we are without jobs and a good quality of education.

A Story "What is to be a girl in my community" by Vitória, 17 years old, Buritizero-MG Brazil. She works with Arlete Almeida, Grail member.



Being a girl where I live means having balance and control of one's emotions which are essential to ensure that we are happy and fulfilled people.

Being a girl is not a test, it is not a job nor is it something that you will carry forever. Being a girl is a gift. And a real girl knows how to live by her wisdom.

There are many challenges that girls face and there are many tasks girls are required to do daily. House chores, studying, playing. Being a girl is indeed a gift.

With time and the experiences of our lives, we learn to be strong, to forgive, to love, to respect and to be responsible. Because responsibility is something we have to cultivate always as girls.

I want all girls to know that they are strong and that they should always fight for their dreams and to overcome all challenges that they face in life. Never stop believing in yourself. Have faith and believe in God always.

A Story "What is to be a girl in my community" by Ironcina Sambo, 15 years old, Maputo-Mozambique, working with Khensani and Denise, young Grail members, part CSW participants and Interns.

THINGS TO FOLLOW

- 25 November - 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.
- 29 November – Global Climate Strike
- Commission for Social Development, Fifty-eighth Session, 10-19 February

In 2020, the global community will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action(1995). A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.

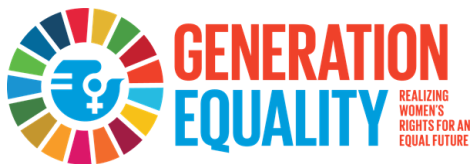
The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The GLUNN is already on track preparing for the event and making our contributions to influence CSW through organizing parallel events, co-sponsoring parallel events of the specific topics of CSW focusing on the experience of The Grail has made on specific topic. As in previous years, The Grail will be hosting a delegation to CSW-64 to advocate for women and girls' rights through gender equality, women's and girl's meaningful participation. CSW is about Networking and Lobbying. We did not submit our own statement this but the Grail is part of the WGG CSW-64 statement.

For September-December, we have been blest with two interns from a local university. And we introduce you to the two who will be part of the GLUNN/CSW Team for 3 months (January – March 2020), preparing for the participation of the Grail delegates. They are: Carolina Nava from Mexico, member of the Coletivo El Nido, a youth organization that has been working with the Grail in the past last four years on empowerment of girls and boys and young women. Noelina Nakabuye from Uganda, Grail member. We are so excited to have them join the team.

Applications for participation have been flowing to our inbox, characterized with the diversity that identifies our Movement. We take this opportunity to inform you that we will extend the **deadline to November 15, 2019**.

GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM



Why? 2020 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing Declaration) – the most progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights. It will also commemorate 20 years of Security Council Resolution 1325, 5 years of the SDGs, 10 years of UN Women and 75 years of the United Nations.

These anniversaries come at a challenging time for multilateralism and women's human rights. At this time, the equal enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls, in all their diversities, and in particular, those from marginalized communities, is at risk. The Generation Equality Forum serves as an opportunity to galvanize action towards gender equality. It will gather advocates from around the world to call for action and accountability for the full realization of the gender equality agenda.

What? Where? When? The Generation Equality Forum will be an **intergenerational and intersectional gathering for gender equality** convened by UN Women and co- chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society. Discussions will focus on action and accountability for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and intersecting, emerging issues for gender equality.

Mexico: 7-8 May 2020

- Mobilizing
- Action Coalition blueprint developed

France: 7-10 July 2020^(SEP)

Action Coalitions announced and roadmap.