



YWLTP – support and promote young women’s leadership

The Young Women’s Leadership Training Program (YWLTP) has begun. Thank you for your support in so many ways. In our virtual community that we are learning together how to negotiate, we welcomed young women from: Angola, Brasil, Ecuador, Kenya, Mexico, Moçambique, The Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Uganda and USA.

We will work together, being sure to leave nobody behind and ‘keeping the light on’

From Maya Gallardo, Mexico....



Mary Kay (USA), Maya (Mexico), Noella (Uganda), Khensani (Mozambique), Ana (Portugal), Abida (Mozambique)

What can I say about this program? About this team? I love it!!!! During last week, while I was preparing one of the activities for the Google Classroom I stopped for a minute and asked: what have we created here that this team manages to work on 4 different time zones, three languages, and different ages? It is the Grail Spirit!!!

One year ago, when we started to plan, we were very excited about having a program in Mexico...then covid-19 changed everything in different ways and our decision was to continue the adventure!! The team growth and the ideas and

inspiration came from everywhere. We started to make plans, to write, to talk with countries...only thing we were waiting for was to know the participants...to see their faces and meet them all!

Now this feels so real, even when we cannot be all together and dance, we can see each other on the screen and who knows, maybe one of these days we will dance!

Where are we now: We are in the middle of the first stage. So far we have shared about ourselves, learned about Grail History, we had two zoom meetings to create community! And now we started to reflect about community organizing and Global Agendas. Next week we will start to reflect on Leadership (Grail members will share with us) and after this stage finishes we will have our first community work stage.

What a wonderful experience!! If you know who are the participants from your country, please don't hesitate...talk to them, ask them how they are doing, support them, share with them your experiences and listen theirs.

Following is a VERY BRIEF SNAPSHOT of the participants (we just mention a FEW highlights)

Angola: D’family Lopes: likes music, guitar, communicating with others, organizer of IDG and Int. Women’s Day.
Ivaneusa Oliveira:Grail explorer, Girl Scout, likes finances, communicating, involved in socio-cultural activities
Keliene Cruzeiro:Grail explorer, involved in socio-cultural activities, finances, organizes the youth group
Mizo N’tseka:Grail explorer, catechist,traditional dancer, participated in IDG and Women’s Day, likes helping people

Brazil: Ana Beatriz Osorio: member of regional Cultural Movement and Rotary Club, communicating
Arlete Vitoria d Silva: Grail youth group, involved in social projects, likes communicating
Laura Pires: does social work in church and community, likes leaning new skills
Mariana Matos Ribeiro: attends Grail formation meetings, leader in school groups

Ecuador: Johann Troya: involved in University student affairs, sociable, likes working with young women
Ana Mosquera: Grail explorer, Afro healing dance performer, works with children facing violence, teaches dance
Veronica Sandoval:project on slopes of Pichincha volcano conserving natural/historical heritage, indigenous concerns

Kenya: Laetecia Anyango: works with adolescents and young women, fundraises for girls’ tuitions, teaches life skills

Mexico: Yoloztin de Los Reyes: IDG and Int. Women’s Day, mobilized students for March 8th Women equal to men
Monica Pena: Grail explorer, does gender -based violence workshop for children/teens/women/community
Samantha Espinosa: Grail/IDG/environment workshops, coordinates youth group, folk dance, clay crafts

Mozambique: Gertrudes Lopes: mentor in Grail program, IDG, project dealing with physical needs in the community
Aira Mondlane: Grail program/girls’ empowerment, HerStory project, children/teen programs in her church
Daiana Pondia: mentors girls group in marginalized community, she is flexible, creative with good team spirit
Eva Chicote: coordinates Grail activities, team spirit, adaptability, community project responding to physical needs
Stacy Rafael: mentor Grail Program, IDG, exchange programs with girls, work with youth with disabilities



Vanessa Macaringue: mentor/coordinator Grail HerStory program, Natl. Youth Council, social activist

The Philippines: Renaliza Quilatan: soap making project, Grail youth leadership project

Bebirose Lacro: Grail child nutrition prog, church youth group, program of help during natural calamities

Farha Joice Panana: livelihood program, church youth group, diocesan youth treasure, workshop facilitator

Katherine Lacaya: livelihood program, youth ministry, responder to natural disasters, Grail projects

Portugal: Eva Jesus: NamorArte, Roda das Raparigas, WE FUTURE groups, food bank, Graal projects, photographer

Cecilia Faria: Grail youth groups, Rada das Raparigas, leadership in girl scouts

Helena Dias: Girl Effect & N(aor) projects, artistic workshop, high school groups re violence in relationships

Margarida Augusto: (N)amor, Roda de Conversas, organize events, teach children audiovisual, leader action groups

Tatiana Rosa: WE FUTURE, (N)amorArte, good listener, open minded

Tatiana Manjate: Grail Girl Effect project, empowerment of girls and women, violence in relationships

South Africa: Sethu Xabendlini: girls group ages 14-19, empowerment through education, aerobics, caring for elderly

Tusiwe Masuku: Grail explorer, climate programme in schools, agro-ecology garden, etc. WLTP workshops

Bahlebonke Genu: Natl chair of Girl Child's Movement to empower young girls, provide hygiene packets, sewing, etc

Londeka Dhlamini: part of Emthonjeni girls group focused on climate change, clean water, girls' leadership

Uganda: Joan Amutusiimize: in charge of St. Kizito Child Development Centre, works in many ways with children

USA: Rachel Hock: volunteer Grail projects, homeless women project, racial equity, developed social media guide

A FEW insights of the participants about the Grail:

Tusiwe... It feels good to be part of the program. I appreciate the platform of sharing and learning from others. I'm enjoying the atmosphere of the group and respect the space promoting equity across gender race and generation.

Eva... with its 100 years history, they could have lowered their arms during difficult times, but continued to make their contribution and make use of their voices to convert the world and to transform the society.

Londeka Portia... The Grail Vision means more than what is written down. As women we're called and trusted by God to create and transform this world and make it a better place...

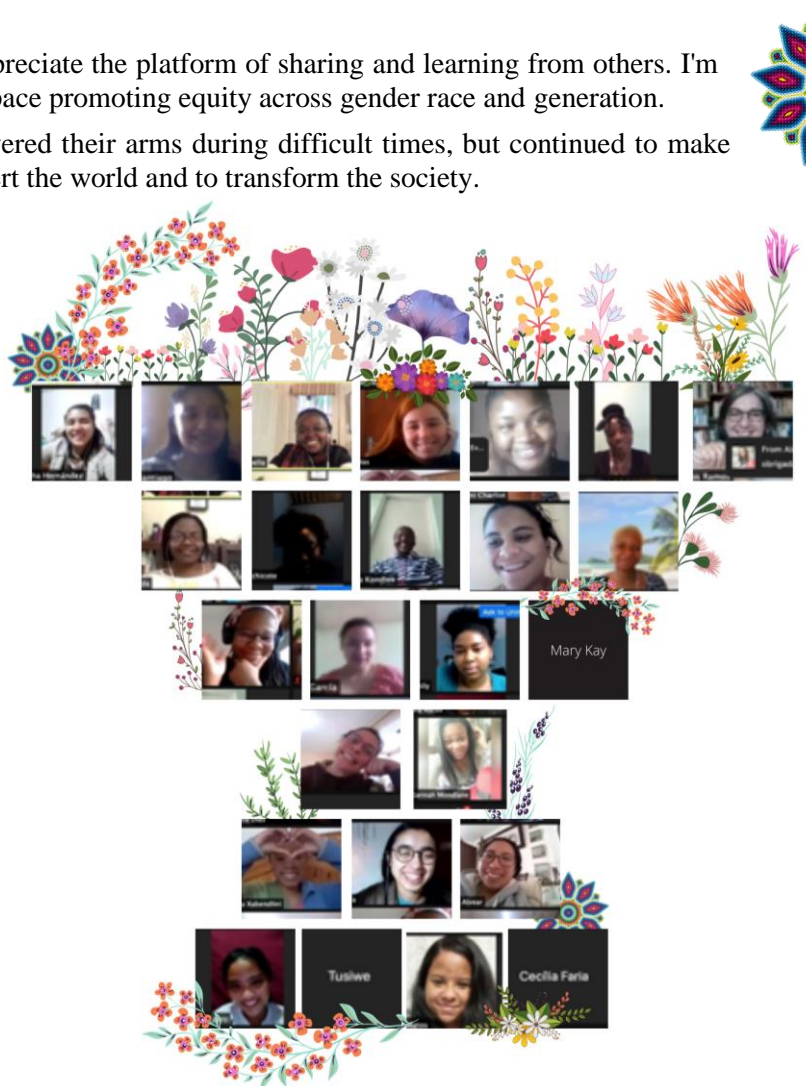
Yolotzin... Grail makes me reflect on how strong a woman becomes when she is united with others, uniting her experiences and knowledge, this is how changes occur in a community and society in general.

Laettitia... The Grail aims at transforming the world into a habitable space for all and this is a mission that I've always wished to become a part of even in the smallest way possible.

Vero... Each one has a light that is capable of illuminating several paths. The mission and vision of the GRIAL creation story is beautiful.

Tatiana Rosa... based on the belief that global problems require global solutions, Grail nurtures respect and understanding for different cultural realities, seeing them as an advantage and not a disadvantage.

Sethu... The Grail Vision symbolizes a value that every Grail Girl should abide by - the ability for Girls to understand each other's backgrounds...everyone who is part of Grail will harvest (GROWTH in every aspect in their lives).



Part of the group from our first zoom meeting

IDG 2020 – International Day of the Girl



The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on 11th October since declared by the UN in 2011. The theme for 2020: **“Be Bold. Moving from Equality to Equity for Girls”**.

Our Grail communities worldwide have created a variety of ways to celebrate the day.

GRAIL MOZAMBIQUE CELEBRATING IDG2020... by Kimy (16 years old)

The idea behind this day is to acknowledge and celebrate the importance and potential of girls around the world and to promote gender equality. The day also is opportunity to drive efforts to eliminate unique challenges that girls face globally and to make the world a better place for girls. As the COVID-19 pandemic makes girls around the world become more vulnerable to gender-based violence, discrimination, sexual violence, harassments, inequalities, injustice and other barriers for their development, there is need to demand a more just and equitable world for girls.

Girls worldwide are demanding a life free from gender-based violence, access to health, skills, recognition and investment as leaders of social change. Girls are using this special day to amplify their voices and rights. Breaking boundaries and barriers posed by stereotypes and exclusion, girls are creating a world that is relevant for them and future generations.

This year's celebration was challenging due to pandemic. The option was the virtual digital world, which also has its challenges in terms of access and the cost of the internet, thus excluding some girls.

How did the Grail in Mozambique celebrate?

First of all, we make sure that no one left behind, creating a really safe and comfortable space, where everyone can share her story. We used WhatsApp, Zoom and Youtube platforms to interact with other girls.

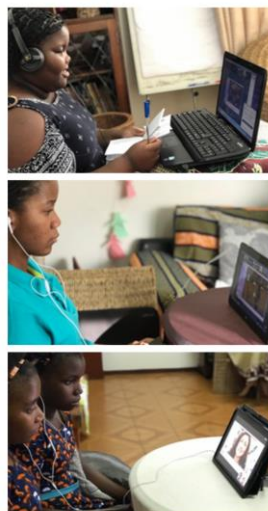
On October 11th, we celebrated with two groups (Hlayiseka and Pilarinas Sisters) from Maputo Province and one group (orphanage Sao Jose) from Tete Province, where we have a project empowering marginalized girls.

We focused on what does IDG mean? What does be bold mean? What does equity mean for her? How can they achieve equity and equality in their communities? We also played some games and had so much fun.



Girls Rights Townhall

It was an event hosted with the UN where girls submitted questions to government officials. The girl' activists representing diverse issues and communities joined policy makers and global leaders for a dialogue on the injustices girls face in their communities.



Girls Speak Out

It was a live-streamed event that brought global girls' voices through music, storytelling and art around issues that matter to them and to international community. Three of our submissions were selected. Through YouTube livestream, girls chatted and exchanged thoughts about the videos watched.

Grail Mozambique was host for Portuguese language and we interacted with other girls from Angola, Brazil, Mozambique and Portugal.



IT WAS SUCH POWERFUL MOMENT!

on the link: <https://youtu.be/ZxDqk4YVU5E>



In addition to these events, we also had the opportunity to participate in the conversation with the Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcoka, whose theme was: My equal future. These events were attended by a large and diverse group of girls. They had opportunity to speak / talk freely and we came out with a declaration: Girls are tired to be left behind. This is the moment to pay attention to them, to be part of the decision making, to be part of the solution and call for action in the word.

A Portuguese friend once said: " I believe that girls are the future of the nation " and I really agree with her.

Girls only can be powerful if we take care of them, if we don't leave them behind--if we help and provide a quality education.



We continue with Camila from Mexico...

In the face of adversity, we must fight... by Camila Castillo, Mexico

Often, although times may seem dark, confusing and difficult, the opportunity can be found to find a space of refuge, light, and peace. Despite being difficult times, the International Day of the Girl was held offering a shelter for all those girls who decided to raise their voices and share their experiences.

In the face of adversity, creative ways had to be found to carry out the event. As in all previous years, the girls were the protagonists of the event, participating through the creation of videos, in which they offered us their testimonies, opinions, and demands, in addition to sharing drawings and poems that offered hope in these times through artistic elements.

My participation was based on sharing my video editing skills mainly with the welcome video, which I made together, and with Caroline from WGG. The video begins with a brief review of the Beijing conference, the history of the WGG, and the work that goes on through it.

In my opinion, the event was carried out successfully there is still much to reflect and analyze.

In times like these, the opportunity opens to reflect in our privileges and the different realities that exist in the girls around the world. That's why I invite you to reflect on how we can give a voice to those girls who for different reasons cannot access technologies and also reflect if the technology is the way to include everyone, or if it is necessary to go back to past practices such as the use of posters, brochures, magazines, radio and community work.

Do not lose sight of the fact that technology may bring us together, but it also can divide us and in worse cases may exclude us. Remembering the words of Paulo Freire "Accepting and respecting the difference is one of those virtues without which listening cannot be given." The Grail knows how to listen and that is why we must continue working, recognizing ourselves, and being empathetic to the various contexts of girls and women, to together minimize barriers and step by step manage to overcome the adversities that life presents.

Ante la adversidad debemos luchar Por: Camila Castillo, Mexico

Muchas veces, aunque los tiempos se vean oscuros, confusos y difíciles, se puede encontrar la oportunidad de hallar un espacio de refugio, luz y paz. A pesar de ser tiempos difíciles, el Día Internacional de la Niña se realizó ofreciendo un espacio de cobijo para todas aquellas niñas que decidieron levantar la voz y compartir sus experiencias.

Ante la adversidad, se tuvo que buscar maneras creativas para poder realizar el evento,

Como todos los años anteriores las niñas fueron protagonistas del evento, participando a través de la creación de videos, en los cuales nos ofrecían sus testimonios, opiniones y exigencias, además de compartir a través de elementos artísticos dibujos y poemas que ofrecían esperanza en estos tiempos de incertidumbre.

Mi participación se basó en compartir mis habilidades de edición de video principalmente con el video de bienvenida, el cual realicé en conjunto y con Caroline del WGG. El video inicia con un breve repaso de la conferencia de Beijing, la historia del WGG y el trabajo que se desarrolla a través del mismo.

En mi opinión el evento se realizó con éxito, quedando aún mucho por reflexionar y analizar.

En tiempos como estos, se abre también la oportunidad de reflexionar acerca de nuestros privilegios y las distintas realidades que existen en las niñas del mundo. Por eso las invito a reflexionar, como es que podemos dar voz a aquellas niñas que por diferentes motivos no pueden acceder a las tecnologías, y a reflexionar si la tecnología es en entonces la manera de incluir a todas o si es necesario retroceder a pasadas prácticas como el uso de carteles, folletos, revistas, radio y el trabajo en comunidad.

No perder de vista que la tecnología nos une, pero también nos divide y en casos mayores nos excluye. Recordando las palabras de Paulo Freire "Aceptar y respetar la diferencia es una de esas virtudes sin las cuales la escucha no se puede dar". El Grail sabe escuchar y por ello debemos seguir trabajando, reconociéndonos y siendo empáticas a los

diversos contextos de las niñas y mujeres, para juntas minimizar las barreras y paso a paso lograr superar las adversidades que la vida presenta.



These images are part of a power-point created by Camila to reach out to girls

CSW 65, March 2021

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 March 2021.

1. *Priority theme:* Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
2. *Review theme:* Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

An excerpt from the statement the Grail submitted with several other member groups of the Working Group on Girls:

The Working Group on Girls (WGG), a coalition of over 40 national and international non-governmental organizations with accreditation at the United Nations, came into being in the lead up to the Beijing Conference in

1995. Since then, the WGG has been advocating with and for girls, for full implementation of their human rights in all areas and stages of life. We promote girls' agency and seek to lift up their voices throughout the UN system and ensure the inclusion of their needs in its international agreements. We urge leaders at all levels of the UN and in civil society to listen to what girls have to say about the realities of their lives as they assert their right to equality and equity in all aspects of society, a right promised but still far from fully delivered.

Grail participation

My how different things will be! First, due to covid19, we can't bring any interns to New York! (We will definitely be missing their presence in NYC!) So, we're trying to figure out a different way of doing things, as we'll still have our girls' panel and our Sacred Activism panel! Yes, everything will be virtual, but somebody have to plan it! GLUNN November-December issue will cover much more of that.

UFER news

The **UFER** Board has chosen to read a book together on Racism: *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem. Bijayananda Singh, UFER Board member working in Orissa India with Indigenous and marginalized people, has suggested this book. He has been part of a group study that used this book, and, found it helpful to understand the depth of racism and steps to do the necessary work to change the structures supporting it beginning with our own selves.

It is a process work tool to examine the roots and wounds in white, black and police persons. Each group has its own work to do and the book takes each group through the necessary steps.

We meet monthly and are open to other participants. Contact Sharon at bronxgrail@juno.com if you would like a pdf copy of the book.

