



GIRLRISING

STUDENT AMBASSADOR
TAKE ACTION GUIDE

WELCOME

Thank you for becoming a Girl Rising Student Ambassador. You have joined a powerful global movement of young people committed to a future where all girls can learn, rise, and thrive. We've seen our community do incredible things in support of our work- **watch this video for just a few examples.** The Girl Rising team is here to support your interests, advocacy and philanthropy every step of the way. This guide includes resources, tips and tools to support your efforts. Thank you for believing in our mission and our work.

LET'S DO THIS!



ABOUT GIRLRISING



According to the UN, gender bias remains deeply entrenched, impacting girls' education and their futures.

Girls shoulder billions of hours of domestic care, impacting their ability to thrive in school

Today, more girls and women are forcibly displaced than any other time in recorded history by conflict, poverty, and climate change

129 million girls remain out of school

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Our Program Model

Girl Rising's mission is to use the power of storytelling to change the way the world values girls and their education.

Working with innovative local community partners in countries around the world, our programming builds voice, agency and confidence in girls so that they can persist in their education; fosters a more inclusive learning environment; and changes attitudes and social norms.

Our story-based tools and curricula engage, energize and motivate young people to understand their rights and believe in their capacity to change their lives, communities, and the world.



WE CREATE films, media content and educational resources that tell the stories of girls and how the ripple effects of educating girls transform families, communities and entire nations.



WE COLLABORATE with organizations around the world to support locally led change that accelerates and strengthens quality education and greater opportunity for girls.



WE ACTIVATE change by inspiring individuals, from parents to presidents, to support action for girls' education.

WHY GIRLS' EDUCATION

Girls' Education. Her Right. Our Future.



Over the past 10 years, there has been real progress in getting more girls into school and improving their education. But even though more girls are going to school for longer, millions still don't have the knowledge, skills, or confidence they need to reach their goals, be treated equally, or fully take part in their communities. Many girls still face unfair treatment because of gender stereotypes—ideas about what boys and girls are “supposed” to do. These stereotypes can affect how girls are treated at school, the quality of their education, and how they see themselves and their future. For girls in rural or marginalized communities, like those Girl Rising works with, these challenges are often worse. They are held back by traditions and expectations that limit their opportunities, making it harder for them to feel hopeful, curious, or confident—things that are important for learning and for life.

Big global problems like climate change, wars, and people being forced to leave their homes make these barriers even worse for girls and women. One major issue is the “digital divide.” A recent UN report showed that 90% of teen girls in low- and middle-income countries don't use the internet. Boys their age are twice as likely to be online, and they're 1.5 times more likely to have a mobile phone. This gap in access to technology means many girls miss out on learning the digital skills they need in today's world. With technology moving so fast, girls are at risk of falling even further behind, making it harder for them to succeed in school, work, and life.

Why Girls' Education is the World's Best Investment



Girls who receive an education are more likely to earn higher incomes, marry later, have healthier children, and lead productive lives. (UNICEF 2022)



90 percent of women's income gets reinvested in their families as opposed to only 40 percent of men's income.



A child whose mother can read is 50 percent more likely to live past age five. (USAID 2021)



For every 10 percent more girls who go to school, a country's GDP can be expected to go up an average of 3 percent. (USAID 2021)



One additional year of school can increase a woman's earnings by up to 20%. Women with secondary school education could expect to make almost twice as much as those with no education, and women with tertiary education almost four times as much. (World Bank 2018)



Educating girls goes beyond access to school. It includes building gender-equitable education systems whereby girls feel safe in classrooms and supported to make decisions about their lives and the careers they pursue. (World Bank 2018)




Investing in secondary schooling for girls is the most cost-effective and best investment against climate change. (Brookings, 2016)





Women's environmental leadership can not only bring about improvements in representational justice and increased focus on gender-specific environmental impacts. It can also lead to stronger and more effective environmental action. (OECD, 2021)


BARRIERS TO GIRLS' EDUCATION



 Barriers to girls' education include poverty, child marriage, war and conflict, discriminatory gender norms in society, and gender-based violence. (World Bank 2022)

 40 million girls ages 15-19 are currently married or in a union worldwide. Each year, some 12 million more girls will marry before reaching age 18 – and of those, 4 million are under age 15. UNICEF 2024

 Millions of women and girls worldwide lack access to menstrual products or sanitation facilities to manage their menstrual health and hygiene, leading them to miss school. (2024 UN Women)

 Adolescent girls and young women have a significantly lower prevalence of digital skills than their male counterparts. For every 100 male youth who have digital skills, only 65 female youth do, across 32 countries. UNICEF 2024)

EDUCATING GIRLS: A POWERFUL SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the world's most pressing challenges - and it turns out that girls' education is a key part of the solution. Education gives girls the skills and knowledge to respond to climate-related disasters and changing resource landscapes around them. The contributions of educated girls to their communities increases a region's overall resilience to climate shocks.

Educated girls grow up to be women who participate fully in society and take on leadership roles. A growing body of evidence also shows that women political leaders are more effective in protecting the environment and more likely to ratify climate protective laws and treaties than their male counterparts.

Learn more in Girl Rising's animated video [here](#).

What's at Stake

While girls play an essential role in solving climate change, it ultimately threatens them first and worst. Without an education, girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Today, 80 percent of people displaced by climate disasters are women and girls.

Women living below the poverty line are 14 times more likely to die in a climate disaster, according to a report by CARE International. And recently a study published by Science found that if global temperatures keep rising, this generation of children will experience three times as many climate disasters as their grandparents.

With millions of girls out of school, the world is denying girls their rights while simultaneously missing a powerful solution. So speak out - the links between girls' education and gender equity are not well known. Share information in your environmental studies classes. Connect with your school's environmental clubs and climate change activities.

Screening toolkit [here](#).



JOIN A CAMPAIGN



Every year, Girl Rising invites Student Ambassadors to participate in campaigns by sharing their voice, posting on social media, contributing artwork, videos or poems. All of our campaigns are related to advancing gender equity and building a more just and sustainable world. We provide templates and toolkits for guidance. See our toolkit for climate action advocacy during COP29 [here](#).

ACTIVATE YOUR LEADERSHIP

Young people around the world are stepping up with a powerful sense of purpose and moral clarity. They're not waiting for change—they're leading it, taking action to create the just and sustainable world they envision. Many Girl Rising Student Ambassadors are driving their own initiatives, from campaigns and NGOs to peer-to-peer action groups, raising awareness of critical issues and developing innovative solutions.

As part of the Girl Rising Student Ambassador community, you'll find a supportive space to share ideas, tackle challenges, exchange experiences, and grow together as leaders. We also host Quarterly Office Hours where you can bring your questions, brainstorm solutions, and connect with like-minded changemakers. Keep an eye out for Office Hour notifications in the Student Ambassador email list, and if you haven't joined yet, now's the perfect time to get involved!



At age 17 Student Ambassador **Ariadna Beneventi**, Chile, founded Intransigentes, an NGO that promotes a life free from gender-based violence to girls and teenagers. Intransigentes' programs provide training by professionals from the fields of psychological first aid, so that teenagers can recognize the signs of gender-based violence, play a role in preventing its occurrence in schools, learn about legal procedures, and become part of a larger



Student Ambassador **Efonya Faith Habu**, Nigeria, is a passionate advocate for girls' rights, fighting against child abuse and working for accessible menstrual hygiene management. She has worked with local governments and NGOs to develop and implement programs that promote girls' education, health, and well-being.

APPLY FOR A MICRO-GRANT THROUGH THE NATASHA STEPHENS LEGACY FUND

Each year Girl Rising awards micro-grants to a student, student group or a set of students to support their activities advancing gender equity and girls' education.



2024 winner **Meymuna Awad** is a university student pursuing a Bachelors in Entrepreneurial Leadership with a specialization in Policy and Advocacy at African Leadership University. Meymuna is dedicated to women's empowerment and advocacy for girls' education and governance.



2023 winner **Zainab Bie** is a climate researcher and youth leader from India with expertise in energy transition, public policy, and climate finance. She has represented the Global South at major international forums, including Conference of the Parties, and the G20 India World Leaders' Summit, while authoring impactful research for UN-HABITAT and GIZ and co-organizing workshops on climate justice and circular economy.

TAKE ACTION, LET'S GET STARTED!



1. HOST AN EVENT

Host an event in your community to raise awareness about the need to invest in girls' education.

Plan a screening of the Girl Rising film (see our screening toolkit [here](#)), bring your classmates together during lunch, a free period, or after school to explore the barriers that girls face in pursuing their education, the ripple effects of educating

girls, and gender bias in your community, host a poetry slam about gender inequality, or organize a road race or walk-a-thon to raise awareness for the girls around the world who walk hours just to go to school.

For downloadable posters, talking points, and tips to help you plan your event, click [here](#).



Meet My and Loryn

My and Loryn are the President and Junior President of the Model UN Team in their high school.

They screened select chapters of the Girl Rising film as part of a community-wide event they hosted to show the impact of human trafficking on local communities around the world.

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Girl Rising really inspired me because it opened my eyes to something I'd always seen but never recognized. I hope through these events I can get people to care a bit more.

- Loryn

2. FUNDRAISE TO SUPPORT GIRLS' EDUCATION

Donations in amounts large and small make a big difference. There are an endless variety of creative ways you can fundraise for Girl Rising. Organize a bake sale, walk-a-thon, or concert celebrating girls,

or start a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign. For more information about how to start planning your fundraiser click [here](#).



Meet Olivia

High school senior Olivia wanted to raise funds and awareness for social justice causes she believed in. She founded a company called EmBracelets (www.embracelets.org), where she designed and sold beaded bracelets. Her passion for gender equity led her to her fundraising to support Girl Rising.

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I hope that EmBracelets will promote gender, racial, and educational equality by raising awareness, sparking conversation, and funding organizations and projects with similar goals.

3. START A GIRL RISING CLUB

Bring Girl Rising into your school community. Working with like-minded students, you can raise awareness about the barriers facing girls' education and work together to ignite change. Start a new Girl Rising club at your school, or

integrate Girl Rising into the work of an existing social justice club working to promote women's empowerment, human rights, or international affairs. For a how-to-guide on how to start your club click [here](#).

Club Student Spotlight: The Rhoades School Girl Rising Club



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Learning about the struggles of girls around the world has helped us understand the value of growing up in an environment where the education for girls is equivalent to the education for boys. The stories have given us a lot of perspective on how lucky we are to live in a place where girls can get an education and live their lives.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Like, post, tweet and TikTok! Make as much noise as possible and show your social media network that you are fighting for a more just and gender-equal world.

Be sure to tag [@GirlRising](#) in your posts!



STAY IN TOUCH!

We're here to support you every step of the way. Girl Rising hosts Quarterly Office Hours for our Student Ambassadors where you can reach out with questions about your club, event, or fundraiser. As a Student Ambassador, you will also gain access to exclusive monthly webinars with Girl Rising's global team and partners to give you an inside look at our work driving gender-equity and girls' education.

Share your activities, photos and more with the Girl Rising team via email (studentambassador@girlrising.org) or social media ([@GirlRising](https://www.instagram.com/GirlRising)).



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