



GIRL RISING

TAKE ACTION GUIDE

What began as a film is now a global movement. Girl Rising is inspiring people from all nations to take action for girls! Whether it's hosting an event, providing resources or forging partnerships, each individual action strengthens the whole.

Are you ready to do something but don't know where to start? We've compiled some of our favorite opportunities and example stories to help inspire you. Click to play this short [video](#) ▶ for more inspiration.



3 Things You Can Do Today

If you have 5 seconds

Retweet a powerful voice in the girls' empowerment conversation: [Former First Lady Michelle Obama](#), [Gayle Tzemach Lemmon](#), [Susan McPherson](#), [Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka](#), [Malala Fund](#), [Rebecca Winthrop](#) are some must-follow accounts.

If you have 5 minutes

Read our [fact sheet](#) and start a conversation. Keep education and empowerment as part of your day-to-day conversations. Talk to others about the challenges girls face at home and abroad. Refuse to be silent if someone says something degrading towards girls and women.

If you have 5 days

Organize a fundraiser or event. Organize a bake sale, plan a Girl Rising screening, host a walkathon. Think of creative ways to bring people together to celebrate the power of education. Donations, no matter how small, can make an enormous difference.



Speak Up

Get creative: Paint a mural with your girls' empowerment club. Hang posters in public spaces with revealing statistics or positive messages. Bring a chapter of *Girl Rising* to an art or English class and create artwork and poetry inspired by the film. "Chalk for change" by writing messages and statistics about girls' education on the sidewalks around your community to raise awareness. The possibilities are endless!

Honor girls' education and empowerment champions: Make certificates for the gender inclusion champions in your community. Celebrate teachers, elected officials, colleagues and neighbors by showing your appreciation in a public way.

Talk to the media: Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. Contact a radio show to shout out about International Day of the Girl or International Women's Day. Blog about what a gender-equal world means to you. Tell others why girls' education is something everyone should care about.

Advocate: Policy-leaders want to know what you think and they'll appreciate getting to know the facts about how girls' empowerment affects each of us. One way to get started? Download the [Girl Up Advocacy App](#).

Speak up on social media: Snap, tweet, post, tag, like. Make as much noise as possible and show your social network that you advocate for girls' education. Use #GirlRising to let us know how you're taking action.



DAVID'S STORY

After David, an educator from Ghana, shared Girl Rising with his students, they organized a march in their town and teach others about the value of girls. "My students are like the girls in Girl Rising...they are fighters... When my students saw Girl Rising, they saw themselves and felt proud."



Invest in Her

Donate to best in practice organizations: Feel confident in your investment by supporting organizations with a proven track record of success in girls' empowerment programs. Some of our favorites are: Girl Up!, Malala Fund, She's the First, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and CARE.

Host a fundraiser: Raise awareness, have fun and drive resources to girls' education at the same time. A few ideas: plan a bake sale, organize a penny drive, host a dinner party, talent show or concert celebrating girls, pledge your 5K or marathon to girls' education.

Collect much needed resources: Organize a drive for school supplies, food, books, feminine hygiene products or other items to help keep girls healthy, learning and empowered. Did you know that period products are some of the most needed items in U.S. homeless shelters? Or that millions of children globally start their days hungry? Before you begin, make sure to ask your organization of choice if they are able to accept donations of this kind!



DAVINIA'S STORY

Davinia, a pre-school teacher, knows that the smallest actions have power to create real change. She held a penny drive with her students and school. So far, she's collected over 700,000 pennies to donate to Girl Rising. Whether she's speaking at a girls' leadership workshop or spreading the word on social media, Davinia is a powerful reminder. "It doesn't matter how small it is, just start doing your part," she says.



Think Locally

Volunteer Together: Beautify a shelter for domestic violence victims through a painting project, offer free or affordable babysitting at a community center for working parents, tutor students in basic reading or math skills. Host a shadow day for local students at your workplace. Plan a “Big-Little Sister” program between students of different ages in your school, town or district. Every action matters - for both boys and girls.

Invest in professional development: Talk to your school’s administration to ensure women from a variety of fields and backgrounds are equally represented on career panels. Organize workshops, speaker series, mentoring and networking opportunities in your workplace celebrating women’s accomplishments. Role models matter!

Create a culture of giving: Encourage your company to invest CSR funds in girls’ empowerment and education programs.

Bridge the gaps: Organize a school, workplace or community-wide activity to bring together individuals from different backgrounds in a larger celebration of culture. How can young people challenge the stereotypes that they may face? How does our diversity unite us?

One day a week, start the day with a conscious conversation: Organize a breakfast meeting with your peers around a piece of inspiring content. Brainstorm how to live out the message throughout the day and discuss the importance of living mindfully, appreciating your education and treating others well.



ANGELA’S STORY

Girl Rising inspired Angela from Colombia to take a harder look at her own community. She learned that many girls in her community drop out of school. Angela visited local schools and learned about the areas where many girls lack basic knowledge. She partnered with a women’s group and began to mentor 70 students.



Expand Your Knowledge

Organize a conversation: Invite members of your community – such as a school or place of worship – to come together and discuss how you can empower young women together. Discover what issues are impacting girls and women in your own community and create a plan of action. Always a good idea to include a diversity of backgrounds, ages and genders.

Get Reading: Update your reading list with books and publications about the importance of girls' education or female empowerment. Ask your favorite bookstore or local library to feature books about girls' education on International Day of the Girl or World Literacy Day. Must reads: *Kazoo Magazine*, *A Mighty Girl*, *I Am Malala*, *Find Me Unafraid*, *What Works in Girls' Education*, *We Should All be Feminists* and Girl Effect's localized platforms.

Get Watching: Far too often, the voices of girls and women are ignored. Thankfully, these films and videos keep them front and center. Check out *Girl Rising*, *Burka Avenger*, *He Named Me Malala*, *Miss Representation*, *The Girl in the River*, *India's Daughter*, *I Am a Girl*, *Queen of Katwe*, *CodeGirl* and these powerful [TED talks](#).

Add Impact to Your Inbox: Subscribe to email newsletters like The Every Girl, MAKERS and Mogul, that bring female-focused news to your inbox. Check out Amy Poehler's Smart Girls, photographer Stephanie Sinclair, poet Rupi Kaur and #HeForShe for inspiration and ideas.

Know Your Facts: An online search can go a long way. Research rates of sexual assault and human trafficking in your country and community. Learn to spot the signs and what you should do if you or someone you know bears witness to, is at risk of or experiences sexual violence or trafficking.



CATE & ELLEN'S STORY

The Feminist Literary Society is a group of women and men in different cities with the same goal - creating a space of consciousness-raising where intersectional and inclusive feminism is the first priority. Friends Cate and Ellen founded the first chapter in Chicago in 2015. Their network has now grown to include New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Ann Arbor.



Get Involved with GR

Watch Girl Rising: See how our movement began. The film tells nine stories of nine girls - each one about how education can change the future for girls, their families, communities and entire nations. [Watch the film today or organize a screening.](#)

Access our Curriculum: Our free, Pearson Foundation-designed curriculum, Skype in the Classroom partnership and Educator's DVD offers engaging lessons, inspiring project ideas and exclusive content to inspire and empower the next generation of global leaders. [Get started.](#)

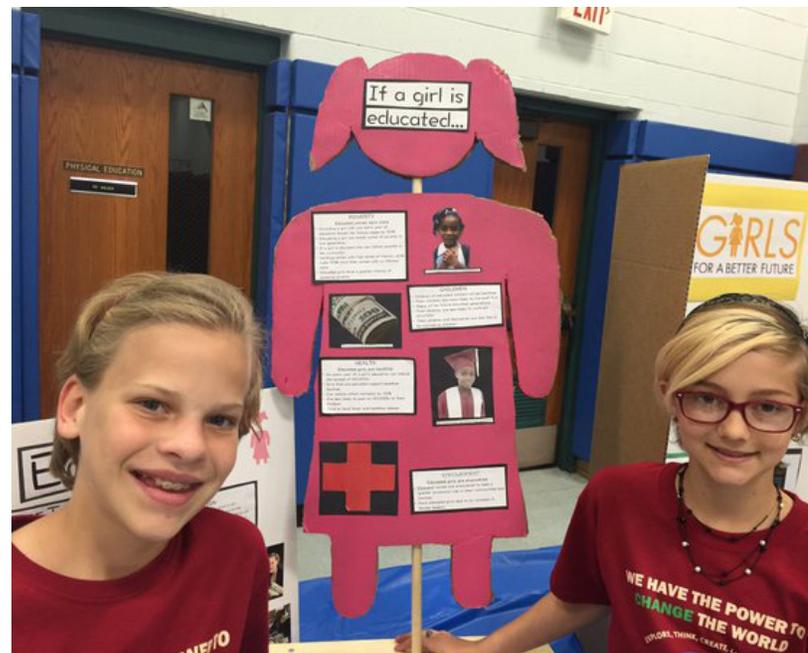
Get the Girl Rising book: [Order](#) Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time, a young adult book by Tanya Lee Stone inspired by the Girl Rising film.

Join our online community: News, inspiration and ways to take action can all be found on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) channels. Join our newsletter at girlrising.org.

Donate: With your help, we can change mindsets that have long prevented girls from pursuing their dreams. [Give today.](#)



Steve from Indianapolis continually seeks programming to inspire his students to learn about the world around them. After GR's Skype in the Classroom lesson, many of Steve's students wrote blog posts describing the causes and effects of out-of-school girls. "My students received comments...from...places like China, Finland, England, and all over [the United States]," Steve says. "The best part was that many of the commenters...were taking the actions recommended by my 5th graders! It just goes to show that kids really can make a difference."



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THE VERRILL'S STORY

After learning about Girl Rising, the Verrill family from St. Louis, Missouri painted the Mississippi River flood wall to spread the word about the importance of educating girls.



In Memory Of
SYDNEY TEDONE



This Take Action Guide is a perfect complement to Girl Rising: The Fifth Anniversary Edition. The update of Girl Rising was made possible in part by generous donations from the family and friends of Sydney Tedone.

Sydney first saw the Girl Rising film in 2014, and it sparked something in her. It gave her an idea, a sense of meaning and purpose, a feeling of inspiration, and a channel for her own innate and extraordinary empathy. The film gave her a focus and imbued her with a hard-to-explain confidence and power in wanting to help those less fortunate.

May Sydney's legacy continue to inspire students and activists across the world to see themselves as changemakers, problem solvers, and partners in the vital effort to advocate for girls' education.

