

How to Host a Screening of *Girl Rising* For the Month of Action

Organizing a screening of a relevant documentary clip can be a powerful way to put audience members in the shoes of girls and young women who strive to overcome barriers they face due to poverty and gender inequality. *Girl Rising* is a documentary from 2013 sharing the stories of nine girls from around the world and the barriers they face to gain an education. Here are just a couple of the stories featured in the documentary:

- Suma, a young woman from Nepal, was forced into bonded labor at age six but was freed. She now uses her education to free other girls in the same situation.
- Amina, a child bride from Afghanistan, dreams of freedom for herself and other young women in her country.
- Mariama from Sierra Leone is the first of her family to go to school and hosts her own radio show to advise other girls on how to advocate for themselves.



Suma from Nepal. Photo credit: Girl Rising

At your screening, be sure to provide opportunities for attendees to take action such as signing advocacy postcards, registering to vote or a signing up to join your club. This way you can collect their contact information to invite them to future meetings or events. Set aside time at the end to facilitate a discussion about the stories shared in the film.

Follow these steps for a successful screening:

- 1. Logistics:** Start out with these logistical details:
 - Get the documentary clips: Reach out to Morgan Moran at mmoran@savechildren.org to discuss which stories you would like to show and to receive the link to the free chapters of the documentary.
 - Figure out the when and where: Secure a location, time and date for your event. If you're a part of a Save the Children or Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) club, you can show the video during your regular club meeting, or choose to plan a special event. Be sure the room has a strong internet connection and access to a projector.
 - Request refreshments: Ask Morgan if you are interested in ordering pizza, cupcakes or other food and drink at the event.
- 2. Partnerships:** Look to like-minded student clubs or community organizations – such as Girl Up, the Black Student Union, Muslim Students Organization and feminist groups – to partner with you to host and promote the event. If you are on a college campus, consider collaborating with the women's studies, international development or political science departments.
- 3. Promotion:** Let others know about your event by sharing the details with your classmates using social media, flyers, your school newspaper and more. We will share sample social media posts closer to the month of action to supplement your planned promotion and spread the word about the issue.

4. **Discussion:** Set aside time at the end of the screening to facilitate a discussion about the stories shared in the documentary clips. You can follow up your screening with either a panel discussion or a group discussion. If you choose to organize a panel, potential speakers could include teachers or professors who are passionate about or connected to the issue, local young women who have become leaders in your community or students who have faced barriers in the U.S. or in another country. Ask your Save the Children or SCAN staff contact if they know of anyone who might be interested in sitting on your panel.
5. **Advocacy:** Incorporate advocacy into your event by providing opportunities to take action. Encourage audience members to sign postcards to their elected officials or make phone calls before they leave.
6. **Follow up:** Take photos at your event to send to your Save the Children or SCAN staff contact. Be sure you have some kind of branding in the photo, like wearing a Save the Children or SCAN t-shirt or holding up postcards or a poster with our logo. Send a thank you email to all attendees within 24-48 hours after the event with information on how to get more involved. Remember to thank the speakers as well, if you had any. Don't forget to enter the contact information from your postcards and send to your staff contact.

Potential Discussion Questions

- Can you relate to the girl(s) in the video clip? How are your lives the same? How are they different?
- What barriers did the main character face in the story? How did she try to overcome these barriers?
- How would the main character's life be different if she had a say in decision-making?
- How do gender-based barriers affect girls' potential to be leaders?
- Why is it important for us in the United States to help children and youth around the world?
- How might the girls' communities be affected if they were given more agency over their own lives and included in decision-making? What would be the impact after 5 years? After 20 years?
- After watching this video, how might these stories influence your own advocacy efforts?

Thank you to Girl Rising for partnering with Save the Children and Save the Children Action Network to share the stories of young women and girls around the world seeking to overcome gender barrier and raise their voices. Girl Rising is a global campaign for girls' education and empowerment. Their mission is to ensure that girls around the world are educated and empowered. Learn more at <https://girlrising.org/>.