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GLOBAL GIRLS' BILL OF RIGHTS UNVEILED FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

She's the First – In Partnership with Regional Organizers Akili Dada and MAIA – Launched the Initiative to Ensure Girls Get to Experience the Rights They Deserve Globally

NEW YORK, (Oct. 8, 2019) – All girls have rights, but not all girls get to experience them.

- More than 130 million girls are out of school worldwide.¹
- One girl under the age of 15 gets married every 7 seconds.²
- Girls spend 40% more time on housework than boys do.³

These statistics are what the Global Girls' Bill of Rights – a declaration of the rights all girls are entitled to – is setting out to change. Written by girls, for girls, it is unveiled today, October 10, at the United Nations to the UN Women Executive Director. Tomorrow, October 11, International Day of the Girl, the girls will present the bill to the Deputy Secretary General, where they will ask how their voices will be incorporated into the greater UN agenda moving forward.

"For too long, the world has talked about what girls need and want, without ever asking them," say Christen Brandt, She's the First co-founder and Chief Programs Officer, and Tammy Tibbetts, She's the First co-founder and CEO. "The Global Girls' Bill of Rights not only outlines girls' priorities, it also serves as a declaration that girls demand to be part of the conversations impacting them most."

The Global Girls' Bill of Rights was organized by a consortium of girls' organizations from around the globe. The lead organizer [She's the First](#) (STF), teamed up with Akili Dada and MAIA, local organizations in Kenya and Guatemala, respectively, to mobilize girls and girl-led organizations behind the Bill.

More than 1,000 girls ages 13-22, representing nearly 40 countries and five languages, submitted the rights most important to them via [GirlsBillOfRights.org](#) and grassroots organizations helped reach girls in communities without Internet access.

Global Girls Panel

A Global Girls Panel representing girls of diverse ages, cultures, and regions was selected to finalize the Bill and present at the UN. One of those girls is Angélica Morales, an indigenous Mayan girl from Guatemala, where less than one percent of marginalized girls reach university level. Angélica is one of those individuals studying microbiology at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) and she graduated from MAIA's programming.

"I want to advocate for youth, especially indigenous youth, to have the opportunity to achieve their goals," explains Morales. "Being on the panel for the Global Girls' Bills of Rights, I think about the importance of girls' rights around the world and the challenges girls in Guatemala face while studying or living their daily life. My hope for this declaration is that the world will understand that girls everywhere deserve better."

¹ [World Bank](#), July 2018

² [UNICEF](#), October 2016

³ [UNICEF](#), October 2016

Additional Panelists

- **Faith Nwando** was born in Nigeria and now lives in New York City, where she is a 17-year-old honors student at the Young Women's Leadership School of Queens. She is an active volunteer and student leader. "In today's society, it seems that the rights that should be most obvious are the least protected," Faith says. "The Global Girls' Bill of Rights is a standard of rights that have been violated far too long. Since society values more explicit written work (as demonstrated in history), girls can co-sign the bill on how to achieve progress and be explicit on rights that they value as a vital part of this world."
- **Olivia Lombardo** is a 16-year-old activist and organizer serving as class president through which she is committed to changing the way womxn are treated in leadership positions. She is passionate about gun violence prevention and environmental justice, mobilizing students to attend the recent climate strike. She is the Vice President/Topic Leader of Staten Island Academy's She's the First Chapter and has served on STF's Campus Advisory Council.
- **Kanchan Amatya** is an award-winning Nepalese activist and social entrepreneur recognized for her work in promoting rural women's access to education and finance in Nepal. She is the Founder and Chief Executive Director of Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative, a social enterprise combating extreme hunger and poverty in South Asia. Amatya is the UN Women's Global Champion for Women's Economic Empowerment, a Global Citizen Advocate and Ambassador of Women Protection Center. Her efforts have been recognized by the United Nations, World Bank, Clinton Foundation and Women Economic Forum.

The Global Girls' Bill of Rights

All girls have the right to...

1. free, quality education which prepares them for the modern world
2. equality
3. involvement in decision-making and pursuit of leadership positions without fear or discrimination, harassment, or persecution
4. documentation
5. comprehensive sexual education and access to free, quality reproductive healthcare
6. protection from harmful traditions and enjoyment of positive cultural practices
7. safety from all forms of violence
8. decision-making about their body and sexuality
9. protection under the law without fear or unequal treatment
10. freedom from exploitation

The Global Girls' Bill of Rights raises awareness of the rights girls value, but are not universally experiencing. The Global Girls' Bill of Rights aims to provide world leaders and policy makers with a strong reminder to consult girls for decisions that affect them. Underscoring the importance of this is the delegation of girls presenting the Global Girls' Bill of Rights at the UN on October 11.

Get Involved with the Global Girls' Bill of Rights

Co-sign the Global Girls' Bill of Rights using the hashtag #GirlsBillofRights on social media.

- As an adult, make a public pledge: "I pledge to support girls on the decisions that affect their lives. #GirlsBillofRights"
- As a girl, co-sign the Bill by sharing: "Girls just want to have fundamental rights. These are mine; read them, respect them. #GirlsBillofRights"

Partner Organizations

[She's the First](#) led the initiative with [Akili Dada](#) in East Africa and [MAIA](#) in Central America, and together, they are building a coalition of Ally organizations who are further amplifying the causes, including:

- [Girls Inc.](#)
- [Young Women's Leadership Network Schools](#)
- [Girl Rising](#)
- [Global Campaign for Education-US](#)
- [Arlington Academy of Hope](#)
- [International Youth Foundation](#)
- [Days for Girls Guatemala](#)
- [Sacred Valley Project](#)
- [Make Every Woman Count](#)

Media Partner

In partnership with Pollster, Bustle researched what a representative group of American girls 13-22 deemed their most important rights. Bustle is the premier digital destination for young women, reaching an audience of 50 million unique readers a month. Bustle creates relatable and impactful dialogue through content from a diverse set of voices. Covering politics, fashion, beauty, entertainment, and more, Bustle empowers women to be curious, to be themselves, and to be excited about owning their place in the world. www.bustle.com

For more information, visit GirlsBillofRights.org and join the conversation with #GirlsBillofRights.

ABOUT SHE'S THE FIRST

She's the First (STF) fights for a world where every girl chooses her own future. This global nonprofit teams up with local organizations to make sure girls are educated, respected, and heard. STF has trained more than 75 local organizations to serve girls better every day, and together they've provided 7,800+ girls in 11 countries with the support and tools they need to become powerful agents of change. STF is a member of Michelle Obama's Girls Opportunity Alliance and has been featured by numerous media outlets, including *TODAY*, MSNBC, Forbes, Fast Company, Glamour, Teen Vogue, Marie Claire. Diane von Furstenberg has recognized STF with a DVF Award and Chelsea Clinton honored them at Clinton Global Initiative U. STF celebrates 10 years of impact this October. shethfirst.org

ABOUT AKILI DADA

Akili Dada is a nonprofit organization registered in Kenya and an international award-winning leadership incubator. They nurture a generation of girls and young women from underprivileged backgrounds, whose commitment to the underserved will transform their communities. <http://www.akilidada.org/>

ABOUT MAIA

MAIA unlocks and maximizes the potential of young women to lead transformational change. MAIA's award-winning program centers its efforts on Mayan girls in rural Guatemala. Through its Chispa Action Network, MAIA brings together girl-focused organizations throughout Guatemala. <https://maiaimpact.org>

Global Girls Panel - Additional Members

- **Goldalyn Kakuya** has always been passionate about leadership from a young age leading her to become the Head Girl in her former Kenyan school and the leader of two clubs and several projects in her current school. As

a young female leader, she wants to empower every girl to know they can be leaders, regardless of their background, ethnicity or disabilities.

- **Ashlyn Stone**, Vice President of Appalachian State's She's the First chapter, is applying to law school to one day bring a voice to those who are silenced systematically. Like the U.S. Bill of Rights created by the colonists to ensure individual liberties were maintained, girls face the same tribulation. Ashlyn views the Girls' Bill of Rights as the route to demand girls be taken seriously.
- **Claris Nadini** is in her second year at Ashesi University in Ghana, studying Mechanical Engineering. She is the Founder and Chair of Badili Zone Organization, which works to provide high-quality education in marginalized areas. She is passionate about politics and sees her future in African governance and world leadership.
- **Deborah Soler Crespo** is a University of the Sacred Heart student and journalist passionate about helping communities, making their voices heard and fighting against corruption and social injustice. She founded the Crown Princess Organization with the hope of leading and raising my voice to share a message of resilience and empowerment to girls 14-18 years old from her home community in Puerto Rico.
- **Ekong Nenne Nembo** is a University of Bamenda Cameroon student and a junior parliamentarian for the Cameroon Association for the United Nations. She is the CEO of Rural and Urban Grassroots Business Women Association (RUGBWA), a non-governmental organization focused on mobilizing local women, men and youth to achieve gender equality and to fight for the rights of the girl-child at all levels.
- **Lara Santos** is a strong Brazilian advocate for gender equality in Latin America with a Chemical Technician degree from the Federal Institute of Pará. She was engaged in the ClimatEducate Project, a youth-led initiative where I educated the community on climate and environmental change. Lara volunteered at the police station specializing in violence against women at São Carlos where she was responsible for providing basic legal knowledge, support and guidance regarding the Maria da Penha law to victims who suffered domestic violence, harassment, or any kind of gender issues.
- **Jackline Soila** is a survivor of child marriage and knows it is her duty to speak out and to participate in conversations that look at saving every child from harmful cultural practices. While once a victim, Jackline now is a survivor, because someone stood for her and raised their voice, and that's why she is now in school. Since her rescue from early marriage, she has been living in a rescue center and advocating for other Maasai girls.
- **Vishakha Agrawal** is a sophomore studying Information Science at Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering in India. As a student who is deeply passionate about STEM, she saw firsthand how women are poorly represented in these fields. Growing up, she was always one of very few girls in hackathons and technology events, and now she works to empower girls to lead in the digital era and to recognize that there are no limitations to their potential.
- **Djellza Pulatani** is part of an immigrant Albanian family in Long Island, NY and has identified as a feminist since age 5. She believes Albanian culture is patriarchal, where men are valued more than the women, and she has done her best to combat these injustices at home and when visiting her native country of Kosovo. She is president of her school's Girl Up Club, which targets girls' education in developing countries.
- **Tracy Konadu Poku** is a junior studying Management Information Systems in Ashesi University in Ghana, West Africa. She began a Girl Up Club in high school and became the second president of She's the First's Ashesi chapter (the only chapter in Ghana). Her main concern is mentoring and educating girls to know what they deserve and what they should demand from the world.

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