

OCTOBER HER



2021 SUMMIT SUMMARY:

GIRLS IGNITE CHANGE

Thank you to the **Global G.L.O.W. Girl Advocacy Representative Committee**, a cohort of Global G.L.O.W. Club Members ages 13-17, who were nominated to represent girls in their communities in the international girls' advocacy space. The Girl Advocacy Representative Committee determined the structure and themes for the 2021 OctobHER Summits and led the Virtual Summits.

OCTOBHER SUMMITS OVERVIEW



Conversations by girls,
for girls, among girls

OctobHER Summits

A space for Global G.L.O.W. Club Members to discuss issues that impact girls, what girls want to see changed and how, as well as a space for girls to think of ways to create collaborative advocacy within their communities and globally. Topics covered included:

- ***Girls' Education, Girls' Health and Well-being, Gender-Based Violence, Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality, and Feminist Movements & Leadership***

Virtual Summits

Global G.L.O.W. hosted two virtual Global OctobHER Summits, led by Girl Advocacy Representatives, and conversations were for girls, among girls.

- 19 Partners from 15 countries participated
- Over 200 Club Members in attendance from Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda and Uganda

Local Summits

Global Global G.L.O.W. Partners were invited to host local OctobHER summits that were also girl-led and girl-focused conversations, and facilitators were asked to report key takeaways from their conversation to inform this report.

- At least 11 Partners from 10 countries participated
- Over 1300 Club Members from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda, Vietnam
- Ages of participants ranged from under 10 to 18 years of age

While recognizing their collective strength, girls' solutions to address the issues raised petition society, institutions, communities, family members, and individuals with decision-making power to take action towards a just world for girls. The following is a summary of girls' solutions and the actions they call on us to take.

GIRLS' SOLUTIONS & CALLS TO ACTION

The Right to Quality Education

- Girls should receive a proper education equal to that of their male peers
- Eliminate discrimination or discouragement of girls pursuing any career path
- Sensitize parents and the community to the importance of girls' education, that girls have potential within them, that girls **"could rescue a nation, or even the world"**
- Ensure girls' education with material and financial resources
- Teach girls that they have a voice to promote their rights, so that they can be confident and encourage quality education for girls and women and make decisions about their own lives
- Ensure girls' safety when girls have to travel long distances
- Encourage parent and community participation in advocating for girls rights to education
- End early and forced child marriages
- Girls can educate younger peers **"that they have a voice and they can speak up for their rights and that is a way for promoting our rights,"** so that they can also build their confidence
- Reduce the workload of girls in their homes; give girls the time they need to focus on their education
- Society should provide a flexible, efficient, and secure place for girls where they would be free of all sorts of discrimination and will be provided quality education and opportunities same as boys
- Provide girls with skills that employers need or that will help them open their own business in the future
- Raise awareness on the value of the girl child to strengthen the girl child's self-esteem
- Fundraise for girls in communities that are less-privileged so that they can go to school
- Make education free
- School curricula must fit the needs of a girl child
- Governments should protect girls' rights to a quality education

"...in educating a Girl Child an entire nation is educated."
- Club Member, World Economy Skills And Agro Development, Cameroon

Girls' Health and Well-being

- More focus and attention should be given to girls' health and well-being
- Girls should have access to nutritious foods and clean water
- Girls should be taught about their menstrual cycle, puberty, and changes in her body
- Girls should have access to regular medical check-ups and sexual and reproductive health services
- Sanitary pads should be free
- School bathrooms should supply sanitary pads and be clean and safe for girls
- Allow girls to spend time with families and communicate with family members and friends to improve their well-being
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet and exercise
- Promote girls' participation in sports, which also fosters good health
- Girls should have access to education regarding their health, **"because when healthy, it gives you the strength to do things that will change the society"**
- Promote health campaigns and lectures in schools, villages, communities- the dynamization of information, especially in health facilities, must be maximized, as well as engaging our parents and guardians

"We need to change that mindset that physical appearance is a reflection of one's health. Any negative mindset you have about yourself is unhealthy. You are valuable, precious, and unique just the way you are. Health is a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. We don't need to focus on physical appearance. You don't judge a book by its cover. Carry yourself with dignity and self-esteem and know you are valuable and precious. That is health. Don't focus on weight or appearance"

- Club Member, World Economy Skills And Agro Development, Cameroon

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

- Girls have the right to be safe
- Girls should be safe from sexual violence and harassment
- Girls should know what gender-based violence is, how to detect abuse and understand their rights
- Girls should not have to keep quiet about abuse but should instead be able to stand up and report those who abused them
- Girls should know who to tell when they are being abused or when they see any girl who is getting abused
- Girls should know how they can defend themselves in case they are experiencing any abuse
- Technology should be used to help raise awareness and increase communication by posting on social media to help raise awareness for GBV, having a phone to call someone if you are in a violent situation, or posting photos for peers to discuss
- Families should stop hiding that their girls were abused and instead they must report the abusers
- Girls should know how to differentiate safe and unsafe spaces and potentially harmful individuals
- If girls feel unsafe, they should be able to go to public spaces and find support
- There should be more awareness-raising and campaigns against gender-based violence and speaking up when experiencing violence, as well as classes
- Acts of violence should be stopped immediately and laws to stop gender-based violence should be enacted and enforced
- Women and girls should be respected, loved, and protected
- Survivors of gender-based violence should have access to the mental health support they need

“Women and girls face different forms of violence, namely: psychological, physical, and sexual violence. And they should by all means be protected from every form of violence.”

- Club Member, Nigeria Reads, Nigeria

Feminist Action for Climate Justice

- Mobilize and empower others to advocate for climate justice
- Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Conserve energy, save water, pull the plug of electricity when it is not use
- Dispose of garbage properly
- Join programs in the community, like planting trees and beach clean-ups
- Upcycle materials into useful projects
- If a tree is being cut down another one should be planted
- There should be reservoirs of water for every community
- Educate others on the negative effects of climate change and what will happen if we do not change our relationship with our environment
- Avoid the exploitation of the soil by allowing the land to rest for a period of one year in order for the land to gather more nutrients so that when planting the next season, healthy and plentiful crops can be harvested. Women should still have access to other land in the meantime.

Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality

- Promote girls' equal use of and access to technology and eliminate stereotypes that prevents their equal use and access
- Provide girls with access to technology and the internet
- Girls should be encouraged in STEM Subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) so much so that they will have the opportunity to work and be leaders in all fields in life
- Provide girls with experts in STEM who can guide them and teach them
- Provide online resources that outline girls' rights, further encouraging their own self-advocacy
- Teach girls how to use technology to acquire knowledge and advocate for their personal needs
- Teach girls how to use social media whereby they could share on ways to protect their rights
- Help girls attend online classes to enhance their future economic opportunities, to include career guidance for girls and assistance with opportunity identification
- Encourage, support and guide girls to becoming the **"innovators, trailblazers, and savants"** in the digital world, **"not just users"**
- Girls should be taught digital safety skills

**"We need technology to participate in the modern world as equals."
- Club Member, Parang School, Philippines**

Feminist Movements & Leadership

- Girls and women must work together, support and advocate for each other in order for girls' rights to move forward
- Discussions should be had among girls about how to advocate for one another
- Age should not be considered a limitation - everyone can change her community positively
- Girls and women should take initiative and not wait for others to change their communities
- Society should accept more women into leadership positions and girls should be encouraged to pursue leadership roles

ANSWER THE CALL

Reflect on girls' calls to action and think about individual and collective actions you can take to make change.

Girls know what girls need. Listen to them and amplify their voices.



Consider partnering locally to take measures to support girls' calls to action.

Support local, national and international organizations (like Global G.L.O.W.) working with girls on solutions for girls.

"Taking control and collective action are the most important drivers of sustained improvements in women's rights and are a powerful force to end poverty."

- Club Members, Nigeria Reads, Nigeria