



#GBHopeEndures

PRAYERS FOR NIGERIA

the girls' brigade
international



gbworldwide.org

Introduction

14/15 April 2019 marks the five year anniversary of the abduction of the Chibok girls. Currently 112 girls remain missing; some of them are GB members; many are feared dead. Since 2009, 20,000 people have been killed and over 2.6 million have been forced to leave their homes. Girls' Brigade is continuing to mobilise the global family to continue to pray and advocate with and for the Chibok girls (and many others impacted by violence in Nigeria).

We have not forgotten. Our GB Hope Endures.

Girls' Brigade is inviting its members and friends to participate in programme, creative prayer and social media activity to raise awareness and mobilise the wider Church to continue to pray for Nigeria; to say that we believe hope endures. The programme ideas below can be adapted for all age groups. You can facilitate all the activities or choose one or two.

Please remember that this resource can be used to pray for the people of Nigeria at any time of the year.

These activities could be used:

- As part of your opening or closing devotions/reflections at your company night
- As part of a church service or parent's night
- As a way of marking International Day of the Girl (11 October) or International Women's Day (8 March)
- As a special prayer night or programme night focussing on Nigeria.

These activities have been created and shaped by some of GB's incredible leaders in Nigeria. A big thank you to Miriam and Ruth for all their hard work and creativity.



Miriam: My hope for this resource is to see that it brings light into the heart of girls and young women who are faced with difficult challenges so that they may feel love and know that God cares for them and GB cares too.



Ruth: My prayer for this resource is that God will use it to stir as many people's heart as possible to take positive action towards Nigeria by praying, advocating and reaching out to transform girls lives.

Being a Girl in Nigeria

(15 mins)

You will need: A print out of *Resource Sheet A: Being a Girl in Nigeria*. Please cut out the gridlines so you have six separate squares.

Explain: Miriam & Ruth share some of the great things about being a girl in Nigeria.

Ruth: It is a beautiful and populous country in Africa – it is known as the giant of Africa. Nigeria is country full of many opportunities for its people. Nigerian girls love to wear beautiful dress and to sing and dance during the many cultural festivals – we have a very vibrant culture. Nigerian girls are also full of creativity.

Miriam: There are over 17,000 girls in GB Nigeria, which provides a safe place for young girls to build faith, relationship and have fun. The Nigerian girl is blessed with the love of family, friends and the community. She is hard working, determined innovative and a symbol of strength.

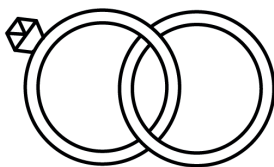
But girls in Nigeria also face some challenges too (sometimes simply because they are a girl). That's unfair, isn't it? What do you think are some of the challenges that girls encounter?

After a brief discussion, show each illustration on *Resource Sheet A* one at a time and explain:



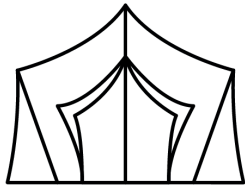
Poverty:

Like many countries, wealth in Nigeria is not equally distributed. Some people are very rich and some people are very poor. Many families live in poverty and girls have to work in order to help feed the family. This is child labour and means that girls do not get to complete their education.



Early or forced marriage:

Can you imagine not being able to choose who you get married to? In order to survive, many families force girls to marry at a young age. This means that many girls do not get to complete their education and may have children at a young age.



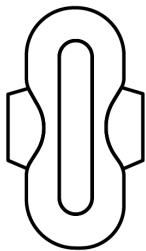
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP):

As a result of violence by terrorist groups like Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsman, many people have had to leave their homes in Nigeria and live in IDP camps. These camps are overcrowded, violent and are unsafe for girls and women.



Religious Persecution:

Nigeria is number 12 on the Open Doors 2019 World Watch List, the annual ranking of countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Christians in northern Nigeria have not only faced attack by Boko Haram but also face discrimination and restrictions in accessing community resources, such as clean water, health clinics and higher education.



Period poverty and taboo:

As a result of poverty, some girls in Nigeria cannot afford to buy any sanitary products. When they get their period, they have to stay at home or use other things as a substitute of sanitary towels (including leaves!) Like my countries, periods are still considered a taboo topic and there is a lot of stigma and embarrassment around this natural bodily function.



Violence:

Many people (including girls) in certain parts of Nigeria do not feel safe. Since 2009, 20,000 people have been killed and over 2.6 million have been forced to leave their homes. For the last five years, Girls' Brigade has been praying for girls and people impacted by violence including the 112 Chibok girls who remain missing. 14/15 April 2019 is the fifth anniversary of their abduction but GB still has hope – just read Sarah's story.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think is the biggest challenge that girls in Nigeria encounter? How do these compare to the challenges that girls face in our country?
2. Do any of these challenges surprise you? Why?

Sarah: A Story of Hope

(10 mins)

You will need: A print out of *Resource Sheet B: Sarah: A Story of Hope* for the group to share. Alternatively be prepared to read it out.

Explain: On 20 June 2017, a GB member called Sarah was abducted by Boko Haram. This is her story in her own words. Let's read it together.

Ask the group the following questions and encourage discussion:

- What do you think of Sarah's story? How would you have felt if you were her?
- What were the challenges that she faced?
- Do you think that it is amazing that she can still praise God despite experiencing all these difficulties?
- Sarah thanked GB for praying for her. How has God answered prayer in your life recently?

#GBHopeEndures: Girls speak out

(10 mins)

You will need: A print out of *Resource Sheet C: Our Hopes – Enough* so people can see it. Please cut out the gridlines so you have six separate squares. Post-it notes or small pieces of paper, pens.

Explain: Girls and women in Nigeria may face challenges but they also have incredible hope for the future. They know that God didn't create the world to be like this and they're using their power, influence and voices to make communities better places for girls. For example, GB Nigeria have run and participated in public rallies to campaign against child marriage and to promote the right of every girl to go to school. *Resource Sheet C* explores some of their hope for the future.

After a discussion about some of the photos, invite the girls and young women to write their prayers on small bits of paper/post-it notes. What is their hope for girls in Nigeria?

Share Ephesians Ch.3:20 with the group and facilitate discussion (if age-appropriate). How has God already answered prayers for Nigeria? How has God answered prayers in your own life? Share why you continue to hope for the Chibok girls and the many others who have been impacted by Boko Haram violence.

Stand/sit in a circle and get each girl to place her prayer on top of the photos of the girls as they read their hopes out loud. Finish with a prayer.

#GBHopeEndures Creative Prayer Stations (20-30 mins)

This activity needs a bit longer and can be done at any time of the year – perhaps you could even engage the wider church and community in prayer?

The following prayer stations can be facilitated using props on tables/floor or even using people dressed up. Please print/write out a couple of prayer points per station. People can simply pray individually or out loud. You could also provide slips of paper and pens if people want to write out their prayers.

Pray for the Church

Props could include: Clergy collars, a Cross, Bible.

Nigeria is number 12 on the Open Doors 2019 World Watch List, the annual ranking of countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Christians in northern Nigeria have not only faced attack by Boko Haram but also face discrimination and restrictions in accessing community resources, such as clean water, health clinics and higher education.

Let's pray for existing churches, that God will strengthen the faith of pastors and protect them. Let's pray for believers they won't lose faith in God and that the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts with peace and joy.

Pray for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Props could include: Tent

As a result of violence by terrorist groups like Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsman, many people have had to leave their homes in Nigeria and live in IDP camps. These camps are overcrowded, violent and are unsafe for girls and women.

Unfortunately many families and communities have been affected by the violence of Boko Haram, the most deadly terrorist group in the world. Since 2009, 20,000 people have been killed and over 2.6 million have been forced to leave their homes. The large-scale Chibok abduction receives the most publicity – but girls and women are kidnapped very frequently by Boko Haram – we don't ever find out their names but God knows!

Pray for all the people that have been impacted by Boko Haram violence – pray for God's comfort, protection and strength for each of them.

For families that have been traumatized, who are in mourning and/or living in fear, pray for God's peace.

Pray for the Nigerian Government

Props could include: Briefcase, Suit

Nigeria is a blessed nation, with a lot of natural and human resource – it has the potential to be great.

Let's pray for divine intervention in the affairs of Nigeria. We pray for wisdom & courageous leadership from the government and for peace for this nation.

Pray for Girls

Props could include: Photos in *Resource Sheet C: Our Hopes*.

It can be tough for many girls in Nigeria – girls are more likely to marry at a younger age, girls are more likely to not complete their education, girls are more likely to live in poverty.

But Nigerian girls are resilient, determined and motivated to help change this for other girls. They have many hopes and dreams for the future as you can see from the printed sheets.

Pray for girls in Nigeria and pray that God will answer their prayers. Pray that God will use them to challenge injustice and bring His hope and transformation to the nations.

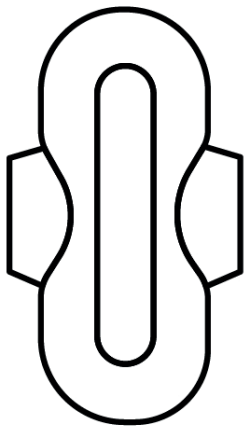
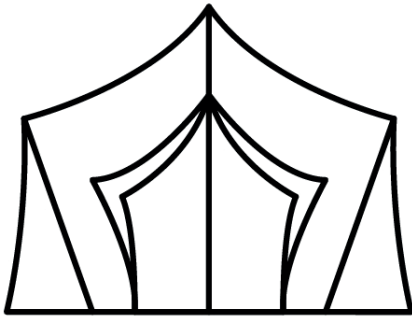
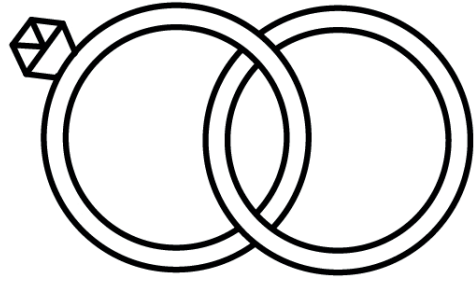
Pray for Girls' Brigade Nigeria

Props could include: A spare GB Uniform.

Girls' Brigade Nigeria is celebrating 76 years of mission in 2019 and has over 17,000 members. GB Nigeria provides safe places for girls to meet, to have fun, develop their God-given gifts and to be equipped into leadership. GB Nigeria also advocates for girls and campaigns on issues impacting girls like early and forced marriage.

Thank God for all the members of GB in Nigeria and for all the leaders who invest time and energy in supporting girls. Thank God for the passionate GB advocates and pray that their future advocacy campaigns would continue to bring transformation to the lives of girls and women in Nigeria.

Being a Girl in Nigeria



Sarah: A Story of Hope

My name is Sarah and I was abducted by Boko Haram on 20 June 2017 when I was travelling to my sister's funeral. The bus that we were travelling on was hijacked. My family and I were taken around 10:30am in the morning and we didn't arrive to their camp until the middle of the night. It was really difficult to live there – the children made fun of us, there was hardly any water and there were snakes everywhere. I was shot and had to live with a bullet in my stomach for eight months!

But to God be the glory! After negotiations from Red Cross, I was released and able to go to hospital in Abuja. The operation was a success and I am slowly recovering from my experience. Thank you GB for your prayers, may the Almighty God bless you abundantly in Jesus name.

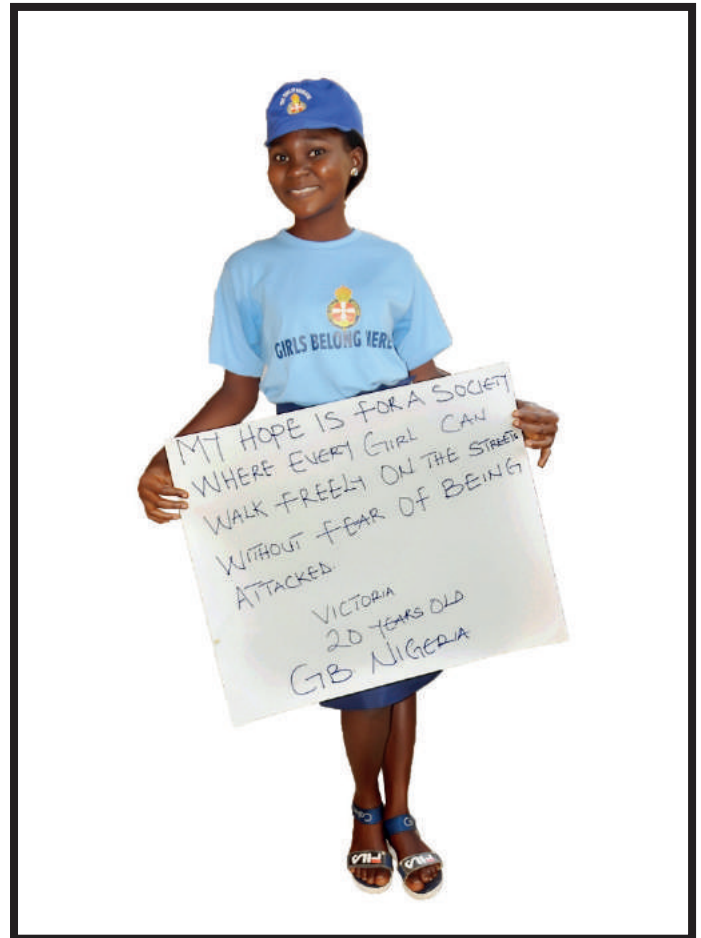
Please keep praying for the many other people who have been impacted by violence. Let's not forget about our friend Leah*. As you prayed for me and my freedom, let's pray that God would do the same for her and the many other people impacted by Boko Haram violence.



- What do you think of Sarah's story? How would you have felt if you were here?
- What were the challenges that she faced?
- Do you think that it is amazing that she can still praise God despite experiencing all these difficulties?
- Sarah thanked GB for praying for her. How has God answered prayer in your life recently?

** On 19 February 2018, Leah Sharibu was the sole Christian among 110 school girls abducted from their school in Dapchi by the Boko Haram offshoot, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). She was 14 years-old. While all of her surviving classmates were released the next month following government negotiations, Leah was denied her freedom as she refused to convert from Christianity to Islam as a precondition for her freedom. Ms Sharibu has been held in captivity ever since.*

#GBHopeEndures: Girls speak out



Girls Speak Out... cont'd

