



Hope for girls

A resource exploring global justice issues



HOPE FOR GIRLS

Welcome to our introductory session of *Hope for girls*, a resource exploring global justice issues.

The situation for girls across the world...

I'm more likely to not be able to read and write *because* I'm a girl.

I'm more likely to have tears of sorrow (not tears of joy) on my wedding day *because* I'm a girl.

I'm more likely not to have a choice about where and when my first sexual experience happens *because* I'm a girl.

I'm more likely to be missing from the face of the earth *because* I'm a girl.

Unfortunately statistics show that these statements are true facts. In our broken world, some girls are presented with many challenges. But there is *hope*.

God has used Girls' Brigade to give hope to many girls across the world by providing life skills, a caring family and empowering them to understand 'life to the full'. Girls like Dina from Tanzania, pictured, the winner of the GB International photo competition. Girls' Brigade has helped Dina to grow in her faith, gain an education, an income generating business, and a ministry in her own GB company. You can see her photo story on the GB Worldwide website.



Girls' Brigade cares with and for this generation of silenced, oppressed, unloved, unseen, forgotten and under-valued girls and women across the world. Girls' Brigade wants to celebrate the value and potential of girls and women across the world as they're made in God's image. After all, that's what Jesus did.

Hope for girls was created by a group of millennial 18-30s leaders who attended The Gathering 2013 in South Africa. One of the main themes to emerge from The Gathering 2013 was that this generation of millennial leaders are passionate about being advocates for hope and justice.

The complete resource, available soon, features stories and videos from across the world exposing the injustices that girls face - and empowering GB members to be part of transforming their world in positive ways. *Hope for girls* is based around two principles: education leads to action, action leads to transformation. Our hope is that together we can play our part in making the world a fairer place for everyone.

How do I use *Hope for girls*?

Here are some helpful hints:

- This resource is aimed at young women aged 13 to 18 years old
- Each session is around one hour in length – you can pick and choose the activities that are most relevant to your group
- We've attached an introductory session – the other sessions, coming very soon, will investigate specific gender justice issues such as access to education and violence against women
- Please be aware that this session deals with sensitive topics – some girls may have been directly affected by these issues. Please ensure that you have other leaders present who are gifted in pastoral care and able to offer support if it's needed.

What's your #hopeforgirls?

We'd love to hear your #hopeforgirls! Share your hope and prayer for girls across the world on Facebook or Twitter using #hopeforgirls or email us – home@gbworldwide.org. Let's get the conversation going.

INTRODUCTION SESSION # 1

This is an introductory session exploring the opportunities and challenges of being a girl in the 21st century, as well as the concepts of fairness and justice.

SETTING THE SCENE

What's fair?

Preparation and equipment: Luxurious snacks like chocolate or fruit, and basic snacks like biscuits.

Here's a fun but poignant activity to help set the scene and introduce the concept of fairness. As the group comes into the room, tell people at random to go to the left or right side of the room. Set up the left side of the room with nice snacks like chocolate or fruit and a cosy place to sit. On the right side, don't put any chairs out so they have to sit on the floor and either provide no snacks or just basic biscuits. Give the group some free time to chat – enough time for them to understand that the two groups are being treated differently. Ask how does it make them feel? Are they being treated unfairly? What is fairness?

ENGAGE (10 mins)

Being a girl

Preparation and equipment: Marker pens, and two large pieces of paper per group.

Spilt the group into groups of four or five people and ask them to draw an outline of a girl on each piece of paper. Give the groups five minutes to discuss and write down the opportunities and challenges of being a girl in 2014. After group discussion, invite them to share their thoughts with the wider group and ensure that you draw out that there are both challenges and opportunities of being born female.

REFLECT (10 mins)

Because I am a Girl

Preparation and equipment: Write or print out statistics and place on wall.

Print or write out the statistics below on individual pieces of paper and place them on the floor or wall in your room. Invite the group to spend some time wandering around and looking at them. After a few minutes, ask them to stand at the statistic which they feel most shocked about. Statistics are from Plan.

- 65 million girls are missing from classrooms across the world.
- Internationally, one in five girls of lower secondary school age aren't attending school.
- Every three seconds, another girl is forced to marry someone she doesn't want to.
- 10 million girls are coerced into marriage each year.
- 150 million girls across the world have experienced rape or other forms of sexual violence before they reach 18 years old.
- Around 113 to 200 million girls and women are simply missing. Girls and women are at a greater risk of suffering gender-based violence such as honour killings and being trafficked.

Explain the fact that girls can be treated differently from boys, simply because of their gender, is not fair. It's an injustice and it's not what God intended. Let's see what God says.

DISCUSS (15 mins)

What does God say?

Preparation and equipment: Bibles and questions.

Read Genesis Ch.1:27: 'So God created mankind in His image, in the image of God He created them;

male and female He created them.' Divide the group into two. Get one group to read Luke Ch.7:36-50 (Jesus anointed by a woman who lived a sinful life) and the other group to read John Ch.4:4-42 (Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman at the well).

Get both groups to answer the following questions:

- How does Jesus treat the woman? What is unusual about what happens?
- What is the significance of the main character in both these stories being a woman?
- How would the stories be different if they were about men?
- Why do you think Jesus behaves in this unconventional way?
- Is there anything that you find personally challenging about the story?

Draw out the main point - women and men have equal value and worth. This is God's intention. Our hope is that women and men will be equally valued.

GB TRANSFORMATION STORIES (10 mins)

Dina

Preparation and equipment: PowerPoint of Dina's GB transformation story.

Dina from Tanzania was the GB International competition winner in 2014. Girls' Brigade has helped Dina to grow in her faith, gain an education, an income generating business, and a ministry in her own GB company. Share Dina's story with your group – you can download the PowerPoint from the GB International website.

Give them time to reflect on the following questions:

1. What were the challenges that Dina faced?
2. How did God use Girls' Brigade to transform her life?
3. What has been the impact of GB on my life?

Spend some time thanking God for how GB is transforming lives across the world – pray together.

BE CREATIVE (15 mins)

Create the world that you want to see for girls

Preparation and equipment: Paper and a variety of different craft materials like pens, crayons, chalk and paint etc.

What do you think the world would look like if everyone equally valued girls and boys like God intended? Give the group some time to reflect on this. Invite them to create the world that they want to see for girls as a piece of art – a drawing, painting or even collage. You could display them in your church and invite others to look and pray over them. Don't forget to send us a photo so we can upload it onto our website or social media pages (home@gbworldwide.org).

DO LATER

How has the world changed for girls?

Get the group to think about positive activities that girls in your country couldn't do 100 years ago. Then organise a trip with your group to do it – let's celebrate that the world can change for girls!