

# Girls Lead Month of Action 2020 Worksheet

## Background

During the month of March, Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) is organizing the Girls Lead month of action at high schools and college campuses to raise awareness around the critical need to end the exclusion of girls, which results in their voices going unheard.

Gender inequalities, starting in childhood, are limiting the lifelong potential of children around the world, and disproportionately affecting girls. In fact, girls are two times more likely than boys to never set foot in a classroom. And despite global progress, 12 million adolescent girls under 18 will marry annually.

These and other inequities result in a lack of girls' civic engagement, which has lifelong consequences. When girls are excluded from decision-making spaces, their specific needs and experiences are not taken into account. Additionally, girls' exclusion means they will be less likely than their male peers to take on leadership roles in adulthood. In fact, women are underrepresented at all levels of government around the world. At the current rate of progress, it will take 95 years to achieve gender parity in political participation.

Supporting girls' participation in civic and political spaces is key to ensuring resilient and sustainable communities. The Girls Lead month of action will enable us to increase awareness and inspire action in support of a bipartisan bill called the Girls Leadership, Engagement, Agency and Development (LEAD) Act. This bill recognizes and promotes girls' civic and political leadership as a priority for U.S. foreign assistance efforts – particularly those focused on building strong and inclusive democracies across the globe.

Working with your SCAN or Save the Children staff contact and other students at your school, complete this worksheet to plan your month of action activities.

## Month of Action Ideas

Below are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing as you plan your month of action activities. You do not have to organize all of these activities! Pick and choose the ones that make sense for your community.

1. **Organize a documentary screening of *Girl Rising*:** This documentary from 2013 shares the stories of nine girls from around the world and the barriers they face to gain an education. You can pair a clip from the documentary with a discussion following the event, a speaker or panel discussion, action (e.g. postcard writing or phone calls) or all of the above.
2. **Collect postcards:** We will provide postcards for use at events and meetings. Make a plan to deliver your completed cards to local congressional offices.
3. **Call your members of Congress:** Making calls is a quick and easy way to have a big impact! We'll provide a script and a phone number.
4. **Register voters:** Encourage students who will be 18 by Election Day (November 3) to register to vote during the month of action.
5. **Write a letter to the editor:** Expand the reach of the month of action by writing a letter to your student or local paper. We'll provide a sample.
6. **Post on social media:** We'll provide graphics and other content you can share on your personal or club social media channels.

Which member(s) of Congress will you focus on for the week of action? Who or what will influence these member(s) of Congress?

What kind of activities will resonate most with other students during the month of action?

What new partnerships can you develop during the week of action? Think about other clubs or departments that might have a connection to the issue.

How else will you inspire people to act during the week of action?

Work with your club members to assign tasks for the month of action to ensure everything gets completed on time.

Assigned Tasks	Timeline	Point Person



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