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# Circle of Sisterhood 101

## Answering the Call to Help Diminish Educational Injustice

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One World. One Sisterhood. ®



There is a global crisis in girl's education. Over 100 million girls are not in school. The sorority community is one of the largest, identifiable bodies of college educated women in the world while not even 7% of the world has college degrees! As a community of women, we can and should use this privilege to help our circle of influence understand the critical need to remove barriers to education around the world. We have a responsibility to help girls and women achieve the one thing we all have - education.

Women across the globe still lack basic legal rights and protections. Mounting research by the United Nations Development Programme indicates that "women's empowerment helps raise economic productivity and reduce infant mortality. It contributes to improved health and nutrition. It increases the chances of education for the next generation." When 2/3 of all illiterate adults in the world are women, we have much work to do.

### Why get involved?

**Strategically**, the Circle of Sisterhood would be a great organization for sororities – collectively - on your campus to support because:

- you already do amazing domestic philanthropic work and through this effort will become global citizens providing humanitarian impact beyond your campus, hometown community, and the United States.
- by focusing on global issues related to girls and women, you will help make your community even more relevant to faculty, administrators, and other campus officials...
- by creating awareness about the brutality inflicted upon girls and women around the world, mean girl behavior and hazing in your own community may go away...
- you will become global citizens more aware of the issues...
- you will become better leaders...

Leaders invested in higher education are calling for students to graduate from college understanding humanitarianism and civic engagement. It is expected that students "will have an appreciation of cultural and human differences; understand their responsibility to social justice; a global perspective; and a sense of civic responsibility."



**Start a book club or watch a documentary to really understand the issues:  
Start with the book/documentary "Half the Sky" or the documentary "Girl Rising"**

Visit our website for lots of resources and ideas at [www.circleofsisterhood.org/resources/](http://www.circleofsisterhood.org/resources/)

Email us with questions at [campussupport@circleofsisterhood.org](mailto:campussupport@circleofsisterhood.org)



## **Build awareness by educating others about the oppression of women worldwide:**

<b>Human trafficking</b>	According to UNICEF, an estimated one million children, mostly girls, enter the sex trade each year and the U.N. estimates that 4 million women and girls are trafficked annually.
<b>Discrimination</b>	Two-thirds of the world's 880 million illiterate adults are women. [1] Less than half a cent of every development dollar goes to programs specifically for girls, particularly those ages 10-14. [4]
<b>Poverty</b>	"Women perform 66 percent of the world's work, produce 50 percent of the food, but earn only 10 percent of the income and own only one percent of the property." [5]
<b>Brutality</b>	Violence kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 as cancer. [3] And 50 % of sexual assaults in the world victimize girls under the age of 15. [6]
<b>Gendercide</b>	According to UN statistics, millions of girls are missing around the world. "More girls have been killed in the last 50 years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century. It is estimated that 60-101 million females are missing from the globe today." - Half the Sky

### Sources:

- [1] Education of girls. (2013, March 30). Retrieved from <http://www.educationforgirls.org/>
- [2] Phil Borges. 2007. *Women Empowered: Inspiring Change in the Emerging World*. New York.
- [3] N Millennium Project. 2005. *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women*. Task Force on Education and Gender Equality. London and Sterling, VA: Earthscan.
- [4] The world's adolescent girls. (2013, March 30). Retrieved
- [5] NDP (United Nations Development Program)
- [6] UNFPA, 2005.

## **As college educated women, we have a responsibility to stand together to educate girls and women around the world because...**

- Educated women overcome poverty
- Educated women positively impact the economy
- Educated women earn 25% more income
- Educated women reinvest 90% of their income back into their families
- Educated women have smaller, healthier families
- Educated women have children who are 40% more likely to live past the age of 5
- Educated women are three times less likely to contract HIV
- Educated women diminish misogyny and oppression
- Educated women live in less volatile, extremist cultures

## **Join our international effort to raise funds to uplift girls and women from poverty and oppression through education.**

If you choose to support the Circle of Sisterhood, LET US KNOW what you choose to do so we can capture your great ideas, brag about them, and share them with other campuses. As well, we will assign you a Campus Relationship Manager to help you get engaged!



## What Can We Do on Our Campus?

Introduce the work of the Circle of Sisterhood to your community at a meeting or chapter visits ([use our video on our website](#)). Then call an interest meeting and go through this worksheet together to identify what will work on your campus to create awareness and fundraise.

**Who Are Our “Go-To” People?** (logical potential collaborators to create awareness such as women’s resource center; other Greek Councils, local alumnae, etc.)

**Ways we can** work with our collaborators to **create awareness** about these critical issues:

### “Our Untapped or Under-utilized People Resources”

Potential Campus Collaborators we don’t normally work with that we should work with to create awareness (residence life, campus ministry, international student services, etc.):

**Ways we can** work with our collaborators to **create awareness** on these critical issues:

### Beyond Raising Awareness Move to Raising Money

We value grass-roots efforts so we want to empower you to do GREAT things that will work on your campus.

*Fundraising Ideas:*

Make it Quick. Simple. Effective. Fun!

For more information:

- Visit our website for ideas and a Fundraising Guide: [circleofsisterhood.org/get-involved/](http://circleofsisterhood.org/get-involved/)
- Email us at [campussupport@circleofsisterhood.org](mailto:campussupport@circleofsisterhood.org) when you decide to become a partner campus!

