



Storytelling Creative Challenge Winners
In celebration of International Day of the Girl

OCTOBER 11, 2018



Together, HP and Girl Rising, launched a creative storytelling challenge to support and elevate the people and programs making a difference for girls everywhere.

The challenge, launched on International Women's Day in March of 2018, culminates on International Day of the Girl, October 11th, 2018, with the celebration of 12 winners. The winners, selected by an esteemed panel of judges, were culled from over 800 submissions across 110 countries. In addition to showcased stories, the winners receive microgrants and HP Technology to extend their causes.

The winning stories possess more than just powerful voices. They possess the power to change perceptions. To motivate and inspires others. To profoundly and positively impact the lives of young girls and women around the world. We are honored to introduce them here.

To learn more about the HP/Girl Rising Creative Challenge and the individual projects, see: girlrising.org/challenge



Brown Girls DO Ballet® (USA)

What began as a personal photography project to highlight Hispanic, African, Asian, East Indian and Native American girls in ballet programs, has transformed into an artistic movement celebrating the beauty and power of diversity. By redefining a classically Euro-centric art form, generations of diverse ballerinas, alongside their audiences, are now inspired and empowered.



Safe Kicks Initiative – Adolescent Girls Against Sexual Violence (Nigeria)

In Nigeria, one out of four girls fall victim to sexual violence. The Safe Kicks Initiative is an after-school program that equips adolescent girls with self-defence skills and sexual violence education. To date, 270 adolescent girls have been trained. The same girls drafted a community action plan for the prevention of sexual violence recently adopted by the local government.



Free Women Writers (Afghanistan)

The UN estimates that 90% of Afghan women are victims of violence. The Free Women Writers collective, comprised of Afghan writers and activists, is working to reverse this statistic. Through published books, as well as an on-line platform to share poetry, narrative, journal entries, reports and articles, the group uses storytelling to educate, advocate and ultimately, change lives.



Turning Periods into Pathways (Nepal)

In Nepal, Chhaupadi is a long-held tradition that banishes girls from their homes, isolating them in sheds and makeshift structures, while they menstruate. It deprives the girls of an education, as well as forces them to endure sub-human conditions. Days for Girls.org, through education and kits, empowers girls to defend their right to an education and drive change in their communities.



Swapn Pahte – I have a dream (India)

Pooja is from a tribal village in Bhiwandi-Thane. To improve her family's financial condition, she found a job with an NGO called Bright Future. This organization helps youth build their employable skills. Pooja took this knowledge and brought it back to her village to spark a revolution. She now provides education and employment guidance to youth in her village.



Accelerated Secondary Education for Women (ASEW in South Sudan)

Due to conflict, poverty and early pregnancy, many women in South Sudan, are unable to attend secondary school. The lack of education leaves them deeply vulnerable. ASEW is an accelerated secondary education program with flexible learning times, on-site child-care and an active learning methodology. The pilot program resulted in some of the highest grades in the state.



Field of Dreams (Uganda)

In an effort to build greater self-esteem and confidence in the young girls of Uganda, two Building Tomorrow Fellows created the first of its kind: A football program for girls. Most of the girls, previously expected to rush home after their school day to clean and do domestic chores, can now learn teamwork, conflict resolution and communication skills outside of the classroom.



Fear is a Liar (Uganda & Democratic Republic of the Congo)

In Uganda, Congolese women often live desolate lives: Taken from their homes by soldier husbands, only to be abandoned without resources in a foreign country. Remnant International provides these ostracized women with vocational training, mentorships, financial training and health seminars. Their film, *Fear is a Liar*, is one of the ways they inspire, empower and educate.



My Life of Advocating for the Girl Child (Nigeria)

Fatima is a 17-year-old, self-described African girl-child advocate, stereotype breaker and student. Everyone else calls her a wonder. She leads multiple organizations and seminars to enlighten girls and parents about the importance of education. She works relentlessly for the safe return of abducted African girls.



Decisions – Cecelia Choices (Nigeria)

This multi-platform, interactive mobile game is targeted at young African women as they navigate the challenges of poverty, reduced access to education, sexual violence and teen pregnancy. The game uses creative and compelling storytelling and interactive decision making to inform, educate and empower young women.



Girls Voices Initiative (Kenya)

The Girls Voices Initiative trains young girls to speak up and advocate for their rights against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. Lucy Sananai is one of the candidates and shines a light on how her training and newfound voice has been used to educate other girls about the impact of FGM, their rights and how to rise-up to eradicate it in Kenya.



They Say (Lebanon)

They Say is an inspiring film created by the All Girls Code initiative which introduces young girls to tech and STEM fields. The inspirational film challenges young girls to overcome cultural stereotypes and reach beyond limited roles. It offers them hope, as well as a real path to pursue to achieve more.

Creative Challenge Judges



Landry Bender
Actress



David Oyelowo
Actor



Andrew Robertson
President & CEO, BBDO



Shelley Zalis
CEO, The Female Quotient



Isha Sesay
Journalist and Activist



Sejal Kumar
YouTuber



Kat Gordon
Founder,
The 3% Conference



Madonna Badger
Co-Founder & CCO,
Badger & Winters

Girl Rising is a non-profit organization dedication to educating and empowering girls all over the world. Utilizing storytelling – via film, television, social media videos, graphic novels, radio and educational curricula – Girl Rising works to change attitudes and beliefs and spark community activism.

Their content has been translated into 30 languages and distributed to 500 Digital Learning Libraries. They've trained over 1500 teachers in Nigeria, while another 6200 educators utilize their free curriculum and feature film in their classrooms. The work is inspiring families to enroll their daughters in school, parents to decide against arranged marriages, teachers to change their methods to better support girls in the classroom and boys to join clubs to end gender discrimination.

Together with those that they inspire, Girl Rising works relentlessly to advance a future where every girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential through education.

