

GIRLS WITHOUT BORDERS... get on the net!

Welcome to our brand new website, you can meet other participants, virtually visit our projects, speak your mind and join in!

www.girls-without-borders.org



Women without Borders
A-1060 Vienna, Gumpendorfer Straße 22/9
T: +43/1/533 45 51, F: +43/1/533 45 52
E-Mail: office@women-without-borders.org
www.women-without-borders.org



GIRLS WITHOUT BORDERS

You are the future!

Bank account: 52085371101, IBAN: AT06 1200 0520 8537 1101, BIC: BKAUATWW

Girls without Borders!



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..is the daughter of Women without Borders (WwB) which is an international initiative for the promotion of women in politics and civil society. As women are at the heart of families and communities and guardians of the next generation, we see the targeting of girls and young women as crucial to the success of any effort to empower societies.



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Youth tend to be more open minded, less restricted and ready to embrace alternative solutions. Women without Borders designs innovative model ventures that offer young girls an attractive forum to develop the competence and confidence for a positive life.

You are special

Yes, you are special and important!

Inside you is the energy, the skill, and the vision to create a worthwhile world - for your own life and for us all.

Your journey starts with you, celebrate your strengths and focus on your goals.

Each person is original and whatever you do, has an impact. Though sometimes it takes courage to be yourself, trust your instincts and stand up for what you want to achieve.

So find out who you are, make your choices and decide to take the future in to your hands: you only have to want to.

“Sisterhood is beautiful, it makes you powerful!”

Yours,

Edit Schlaffer
Chairwoman WwB



© Xenia Hausner

Edit Schlaffer
Chairwoman
Women without Borders

Introducing Girls without Borders!

The daughter of Women without Borders.

There you are: on the brink of adult life, full of excitement, anticipation and maybe even newly-earned certificates in your hand. What are you going to do with your life?

Your foremothers (and forefathers) worked for your rights and changed social attitudes dramatically so that now, you as a 21st century woman have a great opportunity to design your own future, to have the right to be protected and not to be forced into channels that you do not choose.

You and your peers represent the greatest source of energy and vision in your society. You can be the most flexible, most open-minded and most outspoken of social groups. As young women and girls access more education and technology, they are making their contribution felt worldwide. They are keen partners in the

global culture and are speaking up for world issues, such as peace and the environment. They are claiming healthy control for their bodies and mind, in business they are setting standards too, thinking boldly, acting with consideration. Take the future into your own hands and you will not be alone.

Girls without Borders is a brand new initiative to support young women stepping into a bright adulthood. Our projects and initiatives offer practical empowerment and opportunities to experience emotional and intellectual energising.

Our Girls without Borders website is an international platform where you can build fresh networks, discuss your problems or promote your ideas with like-minded friends. There will be on-line courses too so you can develop your agenda and polish your passions for a better world. With real-life skills, you will have the advantage: you can bargain and win in real-life, you can transform your dreams and goals into long lasting change.

Attitude is everything. How you live, how you think, how confident and energetic you are will both affect your own life and the society you live in. Start by identifying the limits you may have set yourself from within. Explore your inner-self, gather the strength and confidence to live with authenticity and conviction. Many girls around the world are together in this. Together you can overcome fear, create new solutions, shape your lives and move borders!

Read ahead for more information about Girls without Borders' ongoing activities and be inspired! You can join us at

www.girls-without-borders.org

GIRLS WITHOUT BORDERS
CHANGE THE WORLD.

Girls without Borders have:

- the health to thrive,
- the courage to dream,
- the capacity to create,
- the will to achieve,
- and the power to transform!

Come and join us!



How to join Girls without Borders

Step two: be fit for life, *play and win!*

Sports and team games are about spirit, courage and dedication to self improvement and commitment. From leisure to life skills, health to healing, sports is a tool for development and stabilisation. Sports can provide you with new opportunities to break down personal and cultural limitations.

Playing sports might turn you into an activist! Sports is a new playing field for Girls without Borders! And why?

There are many reasons, first we have been moved to see how women around the world have been prevented from their right to play: they are missing out on self-expression and self-realization.

Do you play regular sports, dance or participate in outdoor activities?

Girls without Borders do!



'Project India: Women Swimming Into the Future! Although living next to the sea, many girls and women in South India do not know how to swim. Now girls and women got the chance to. The result was overwhelming. "Girls should know how to swim, it makes them independent and they can save their own lives."'



'Project Rwanda: Kicking for Reconciliation. "When I play football, I am not Hutu or Tutsi, I am Rwandan!" Through football training the girls begin to build up their own life skills and to promote trauma-healing and to stress-relief.'

How to join Girls without Borders

Step one: look within and beyond

The world is full of opportunities and you can decide to make the most of your life.

What do you need? Just the right attitude and skills. Family and friends have already been showing you their way of doing things. Your culture and surroundings shape your expectations and options for the future.

Nevertheless don't let your ideas be limited by what you see around you, look within and beyond the community.

Your experiences will form the basis for future values, lifestyles and opportunities - so use this time wisely.

Like these girls here, you too can be inspired and invest your time in whatever it is that you love or try out many different activities.

Whatever your thing is, give it 100%!



'Project Iraq: Youth between Horror and Hope: "I don't know when I leave my house in the morning, whether I will make it home, but nevertheless I go to school everyday". Participants in our youth workshops use innovative theatre techniques to strengthen their identity and give them courage in their fragile society.'



'Project Rwanda: Fit for Leadership! Turning the 'magic carpet', one of the dynamic exercises in our after school club, where girls develop key personal skills for a proactive, positive and healthy life.'

How to join Girls without Borders

Step three: win new life skills and be a leader

As professionals, managers, opinion leaders and policy shapers, women are bringing their renowned skills into social fora and decision making chambers all over the world. So step up and get ready to make a difference too!

Around you and near you are the tools you need to be effective in pursuing your ambitions. Look for role-models who inspire you and set high standards – they could be a Peace Prize Winner or your favourite teacher. Find mentors who can guide you and support your ideas.

Link up with others who share your drive, your ideas and aims or create your own groups. Build partnerships with strong individuals who share your values – you can learn and motivate each other on your personal journeys.

Keep learning - seek out opportunities to win new skills. Keep active - play an instrument, watch a show, or plant a garden, everything you do shapes you.

Keep fresh - read different materials and listen to new ideas: all around you are signposts to help direct you through life.



'Project: Girls Parliament

After school parliament clubs offer a life-like forum, with shadow minister positions and meetings to debate key issues of concern. The young women explore political ideas, think creatively, act decisively and gain the confidence to persuade.

This exciting project is running in 1 different countries already. You can share their adventure on our Girls without Borders website. Spread this movement in your regions of the world – so it could be you taking part next time!



Girls of Excellence!

Young voices from the Middle East



"My parents want me to choose what I study, myself, because in the future I will work for me." Jasmine, Abu Dhabi

"I want to work, not just to work but to make a difference." Leila, Riyadh

There are some remarkable changes taking place in many countries of the Middle East, well educated, future looking young women are making the most of their opportunities. Women without Borders are documenting these promising changes in a new project: *Bridging the Gap, empowerment strategies for the new female Arab leadership.*

Up to 60% of graduates from universities in the Middle East are women. In fact in some countries such as Bahrain, the women are beginning to outperform their male colleagues in their exam results.

"One official said that it is in the national interest for women to have 6 children. I want to study a Masters in Psychology in Scotland, then come back here and work.

After that I'll do my PhD in Environmental Health and then, if there is time, I'll get married." Hind, Dubai

Indeed it is an exciting time and Arab women are gaining top positions in politics, business and media; sometimes with the support of their government and sometimes against very challenging cultural conditions. Now it is time for young women to explore career possibilities and for employers to wake up to the new female talent pool!

The girls in the Middle East are respectfully and effectively taking their futures into their own hands,

YOU CAN DO IT TOO!

How to join Girls without Borders

Step five: connect!

Do you have something to say? Do you want to connect with other earnest and dynamic like-minded peers? Join Girls without Borders and get on the net!

www.girls-without-borders.org

At the click of a button you will have access to news and views, you can even write your own too. Take advantage of the on-line female empowerment programs, participate in research projects and add muscle to campaigns.

This is the platform to raise your issues, to reach out and connect with others. Discuss the needs in your region, find out how others solve similar problems or create new solutions together.

Interviews with role-models and personal stories will encourage and motivate you.

You can build new networks, where you can find mentors or help others.

But don't just stop there.... girls and young women need to have access to their own **professional news service** written with a focus on the contribution that women make every day.

It is clear that the emerging female intellectual capital will be the key to a stable future, so it is a matter of urgency that from heads of state to grass roots, women's voices are heard and actions are profiled.

Watch out for the women-information.net soon!

How to join Girls without Borders

Step four: speak up!

Visibility is viability, **your opinions matter and you can make them heard.** At home, in class, in places of worship, you should have the chance to practice civilised dialogue: to formulate your own opinions, speak up, make a stand and decide for yourselves what to achieve.



"I get no peace when I see all these poor children around me" Emertha, herself an orphan and responsible for 4 siblings, created a radio show for and about street children." Rwanda

So speak out if you see something is not right, speak out if someone hurts you, speak out if you have a better idea. You can send your message in person, in a letter or a poster, through the media and in your actions. Remember that even the greatest of achievements are made in small steps, so **all your efforts count.**



Neema teaches English to girls in Kabul, she says "My family is very traditional, but I show them that I can earn their trust and go out to work." Afghanistan

Whatever your concerns are, from education to the environment, from friendships to family... **decide to make your mark!** Let those around you know what you need, even if others discourage you.

Girls without Borders are respectful, informed and energetic, they are creative and determined. To join Girls without Borders decide **to take responsibility for your own life** and make the most of it.