



In-District Meeting

U.S. House of Representatives

Education for Refugee Girls

In-district meetings are a great way to meet with your representative or their staff to talk about Girl Up and our advocacy goals, while also rallying your club together. The process to schedule and hold a meeting though can be a little tough, so hopefully we can break it down a little for you here. First, find out who your rep is in the [Girl Up Advocacy App](#). Then follow these steps to be an advocacy all-star:

Schedule the Meeting

- Request a meeting by calling your representative's district office, sending an email or filling out a form on your representative's website.
- Ask to be in touch with the scheduler. Introduce yourself as a constituent, and mention that you are interested in meeting with your representative to talk about the right to quality education for the most vulnerable girls around the world.
- Request a date for the meeting. If you schedule your meeting during a Congressional recess, there is a chance the representative might be in town and able to meet with you directly.
- Once you have scheduled your meeting, call a few days in advance to confirm.

Be Prepared

- Add your in-district meeting to the calendar in the Girl Up Community so Girl Up knows about it.
- Download the [Girl Up Advocacy app](#) on iTunes or the Google Play store. In the app, you'll find your talking points, information about your member of Congress and other resources. Explore everything the app has to offer to become the ultimate advocate.
- In the app, click "About Your Representative" to learn more about your member of Congress and whether s/he has supported similar legislation in the past. Personalize your talking points to appeal to your representative's key issues and concerns.
- Rehearse. Run through what you plan to say during the meeting, especially if you are bringing a group of people to your meeting. Check out our sample agenda and talking points – but remember, you should make it personal. Think of any questions you may want to ask too.

Blow Them Away

- Dress professionally. Plan to wear business casual attire (i.e. semi-professional – like nice pants or a skirt) and pack a business card if you have one.
- Bring your agenda. It's fine to have a printed agenda and talking points in front of you to make sure that your meeting stays on track. (Just make sure to only refer to it and don't read from it!)
- Bring your "leave-behind" folder with more information and resources. Find Girl Up resources to include at [GirlUp.org](#) or in the Girl Up Community.

- Document the meeting. Take a picture with the district staff and post it on social media with #WithRefugees (don't forget to tag @GirlUp and your rep's handle, too).

Follow Up




- Send a thank you directly from your app using the template email under "Thank Your Representative." Personalize the content and send it to the staffer with whom you met (be sure to get a business card!).
- Keep in touch by following your representative on Facebook and Twitter. In the app, use "Tweet @Congress" to easily send a tweet with your rep's handle and our messaging.
- **We want to hear how well you did.** In the app, use "[Tell Us How It Went!](#)" to fill out a quick survey about your meeting. It's super important for Girl Up to get that information so we can track our advocacy efforts and follow up with Congressional offices.

Keep Track




- It's important to see if your advocacy efforts are having a result. On GovTrack.us or Congress.gov, keep an eye on H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act and track whether your representative has signed on in support as a cosponsor. Until you see her/his name listed, keep periodically following up.
- Once your representative is a cosponsor (happy dance!), then it's time to say a big THANK YOU. Send a thank you letter, deliver a thank you poster to the local district office, ask every member of your club to tweet a thank you message at your rep. Pretty much, you can't say thank you enough!

Meeting Outline and Talking Points

Part I: Opening (provided by team leader if it's a group meeting)


- Introduce yourself and ask group members to introduce themselves (if applicable). Note that you are a constituent and share any affiliations you have with your representative. Did you go to the same high school, was she a Girl Scout too, etc.?
- Thank the member of Congress or staffer for his/her time **and** tell her/him how much you appreciate them taking the time to discuss issues that you really care about. If they supported Girl Up related legislation in the past, make sure to thank them for their support of girls and women.
- Introduce Girl Up and give them a quick overview about the purpose of your meeting:
 -  I am/we are a Girl Up [CLUB/SUPPORTER/CAMPUS] from....We are all really passionate about ensuring that all girls have the opportunity to go to school and are advocating for legislation that would help to make this a reality.
 -  Girl Up is a “by girls, for girls” campaign of the United Nations Foundation that raises awareness about, fundraises for, and advocates on the behalf of underprivileged girls around the world. Many girls don’t have access to education, are often not registered at birth, and frequently live in environments in which their health and safety are threatened.
 -  Today, we are here to talk to you about a certain piece of legislation that would make the opportunity to attend school a reality for some of the most vulnerable girls - refugees.




Part II: Introduction to the Issue

- Show that you know your stuff by sharing facts and information on this specific issue. You'll wow the member or staffer with your in-depth knowledge of an important global issue.
 -  Girls' access to education has always been a main focus of Girl Up.
 -  Over the years, Girl Up supporters have been fundraising for access to education through fundraisers such as SchoolCycle, which raised money to purchase bicycles for girls in Guatemala and Malawi, so that they could improve their attendance in school because of the added convenience and safety that a bicycle provides.
 -  Right now, Girl Up is particularly focusing on the plight refugee girls face when they try to obtain an education. At the end of 2016, Girl Up raised enough money to send over 4,400 refugee girls in Uganda to school.



Note: If you have a specific story about a girl to share, you should share it here.

Part III: Make the Case





- Present the challenge:
 -  Though Girl Up has made a big impact through its fundraising to advance girls' education, we know that lasting change can only be achieved through legislative action.

-  The United Nations, especially the UN Refugee Agency, helps over 65 million people who are currently forcibly displaced from their homes. About half of these people are under the age of 18.
-  Over 75% of refugees never make it to secondary school often because of lack of learning supplies, overcrowded classrooms, and language barriers.
-  Worse, 50% of displaced children receive no education at all.

- Identify the solution:

-  All girls have the right to an education, and educated girls are key to driving any sort of social and economic change.
 - In fact, gender education inequality explains for slower economic growth in East Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia. This means that investing in the education of girls is one of the best ways to eradicate poverty and boost the global economy. Quite simply, investing in girls' education is the smart thing to do.
 - Additionally, if all girls had a secondary education in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia, 64 percent fewer girls would get married as children – which means almost 2 million fewer child brides.
-  Through our foreign policy agenda and continued funding for the UN, the U.S. government can ensure that the well-being of girls is a priority, especially refugees.

Part IV: Make the “Ask”

- It's time to hit it home. You've shared why this issue is so important. Now the member of Congress or staffer will want to know what you are asking them to do about it.
 -  Today, we ask you to support girls' right to education by cosponsoring the **H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls' Right to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which was introduced by Rep. Chabot and Rep. Kelly.**
 -  This bill would make safe and quality education for girls in vulnerable settings a U.S. foreign policy priority. Specifically, the bill calls on the U.S. to:
 - Encourage countries to provide refugees with access to safe, quality, primary and secondary education
 - Enhance training and capacity-building for national governments hosting refugees by providing coordination among the United Nations, World Bank, local and international non-governmental organizations, and other parts of civil society
 - Promote the hosting of refugees within local educational systems, especially with innovative solutions such as shift schools and extended hours
 -  I recognize that there are a lot of priorities competing for the attention of Congress, but I believe this upcoming bill deserves special attention because **[SAY WHY YOU CARE]**.
 -  We would also, like to know if you are interested in attending any club meetings or events we are hosting in the future (give exact dates if you can).

Part V: Conclusion and Thank You

- Ask the staffer or member if they have any questions for you.
- Ask what the member's stance is on this issue, and if they will be able to support your request.
- Ask if there is any information they would like to receive to help them speak up about girls' right to education in vulnerable situations.
- Thank the member or staffer for his or her time, attention and support for girls around the world.
- **Present your leave-behind folder.**
- Ask if you can take a picture to share on social media.

Note: If the member or staffer has questions that you are unable to answer, that is fine. Tell them you will ask a Girl Up representative to follow up with them directly with the answer.

Part VI: After the Meeting

Congrats! You finished your meeting and you totally rocked it, but your work isn't over yet. Make sure you follow up with the staff member so that they remember your club and your meeting. Keep their contact information handy!

- Tweet your representative and say thank you! If you took a picture with your representative or her/his staff, make sure to post it on social media and thank them in your posts!
- Send a follow up email. You can do this super easily through the [Girl Up Advocacy App](#). Make sure to remind your representative of the bill and what she/he can do to support it
- Send the office a handwritten card. Representatives **love** receiving these and they often keep it in their office!