Education for Refugee Girls

Follow these easy steps to contact the office of your representative in the U.S. Congress on the phone:

1. Call the Capitol Hill main line (202-224-3121), and ask to be connected to your representative’s office, or use the Girl Up Advocacy app to find the direct number to your representative’s office.

2. The front office will answer the phone. Tell the staff member who answers the phone [YOUR NAME], [YOUR SCHOOL/GIRL UP CLUB], and that you would like a moment of their time to discuss the Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which was introduced by Representative Steve Chabot and Representative Robin Kelly.

3. Deliver your talking points:

- Currently there are 36 million people worldwide who have had to flee their homes and their countries. Most of these young people lack the resources they need and do not have access to a good education. Among this population, girls often suffer the most.

- Without access to a quality education, girls are more at risk of child marriage, gender-based violence, trafficking, and forced labor. The passage of the Protecting Girls’ Access to Education Act along with support for the work of UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNDP, the Act will help bring quality education to refugees, especially the most vulnerable girls.

- I believe every girl deserves a quality education because... [SAY WHY YOU CARE!]. Think about your own education! I know my education means that... [The staff wants to hear from you, not a script, so don’t be afraid to add a personal touch!]

- I ask that Rep. [NAME] would please consider cosponsor H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which was introduced by Rep. Steve Chabot and Rep. Robin Kelly. This important bill will make quality education for refugee girls a U.S. foreign policy priority.

4. Many Congressional offices ask for your address as well as follow-up information on the issue you are presenting. If you don’t know the answer or they don’t have any questions right away, it’s all good! Redirect them to the Girl Up website for more info.

5. Don’t forget to thank the staffer for his or her time before hanging up.

6. One last step... let us know how your call went! Share with us by filling out this quick survey.

GirlUp.org
Call Script

U.S. Senate

Education for Refugee Girls

Follow these easy steps to contact the offices of your Senators (remember, you have two!) on the phone:

1. Call the Capitol Hill main line (202-224-3121), and ask to be connected to your Senator’s office, or use the Girl Up Advocacy app to find the direct number to your Senator’s office.

2. The front office will answer the phone. Tell the staff member who answers the phone that you have an opinion on international issues, specifically girls’ education that you would like to share with the member of Congress, and ask if you can leave that opinion with the staffer.

3. Deliver your talking points:

- Investing in adolescent girls is one of the best ways to address the many social and economic challenges facing our world today. Girls who are forced to leave their homes are often the most vulnerable and don’t have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

- Currently there are 65 million people worldwide who have had to flee their homes, and half of them are under the age of 18. Since the average length of a prolonged refugee crisis is about 17 years, too many of these young people will spend their youth away from their homes.

- One specific challenge facing girls in vulnerable settings is their lack of access to quality education. Only 22% of refugees are enrolled in secondary school because of a lack of learning materials, overcrowded classes, and language barriers. Without access to quality education, girls are more at risk of child marriage, trafficking, and forced labor.

- I believe every girl deserves the chance at an education because... [SAY WHY YOU CARE!]. I attend at [SCHOOL NAME] and having access to quality education means that... [WHAT DOES YOUR EDUCATION MEAN TO YOU?].

- With these points in mind, I ask for Sen. [NAME]’s leadership on this issue. Senator Marco Rubio and Senator Bob Menendez introduced S. 1580, Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, that would make quality education for refugee girls a U.S. foreign policy priority. I would like the Senator to co-sponsor this legislation.

4. Ask if s/he requires any follow-up information on this issue. Most Congressional offices track phone calls by area code. Some may ask for your name and address as well.

5. Thank the staffer for his or her time. Hang up. You’re almost done... but not quite yet.

6. Let us know! This is just as important as your call. Share with us by filling out this quick survey.

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