



RUSSIA  
2013

COMMUNIQUE

girls  
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SUMMIT



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## COMMUNIQUE

The G(irls)20 Summit was born out of unmistakable evidence that investing in girls and women is a key driver of economic productivity worldwide.

The delegates of the 2013 G(irls)20 Summit – the fourth of its kind – met in Moscow, Russia, ahead of the G20 meeting to discuss opportunities gained when business, economic and social policy is conceived of and structured in a way that maximizes a woman's productive ability, and opportunities lost when global investment in girls and women is overlooked.

The International Center for Research on Women identifies three components critical to the economic advancement of women (and, in turn, the communities in which they live): economic decision-making, economic self-confidence and efficacy, and access to critical economic resources. These factors can only come into play if girls and women are given the freedom to reach their individual and collective potential. Too often, though, this potential is left untapped.

In developing countries, just one in five girls completes primary school. According to the World Health Organization, 39,000 child marriages take place every day in both developing and developed nations. In countries where the legal age for marriage differs by sex, the age for women is always lower.

It is imperative that governments worldwide, led by the G20 nations, acknowledge and take proactive steps to improve the potential for women to be economically viable in every society around the globe. To that end, we, the delegates of the 2013 G(irls)20 Summit, ask G20 leaders to consider the following recommendations:

### **On the subject of Jobs, Growth and Investment:**

There is clear evidence that when you invest in a girl, she will contribute to economic growth. While many grassroots efforts to improve the ability of girls and women to be economically productive have taken root, effective global and national policies and approaches are needed to help provide context and create an environment where girls and women worldwide are able to achieve their full

potential. In particular, technology is transformative in its potential to advance women economically.

**We call upon G20 leaders to:**

- 1) Explore the use of public-private partnerships to increase access to technology, such as internet access in rural areas, through gender-specific development strategies.
- 2) Integrate female-focused computer science and technology programs in early schooling, and apprenticeship programs in later years, to increase the participation of women in non-traditional sectors.
- (3) Encourage female entrepreneurship by creating publicly-backed incubators for female founded and led start-ups and incentivizing the creation of professional networks, especially in firms where women comprise less than 50% of top management.
- (4) Promote a parent-friendly workplace, with special consideration for pregnant women, by implementing equitable parental leave policies, and mandatory re-entry programs to help women re-integrate into the workforce.
- (5) Create mechanisms that enable accurate data collection on the status of women including recruitment & advancement, male to female ratio and salary, in order to encourage accountability in both government and private sectors.
- (6) Consider incentives that encourage post-secondary cross-border partnerships that enable young women to pursue higher education abroad, provided they return to benefit their home communities.
- (7) Appoint a Minister responsible for Gender development to work in partnership with the Ministers of Finances and Economic Development, with the authority and resources to implement the above recommendations.

**On the subject of Early Forced Marriage:**

The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child defines child marriage as that which takes place before the age of 18. Child marriage disproportionately affects young girls, and the consequences can be devastating. Early and forced marriage has been proven to increase the incidence of violence and abuse, result in poor sexual and reproductive health and contribute to illiteracy among girls and women. It is imperative that the leading nations of the world take steps to ensure every girl's safe passage to adulthood, and to her full potential as a vibrant and productive global citizen.