



GLOBAL GIVE BACK CIRCLE – FUTURE POLITICAL LEADERS CONFERENCE REPORT

In partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Center's
'Women in Public Service Project'

APRIL 27TH – APRIL 30TH 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Objective	3
Youth Participants.....	3
Program Summary.....	3
Day 1	4
Day 2	4
Day 3	6
Panelists.....	6
Day 4	7
Speakers & Judges	7
Policies Presented	8
The Winning Policy	8
Next Steps for the Winning Policy	8
Survey Summary	9
Evaluation Survey	9

OBJECTIVE

To host a four-day conference designed to increase the participation of young African women in advocacy and public service through a convening of 50 beneficiaries from Starehe Girls' Centre, Kenya, 50 beneficiaries from Gashora Girls' Academy, Rwanda and 175 girls from various secondary schools throughout Kenya.

The goal was to provide a platform for youth advocacy with a gender lens, whereby through its design and choreography it would empower adolescent girls to have a voice in their government and in the formation of policies that make a difference in their countries.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- 48 girls from Starehe Girls' Centre, Kenya
- 49 girls from Gashora Girls' Academy, Rwanda & 3 Staff Members
- 4 girls from St. Elizabeth's Secondary School & 1 Staff Members
- 5 Global Give Back Circle Staff Members

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 2017 Global Give Back Circle – Future Political Leaders Conference was held in Nairobi Kenya, from 27th April to 30th April 2017. Participants included 48 girls from Starehe Girls' Centre (SGC) in Kenya, 49 girls from Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology (GGAST) in Rwanda, 4 girls from St. Elizabeth's Girls Secondary School in West Pokot, Kenya, and 175 girls from various secondary schools across Kenya. The conference was designed to educate and empower adolescent girls to step-up to roles in advocacy, to drive policy change, and to break through the glass ceilings of political leadership.

The conference integrated interactive sessions, tours and field trips, panels and speakers, all focused on methods of policy change, advocacy, and the role young women can play in public service. It also gave beneficiaries the

opportunity to meet their sisters for the first time and to exchange ideas across borders. Participants successfully learnt how they can create impact through policy change and advocacy, how to develop and write a policy, and how to present it. They were given a chance to advocate for policy change to actual policy makers, reminding them that their voices matter, and they can make a difference in their countries and across Africa.

DAY 1, THURSDAY, APRIL 27th

49 girls from GGAST flew to Nairobi and arrived at SGC to participate in the opening ceremony with 48 of their sisters. All girls were asked to take part in a baseline survey before the conference kicked off.

DAY 2, FRIDAY, APRIL 28th

In the morning, the girls presented on challenges that women and girls face in their countries.

Afterwards, they were transported to UN Headquarters in Nairobi, where they spent two hours learning about the UN, speaking with UN representatives about

their roles, governance, advocacy, and the shaping of international policy.



In the afternoon, the girls visited the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) East African Regional Leadership Centre. YALI Alumni coached and trained the girls on public policy making.



Group leaders divided the girls into groups based on issues girls are passionate about. This day was about methodology and the impact they can have with the right balance of advocacy and policy support.



Day 3, SATURDAY, APRIL 29th

The girls were taken through a policy proposal development workshop and coached on the 'how-to' of perfecting public policy in groups. In the afternoon, beneficiaries learnt from women leaders and youth advocates, how they lobby to make policy happen, and methods women and youth can use to advocate for and impact social and political change.



The girls spent the late afternoon perfecting their presentation skills and how to present their final policy to government officials.

PANELISTS: WOMEN & YOUTH AS ADVOCATES OF CHANGE

- Celine Bankumuhari, Oxfam Policy & Advocacy Advisor
- Farah Eck, former Alumni & Volunteer Relations Director, YALI
- Eric Omwanda, Co-Founder & Project Manager, Mathare Foundation
- Nakia White, Co-Founder, Global Ladder

Day 4, SUNDAY, APRIL 30th

175 girls from various secondary schools in Nairobi were bused to SGC to engage in the final day of the conference, and to vote on the best policy presentation. Representatives from the Kenyan and Rwandan government empowered the girls and listened as they delivered their policy presentations. All presentations focused on proposals for policies that will impact women and youth in Kenya and Rwanda.



SPEAKERS: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICY & JUDGES

- Glory Mbabazi, Second Counsellor at Rwanda High Commission
- Aisa Kirabo, Deputy Executive Director & Assistant Secretary General for UN Habitat
- Mwanamaka Mabruki, Principal Secretary, State Department of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Service, Youth and Gender Affairs
- Irungu Nyakera, Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning & Statistics, Ministry of Devolution and Planning

POLICIES PRESENTED

Group 1: Maternal Mortality (Women's Health & Reproductive Rights)

Group 2: Youth Unemployment in Urban Areas (Youth Unemployment)

Group 3: Low Quality Education in Public Schools (Education)

Group 4: Air Pollution in Kigali and Nairobi (Environment)

Group 5: Limited Youth Engagement in Agriculture (Agriculture & Food Security)



THE WINNING POLICY

Government officials, mentors, guests, and 275 girls placed their vote for the best policy. An award was presented to the policy focused on Education, 'Low Quality Education in Public Schools in Kenya and Rwanda.'

The group argued that decreased quality of education in public



schools is a result of free compulsory primary school education. This increased the enrollment rate by 12% in Kenya and 10% in Rwanda, but the learning facilities remained the same, forcing some students to learn even under trees. Each participant in the group was awarded a certificate for their contribution towards the formation of a policy that will impact youth in Kenya and Rwanda.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE WINNING POLICY

The winning group will receive coaching and mentoring on how their policy can be lobbied for adoption in their home country.

SURVEY SUMMARY

All beneficiaries completed a baseline survey questionnaire before the conference, and an evaluation survey once the conference concluded. A total of 101 participants completed the baseline survey for a 100% response rate; and 97% completed the evaluation survey for a 96% response rate.



EVAULATION SURVEY

It was evident that the beneficiaries' mindset and perspective surrounding public policy had shifted following the conference. The level of girls who felt that they could effect change in the political, social, and/or economic environment of their country had increased from 67% prior to the conference (based on figures captured in a baseline survey) to 94.8 % following the conference (based on figures captured in the evaluation survey). There was also a 54.3% increase in the level of public policy understanding among participants. 40.6% stated they

had a good understanding prior to the conference, while 94.9% said they had a good, or very good, understanding at the conclusion of the conference.



One beneficiary stated, *“I am very grateful for this program. Surely, this conference has been an indirect investment to the Rwandan Government, as well as Africa, and the world.”*

Beneficiaries responded favorably regarding the overall satisfaction with the conference as well. 91.7% of the respondents indicated that their expectations of the conference were met, 93.8% indicated that they were well informed of the objectives of the conference, 91.7% agreed that the conference activities stimulated their learning, and 79.4% felt that the difficulty level of the conference was appropriate.

When asked ‘What was the ‘most valuable’ takeaway from the conference’ the majority of beneficiaries said ‘policy making.’ Lutgardis said, *“The most valuable takeaway was learning what a policy is, how to structure it, how to present or ‘market’ it to the government so as for it to be accepted and eventually implemented.”* Dushime said she learnt, *“Women are able and we have support.”*



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