

International Day of the Girl 2021

#WRITE HERSTORY

Issue 1: October 2021

**START AN
ADVOCACY
CAMPAIGN LED
BY GIRLS!**

Simple steps to get heard

DID YOU KNOW?

We are 10 million voices
around the world

NEW PODCAST
#HearHerStory!



WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS

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01

Editor's letter

03

How to complete
the pack

05

What about girls?

07

Headline heroes

09

Girls on a mission

12

Time to #WriteHerStory

13

The Expert's Voice

15

In the next issue...

CONTENTS



EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the #WriteHerStory activity pack!

We have designed it for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all ages who want to start an advocacy journey on International Day of the Girl 2021. Last year, during the #HearMeNow Campaign, we gave you tools to develop your communication skills to become an advocate for change and you started imagining what the future should look like. This year, let's make it happen!

International Day of the Girl is celebrated on the 11th October. Each year, this day is an opportunity for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to make their voices heard, be a force for change and show the positive impact the Movement is having on the world today.

The world would look quite different if girls were in charge. With the #WriteHerStory activity pack, we want to give you an opportunity to make your own headlines! This activity pack will guide you to speak out for a change you want to see through a mini advocacy project that is girl-led. This could be writing to a local decision maker, producing a poster campaign or anything else you can think of.

Did you know?

8 in 10 girls and young women want to be involved in decision-making that directly affects their lives. (Source: U-report)

Want to know more about IDG? Follow this link to the WAGGGS website to find out more



So what is Advocacy?

Advocacy in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting is influencing decision-makers to make decisions that will create an equal world where all girls can thrive.

Girl-led advocacy happens when girls are the ones choosing the issues they want to advocate on, defining the change they want to see, and influencing the decision-makers they have identified, to improve their lives and the lives of others.



We really want to hear your headlines, and share the amazing impact of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts everywhere in the world. Join our #WriteHerStory social media campaign in October to share your progress!

To support #WriteHerStory, we are creating a four part podcast named #HearHerStory (available in all 4 WAGGGS languages). By listening to the podcast, you can learn about the advocacy journey of other girls and young women in the Movement. We hope you can find inspiration in their experiences of leading change!

With #WriteHerStory, we want to give girls worldwide a space to share their headlines, so we can work together to make them a reality, and make the world a better place, shaped by what girls would like to see.

We don't know about you, but we're feeling motivated! Let's have fun, speak out, and feel the extraordinary power of our Movement.

Happy International Day of the Girl!

Yours in Guiding and Scouting,

Lucía and Becca

Girl-led Advocacy volunteers

WAGGGS

Did you know?

Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting wouldn't exist if it wasn't for a group of girls that gate-crashed a Boy Scout rally demanding a space for themselves in 1909

Only about a quarter of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) workers are female.

In 2019, one in five women aged 20–24 years were married before the age of 18.





HOW TO COMPLETE THE PACK!

STEP 1

Introduce the theme of International Day of the Girl 2021 and what you will be doing as you work through this pack



STEP 2

Complete the activities in this pack and plan your mini project

STEP 3

Take part in the #WriteHerStory social media campaign



STEP 4

Tell us about your advocacy project



STEP 5

Congratulations! You've earned your #WriteHerStory badge.

Now, let's get started! It is time to change what is to what it should be.

This pack has been designed to be flexible to suit your group's situation. We have provided options to adapt the activities for virtual groups or lone members working through the pack by themselves. The activities in the pack can be run in one evening or extended to be delivered over the course of a couple of weeks (using the taking it further options). And if you need to adapt the activity to make it work for your age group (either to make it simpler or stretch them), please do, as long as the learning outcome remains the same.

Once you have completed the pack and sent us your project, you've earned your #WriteHerStory badge. You can buy it from the WAGGGS online shop.





WHAT ABOUT GIRLS?

What are the headlines like now? What are we hearing and reading about girls?

★ As a group, collect a selection of headlines that talk about girls and women. You can find them online, on TV, social media or newspapers and it can be local, national or international news.

Try and make this as wide-ranging as possible.

★ After you collect a good number of headlines, use the categories below to sort the news:

- **Bad news** (things that have a negative impact)
- **No news** (doesn't give you much information, or is neutral)
- **Good news** (positive things that champion the story you want to see)

★ As a group, discuss why you have put each headline into a certain category.

- What would you like to see in the news in the future? What do you wish you would never see again?
- What would we need to do to transform bad news into good news? And how could we make the good news even better?
- Remember your ideas! You might need them later.

IT'S
TIME TO
SEARCH!

If you aren't doing this as part of your group, these questions are still relevant. Take some time to reflect on how these headlines make you feel. Are there more bad headlines than good ones? What would you like to change?



Take it further



Option 1: Looking at the headlines you've just discussed, split them out into different categories. For example:

Careers/ Gender equality /Sports/ Body image/ Violence/ Etc.

Can you see any patterns? Are some areas worse/better than others?

Option 2: Look for a video where a girl is the subject of a news story or interview.

-Play it for your group without sound.

-Ask everyone to try to guess what is being said. What type of questions are being asked? What kind of language do they think is being

used to talk about girls?

Play the video with the sound on and compare if the guesses are close to reality.

- Is the focus on what the girl accomplishes?
- Should we be hearing more news like this or not?
- Were the questions and language appropriate?
- How do you feel about the subject of this news story? Is there anything you would like to change?



Reflection

- Now that you've explored what the news says, how do you feel?
- Do you feel hopeful for the future? Do you think you need to stand up and make a difference? Maybe a bit of both!
- As we move through the pack we are going to look at how you can make a difference and plan a mini project to get your voice heard.

BAD NEWS

GOOD NEWS

NO NEWS



HEADLINES HEROES!

What do you want the headlines to say about girls? Play a brainstorming game to come up with headline ideas you really care about!

Playing with your group:

Material: Dice (or six numbered pieces of paper to draw from a bowl), one token per player, game board template

★ You can play this game with the entire group or divide into smaller groups, each with their own game board.

★ Navigate around the board, using your token, according to dice rolls. Every time you land on a new box you have to create a headline about girls using the written word you land on and the theme as indicated by the colour.

★ As you play the game take notes of all the headlines you create. When you get to the finish line, you'll have a great list of headlines to get inspired by.

★ Once you have reached the end, decide which headline inspires you the most and use it throughout the rest of the activities! You can use it as is, or adapt it into a headline that really motivates you.

Playing at home or virtually:







★ Role a dice 3 times to come up with your own headline about girls! Role it once to know what word to use, twice to learn the theme and three to know what type of headline.

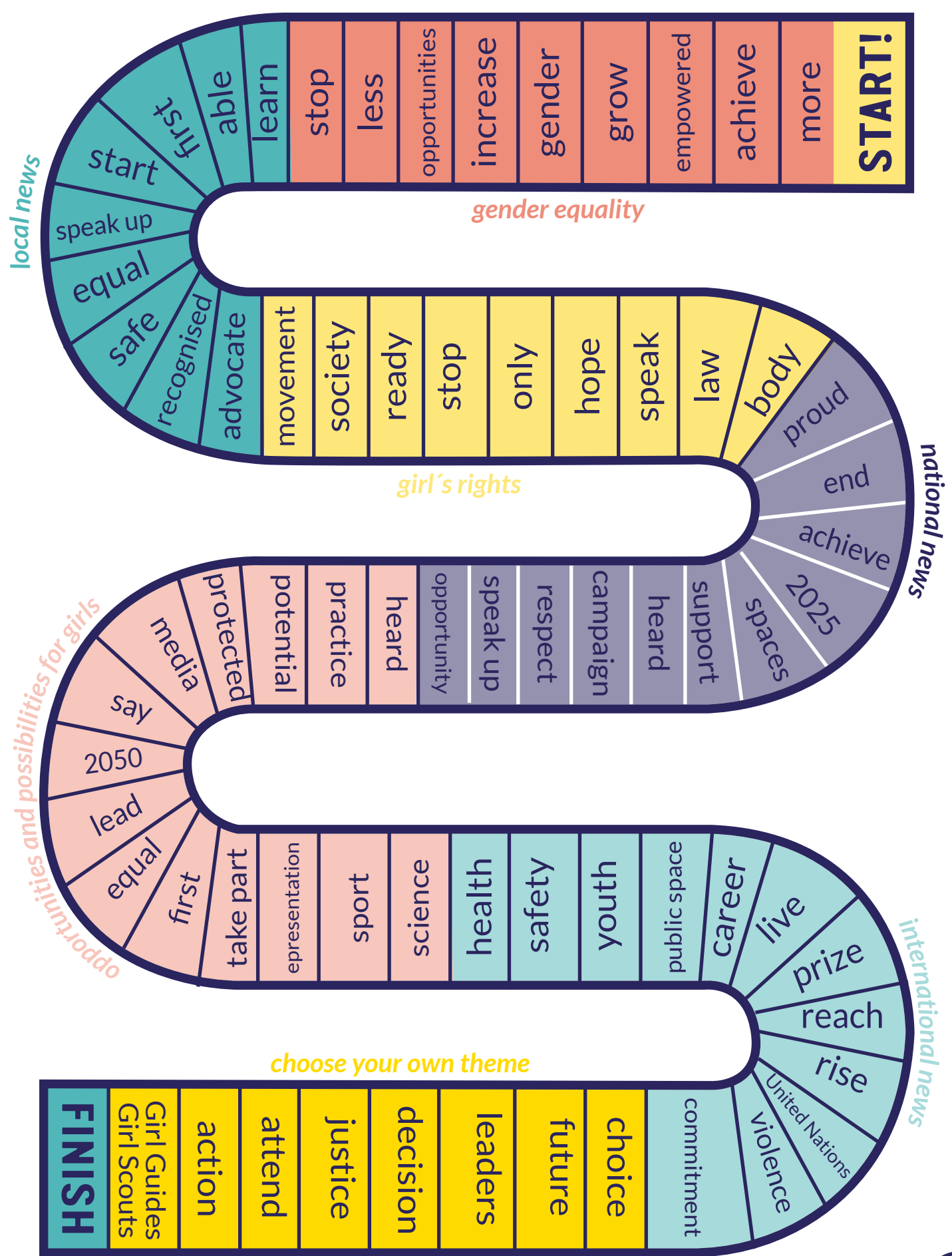
★ If you don't have a dice, you can use a virtual dice like this one:

<https://freeonlinedice.com>

★ Repeat this at least 5 times per person to get a good selection of headlines, and make sure you write down the headlines you have come up with.

★ Once you have reached the end, decide which headline inspires you the most and use it throughout the rest of the activities! You can use it as is, or adapt it into a headline that really motivates you.

						
Words to use	Achieve	Less	Increase	Speak out	2025	First
Themes	Gender equality	Girl's rights	Opportunities and possibilities	Advocacy and leadership	Safety	Girl Guides Girl Scouts
Section	Local news	Local news	National news	National news	International news	International news



GIRLS ON A MISSION

Now that you know what you want your headline to be, let's look at how to get there!

- ★ Forms pairs. One person will be the interviewer and the other one the interviewee.
- ★ The interviewer asks "What is your headline?"
- ★ After the interviewee has answered, the interviewer asks "Why is this important to you?" Repeat this step 5 times, so that you can really understand the root cause of the problem and why this is important to you.
- ★ Once you have explored the importance of your headline, you can start filling in your "Girls on a mission" action project template.
- ★ Do it like a real interview! The interviewer can ask all the questions on the template and take notes, while the interviewee just focuses on their answers.
- ★ Don't forget to switch roles at the end so each of you has a project plan!

Solo reporter: *If you are doing this pack on your own, you can either ask someone you know to interview you, or answer the questions on your own.*



Take it further: Investigating



- ★ Are you feeling inspired, do you want to find out more? Having more background knowledge will really help you influence others to make a change. Why not continue your research by looking at:
 - Government policies and laws
 - Local and national organisations making a difference
 - Data and statistics on the subject
 - People who have the power to make a change at different levels
- ★ The best way to make a change is by working together with people who have the same goals. Why not research other people, organisations and groups who are working on your chosen topic and could help you along the way? Collaboration is invaluable, so choose one and contact them so you can add your voice to their work!

GIRLS ON A MISSION ACTION PROJECT

Your headline:
Why is this important to you?

What change would you like to see?
What do you want to achieve with this project?
Remember it has to be something achievable and measurable!

Who is your target?
Who has the power to make a decision on your topic or change things? Examples: Your school's Headteacher, community leaders, etc

Action
What do you want the decision-maker to do?

The plan
How are you going to get there? Examples: Write a letter, Start a petition, social media campaign, etc

Use your strengths
What are you really good at? How could you best use your skills?

Be prepared
What obstacles could you face? How could you overcome them?

Work together
Who are your allies? Who is going to work alongside you? Which organisations and groups are already working on this topic?



TIME TO #WRITEHERSTORY

Now that you know what you want to change, it's time to make the news!

STEP 1

Tell us what you want the headlines to be.

Take part in the #WriteHerStory social media campaign by adding your headline to the template on page 16. Be creative! Can you take a photo of yourself with your headline or make a mini video? Make sure you tag WAGGGS and use #WriteHerStory and #IDG2021 when you share your headline on social media on 11th October.

Deliver your advocacy project

Hopefully, by now advocacy doesn't seem like such a scary word! Use what you have researched and planned in this pack to deliver your advocacy project over the next couple of weeks. This could be a one-off action, or the first step of a lifelong advocacy journey!

STEP 2

STEP 3

Tell us how it went!

We really want to hear about your experience of advocacy and how you are making a difference! Once you have completed your project, take some time to reflect and fill in the "Expert's Voice" interview template on the next page. Share your interview with us by sending it to idg@waggggs.org. You can also share it on social media, tagging @waggggsworld and using #WriteHerStory and #IDG2021.



Put your headline here!

Welcome to #WriteHerStory! Our readers would love to know a bit more about you. What is your name and where do you come from?

Youth advocacy and activism is on the rise, and girls are at the forefront of it. Can you tell us more about your project as a young advocate?

How did you achieve your goals? Do you feel like you have made a difference?

Influencing others to do the right thing is not always easy. Did you face any challenges along the way?

INSERT
YOUR
PHOTO!





“ THE EXPERT’S VOICE! ”

As the saying goes, “alone we go fast, but together we go far”. Who were your allies in this project?

Can you tell me how you felt while you were defending your ideas?

What did you learn while you were advocating? What skills did you develop?

Contributing to a better world is an amazing adventure. What was your favorite part of this journey?

In what ways are you a different leader now that you have completed this project?

What are your next steps?



IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

★ Now that you're a practiced advocate, why not take it further and become an advocacy champion? There are many ways you can keep on changing the headlines around what you care about. Have a look at what you can do, plan your next steps and see who else you can start influencing!

Key questions to ask yourself:

- Who are the key players in this field that you can talk to?
- Who are the local organisations you can work with?
- What do you want to achieve in 4 weeks? 8 weeks? 12 weeks?

★ Have a look at the resources below to build on your journey.

- *Speak out for her world* - advocacy toolkit
- *Be the Change* - community action toolkit
- *The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Leadership Model*
- *#HearMeNow*
- *Voices against violence*
- *Free Being Me*
- *Girl-Powered Nutrition*
- *Does your Girl Guide/Girl Scout Association have any programmes you could take part in?*

*Curious about which stories others are writing? Have a look at **#WriteHerStory** and **#IDG2021** on social media to see what other members around the world have been getting up to!*

**Keep making
your voice heard
and talking
about the
change you want
to see in the
world!**



#WRITEHERSTORY

International Day of the Girl 2021





ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS / WORLDWIDE