

June 26, 2014
Let Girls Learn...no matter what.



62 million girls in the world are not in school. So, led by USAID and the U.S. government, Let Girls Learn is a new effort to help girls get a quality education. In fact, there has been more than \$230 million supporting new programs for worldwide education.

With more education, girls' livelihoods dramatically improve and they are given more opportunities for success. I've been reading all about how improving education for young girls will improve their health and help combat poverty. Illustrating this point, in the Let Girls Learn campaign, are a slew of celebrity guests in the recent PSA advocating for more education of girls and the quality of the education they should receive.

Research for the new initiative has proven that an educated woman is more likely to educate her daughters. The U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Cathy Russell spoke to the Associated Press, "An educated girl really is the key to a healthy, more stable, more prosperous country."

We've all heard the stories of the brave girls, such as the Pakistani Malala Yousafzai, who continually risk their lives just to go to school. These (often Middle Eastern) girls were raised in a culture that advocated for child brides, child trafficking and overall male dominance in society. Women never really had a chance... Until these young girls stood up for what we take for granted in America. The ability to go to school and learn, to have a future. Who are we to deny anyone that?

President Obama was quoted on the USAID website, "The best judge of whether or not a country

is going to develop is how it treats its women.” After the kidnapping of the Nigerian girls and with many of these Middle Eastern and African girl’s schools closing, it shows us how these young girls who dreamed of becoming doctors and teachers won’t even have a chance at that bright future we are so accustomed to.

So, stand up for these girls. They’re just like you, and they deserve the exact same things as us. They have dreams and goals. The least you can do is help give them a future.

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Photos courtesy of usaid.gov