

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE CIRL

Celebrations in Uganda and Finland
11.10.2020





Look at the pictures taken on the International Day of the Girl in Finland and Uganda. Reflect on the similarities and differences in the pictures.





GIRLS' MARCH

In Lira, Uganda, girls made their voices heard by organising a march in the city. They shared information about online harassment using a megaphone and by showing signs. There were girls from different youth groups that work with Plan International. Miss Lira also took part in the demonstration. The march was mentioned by the local radio stations.





BALLOONS FOR EQUALITY

Plan International Finland organises advocacy training for 15–20-year-old immigrant youth to provide them the information and networks they need to make a difference in society. The programme enables the first advocacy experiences in Finnish society. This year the participants planned and organised a campaign in the city centre of Helsinki for the International Day of the Girl. The youth distributed balloons for passers-by with information about online harassment.





REPORT LAUNCH

Plan International launched a research report, "Free to Be Online?", in October. The report brings together the voices of over 14,000 girls across many continents to uncover their experience of online harassment and its impacts. The launch event in Uganda was presided over by the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs and the Country Director of Plan International Uganda.





SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN, FINLAND



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Plan Finland's Youth advisory panel is a group of 20 young people aged 11–18. They participate in Plan Finland's activities, organise their own events and lead social media campaigns. For the International day of the Girl, the Youth advisory panel made a social media campaign. They shared social media templates on Instagram and Facebook to share with their followers knowledge about the digital gap and online harassment.



GIRLS TAKEOVER IN UGANDA

Esther Namayanja, 14, took over the position of Chief Executive of one of Uganda's leading financial institutions, Stanbic Bank, for a day. During the day, Esther chaired a meeting with senior Stanbic Bank management and interacted with staff and customers.



ONLINE VIOLENCE PREVENTS GIRLS FROM FREELY ENGAGING ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO EXPRESS THEIR **VIEWS AND BE PART OF IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT** PROCESSES. I AM CALLING ON ALL **UGANDANS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST** HARASSMENT OF GIRLS ONLINE. GIRLS SHOULD BE LEFT TO EXPLORE ONLINE INNOVATIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THEIR **FUTURE WITHOUT FEARING** HARASSMENT OR ABUSE.

- ESTHER, 14



GIRLS TAKEOVER IN FINLAND

Asa-Marie Kultima, 17, took over the position of the President of Aalto University. She spoke to the management team of the university, chaired several meetings and met scholars and students. She stressed that girls need to be involved in developing technology to make the world more equal. There were altogether eight Girls Takeovers in Finland.



"THE TECHNOLOGY FIELD WILL **BECOME MORE EQUAL WHEN MORE** WOMEN STUDY TECHNOLOGY. SO THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS EQUALITY START, FOR INSTANCE, FROM HERE AT THE AALTO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. TECHNOLOGY IS THE SECTOR OF THE **FUTURE. IT WILL BE SEEN EVERYWHERE. WHICH IS WHY** WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION MUST ALSO BE INVOLVED."

- ASA-MARIE, 17



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How did young people in Uganda and Finland act on the International Day of the Girl?
- Why do you think they have chosen these ways to campaign?
- Which similarities and differences can you find from the campaigns in Finland and Uganda?
- How have the adults responded to cyberbullying and online violence experienced by young people?
- How do you think the country and society affect the operating environment of youth?
- What does Esther want to influence? What does Asa-Marie want to influence?



EXERCISE 2



Girls Takeover is a campaign where girls around the world step into the shoes of political, social and financial leaders as part of the UN's International Day of the Girl. Through Girls Takeover, girls occupy spaces where they are rarely seen or heard and demand equal power, freedom and representation for girls and young women.

In Finland, Aava Murto, 16, took over Prime Minister Sanna Marin. Watch the video of Aava's day as a prime minister:

https://youtu.be/GC3oi04Z6UQ





QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why do we need Girls Takeover? Why not Boys Takeover?
- Why is it important to give girls the possibility to be a leader for a day?
- What meaning do you think such a campaign can have
 - a) for the girl?
 - b) for the person to be taken over?
 - c) for the society and public debate?
- Which topic would you like to discuss if you would be a prime minister for a day?
- Who do you think should listen more to the voice of young people?

