

Educating girls will change the world

Powerful witness and inspiring testimonies from young women worldwide

Christina, YWCA India

“We have a youth team in our area, and we go to rural areas. Seeing the smile on the faces of the people we work with is so special. We mainly concentrate on children, because some people can’t send their kids to school because of poverty. So we get financing, go meet them, send them to school and give them all the required facilities.

And even if they go to school, they don’t have someone at home to help them with their homework, so we also created free after school programmes to help them. The children come and learn. We also have a crisis center for the women in crisis and we have a tailoring center for women where they can create their own income generating groups. And we can see the smiling faces so this gives us a great satisfaction, and all this is provided by the YWCA.”

A participant in the YWCA’s Young Women’s Leadership and Advocacy Training in Asia and the Pacific

“At one training, a woman stood up crying. She said that she had never realised that not sending her daughter to school was wrong. She now understood that it was discrimination and that her daughter had the right to attend school. She hopes her daughter will be a doctor or a lawyer one day.”

Htoi, YWCA Myanmar

“I want to change the life and the education of women and girls. I will share my experience and my knowledge with them. And if I can, I will find resources and will ask others to help them. In my community they don’t know their rights, and then they don’t know exactly about sexual and reproductive health and rights, so I want to give them awareness and knowledge on these areas. I am a micro finance worker, so I share the knowledge and experience that I have learned from training sessions.”

Hsoe, YWCA Myanmar

“I brought around 30 young women to become trainers and peer educators in 8 local areas for the YWCA. And some of the young women became board members in their local YWCA associations, so they achieved a decision-making level in their work. And my community understands now that it is very important to invest in young women.”

Cherelle, YWCA Samoa

“I want a world where minorities have greater knowledge of and access to education, health services, human rights and freedom.”

Nohseh, YWCA Solomon Islands

“The future I want is a world free of all forms of violence against women and girls.”

Audrey Tauro, YWCA Zimbabwe

“The story of leadership for me is painful—sometimes you can’t stand the heat, but like gold without its impurities it goes through a furnace. If it had feelings it would express the processes but at the end of it all it’s pure, shiny and priceless.”

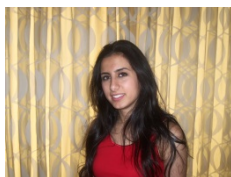
I can also illustrate my life’s journey to that of Joseph in the pit and what he went through only to be the governor. The journey was not easy, but he developed until he achieved his vision. That is me. By faith I am getting there, nothing can stop me and the word of God will sustain me and give me wisdom.”

Edwina, YWCA Kenya

“I have been involved in programming, planning, design and implementation of an adolescent girl programme in my YWCA, Kenya. As a leader, I took the initiative to unite a proposal that was accepted. Through this I was able to acquire funding for an adolescent girls programme that advocates for safe space, asset building and mentoring.”

**Mira Smeirat, YWCA Jordan**

“There is a girl I will never forget. She was really shy and she didn’t use to talk in public. I worked with her on the leadership skills and I used to give her tasks and books to read and invite her to meetings and conferences. She changed from being an enclosed person to someone who leads a big group. I think when you give a chance to someone, you can influence the others and at the same time when you are a good role model others will follow you and you can change them.”

**Tala Al Karadsheh, YWCA Jordan**

“When I was in school, I had a very good friend. I was a very good student at school, which she wasn’t and she had very low self-confidence. But I kept pushing her because I knew she had potential. Now we are 24, and she has a very high level. She is studying something really good, she is doing great in life and she is really successful.”

Ruba Knouf, YWCA Jordan

“I like to change one person’s mind at a time. You can have a positive effect especially with the youth...if you can implant in them the idea that they can do whatever they want and they can break any values that the community has imposed on them and they can excel at whatever they are good at. I think that’s a good way to do it one person at a time. Like this, slowly you will have a huge impact.”