

## DAY 8: December 2nd...

### ***Girls Deprived of Education***

Education is a human right regardless of your gender. According to UNICEF, *"When we educate a girl, we not only give her the tools and knowledge to make her own decisions and shape her own future, we also help raise the standard of living of her family and her community."*

**Anya's Story:** Anya had worked in a factory for two years when she heard that she could learn to read and write in a literacy programme being held after work. As a child she had been sent to the big city to work in a factory to earn money so that her brothers could attend school. When Anya became literate, she spoke about how she had felt ashamed because she had never gone to school. Anya tried to hide this from her companions at work. The literacy programme changed Anya's life! Now that she could read and write, her shame disappeared so Anya was able to mix freely with her work companions. *(As told to the writer)*

### **Question:**

What are your thoughts as you read Anya's story?

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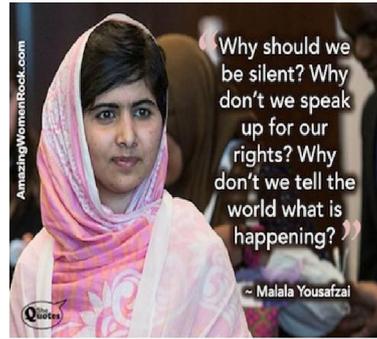


*pexels.com*

### **Global Facts on Education:**

- Around the world, 132 million girls are out of school - 34.3 million of primary school age, 30 million of lower-secondary school age, and 67.4 million of upper-secondary school age.
- Barriers to girls' education e.g. like poverty, child marriage and gender-based violence – vary among countries and communities. Poor families often favour boys when investing in education.
- Only 66% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. At the secondary level, the gap widens: 45% of countries have achieved gender parity in lower secondary education, 25% in upper secondary education. *(unicef.org – 2019)*

**Pope Francis:** *"Education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women . . ."* (NBC News Video).



*(google free images)*

In situations of political turmoil, pursuing an education can sometimes be life-threatening for girls, revealed in the 2012 attack against Malala Yousafzai.

### **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**CRC Article 6:** *'Every child has the right to life, survival and development.'*

Suggest you read the CRC during the **16 Days:** [www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish](http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish).

### **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Many of the SDGs reference Women and Girls particularly -

**SDG 4.5** *'By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations'*

**SDG 5:** *'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.'*

### **Actions to ensure Girls are educated:**

1. Promote equal educational opportunities for girls and boys so that both can develop their potential.
2. Avoid stereo-typing so that children feel free to express themselves, according to their gifts.
3. See: *'Overview of Gender Parity in Education'* <https://tellmaps.com/uis/gender/#!/tellmap/-1195952519>
4. Call on world leaders to ensure girls in crisis affected areas can stay in school - <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/action/keep-crisis-affected-girls-in-school-ecw>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

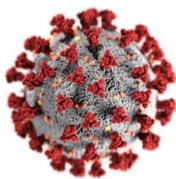
(Updated November 2020)

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)



### BEFORE

#### THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

**243 million** women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

#### SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has increased dramatically.

#### EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

security, health and money worries, cramped living conditions, isolation with abusers, deserted public spaces, limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from responses to violence against women for immediate COVID-19 relief.

*(unwomen.org)*

#### Watch: Millions of Girls Face Barriers to Getting an Education

(2014)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL-JR6S094k>

#### SEE

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-and-gender-equality/her-education-our-future>



*of Activism  
Against  
Gender  
Violence...*

**DAY 8...**

*2<sup>nd</sup>*

*December*

**GIRLS DEPRIVED  
OF EDUCATION**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,  
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*