



## **Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice (SRHRJ) FAQs**

### *Why is SRHRJ a Girl Up issue area?*

- SRHRJ is a Girl Up issue area because Girl Up supports girls' and youth agency and bodily autonomy as part of the full range of human rights to which they are entitled.
- Bodily autonomy is the right to make decisions about one's body, life and future and is a key component of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice (SRHRJ).
- Girl Up believes that every girl deserves access to equal human rights no matter where she lives in the world, whatever her financial means, education level, religious affiliation, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or her myriad intersecting identities.
- Aligned with the global consensus on reproductive health and rights established by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and stronger commitments made on sexual health and rights at ICPD25, Girl Up affirms that young people require information and access to the full range of services that enable them to make critical decisions about their lives and bodies, including safe and legal abortion.
- SRHRJ requires access to information, services, and support, including comprehensive sexuality education; contraception; menstrual hygiene information, supplies and facilities; safe pregnancy, safe birth and support for becoming a young parent; safe abortion; prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections; prevention, detection, and counseling for gender-based violence (GBV); and counseling and care for sexual health and wellbeing.

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### *How does Girl Up support SRHRJ?*

- Girl Up is an inclusive global movement that supports SRHRJ for our diverse youth leaders around the world.
- Girl Up supports our global community members' global, regional and local SRHRJ advocacy to advance girls' agency, and the right of every person to bodily autonomy.
- While girls and women are often most affected by laws limiting bodily autonomy, we recognize that LGBTQI youth, adolescents with disabilities, youth from minority groups, and adolescents experiencing humanitarian crises are disproportionately impacted by these same laws and often unable to make autonomous decisions about their bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> From the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, led by the Guttmacher Institute, the African Population and Health Research Center, and The Lancet.



- Girl Up works in partnership with UN agencies and other institutions who support SRHRJ for youth.
- In our online Community, our Girl Up members can access SRHRJ advocacy resources and connect with fellow advocates around the world.
- Like all Girl Up issue-area programming within our online Community, engagement with SRHRJ advocacy resources is optional for any Club member.

*How is Girl Up's movement of young leaders advocating for SRHRJ currently?*

- As part of our work to ensure girls' rights globally, SRHRJ has long been a priority for Girl Up and the focus of advocacy efforts of countless youth leaders in our movement worldwide.
- Girl Up Clubs and changemakers are advocating globally to promote SRHRJ including: increasing awareness about contraception, reproductive rights, and female genital mutilation, advocating for comprehensive sex education, menstrual equity, LGBTQI inclusion, and access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. Our leaders have advocated for SRHRJ in countries around the world, including:
  - At the forefront of the abortion rights movement in Argentina, when the country legalized abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy.
  - Leading the successfully lobbying to establish laws to address period poverty in Brazil.
  - Organizing to protect reproductive and sexual rights in the United States, on issues ranging from access to abortion to protecting transgender youth.
  - Advocating to break taboos around abortion in Romania.
  - Advocating to address violence against girls and women in Kenya.

*Does Girl Up promote abortion?*

- Recognizing that each individual is best placed to assess and make decisions about their body, Girl Up does not dictate any particular choice for our members.
- We unequivocally support the right of any individual to make their own choices about their body, life, and future.

*Does Girl Up funding go toward abortion services?*

- Girl Up does not fund abortions or any direct services. Impact grants to our United Nations partners can support reproductive health education.



- Donations to Girl Up support programs for girls around the world. Funds are distributed to the area of greatest need ranging from educational programming and training materials, to awards, microgrants, and support for events Club members host around the world.
- Since 2010, girl leaders have raised \$11 million dollars for United Nations programs that have ensured tens of thousands of girls around the world are safe, healthy, and have access to education.