LGL GUIDE TO GIRL-CENTERED ADVOCACY
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Thank you! Mil gracias! Zikomo! Ameseginalehu!
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When I picture a fair world for girls...

I am a girl. I imagine a world in which we girls are respected, where we are not abused, and where our rights are respected by everyone around us. A world where we are loved, taken care of, protected, taught, and empowered.

In this world, every girl would be born by her parents’ choice, not by obligation or carelessness; this must not be taken lightly. Parents should be prepared and ensure that they will be able to provide a proper home, security, protection, love, and education. To achieve this, parents must be given

This piece was the first of a blog series written by amazing girl leaders and published in celebration of International Day of the Girl in 2014. The writer, Gabriela del Carmen, is an eleven year old girl from Guatemala who shares her vision for girls and asks us to imagine a world of mutual respect and equality for every girl around the world.
information and counseling. The idea is that they should be ready to teach in a fun way, with games and songs, that allow girls to learn about their body and sexuality, free from fear and taboos, for this could give them the wrong idea about themselves. Our parents should be prepared to teach and counsel without hitting or yelling, never thinking they own or are superior to us girls.

Education should be free of all these things, as well as free of stereotypes that claim girls must cook and sew, like the color pink, exist only to please their husbands, and become mothers by force. We should also be free of the pressure that tells us we must look like Barbies. The classic stereotype of women is someone who is tall, blonde, and thin, desires unnecessary things like trendy shoes and jeans, and longs to find the alleged Prince Charming.

In the world I imagine, we would be free. We could express our doubts about our bodies and sexuality. We could also be ourselves without being judged, no matter what we decide to do, knowing that we will always have the support of our parents.

When I picture this world, I realize it is completely different to the world we live in today.

We girls have rights that must not be abused. Everyone around us must be taught to respect us and not to see us as objects that can be manipulated. We are not anybody’s princesses or queens, nor are we the actresses of our destiny; we are the authors of our way.

Now, let all of us girls use our beautiful voices and get everyone to listen to how we picture the world. How do you imagine it?