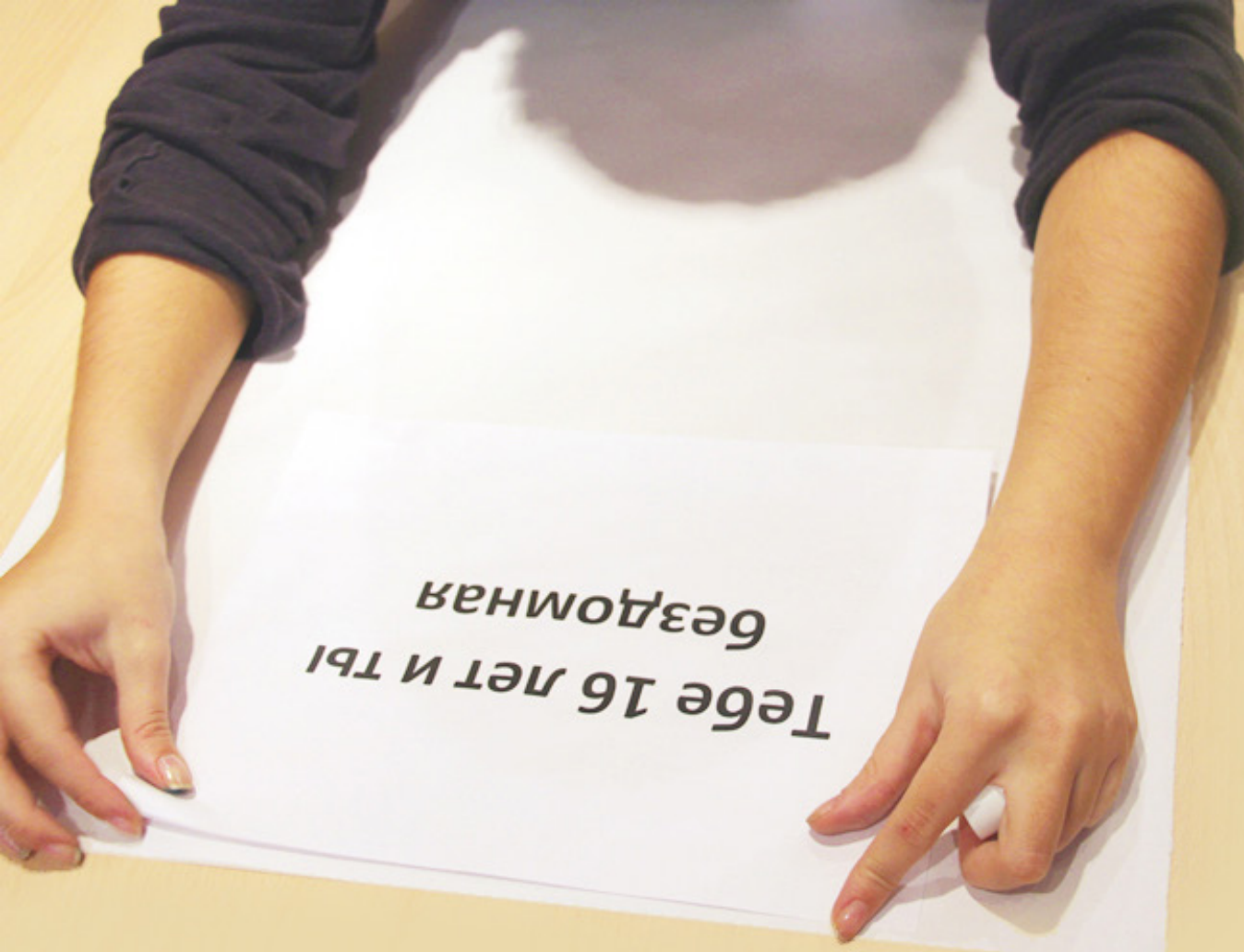


girl } talk } girl

connecting through mobile digital storytelling



girl talk girl



girl talk girl



girl talk girl



List of acronyms

GTG Girl-talk-Girl

GBV Gender-based Violence

USAID United States Agency for International Development

NYC New York City, USA

SPB St. Petersburg, Russia

KZ Kazakhstan

This document sits at the heart of Footage's **Girl-talk-Girl Project** which includes this document, our [website](#) and the digital stories produced by our young women participants. In this document you will find an overview of the Girl-talk-Girl project, followed by the ways in which the young women we worked with understood gender-based violence, discussion points to twelve stories (which are available for offline viewing), discussion points to foster local and international dialogue based on the stories, and ways to contact us and get involved.

Girl-Talk-Girl Overview



What is Girl-talk-Girl?

Girl-talk-Girl, an award-winning program and platform created and implemented by the [NGO Footage](http://footageproject.org) (footageproject.org), is an impact-proven digital media arts initiative for young women, focusing on gender-based violence. Girl-talk-Girl's storytelling platform is currently the largest digital storytelling platform featuring young women's stories of GBV globally. Girl-talk-Girl country sites thus far include: Russia, USA, Chile, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Funding is generously provided by U.S. embassies in each country. This latest 2020 toolkit document update was sponsored and supported by the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Kazakhstan.

What does Girl-talk-Girl do?

Girl-talk-Girl (GTG) does a lot of things! But, overall, it uses an exciting methods called [mVoiceWorks](https://www.mvoiceworks.com)® to inspire dialogue between young women at-risk to and/or survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) by creating awareness about their daily challenges through producing and sharing "mobile digital stories" (2-3 minute multimedia narratives produced on mobile phones).

So far we have worked with over 90 young women, from five countries, and over 70 mobile digital stories have been created. In short we have now created the world's largest platform for dialogue to understand, explore, discuss and define in the multiple violences that impact young women's lives. The stories and educational materials produced by young women are now being disseminated across public and private agencies – tools and stories that we hope will reach girls and women



Why did we do this?

At Footage we believe in the power of voice to transform lives. We also believe that the creation and sharing of stories is an empowering way to amplify voice, and inspire compassionate action. For example, when you see that young women half-way around the world experience the same issues as you, we believe you not only feel less alone, but that you will be more inspired to tell your own story.

When we started our GTG project our aim was to not only work with young women in building a platform to share our experiences with GBV with other young women across the world, we also felt that through this project young women would build leadership and ICT skills.

We now see evidence of this capacity building everywhere as the young women on the project actively contributed to this download, to the website, as well as to the redesign of the application.

Please visit footageproject.org to see the impact GTG has made globally, and the ways in which GTG catalyzes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

girl

I hope I contributed confidence, 'cause if I was brave enough to say my story maybe someone else out there will say, "Oh wait, maybe I'm on the only one".

T's Interview, NYC

girl

I would like that people who were in a similar situation could disengage themselves from their story and find the strength to discuss it with someone else to not feel so lonely.

T's Interview, SPB

girl

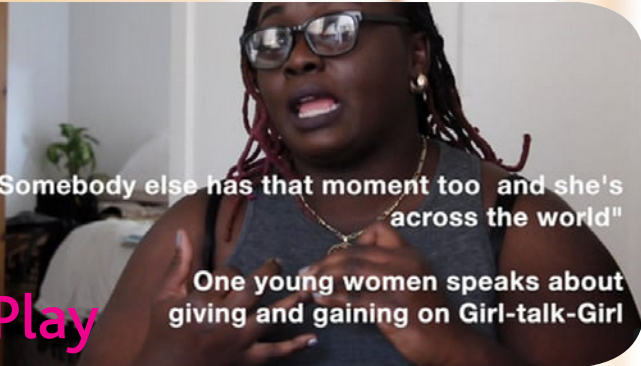
Why did we do this?

*I mean obviously I'm not sure where this will end up in the long term but I know that the stories from Russia have helped me and have affected me and I would like to hope that when they see our stories the same thing happens. I sincerely hope that it goes beyond that too and that there's women and girls all over the world that see these stories and know that they are not alone and that they have these experiences and that other people have them and that at least gives them some sort of hope and courage. **Z's Interview, NYC***

I think for me it's been like a very therapeutic process and it seemed to be that way with the other girls in Russia, and conversations I have had with some of the other girls, that like being able to tell it and share it and know that. I had a friend that knew it happened, my boyfriend knew it happened at the time, but still being able to share it with the world and put it down in your words and your feelings is a very therapeutic process.

Z's Interview, NYC

*I would not say difficult, more like a learning process [creating my story], I feel like I never analyzed the situation until I made a story, I was like OK wow this is really what happened, I was uncomfortable. **L's Interview, NYC***

A young woman with glasses and braids is speaking in a meeting. She is wearing a grey top and a necklace. The background shows a room with other people seated at tables.

"Somebody else has that moment too and she's
across the world"



Play

One young women speaks about giving and gaining on Girl-talk-Girl



I really liked it, even in the beginning when we were just doing the app I thought it was really cool, and you know I'm going to be part of this project that's going to go out there and you know touch so many other people and it is just really cool that I was like step one. You know then helping and creating, and then comes the story part it's more personal; it's just really great.

L's Interview, NYC

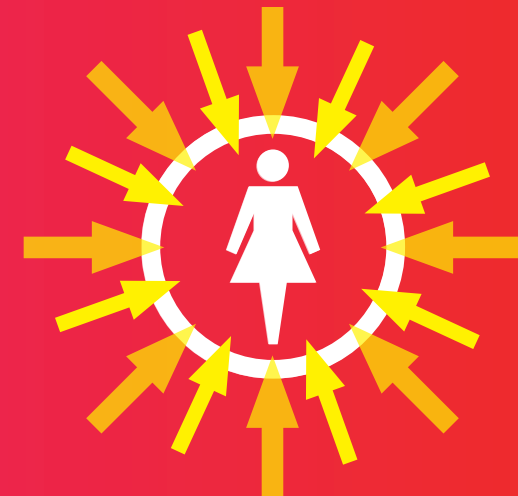
Violence against women: a global kaleidoscope of meanings, forms and issues

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."¹

USAID highlights various forms of GBV including battering, intimate partner violence (including marital rape, sexual violence, and dowry-related violence), female infanticide, femicide, sexual abuse of female children in the household, honor crimes, early marriage, forced marriage, female genital cutting and other traditional practices harmful to women, sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking of girls and women, and violence perpetrated against domestic workers (USAID, 2009).

In GTG workshops and through creating, sharing, and discussing our stories, GBV appeared as an ever-changing context-dependent kaleidoscope of meanings, forms and issues.

From violence to themselves to violence perpetrated from the outside, through GTG we learned of the multiple forms of violence in the lives of young women. These multiple forms and interconnections between violences, identities, traditions, and power are interwoven and overlap, they are interconnected and intermingled. But if we pull them apart these are the questions, themes, and issues that our young women described.



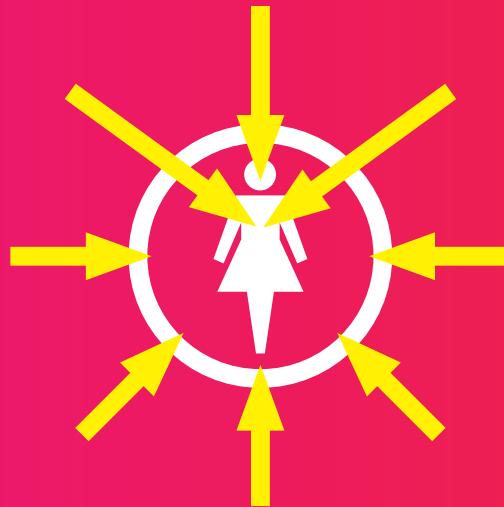
I started to think about things I used to not consider being violence because they are everywhere. After the workshop, I started to think deeper about all of this, to see the injustices, and to have a different attitude to this.

M's Interview, SPB

¹www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/#

Psychological / Social Violence

- Being bullied, abused, and/or excluded because of the way we dress, our identities, who we love, and who we are.
- Questioning what it means to be a woman in today's world. What is beautiful? What is feminine?
- How we present ourselves as women, and being subject to violence if we don't fit into "traditional" gender roles and/or don't present ourselves as we are "expected" to be as women.
- Psychological violence and emotional violence in the home between parents and parents and children, and family members.



Yes violence is violence with words you know it doesn't have to be physical it's like verbal abuse... My story is basically about what pretty is – you know society kind of gives a self definition and then next week it's a different definition. Girls feel like they need, you know, to change how they look – got to do this, they got to do that, you know what society thinks is pretty.


J's Interview, NYC

Girl-talk-Girl really opened my eyes to these problems that women are facing all over the world you know not just in the states but everywhere. I was sort of blind to that before, I see it a lot more now.

L's Interview, NYC

I decided to share this story, because I believe there are some similar situations that people may have. It was psychological abuse toward my mother and toward me, because I was little at that time.

Z2's Interview, KZ

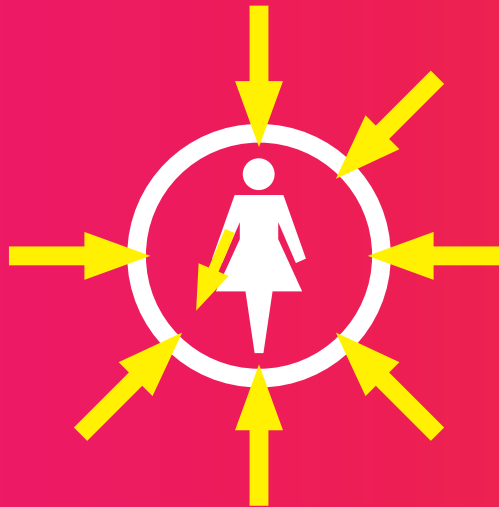


My story shows emotional and verbal violence 'cause the way I dress and still I was constantly told that it's not normal, you should not be that way. And I always hear that comment "Oh, it's a phase," and it gets kind of annoying because being you is not a phase, it's who you are.

T's Interview, NYC

Violence against ourselves

- Using our bodies as a way to feel love.
- Viewing ourselves through negative lenses.
- Abusing our bodies through drugs, sex, and alcohol.
- Blaming ourselves for violences perpetrated against us.
- Putting our health at risk because of the pressures around us, including expectations of what a woman looks like.



I used my body to feel love or I mean it was not violence like you know like physical, but in a sense it was a physical violence too because I was using my body to make other people happy and I was not loving myself.

E's Interview, NYC

I never felt like "I'm enough". When I looked in the mirror I didn't see myself as a 00. I saw myself like I'm still 150lbs when I was really 115lbs. [One night] when I saw tooth marks on my hand, when I was done throwing-up, I looked in the mirror and said, "What am I doing to myself; why am I doing this?"

X's Interview NYC

Another strong point is when I tried to cut my veins. And I still have scars and when I look at them I remember the story, and I try to forget it as fast as I can. **V's Interview, KZ**

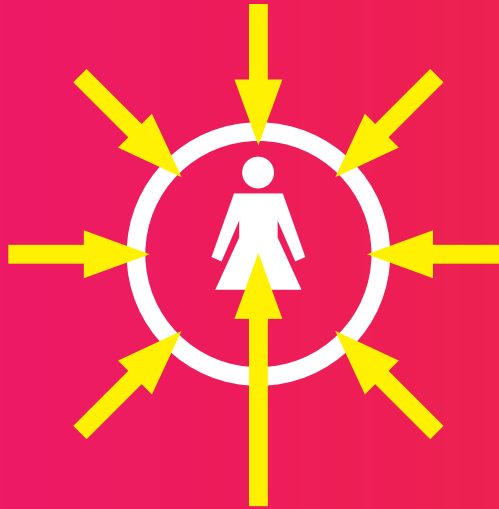
ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ
НАСИЛИЕ

СЕКСУАЛЬНОЕ
НАСИЛИЕ

talk girl

Sexual violence

- Being subject to sexual harassment and unwanted sexual advances in our everyday lives including those physical and virtual spaces we operate in and through.
- Rape by friends, stranger, within families.
- Corrective rape (rape because of perceived sexual orientation or gender identity).
- Child molestation perpetrated by a family member.



*[When I was with my friend in the car] I really thought that the command to “undress” was a joke; only later when he hit me, did I understand that it was not a joke. **D’s Interview, SPB***

*I witnessed my cousin being raped. When I was told to share some story, the first thing that came to mind was this story. This story still hurts inside, because I see them on social networking sites and in life sometimes. And I always remember what happened. **M’s Interview, KZ***



Physical violence

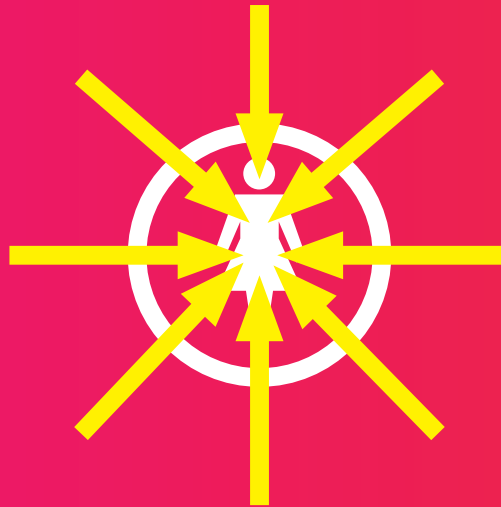
- Physical violence in the home between parents, and parents and children, and family members.
- On the streets and in our own neighborhoods.
- Physical violence based on our gender identities.



My father had a severe alcohol problem, when he drank he physically and verbally abused my mother, many incidents could be told but this story stands out for me because it involves the police. My mother would always defend herself and one night she bashed my father's head into the living room table... Instantly my father called the police and my mother was arrested and taken to a local precinct. A's Story, NYC

Domestic violence

- Physical and/or sexual and/or psychological violence between partners (such as spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends).
- Physical and/or sexual and/or psychological violence from parents/guardians towards their children.
- Emotional abuse within the home perpetrated by various family members, often parents/elders towards daughters or brothers towards sisters.



*Growing up in an abusive household and being verbally abused my father would tell me things like oh you are going to be a pregnant teen you are not going to go to school or you are going to be just like this person or just like that person. **D's Interview, NYC***

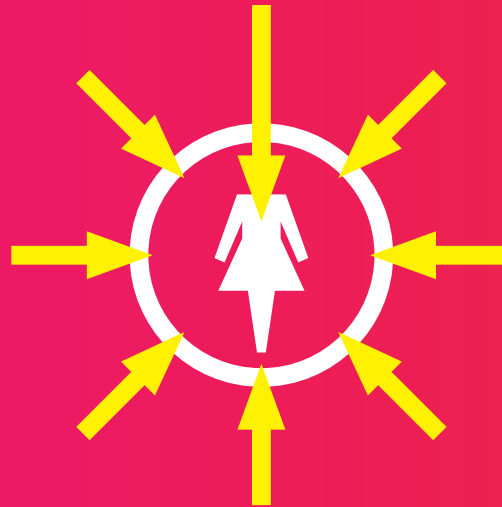
*I watched my mother get punched, slapped, and constantly degraded by my father. **D's Story, NYC***

I want to tell other women that face domestic violence, they should speak about this, tell their parents and tell society. Don't keep it inside.

M's Interview, KZ

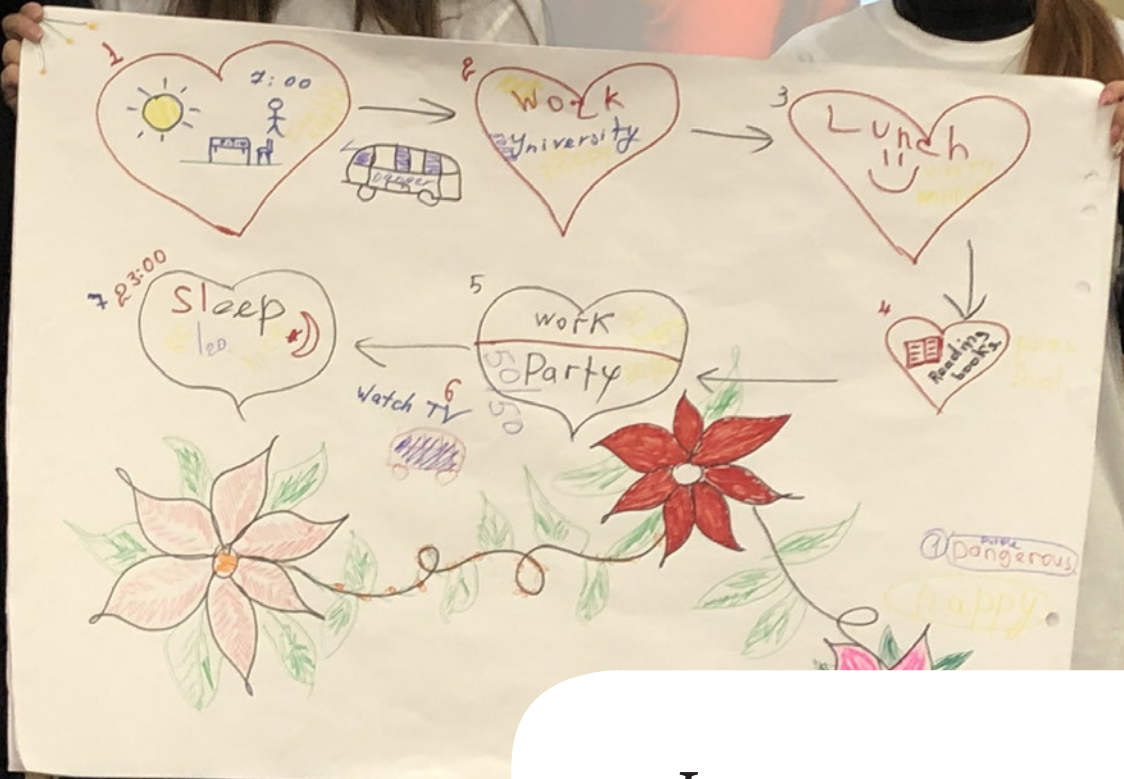
Inequality / Exclusion

- Feeling excluded and/or isolated within male dominated professions.
- Inequalities and exclusions based on our identities (such as our age, sexuality, gender).
- Inequalities and exclusions based on whether we fit or do not fit into "traditional" gender roles.



*A woman is not just a woman
from 15-50 years old
and then is nothing!*
N's Interview, SPB

*I want women all over the
world, who are victims of
bullying to love themselves
and love other people.*
Z's Interview, KZ

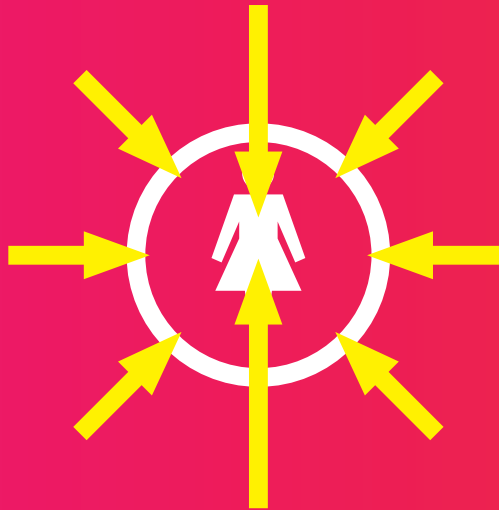


I want women all over the world, who are victims of bullying to love themselves and love other people.

Z's Interview, KZ

(Intersectional) Identities + Violence

- GBV is **contextual** (woven into the physical, social, cultural, and economic landscapes of people's lives) and **intersectional** (compounded by the myriad intersecting aspects of a person's identity—their race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic status). **Marginalized and minority identities are historically more vulnerable to GBV than others** (California Coalition Against Sexual Assault).
 - For example women aged 15-35 who are, for example, LGBTQ and/or non-white and/or unemployed and/or have an im/migrant background are at an exponentially higher risk to GBV than other women.
 - Hate crimes (crimes motivated by prejudice based on identity aspects) are often forms of GBV. Young women on GTG have shared harrowing stories of GBV/hate crimes, including corrective rape.



I cannot speak for other women, but I can say for myself, the more I tell and the more I share this story, the more relief I feel.

Y's Interview, KZ

The man who watched me pushed me into the toilet with the words, "I'll teach you the correct [sexual] orientation and a girl should only look at men," he raped me.

T's Interview, SPB

Tradition + Violence

- Everyone is entitled to human rights. This includes the right to hold any religious, cultural, or traditional belief, or none at all. And, this includes freedom from discrimination and violence, regardless of one's gender. At the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action called for "the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between the rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism." (Source: AWID) For example, across the world, young women in our programs have shared stories of and discussed:
 - **Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C):** While this practice is declining it still remains a violation of human rights and global public health issue. Here is the definition from The End FGM European Network <https://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/what-is-fgm/> "Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures involving the removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons."

- **Bride abduction:** capturing a bride for marriage.
- **Polygamy:** can be defined as relationship between either one husband and multiple wives or one wife and multiple husbands. Polygamy most often takes the form of polygyny – one husband with multiple wives.
- **Early or forced marriage:** (any union (could be a formal marriage or not) between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. Almost 1 in 5 girls are married before the age of 18 around the globe, many are under 15. (<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/where-does-it-happen/>) REF for polygamy Thom Brooks. "The Problem with Polygamy." Philosophical Topics, vol. 37, no. 2, The University of Arkansas Press, Oct. 2009, pp. 109–22, doi:10.5840/philtopics20093727.



I have learned that all people judge me that I cannot financially support my daughter.

A2's Interview, KZ

Human Trafficking

- Definition: (Palermo Protocol) "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation".
U.S. Department of State, 2019
- Sexual exploitation is the most prevalent type of trafficking; at least two-thirds of trafficking victims are women.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2009

Common health problems of victims of sex trafficking:

- STIs
- Physical injuries/burns
- Anxiety/PTSD
- Unsafe abortions
- Substance abuse
- HIV/AIDS
- Depression/suicide
- Sexual violence
- Rape/gang rape
- Malnutrition
- Somatic symptoms (skin/gastrointestinal disorders)
- Sleep deprivation
- Lack of immunization
- Dental disease or injury
- Tuberculosis

Journal of Urban Health, 2013



I still cannot realize how I managed to get in between the bars, because it was very, very thin. I don't know how I could do that. That is the strongest point of my story and for me still.

V's Interview, KZ

The Stories



We include here twelve stories for download and viewing offline. Four stories come from New York City (USA), four from St. Petersburg (Russia), and four from Almaty (Kazakhstan).

We have selected a group of stories we believe overarch many of the main themes, issues, and violences young women on Girl-talk-Girl discussed and experienced. We also strove to select stories that showcase the various ways in which we can create through multimedia forms including visuals, text and sound. We urge you to watch all of the stories on the website girltalkgirl.org/our-newest-stories to more deeply understand the young women's experiences.

In the following section you will find some thoughts about each story, followed by some words from the participant, then ideas for sparking dialogue. We suggest that you watch the stories, then read the participant's words, and then use the questions to engage with both the story and GBV more broadly. We hope the discussion points help to ignite dialogue, but urge you to watch the story, and use the participant's words as a springboard for formulating your own questions and facilitating conversation and debate amongst viewers.

Please know the participants' words were (where necessary) lightly edited for readability.



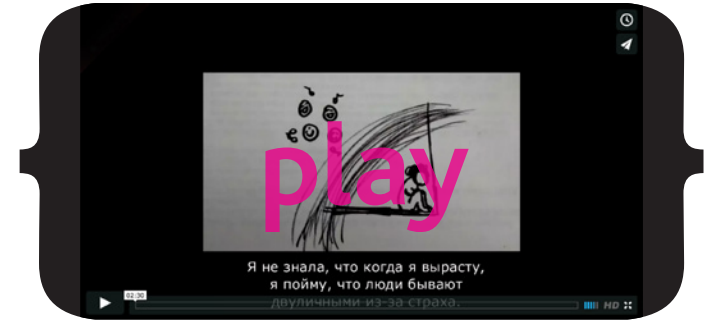
Story 1: T's Story | NYC

T's story describes the numerous emotions and issues surrounding social acceptance from the external world and then from within herself. Themes rising to the surface of her story include those having to do with internalized homophobia and racism, and psychological and social violence including being bullied, isolated, and/or excluded because of the way we might look, dress, act, and love.

In the participant's words:

The main point of my story is don't feel like you're alone, cause there's a lot of people out there that feel the same way I feel, as I told in my story... Don't make the mistake I did of letting someone tell you you're different cause you start feeling insecure. I had a lot of topics [to talk about], but was like, wait I know there's going to be that one topic people are going to feel part of cause I know there's a lot of people out there that feel lonely or misplaced or whatever. So I wanted to do a story I thought everyone would feel part of.

My story shows emotional and verbal violence cause the way I dress and still I was constantly told that it's not normal you should not be that way. And I always hear that comment "Oh it's a phase," and it gets kind of annoying because being you is not a phase, it's who you are.



Discussion points:

- Did you relate to any part of the story?
- Do you see connections between the way people dress and emotional and verbal violence?
- The participant wants the viewer to know they are not alone, in what ways does she convey this? (E.g., through subject matter, through images of herself, through sharing a deeply personal experience).
- Discuss the ways in which the external world was internalized by the participant.

Story 2: D's Story | NYC

D's story focuses on domestic violence in the home including both physical and psychological abuse. Her story includes violence from the father toward the mother, and later toward D and her siblings. She highlights the cycle of violence within the family, and places emphasis on not being defined by your story, but by being empowered through challenges.

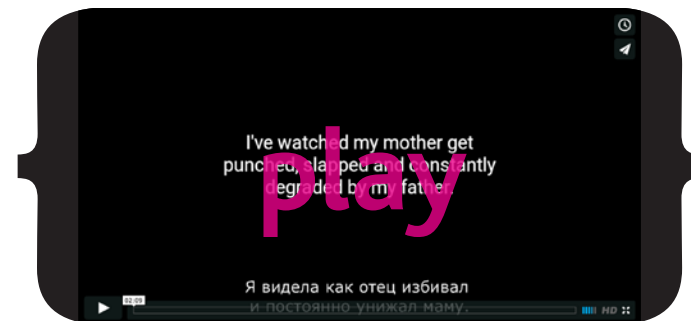
In the participant's words:

My story is about the things that happened to me when I was a child. I didn't have the best childhood and I know that's relatable to a lot of people. Basically what I was trying to give to people is that no matter what you go through you are not your past – you grow from your pain and you can grow from pain, that's why toward the end of my story I made sure it was a positive ending just to prove that point that you are not your past or your pain, you grow from it.

I want women to feel like you can be strong as women – that your abuse is not you and you shouldn't let your pain and your past make you who you are. I was looking at certain stories and they left on a bad note... they made me sad... like they had no hope, that's why I made sure in mine I gave them something positive from the whole thing.

Women we need to stick together and we need to be strong together. We need to learn how to be strong in all reality, some women don't stick together and some will be like, "It's her fault." I have never thought it, but people did that to my mom. I've been through it because the abuser disguises himself as the good guy all the time; it would hurt me when women would be like, "Maybe it's her fault". And women we should know each other because we are all one, and we need to stand up and stick up for each other.

I didn't have any pictures or anything extra and I didn't want to because I wanted my words to stand out more than anything. I wanted people to focus on my story.



Discussion points:

- The participant wants to get the point across that you can grow from pain, and further that your past experience should not define you, was she successful in getting this across and how?
- Discuss the ways in which society sometimes views domestic violence as the woman's fault, what are your thoughts on this? (E.g., have you heard this view before? Why do you think it exists?)
- Do you think the participant's use of text only was effective? How? What message does it convey?
- Would you and/or your friends and/or family share this story? What would keep you from sharing it? (E.g., shame, fear?) What would make you want to share it? (E.g., taking action, therapeutic?)

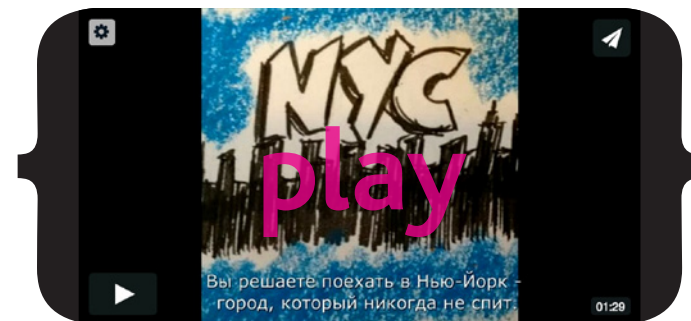
Story 3: L's Story | NYC

L's story describes the events of what was supposed to be a fun night out with friends in New York City. She uses atmospheric music and bold sketches as she touches on themes of potential gender-based violence, the ways in which small decisions taken on an evening out could have grave consequences, and on regret.

In the participant's words:

The main message of my story is this situation itself: I'm not the only one that's been through it, I'm sure there are a lot of other women [this has happened to]. I also have a little sister, and who knows what she going to do when she gets older; she is going the same thing I did, you know get on a train and go to NYC, and not think about how the night is going to turn out. So maybe if I show her this story it will stay in her mind for a time when she is about to make a wrong decision like I did. She will think about it again, and say OK well maybe this isn't such a good idea, let's just go to dinner or whatever instead of going out with these people.

When I first saw the stories from Russia I was coming up with ideas and thinking about past situations, but this is the one that really stayed in my mind. [I want young women to think about] decision making. Every decision you make it's going to... [L thoughtfully pauses], definitely decision making, think before you act – think your night through.



Discussion points:

- Can you relate to this story?
- Have you ever had an experience where your reasoning may have been clouded, and you wish you could turn back the clock?
- What emotion, feelings, memories, and/or images does the participant stir through her use of music, image, and voice?
- Why do you think the young women said yes? (E.g., peer pressure? The men were assertive? This is just what teenagers do?)

Story 4: Z's Story | NYC

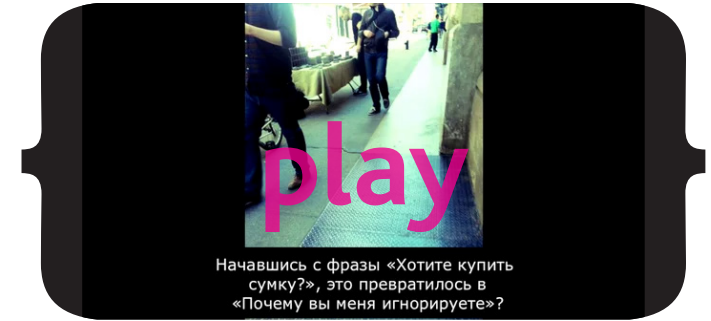
Z reflects back to when she first moved to New York City. She focuses on the issue of catcalling and harassment while exploring a new part of the city with a friend that was visiting. Using uncomfortable camera angles and moody images, her story depicts her increasing fear as her and her friend are followed and verbally harassed by a stranger.

In the participant's words:

The main point of my story is to tackle the whole catcalling issue of women facing harassment while trying to go about their life walking down the street. I'm certainly not the only woman this has happened to, and this is certainly not the only time this has happened to me. I think this is something we talk about a lot but we never see resolution.

I want women to take away the sense that they are not alone, that this is definitely something that happens to women from all walks of life, from all over the country, from all over the world. It could happen to any of us but I think not just for women for everyone, if you see someone who is clearly uncomfortable you should step up. I address it in the story where there are tons of people around and nobody says anything, so they are kind of these disengaged bystanders.

I found it difficult to not address what I was wearing because it has been so ingrained that we should only wear certain things. I felt like I needed to address that, but [then thought] no, I should be able to wear anything and not have that be an issue.



Discussion points:

- Has something similar ever happened to you? And, if so, what? Do you feel the participant captured some of the emotions you had? How? Through her words? Through image?
- If something like this has happened to you or to a friend, have you thought about what you were wearing? Did you feel the need to explain yourself?
- What do you feel the role of the bystanders is in this situation? What about male bystanders? What about female bystanders?
- Discuss whether this this form of verbal harassment of women can ever be resolved.

Story 5: N's Story | SPB

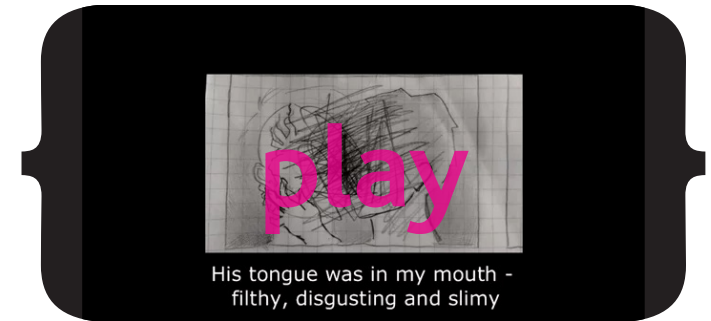
N's story focuses on her experience of sexual, physical, and psychological violence within a political group. Through her story she touches on how men view women anarchists as promiscuous, and the main male character's sense of entitlement. She uses powerful images and metaphors to make sense of her experience and emotions.

In the participant's words:

My story highlights issues around gender violence in groups and attitudes to women's civic activism and women in politics. My main message is to show the relationship within the activist groups and the attitude toward women within those groups. I wanted to tell my own story and share my experience of being devalued as a political subject.

I would like to tell [young women] that they are important in themselves, and not in the context of their value in the eyes of male activists. They can do what they think is necessary and not just listen to what is said about them because this can be complete nonsense.

Women need to know their thoughts and feelings matter... Feelings and emotions are valuable, not something to be kept inside, we have to share them. These problems are systemic and they happen to many women – we have to talk about these problems so they do not repeat in the future.



Discussion points:

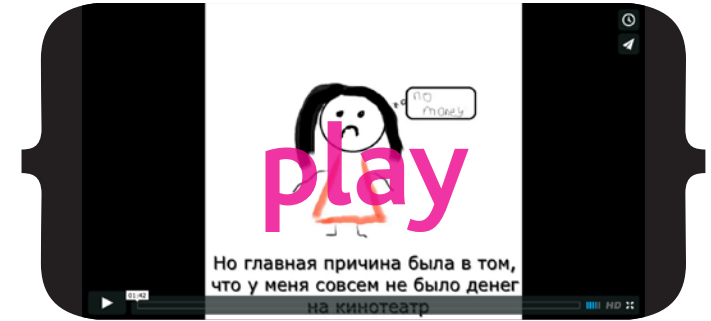
- What, if anything, about this story surprises you? (E.g., violence or sexism within groups united by a single cause?)
- What emotions more vividly come through in her narrative (e.g., anger), and which are below the surface (e.g., shame?). Discuss why women sometimes feel shame when being subject to violence.
- Discuss the kinds of violences women might be exposed to within sub-cultural groups.
- Discuss the links you see between the participant's experience, and issues of value and respect toward women.

Story 6: M's Story | SPB

M's story explores her struggle with traditional gender roles including the idea that men pay for women and that it is abnormal for her to want otherwise. This simple yet powerful story hits at the heart of the ways in which society's traditional roles, which connect with equality and independence, have been normalized, internalized, and remain unresolved.

In the participant's words:

The incident in my story happened not too long ago. It is a real story. I didn't imagine it. I decided to share with other girls what had happened to me. The main point of the story is that there is a stereotype that men should pay for women. I think it's outdated and needs to be broken. All people are equal now and independent – so why does this idea exist? I am personally bothered and offended by it.



Discussion points:

- Discuss your own viewpoint on this story: Where do you stand on this issue? Are you of the participant's opinion? Why? Why not?
- Is a man paying for a woman when they go out a traditional role? If yes, how? If not, why not? Does it connect to inequalities as the participant feels it does?
- Discuss the reaction of the male character in this story. (E.g., would all men react this way? What individual and cultural factors might play into his reaction?)
- Do you see her experience as a form of gender-based violence? Why and how? Or, why not?

Story 7: M's Story | SPB

M's story takes the viewer through her physical and emotional feelings and thoughts as she walks home late one night. Though there is no immediate physical threat, it is the potential for violence and the ideas running through her head that continue to heighten her fear as she moves through the street. At the end of the story she asks the viewer to reflect on his or her own walk home at night.

In the participant's words:

The main point of this this story is the experience that I have of violence that you do not see, that physically does not affect you, but it affects you in really subtle ways like the things that you think when you are just walking home. The question that I asked at the end [of the story] – I feel like when people hear this question women would say, "Yeah, I feel the same way." Or, "Yeah, I think the same" or something like this. Maybe not those expressions, but kind of this feeling, and I feel men can't relate to this at all. If you ask men, what do they think when they walk home, it does not enter their minds that there is some kind of anxiety that you and me go through everyday. You think how not to get hurt when you go home. This is something that men can't relate to because they are men and they feel safer in their everyday life. It shows how much violence is around all women, and inside their head. They wait for this violence, they get prepared for it, even though it is not there they struggle, even if there is no actual danger.



Discussion points:

- Discuss the ways in which the story is connected to safety and vulnerability of women around the globe.
- What feelings came up for you when watching the story? How did the participant convey those feelings through image, text, sounds, and effects?
- Answer the question the participant poses: What do you feel when you walk home at night?
- Do you agree with the participant that men don't have to worry about their safety when they walk home at night?

Story 8: N's Story | SPB

N's tells the story of a young woman she interviews who is subject to inequalities and exclusions in her male dominated profession. The story starts with the young woman's experience growing up, and the ways in which she struggled with femininity and what it means to be a woman. These themes continue throughout the story into her adulthood.

In the participant's words:

This is the story of a woman I interviewed. She told me about her own experience growing up and this experience struck me. The final part was about her work place. The ICT [technology] sphere is very, if not the most, male dominated sphere in the whole world of work [in Russia]. This woman entered this world and this workplace and faced a lot of jokes about women and a lot of discrimination. This discrimination was not direct rather indirect, and it was done in the form of jokes and in the form of social exclusion. This woman talked about her troubles with communication with colleagues, she talk about troubles with her boss, and how it was hard for her to be a good worker and also to be a woman – she would not play both roles together in the same place. It was great pressure for her to be a woman and a woman in this workplace. I think the story is very typical and is nothing particular or unique. It is a very typical experience of a woman who enters this field; that is why I wanted to share this experience.



Discussion points:

- Discuss the ways in which the character struggles throughout her life with the question of what it means to be a woman.
- The two main female characters play very different roles in the male dominated workplace; discuss these roles and the ways in which forms of GBV are implicated (e.g., inequalities and exclusions vs sexual and physical violence).
- Discuss your own gender roles as men or women in the workplace (or school if workplace is not relevant).
- Discuss the forms of violence women could be subjected to in male dominated professions or workplaces.

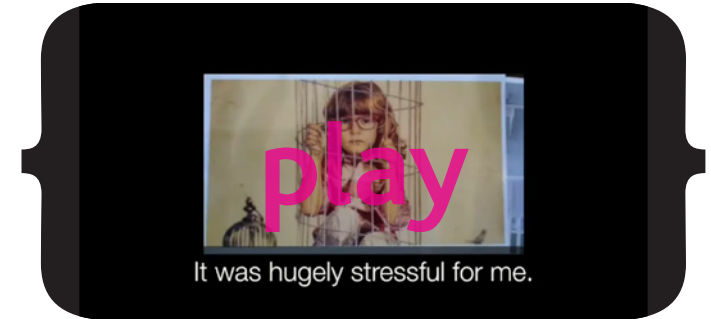
Story 9: A's Story | KZ

A. reflects on her lived experience with intersecting physical, psychological, and domestic violence from both family and peers. Themes that surface include her loss of trust and belief as she was betrayed by her peer and vilified by her mother who believed her peer instead of her. Her powerful complex story laces together trust, tradition and parental expectations, and interconnected forms of gender-based violence.

In the participant's words:

I wanted to share some part of my family in my story, because I think a lot of people have similar situations. That is why I wanted to share it. I wanted to support women because this project is all about girls and gender-based violence. My mom experienced a lot of violence and abuse, and I also did, but I was a little girl. That is why I wanted to support all the women and to help them.

[My advice for young women]: You have to stay strong, always. Don't be afraid of anything and move forward. You have to analyze what others are saying, listen to them, but not really to internalize it.



Discussion questions:

- Have you ever been betrayed by a peer? What were the repercussions?
- What emotions come up for you when hearing this story? Anger? Sadness? Confusion? What do you think is stirring these emotions for you?
- Looking again at A's mother's role in the story, how would you make sense of her actions and reactions?
- What would you do next if you were in A's shoes? Speak to your peer who betrayed you? Would you trust again?

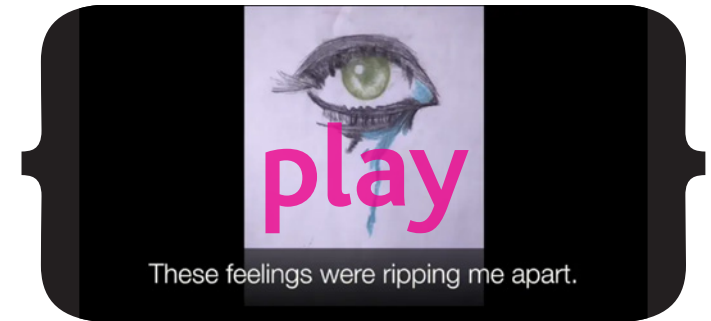
Story 10: K's Story | KZ

K takes us through her harrowing story of domestic violence – her feelings from the day she met her soon to be husband and the violence that followed their marriage. K lost trust, felt isolated, and soon found her strength within – not just for her children – but for herself. Her voice and words illuminate her power and courage.

In the participant's words:

I got married at 17 and I didn't have parents. Since childhood I've had a dream to have a big family, children, and be always close to my children. When I got married I had neither mother nor father. I loved him, I trusted him, devoted my whole self to him. Then problems started. I discovered his different side, as if he turned out to be a different person, not my husband. Has he been replaced? He started to periodically beat me. I used to leave, then come back and forgive him thinking that a man can change. When I found myself in the hospital with a concussion, a broken nose, without a tooth, my face bruised and swollen, I collected all my strength, pressed no charges and left the hospital so that my children did not have to stay at home without me. I came home, took my children, and just left. I told myself that it was enough.

This is the lesson of my life. I wanted to share it because not every woman can speak about this. If other girls face similar issues, they can look at my example ... they are not alone and they should not be afraid to tell someone and share their story. When I started to write and draw my story, I had a feeling that a stone in my chest, my soul ... the pain started to drift away. I left all the negative on paper. I want others not to despair and know that everything will work out for them. Us women are strong.



Discussion questions:

- In her bio K tells us she has no parents and most likely nowhere to go or no one to turn to – she had to find the strength within herself. Have you ever been in a situation where you had nowhere to go and no one to turn to and had to find your inner strength? Can you share that experience? What did you learn?
- Many subject to domestic violence are unable to leave their situations; what reasons do you think keep so many in dangerous and violent homes? Take some time to name and discuss them.
- K found strength within herself, where do you find strength?

Story 11: M's Story | KZ

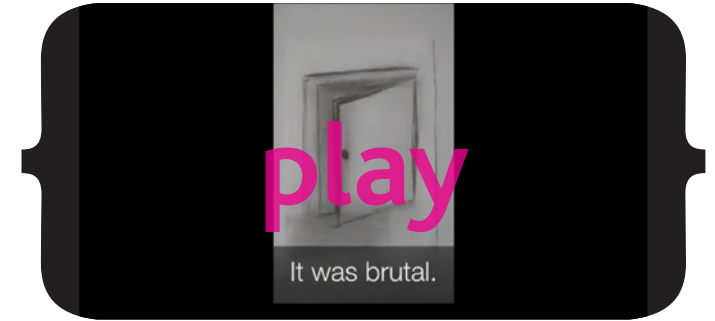
M's story is made all the more moving with her haunting song and personal drawings. Her story interweaves elements of power, inequality, control, and fear. Marital rape is a heinous form of sexual and domestic violence and spread widely across the globe. While is it considered a criminal act in many countries, because of complex contextual factors (gender roles, ideologies, and the like) it remains underreported and painfully common.

In the participant's words:

I want to tell you that a woman can make her life better on her own. When I was told to share some story, the first thing that came to mind was this story. Probably because this story still hurts inside. And because I see them on social networks and in life sometimes, and I always remembered what happened.

I feel more connected [to other women], because when I was watching a story from Chile, I don't know Spanish, and I was only reading. I didn't know what she was talking about, but only hearing her voice made me realize that I felt her pain, and I realized I could really understand what she was talking about.

[My advice to young women]: My dear beautiful ladies, I want to say never sacrifice yourself. We only have one life to live. Don't think that it's too late. It's never too late. Even if you only have a little part of your life, live it happily. I know how strong we are, and I love you so much.



Discussion questions:

- M's describes feelings of anger and fear; how might you have felt witnessing what she did? What would you do?
- Marital rape exists in a complex web of power, policy, traditions and roles, and ideologies. What systems do you see at play in this story?
- While marital rape might be criminalized in many countries, it remains underreported. Can you think about why this might be the case? What are some of the reasons?

Story 12: V's Story | KZ

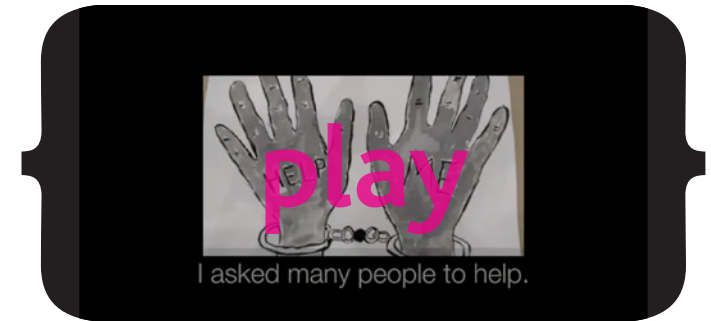
V lost her father and needed work, and soon found it away from home. Through deception and fraud she was held captive; she attempted suicide, and finally escaped this horrific situation. Her courageous story of being a trafficking survivor is one the world needs to hear as trafficking is on the rise globally. Her strength and bravery sit at the heart of her story.

In the participant's words:

[I selected this story,] Because it is the most powerful and yet, the most horrible story in my life. I still cannot realize how I managed to get in between the bars, because it was very, very thin. I don't know how I could do that. That is the strongest point of my story and for me still.

The main thing I want other women to know is that if at some point in their lives, they have a similar situation, that they will pull themselves together and fight... There are not only evil people out there, there are a lot of good people that will help and that will support them.

I feel more connected [to other women now], and I know that we all have similar stories. Our stories that we are making now, our little videos will be published globally, and so many girls all over the world will watch them. I hope and think that it will help them at some point in their lives. When other girls were sharing their stories, I remembered my story, and I related to them... I pulled myself together, and I escaped from that, and I am happy for that... So, that is why I feel protected and safe. [I want to say to other women] Trust yourself. And to be brave, strong, and bold.



Discussion questions:

- Share with each other what you know and do not know about human trafficking. Where are the gaps in your understanding. Take some time, with your group, to understand the forms of trafficking and the ways in which V's story exemplifies the experience of many young women (e.g., lack of job, needing to leave home, deception).
- What feeling do you have after watching this story? Do you feel angry? Sad? Inspired by her strength? Discuss your feelings in connection with aspects of the story.
- What is the role of power in this story? Who are the players holding the most power and how does it play out?
- V takes a risk in sharing her story because of the danger involved. If this happened to you would you share? What would hold you back? What would compel you to do it?
- For reflection: Have you met anyone, or experienced yourself, a form of trafficking? It is more prevalent than people think. There is no need to discuss this final question, just something to reflect on.

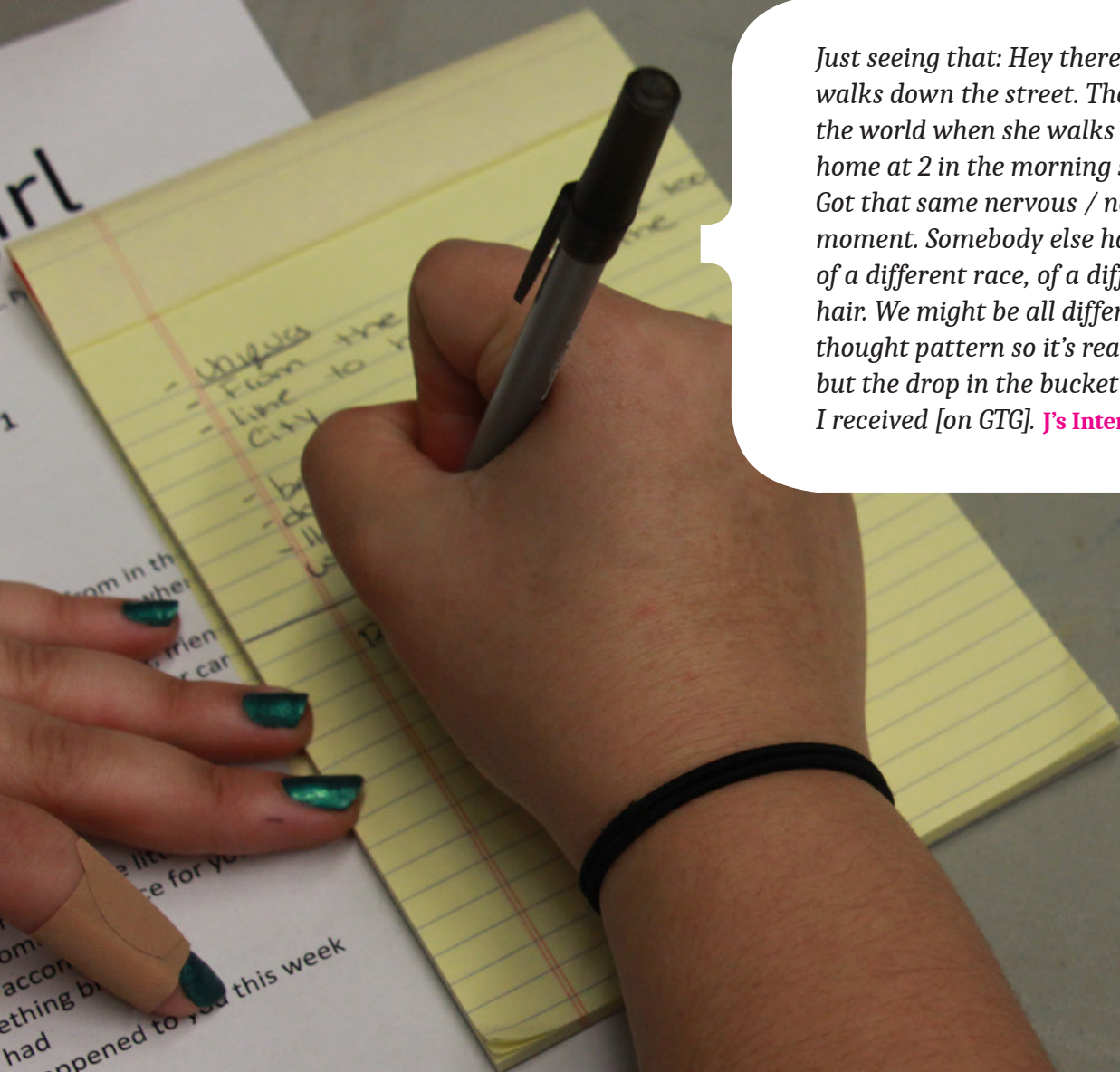
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Just seeing that: Hey there is a girl that feels the same way when she walks down the street. There is a girls that feels unsafe half way across the world when she walks home by herself. I feel that way too when I walk home at 2 in the morning sometimes; should I call somebody?? Got that same nervous / not quite sure about my phone in my hand moment. Somebody else has the moment too and she is across the world of a different race, of a different size, of a different culture with different hair. We might be all different in all those ways but we have the same thought pattern so it's really cool like I said I feel happy that I came but the drop in the bucket that I gave is nothing compared to the ocean I received [on GTG]. **J's Interview, NYC**

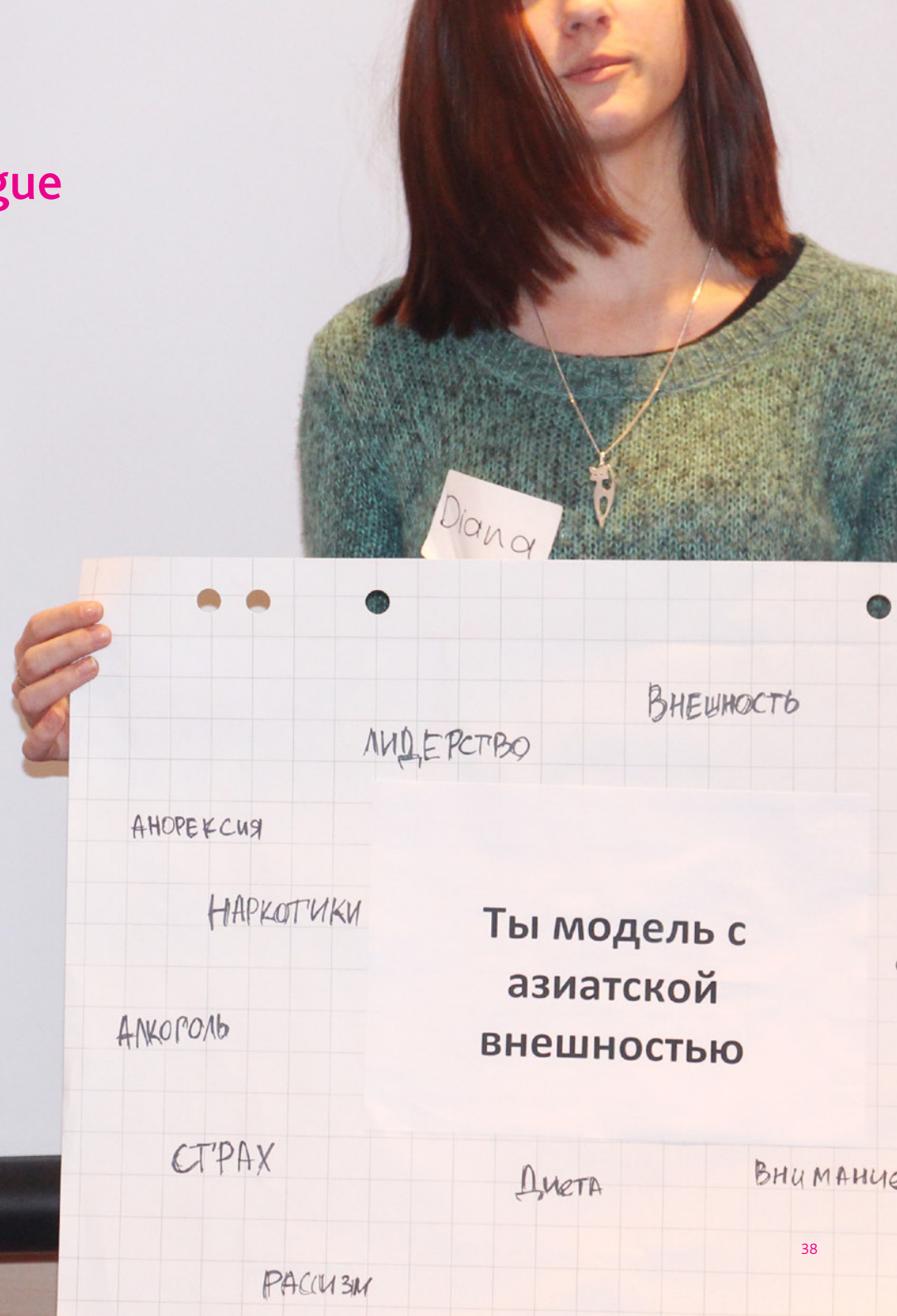
*I cannot speak for other women,
but I can say for myself, the more
I tell and the more I share this
story, the more relief I feel.*

Y's Interview, KZ



Using the stories for international dialogue

Let the following discussion points guide your dialogue after watching all of the stories (including those at girltalkgirl.org/our-newest-stories). Here we provide questions for thinking about the stories produced within each country as well as ideas for facilitating discussions across the countries. We leave you with some questions to spark ideas for your own stories.



Using the stories for international dialogue

Discussion points within countries

- Looking at the stories within each country/city only, what stands out?
 - Discuss similarities in content within each country/city
 - Discuss the style of story-making within each country/city (think about the use of text, pacing, images).
- Discuss the key GBV forms and issues for the young women in each country/city.
- Discuss the ways in which the participants convey their feelings and emotions within each country/city.

Discussion points across countries

- Looking across all of the stories in all contexts discuss similarities:
 - Discuss similarities in content
 - Discuss similarities in style of story-making (think about the use of text, pacing, images).
- Looking across all of the stories in all contexts discuss differences:
 - Discuss differences in content
 - Discuss differences in style of story-making (think about the use of text, pacing, images).
- Discuss the key GBV forms and issues that cut across stories from all countries
- Discuss the major differences between the contexts in GBV forms and issues
- Discuss the different and similar ways the participants in all contexts convey their feelings and emotions.
- Overall what emotions do these stories stir in you? (E.g., anger, sadness, inspired to take action.)

What would it be like to create stories in your own context?

- What would your story be about?
 - What media would you use to create it?
 - Whose perspective would you take?
 - Would you feel brave enough to share your story within your community? Why? Why not? (E.g., shame, vulnerability, confidentiality, too personal, fear of facing your own story?)
 - What about outside of your community? Why? Why not?
- Discuss the possible key GBV form and issues for young women where you live.
 - Any stories young women in your community would relate most to? Why?
 - Any stories young women in your place would not relate to? Why?
 - Any stories young women in your place would not tell?
 - Discuss stories or forms of GBV you feel are missing from these countries/cities that would not be missing in your community.

Join the dialogue

Please join the conversation and comment on stories on the [website \(girltalkgirl.org\)](http://girltalkgirl.org)

[Sign up](http://footageproject.org) for Footage newsletters (footageproject.org)

[Contact us \(programs@footageproject.org\)](mailto:programs@footageproject.org) if you need support using this document or you would like to have **GTG** in your community!



girl talk girl

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Design: Kristina Langhein

footage
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