



The mission of **4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)** is to ignite the next generation of empowered women leaders who will transform the world.

During Women's History Month 2016, we launched ***Voice & Choice: What Young Women Want***, the report from the first-ever women's empowerment global survey.

On this International Women's Day & Women's History Month 2017, we are launching another 1st and a Call to Action. Spanning nearly 20 countries of refuge, this is the voices of Syrian young women facing the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.

Read and find out:

- What are their hopes and dreams?
- Do they believe their life can change?
- Who do they think can change Syria?

Here is: What Syrian Young Women Want

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INTRODUCTION: *WHY SYRIA? WHY NOW?*

In March of 2011, the lives of Syrians turned upside down. A civil war broke out and since then, more than 11 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes.

“Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time...causing suffering for millions which should be garnering a groundswell of support around the world.”

-Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

According to UNHCR, 13.5 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance. Nearly 70% of refugees live on less than \$3.84 USD for the whole day. Only 4.9 million people are registered refugees, while 6.3 million are still internally displaced within Syria.

On International Women’s Day 2016, 4Girls GLocal Leadership ([4GGL](#)) launched a pioneering report on women’s empowerment. The first-ever assessment and understanding of women’s empowerment – or disempowerment. [Voice & Choice: What Young Women Want](#) heard voices around the globe – from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and especially the Middle East. Our intention was to go beyond simply assessing agency and capacity of today’s young women. We also wished to spark a conversation and deep understanding of what truly empowers women.

Foremost, [Voice & Choice: What Young Women Want](#) was a Call to Action to ignite the next generation of empowered women peacemakers, future Nobel Peace Laureates. Not surprisingly, bold young women – most urgently starting with Syria – have answered the Call.

On this International Women’s Day & Women’s History Month, I am thrilled and humbled to share ***What Syrian Young Women Want***. Driven by Syrian young women themselves, it is the very first Syrian young women’s empowerment report. In the midst of unimaginable human suffering, bold young women in nearly 20 countries of refuge have spoken.

Now, we must listen to them, not as victims or aid recipients. On the contrary, they are our greatest hope for transforming Syria. They are our most powerful force for bringing about peace and security for us all.

In gratitude,



Jin In

Founder, 4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)

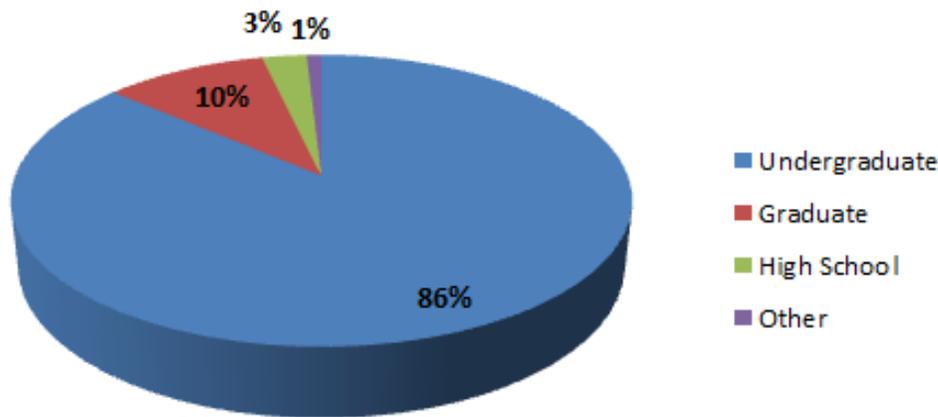
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DEMOGRAPHICS & METHODOLOGY

The target population of this survey is a unique generation called the Millennials. In our survey, participants range from 18 to 32 years old. Data was collected via Google Survey in both Arabic and English. The survey was open from December 19, 2016 to February 19, 2017. 110 females completed the survey.

Countries of Refuge: *Albania, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, France, Germany, Jordan, Lebanon, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States.*

Education



DEFINITION & OVERVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS

According to the World Bank:

“Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.”

Empowerment is a process. Through the process, an individual becomes an **agent of change**. Given that the word “empowerment” does not exist in many languages, this survey focused on one’s own assessment of their agency. To measure agency, we used two indicators, **voice** and **choice** in assessing and measuring **change**.

In brief, we asked:

- What would you like to **change** the most?
- What is your **greatest challenge** to making that change?
- Who do you think **contributes** most to making changes in your life?

- Do you **believe** your life can change?
- What is your **vision** of a better Syria?
- What is your **responsibility** in creating a better Syria?

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESULTS: *WHAT SYRIAN YOUNG WOMEN WANT*

1. **96% of respondents believe their life can change.**
2. Syrian young women realize they **themselves** contribute the most to making changes. They also believe **their family** contributes the most.
3. Top 3 societal issues Syrian young women face are: 1) Customs and traditions for Arab women, 2) Early marriage, and 3) Disrespect of women, including from oneself.
4. Nearly one-third of respondents stated that their greatest hope/aspiration was a career in **peacebuilding** and/or helping to **rebuild** Syria.
5. Important trends in this survey are similar to our global survey: [Voice & Choice: What Young Women Want](#). For example, respondents in both surveys wanted to increase their **professional skills** and to change their **professional life** the most.

IN MORE DETAIL: *WHAT SYRIAN YOUNG WOMEN REALLY WANT*

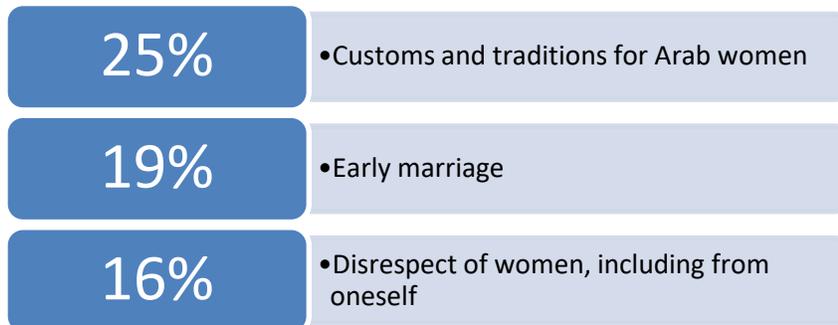
Why are we focusing on Millennial Women? Because they believe change is possible.

96% of the respondents believe their life can change, despite the fact that their homeland is a war-torn country.

Responses stated that Syrian women feel devoted to Syria, have hope for the future, and are determined to be key agents in rebuilding Syria.

Challenges to Syrian Women

The first step in needs assessment is to learn and understand issues and challenges facing the target population. The top 3 most important issues for our Syrian Millennials are:

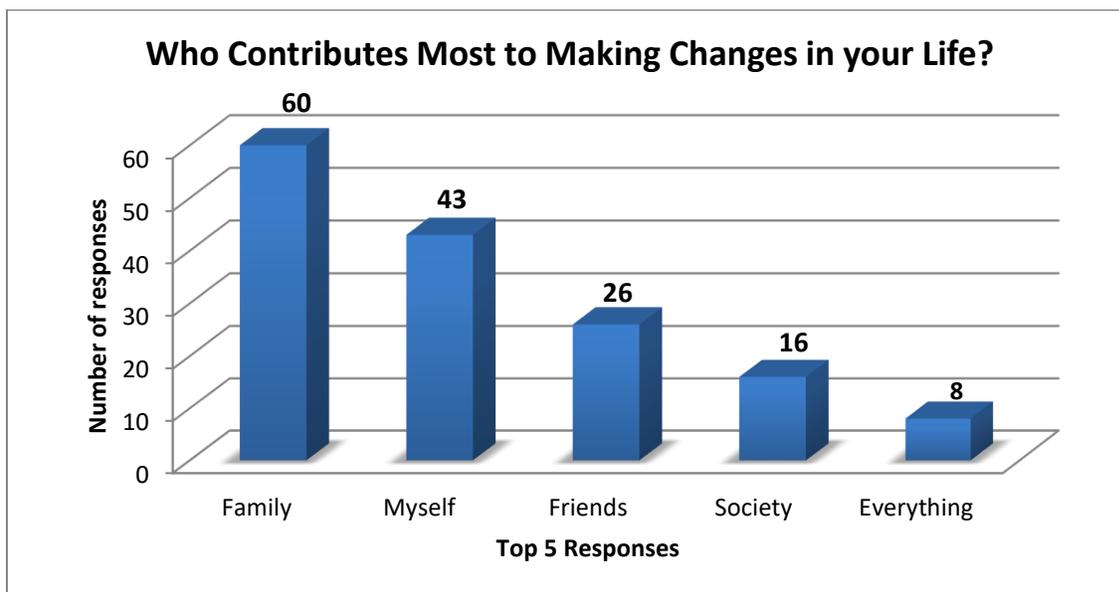


“I think the women themselves don’t believe in their rights. That’s the biggest problem...”

When women don’t believe in their own self-worth, their path to agency, leadership, and empowerment is not possible.

The Power of Support

Syrian young women are most influenced by their family. **They also realize they are their own most powerful force for change.**



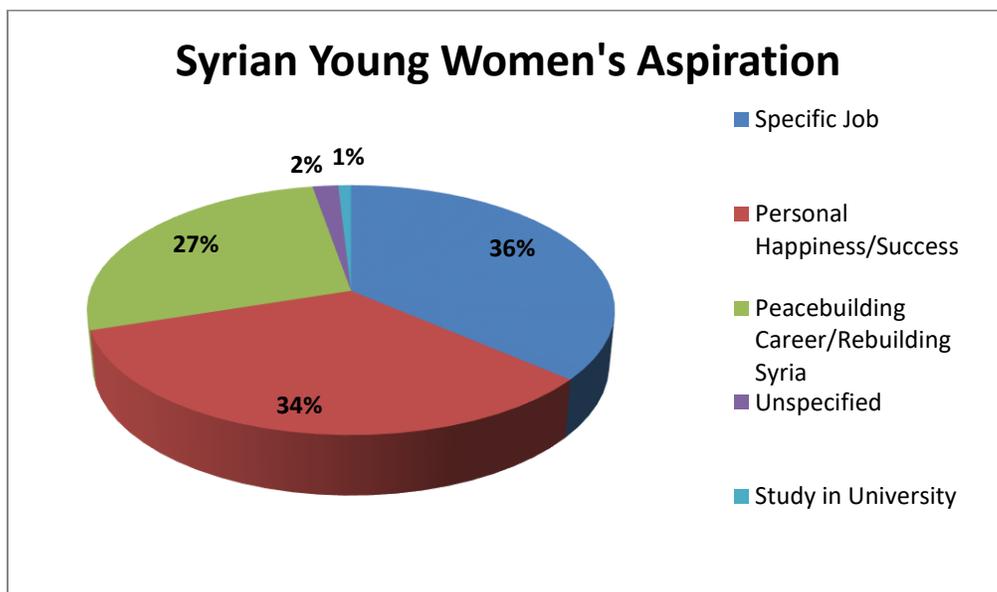
As shown above, 60 of 110 respondents stated that their **family** contributes most to making changes in their life. Notably, 43 millennials also stated **themselves** as the #1 contributor.

When asked, “Do you have a mentor/teacher/adult supporter who can help you accomplish your goals?” **49% did.** Although we did not ask to name their mentors, over one-third told us exactly who helped them accomplish their goals.

Responses show a positive support system, especially one that informs women’s rights, promotes and strengthens young women’s agency. In fact, it can combat oppressive traditions and norms in culture and society at large.

Empowered Syrian Young Women as a Collective Strength, a Powerful Force

Nearly one-third of respondents stated that their greatest aspiration is to pursue peacebuilding and/or help to rebuild a better Syria.

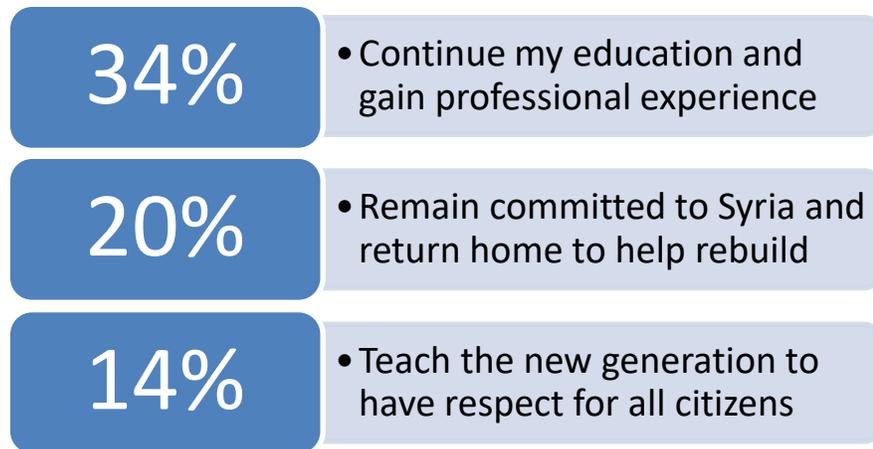


“My biggest dream is to evolve in the field of my studies, delve in pharmaceutical research and to improve the medical conditions in my country.”

“An architect and a volunteer...leave a mark in the world and make change towards the better. To also take part in building Syria the future...”

Our Syrian respondents believe that the responsibility in creating a better Syria begins with themselves.

Top three answers to “What is your responsibility in creating a better Syria/your world?”

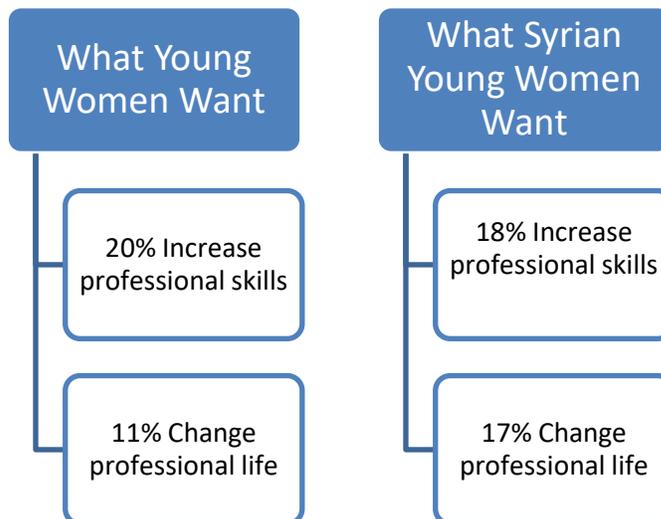


“I have a responsibility to build myself and be able to return everything my country gave me. To be able to contribute to the next generation who I entrust to build this country and continue its development and advancement.”

Global & Local: Trends & Comparisons

In response to the question, “What would you like to change the most in your life?” **the top two answers for both surveys were exactly the same.** That is, the Syrian data was consistent with the global data, and that is a strong desire to increase their professional skills (i.e. time management skills, public speaking, organizing) and life (i.e. get a job, change their job).

What would you like to change most in your life?



CONCLUSION

Empowered young women are a powerful force for change. They can elevate economies. They can create stable and resilient civil societies. Foremost, they are our most powerful force for long-lasting peace and security.

Empowerment is what they want. The first-ever global survey on women's empowerment [Voice & Choice: What Young Women Want](#) unveiled millennial women's greatest wish and the deepest desire is:

**To know who they are and to develop the skills
and agency to change their own lives, their destinies.**

Syrian Millennials are no different. In fact, the crisis they are facing – a six-year civil war – has transformed them into exemplars of human resilience. Empowering Syrian young women is the solution to the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.

Empowerment is fear transformed.

4GGL is committed to working with these and other millennial women who are boldly taking action where fear, violence and terrorism reign. We are showing and amplifying who they are.

Now, we invite YOU to join us. Be a part of a powerful movement igniting the next generation of empowered women leaders who will transform our world.

4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL) *is a 501c3 unique collaborative,
energizing a social change movement for our world's girls.*

- ✓ Our **global mission** is to transform the deep-seated mindset, the root cause of all girls' suffering – from seeing girls as human trash to 1 billion strong, our most powerful force for change.
- ✓ Our **local action** is generating, electrifying and showing our world the power of girls – the next generation of empowered women leaders who will transform our world.