**Response to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’ call for ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective**

 *Submitted 28 February 2017*

Together for Girls is a public-private partnership dedicated to ending violence against children, with a focus on sexual violence against girls.

In partnership with national governments, civil society and the private sector, Together for Girls generates national data illuminating the problem of violence against children and mobilizes support for country-driven efforts for change. Collectively, our partners combine their unique strengths and expertise to ensure a coordinated and robust response.

### Together for Girls enables three practical and effective steps:

### **National surveys and data** to document the magnitude, nature and impact of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children to inform government leaders, civil society and donors.

### **Evidence-based coordinated policy and program actions in countries** to address issues identified through the surveys, including legal and policy reform, improved services for children who have experienced violence and prevention programs.

### **Global advocacy and public awareness** efforts to draw attention to the problem and promote evidence-based solutions.

While Together for Girls is unable to complete the full questionnaire for the report at this time, we appreciate the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’ efforts and would like to share the following comments:

* Addressing the gender digital divide affects the experiences of women and children relative to violence in both positive and negative ways.
* Digital platforms can increase experiences of and witnessing violence through cyber-bullying, online exploitation, child pornography and sexual messages/contact. They can also help reduce and support recovery from violence, including online violence and exploitation, through access to resources, such as information on how to prevent, respond to and heal from violence as well as service availability; online support groups and communities for survivors and their loved ones as well as potential and past perpetrators of violence; apps and other technology that help improve safety and access to services; and social media platforms for advocacy and information sharing.
* Using data and research on how digital platforms impact experiences of violence can help identify policies, programs and resources to prevent the negative consequences of increased access to the online space. These policies and resources can also strengthen the potential for positive outcomes, including identifying innovative new ways to prevent violence and the exploitation of women and children.

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