

# NATIONAL POLICY PLATFORM GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN AT THE CENTER | Call for Input

**Girls@theMargin**  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE



CENTER ON POVERTY and INEQUALITY

GEORGETOWN LAW

**girls  
inc.**

Inspiring all girls  
to be strong,  
smart, and bold



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GIRLS @ THE MARGIN NATIONAL ALLIANCE

About G@TM: Girls @ the Margin National Alliance (G@TM) is a collective of more than 150 local, state, and national organizations reaching across disciplines and systems to address root causes of the complex issues confronting girls and young women at the margin who have experienced violence, sexual abuse, racism, sexism, family chaos, poverty and other serious forms of adversity.

The G@TM uses the term “marginalized” not to describe girls and young women, but to call attention to their treatment by decision makers, communities, families and the systems charged with their care. Because girls remain unheard and invisible to so many, this term reflects the reality of far too many girls’ lives.

### **Core to the work of the G@TM are the following pillars:**

- Exposure to violence is a key factor in shaping the lives of girls in the United States.
- It is essential to use an Intersectional approach to understanding and addressing the many forms of oppression that simultaneously impact girls lives.
- Girls are leaders for change in the work of reforming programs, policies and systems.

**Release of Platform:** G@TM will soon release a national policy platform designed to serve as a framework for those advocating for marginalized girls across the country. The platform will draw on the collective expertise of G@TM members and will propose concrete, actionable recommendations to ensure that marginalized girls and young women are met with system responses that honor their experiences and provide opportunities for them to heal, develop their strengths, overcome challenges, ensure their safety, and support them in reaching their potential and achieving their dreams.

To attain these goals, girls at the margin need systems, services, and programs that meet certain basic principles: they must be **gender-and culturally responsive, trauma-informed, strengths-based, and developmentally appropriate.**

**Call to Action:** We welcome input on the policy platform, including topic areas that should be addressed and specific policy recommendations.

You can submit your input in two ways:

- Email your recommendations, comments and ideas directly to **Samantha@NationalCrittenton.org** or **maheen@rights4girls.org**
- Join the G@TM at **<http://nationalcrittenton.org/join-the-movement/girls-the-margin-action-alliance/>**. There is no membership fee. As a member, you can provide your feedback during G@TM's monthly meetings and group communication network.

### **ABOUT THE GIRLS @ THE MARGIN NATIONAL ALLIANCE**

G@TM is a flexible affiliation of organizations and individuals that work across systems choosing to ally with each other. We collaborate to leverage our influence and resources to advance the best interests of marginalized girls.

**WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE:**

- Support a national forum that will allow participating organizations and individuals to share policy, programs and communication strategies, and to strengthen cross-system collaboration.
- Provide opportunities for girls and young women to build community with one another, share their experiences, and be leaders for change.
- Leverage the collective influence of multiple organizations and individuals to increase support for key policy changes.
- Highlight promising programs for girls in the field to inform federal and state policy.
- Build public will in support of critical issues identified by girls and young women at the margin.
- Provide frontline direct service providers and state groups with a seat at the federal policy table.
- Increase attention of funders and policy makers on the potential and the needs and issues of girls and young women at the margin.

G@TM will work to ensure the following **outcomes for girls and young women at the margin**:

- **Self-empowerment** and strong self-esteem.
- Safe, stable and affordable **housing**.
- Access to and completion of **educational** goals.
- Employment, **economic self-sufficiency** and wealth building.
- Mental and physical **health** and **safety**.
- Strong social **support systems**.
- **Civil and human rights**.

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The G@TM was founded in 2011 by The National Crittenton Foundation and Rights4Girls. Today, the founders are joined on the steering committee by the National Women’s Law Center, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, and Girls Inc.

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