About the Girls @ the Margin National Alliance

The Girls @ the Margin National Alliance (G@TM) is a collective of more than 200 local, state, and national organizations reaching across disciplines and systems using a holistic perspective to address root causes of the complex issues confronting girls and young women at the margin. This includes connecting local programs with national advocates and providing opportunities for girls and young women to share their stories and expertise as leaders in the movement for change.

The Alliance is grounded, first and foremost, in the belief that marginalized girls are leaders for change. And, moreover, members recognize that the synergy of leveraging the combined knowledge and influence of “the collective” can spur and sustain a true shift in how girls and young women are viewed, supported and respected, far beyond what we can achieve individually.

G@TM is a flexible and nimble affiliation of organizations and individuals who work across systems choosing to ally with each other. This collaboration across systems and disciplines is dedicated to the best interest of girls who are marginalized by their families, communities, and often by the systems charged with their care.

Who are the Girls and Young Women @ the Margin?

Girls and young women at the margin are survivors of child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and/or persistent neglect. Many grew up in homes marked by domestic violence or faced other forms of childhood adversity. They continue to experience violence in their lives, tend to live in poverty, and are disproportionately young women of color, including LGBTQ girls and girls with disabilities whom are often denied appropriate, safe, and supportive services. Far too many are domestically trafficked/commercially sexually exploited, and many are young mothers. As a result of their childhood trauma, many become involved in foster care, juvenile justice, mental health, and multiple other systems. Despite their charge to improve the lives of the girls and young women they serve, these systems often end up exacerbating the trauma and isolation which they have already experienced.
What we want to achieve:

- Support a national forum that will allow participating organizations and individuals to share policy, programs, and communication strategies;
- Provide opportunities for girls and young women to share their stories 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**.


Today, National Crittenton and Rights4Girls are joined on the Alliance Steering Committee by:
- The National Women’s Law Center;
- Georgetown Law Center on Policy & Inequality; and
- Girls, Inc.