

GIRLS FLYING KITES:

A Playful Act of Defiance Against the Discrimination Girls in Haiti Face

Port-au-Prince, Haiti –

Girls have special hidden powers to transform our world. That's why this spring, Beyond Borders is launching the second annual *Girl Power Haiti!* campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000 to support work in 103 communities that unleashes the power of girls.

Research from across the developing world shows that investing in the safety, education, and equality of girls is the most effective way to improve the quality of life for everyone in a community.

But in Haiti, girls are far less likely than boys to complete high school. Girls are nearly twice as likely as boys to become enslaved, are exposed to more physical and sexual violence than boys, and are denied opportunities afforded boys.

Right now, you can come together in an act of solidarity with girls in Haiti to change this.

Each spring the skies in Haiti fill with colorful homemade kites. The concentration on the faces of children making these kites turns to wonder and joy as they see their creations rise and twirl in the sky.

Look closely, though, and you will notice that these children are all boys. Girls in Haiti are simply not supposed to make or fly kites.

While their brothers are playing, girls are far more likely to be cooking, cleaning, and carrying water.

Perhaps it is a small injustice to deny girls this joy, but it is emblematic of the

discrimination that robs them of opportunities and freedoms granted boys.

This discrimination – that persists into adulthood – not only excludes girls and women from opportunities, it makes them more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

This spring Beyond Borders will give girls the chance to engage in a joyful act of defiance.



Members of the newly inaugurated girls' club in the community of Lavale make and fly kites in Jacmel. Beyond Borders' Rethinking Power program launched 16 new girls clubs this February.

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A child flying a kite is free. Haitian graffiti artist Jerry Moïse Rosembert created this image to express Beyond Borders' vision of a Haiti in which no child is enslaved, and girls enjoy the same opportunities as boys.



JOIN US! Visit www.GirlsFlyingKites.org to watch a video of girls making and flying kites in Haiti and to learn how you can organize a kite flying event in your community.