

PRESS RELEASE
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WORLD POPULATION DAY



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WWW.GIRLPLANET.EARTH LAUNCHED ON WORLD POPULATION DAY

In celebration of World Population Day, July 11th, a grassroots team has launched www.GirlPlanet.Earth as a global platform of participation aimed at elevating the voices of women and girls around issues of population, consumption, and the challenges facing our planet. All women and girls interested in sharing their stories, from anywhere on Earth, are invited to participate.

More than 80 million extra people are added to Planet Earth every year – all of course needing food, water, energy, care and a healthy planet. That equals 10x the population of New York City, more than 5x the population of Lagos, or 2.5x the population of Delhi, every year. That's net growth in population – taking into account the millions who die each year. GirlPlanet.Earth, as a grassroots community, believes that we have no choice but to talk about both population and consumption as they affect our daily lives.

Did you know that your carbon footprint is most easily reduced by having one less child? That action is more impactful than even becoming a vegan, or stopping flying, or driving an electric car. And, a human's carbon footprint is only one small part of their larger human footprint. Recognizing that too often, we point fingers at population versus consumption, or vice versa -- rather than seeing these as two related, fundamental problems — www.GirlPlanet.Earth enables women and girls to share their thoughts on how we can address both together, particularly through the investment in the empowerment of women and girls, worldwide. Without addressing both, it's just not possible to sustain human, planetary, and economic health and well-being.

“As we come up to World Population Day on July 11th, it's time for women and girls to take the lead in restarting the conversation in our local communities, families, faith groups, cities and counties - about small families, personal choice, climate change, the loss of natural habitats, and the future of our planet” said GirlPlanet.Earth co-organizer Dr. Phoebe Barnard. Dr. Barnard goes on to say “Population stabilization needs to be profoundly rooted in justice, education, and economic opportunity. Population goes hand in hand with consumption, and we need to tackle both in tandem.”

www.GirlPlanet.Earth is an outgrowth of the Facebook group “Population Conversations” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/populationconversations>), where women and teenage girls from countries around the world share their thoughts, observations, fears and hopes for the future and their families.