

PRESS KIT

RISE UP FOR GIRLRISING

WHAT A community gathering at Glebe Town Hall run by the Bodhicitta Foundation to raise awareness for the importance of investing in a girl's education in the developing world.

- Talks from notable guest speakers Rev. Bill Crews (Order of Australia, [Exodus foundation founder](#)) and Ayya Yeshe ([Nun of the slum](#)) on the topic "Having a conscience and the need for education for girls"
- Screening of the profound film "GIRL RISING"
- Music from acclaimed flutist Nad ragz and the Nay
- Food and networking with community members who are or want to become agents of change

WHEN Sat 8 August 2015, 6pm – 9pm

WHERE Glebe Town Hall

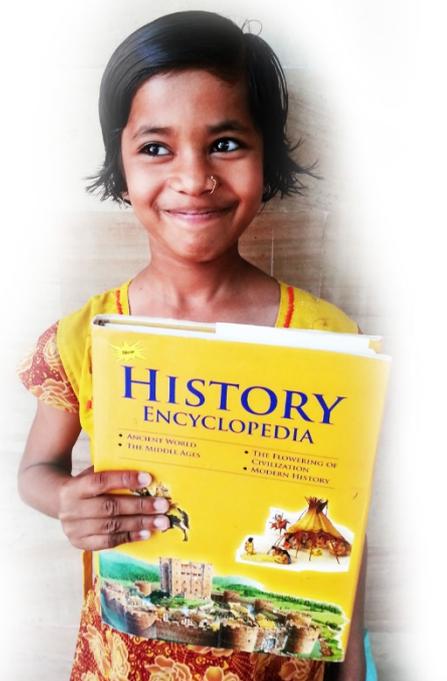
WHY #1 to inspire people to take action by telling others about the importance of educating girls in the developing world
#2 is to raise \$200,000 funds to build the Bodhicitta Girl's Home in Nagpur, India. It will be a place where girls can go for refuge, get an education, learn about social work and be trained to become leaders in their community.

With 48% of teenage girls married before they turn 18 amongst the urban poor in India, the more girls can we empower to complete their education, the more profound the impact this will have on society.

For all the details of the event please visit our website:

www.bodhicitta-vihara.com/riseup

Members of the press will be offered **free passes** to the night. Please indicate your attendance to us or for any enquires please contact us at info@bodhicitta-vihara.com



For Release 9:00am, 28th July 2015

THE FILM

Girl Rising, directed by Academy Award-nominated director Richard E. Robbins, takes us on a journey around the globe to meet nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Girl Rising is told by celebrated writers and voiced by renowned actors such as Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway and Liam Neeson. The art of storytelling is used to deliver a simple critical truth: Educate Girls and You Will Change the World.

WHY GIRLS?

Although the foundation helps both boys and girls get school, we also recognise the especially enormous impact the ripple effect of educating girls has on the world. If all women had a secondary education, child deaths will be halved, 12 million children will be saved from stunting and malnutrition, and there would be two-thirds less child marriages. Yet today, almost a quarter of young women aged 15-24 today (116 million) in developing countries have never completed primary school.

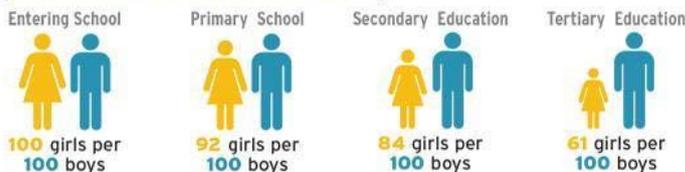


INVEST IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

31 MILLION GIRLS
 OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE ARE NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL.

THE PICTURE IS DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

{Enrollment rates in sub-Saharan Africa}

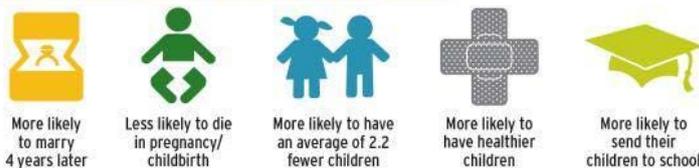


WHY DO GIRLS DROP OUT?



- CHILD MARRIAGE
- SCHOOL FEES
- SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- LACK OF SANITARY FACILITIES

BUT... IF WE COULD KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL BEYOND GRADE 7, THEY WOULD BE:



WOMEN DELIVER unicef

WHO WINS? EVERYBODY.

For Release 9:00am, 28th July 2015

THE SPEAKERS



Rev. Bill Crews, CEO and Founder of Exodus Foundation

Having studied electrical engineering, Rev. Bill Crews followed his heart by taking on a role at Sydney's renowned Wayside Chapel, where he helped to create the country's first 24-hour Crisis Centre. In 1973 he was made a member of the New South Wales Drug and Alcohol Authority and was closely involved in establishing drug rehabilitation, education and prevention programs throughout NSW.

He has been the recipient of countless awards, including an Order of Australia. He is also a Patron of Australians For Just Refugee Programs and is Chairman of Fair Go Australia, an anti-racism project sponsored by the NSW Government. In 2011 Bill established The Bill Crews Charitable Trust, which encourages, supports, finances and develops ways of tackling poverty across three continents.



Ayya Yeshe, the founder of Bodhicitta Foundation, the author [of *Everyday Enlightenment*](#).

Ayya Yeshe Bodhicitta grew up in a small country town in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales. When she was 14 her father died, plunging her into a suicidal depression. At 17, she left Australia for the Himalayas seeking meaning in her life. Then at the age of 23 she took her vows as a Buddhist nun in the Tibetan Sakya lineage.

She has spent over 8 years in the slums in Nagpur, India, working with people from the community previously known as 'untouchables'. Her charity offers social work by sponsoring children to go to school, skills training for women and running a slum education program for children. She has been featured in ABC interview [Seven Vital Virtual series](#).

ABOUT BODHICITTA FOUNDATION

Bodhicitta Foundation is a socially-engaged charity that works to relieve the suffering and inequality of the poor, oppressed and disenfranchised in developing countries and Australia. Our aim is to offer support and empowerment for people to break the cycle of poverty which may have bound them and their families for generations. Our work over the past 8 years has been focusing on an oppressed community in Nagpur, India who have faced centuries of discrimination, formally known as the "untouchables". We provide community services including counseling, women's skills training centers, education for children, child sponsorship and support for medical treatment.