TEAM STRONG REPORTS ON THE:
2017 Girl Up Leadership Summit

Last month more than 335 of you passionate advocates joined us in Washington, D.C. for the 2017 Girl Up Leadership Summit. What a powerful experience for everyone in attendance!

In addition to leadership trainings, workshops from our partners like Special K and a lobby day on Capitol Hill, an impressive roster of inspiring girls and women challenged participants to “#getwoke” by deepening their knowledge on global gender issues and to “#staywoke,” by channeling their passions into direct action.

Speakers at the 6th annual event included the likes of U.S. youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman and Dr. Anousheh Ansari, who’s not only co-founder and CEO of a leading iot technology firm, but also the first female civilian astronaut and a UNESCO Good Will Ambassador. Inspiring twin vloggers Brooklyn and Bailey McKnight, activist Adwoa Aboah and Girl Up Champion Cara Delevingne were also there to take part in the change-making couple of days. Plus many, many more!

If you didn’t tune into the Leadership Summit livestream, catch up with members of Team Strong, our on-the-ground Girl Up reporters and voices of strength.

Gabriela Nadeau
“I’ve followed past Summits through social media and livestreams. This was such an awesome experience because I got to participate from an activist’s point of view. How to be prepared for almost anything and to be comfortable speaking in front of crowds was just some of what I learnt. And then there was everything I took away from the incredible speakers.

My favorite session was definitely the workshop by Ladies Get Paid founder Claire Wasserman. Everything Claire said resonated with me, plus she was so funny!

I feel really strong after my time in D.C. – every girl from Team Strong does too. Just getting to meet all these incredible women was so inspiring and gives me so much hope for the future. If the girls I met at the Summit are the future of the world then I’m so excited for what’s to come!”

Leslie Espinoza-Campomanes
“My first experience with Girl Up was when I participated in the 2016 WiSci STEAM Camp in Peru. The objective was to empower women and encourage involvement in science and technology. Afterwards, I decided to start my Girl Up club, Innova Schools ALEUP Girl Up, through which I realized the power of service, advocacy and fundraising.

Spaces such as the Leadership Summit allow participants to enrich Girl Up’s vision in every way. It strengthens and extends our network of contacts with people who share our passion, and since we receive excellent advice through workshops in various fields, we’re empowered and motivated to continue with this movement.

Every minute was very special for me. The Leadership Summit changed my life. It empowered me. I felt very supported and I gained confidence. From now on, I am an agent of justice and peace.”

Eliza Sapara – Grant
“The Leadership Summit was life-changing. There were so many speakers, friends and leaders who taught me so much. The greatest lessons I learned were that as girls we are loved, we are more similar than different and that we are more powerful than we know.

My favorite session was titled “Find Your Voice” run by Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, the founder and editor-in-chief of MuslimGirl, the most-read platform for Muslim women's voices in the West. We sank deeper and deeper into ourselves to uproot our insecurities and find our voices through meditation. It was truly wonderful and I am so thankful to have been at that particular session.

I feel that I have built so many strong relationships with my Team Strong sisters and with many other Girl Up attendees. I also feel that experiencing the Leadership Summit has helped me to become a mentally strong woman who is starting to know her worth.”

Charlotte Hargray
“I’ve been part of Girl Up for the past two years, and this was my first time in America.

My favorite speaker was also Amani Al-Khatahtbeh. She talked with profound passion, vigor, clarity and authenticity that hit the mark for me. Her desire for a better world is clear by her activism and the way she speaks about her experiences.

It is very important for girls to be exposed to opportunities like the Leadership Summit in order to meet diverse groups of people, network and learn from shared experiences.

Though we all come from different communities, we were able to make friends and reignite our passion for empowerment that can be shared in the communities in which we live. We can educate other people who have not yet understood the issues that affect girls.”

Hisa Supra – Canto
“The Leadership Summit was life-changing. There were so many speakers, friends and leaders who taught me so much. The greatest lessons I learned were that as girls we are loved, we are more similar than different and that we are more powerful than we know.

My favorite session was titled “Find Your Voice” run by Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, the founder and editor-in-chief of MuslimGirl, the most-read platform for Muslim women's voices in the West. We sank deeper and deeper into ourselves to uproot our insecurities and find our voices through meditation. It was truly wonderful and I am so thankful to have been at that particular session.

I feel that I have built so many strong relationships with my Team Strong sisters and with many other Girl Up attendees. I also feel that experiencing the Leadership Summit has helped me to become a mentally strong woman who is starting to know her worth.”