

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Name: *International Relations 2016-2017*

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Program Goals:

*The Goals of the Program is to:*

- 1. improve awareness of our membership and the community of the issues that face women and girls globally*
- 2. Inform members and encourage participation in local events that affect women and girls i.e. "Think Global Act Local" (this will be a new goal for 2017- 2018)*

Mission:

*This program supports the mission of AAUW because it serves to educate our membership and community of the issues that face women and girls locally, nationally and globally so that they can make informed decisions and participate in advancing the equity of women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research as per our overall mission of AAUW*

Target Audience:

*The target audience is our current members. Most of our events are also open to the public to increase awareness of our mission and to market our organization to improve membership*

Participants:

*Currently we do not have a committee. I attempted to have a meeting with the current members who had signed up for this interest group 3x but was not successful due members having other competing priorities on the day of the meeting. Currently I am organizing events and informing members of events of interest in the community organized by WAC, Vassar Solidarity alliance, etc.*

Sustainability:

*I think because of our current political climate that we need to change the focus of the group to Think Global Act Local as there are many events taking place in the community that allow for the advocacy of women and girls*

Benchmarks:

*The following events were organized in 2016-2017:*

*Screening of "He named me Malala on Malala day" in July 2016 and again on the International day of the Girl on 26 October 2016.*

*In October 2016 members attended a panel discussion held at the Roosevelt Library regarding the Presidential candidates and global affairs hosted by the world affairs council.*

*In November 2016 members attended meetings regarding refugees settling in the Hudson valley organized by The Vassar Solidarity alliance at Vassar College.*

*In December 2016 members attended Human Rights Day Celebrations at the Roosevelt Library.*

*On 26 January 26 2017 The "testimony of the Human spirit was screened followed by a discussion led by AAUW Poughkeepsie member Janna Whearty to commemorate The International Holocaust Remembrance Day.*

*In March 2017 members participated in International Women's Day Celebrations at DCC and at the Universal Unitarian Church. A trip to attend the Parallel events of CSW 61 was organized for 03/14/2017 but cancelled due to the blizzard.*

*On June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 we were Introduced to Days for Girls by AAUW Poughkeepsie member Gwen Higgins*

**Community Partners:**

*World Affairs Council (WAC):*

*The WAC has invited AAUW members to public events regarding global issues and this information was forwarded via e-mail to all who signed up for the international initiatives interest group and it was also posted on our Facebook page.*

*Days for Girls(DfG): We have partnered with Days for Girls Poughkeepsie NY team. We hosted an Introductory meeting on 06/19/2017 presents by AAUW Poughkeepsie member Gwen Higgins. Our members are very excited about this project for the coming year (2017-2018). Our members will be partnering with community members to make sustainable feminine hygiene kits for girls living in developing countries and refugee camps enabling girls to attend school when they have their period otherwise they would miss 5-7 days of school resulting in high dropout rates because of the lack of feminine hygiene supplies. This Projects supports our mission of supporting girl's education globally while our members participate on a local level*

**Support**

*Our Initiative was supported by: The Poughkeepsie Library, Poughkeepsie Galleria, Vassar Hospital by providing venue meeting*

**Looking Ahead:**

*In 2017-2018 we would like to continue with our work with our community partners, and expand our knowledge regarding global issues. To improve success and sustainability of this interest group it would be nice to have a committee to assist in the planning and organizing of events*