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8. **Introduction:**
	1. Background and Mission of Boy for Girl

Boy For Girl (B4G) is a nonprofit organization inspired by UN movement HeForShe. From the moment we started our work in gender equality, we understood that by working together we could overcome our challenges much more efficiently. This common understanding is why we decided to launch Boy For Girl in the first place and why we continue to commit ourselves to this effort.

Boy For Girl is committed to make a positive change in the early childhood education of gender equality. Boy For Girl strives to help youths build an acceptance of feminist movements and gender equality and educate important ethical behaviors and concepts to youths. In this way, we hope that ingraining such thoughts and in children at an early age can support gender equality and help oppressed groups in the long term. Boy For Girl aims to encourage altruism, justice, equity, respect, morality, and aims to foster a lifelong commitment in the young generation to make a positive difference in the world we live in today.

* 1. The Importance of Early Education on Gender Equality

Early childhood and adolescent experiences affect the development of one’s brain, which provides the foundation for future learning, thinking, and behavior. These early stages of a person’s life are important times for brain development and also critical periods in which children learn societal norms and begin to form beliefs and opinions, which impacts how they see themselves and others in the world. Children begin to have an understanding of their gender and gender norms at an early age. For example, children who accept the gender stereotypes fed to them by their environment will avoid activities they believe are inappropriate for their own sex.

Thus, it is important for young people to receive education on gender equality, guiding them to develop good moral character and world views. With early education on gender equality, youths will more likely grow to become people who understand and support the cause and challenge gender norms and inequality.

1. **Understanding Gender Equality**
	1. What is Gender Equality?

Gender equality is the equal access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender. Gender equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities. Gender inequality affects everyone, people of all genders, ages, and backgrounds.

* 1. Historical Context of Gender Roles

A gender role is the way one should act or behave based on their gender according to cultural and societal norms. Throughout history, the public perception of gender roles has changed over time. Specifically, we will focus on female gender roles. For a long period of time, women’s roles were domestic. Women were considered subordinate to men, and their freedoms in society were largely limited. The traditional gender role of women were domestic housewives: not allowed to work and can only stay at home to do chores and care for their children. As time passed, the general perception of women’s gender roles has changed for the better, and women has gained more rights. However, there is still a long way to go for women to have the same rights and treatments as men.

* 1. The Consequences of Gender Inequality

Gender inequality has many serious consequences. These consequences manifest themselves in different ways for different people. It can affect mental health of women and people of marginalized genders, leading to low self-esteem and trauma and higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

In addition to leading to mental health issues, gender inequality can also lead to socioeconomic inequality. A man can be given a higher wage than a woman in the same position as him. A man can be more likely to be promoted than a woman with the same ability as him. Women are more likely to suffer unfair treatment simply because of their gender and face disadvantages in the workplace. That said, men are more likely to rise to a higher socioeconomic status than women, and men in positions of power will likely promote other men and not women. This leads to a self-reinforcing cycle, perpetuating gender inequality.

1. **Comprehending Modern Feminism**
	1. What is Feminism?

Feminism is about gender equality. Feminists want women and men to be equal. Feminists strive to uplift women because women are one of the oppressed and marginalized gender. There are many instances in which women are suppressed in communities. True feminists advocate for equality of all genders.

* 1. Impacts of the Internet on Gender Equality and Examples of Social Media Movements

The internet provides new ways to advocate for gender equality and empower women. The internet allows media to influence our perceptions about the gender roles of women in society. This can be a double-edged sword: though the internet can be used by the media and others to perpetuate gender equality, the internet can be used to propagate ideas supporting gender equality. Overall, the internet impacts gender equality positively. It provides an excellent platform to spread ideas, advocate for gender equality, and unite people to fight together for this common cause.

There has been many feminist social media movements: #Me Too, #TimesUp, #HeForShe, #BringBackOurGirls, #EverydaySexism, #WomenShould, #YesAllWomen, #GenerationEquality, and so many more. Social media, the internet, and the digitalized world brought about the success of these movements. Because of rapid technological advancement, feminist movements could reach and influence way more people than they could before.

1. **Addressing the Issue in Today's Society**
	1. Identifying Common Misconceptions and Debunking Myths.

There are many common misconceptions regarding what feminism is.

1)Feminists believe women should be superior to men

The biggest myth about feminism is that feminists believe women are better than men and should be superior to men. However, feminism is totally not about putting women above men, instead feminism is simply the advocacy of women’s rights on the basis of equality.

2)Only women can be feminists.

Everyone can be a feminist. One does not need to be a woman to support women’s rights. Supporting feminism has nothing to do with one’s gender. It is merely supporting gender equality. If you believe that all genders all equal and should have equal rights and access to resources and opportunities, you are a feminist! An individual should be proud to be a feminist!

3)Feminists support all women alike.

Feminists are against everyone who believes in and supports gender inequality, so if a women advocates for gender inequality in anyway—whether that is patriarchy, matriarchy, or other forms of inequality—feminists are against them.

4)Feminism does no good to men. In fact, it can even harm men.

A lot of men believe that feminism will not benefit men at all, and it may even endanger their privileges. Nonetheless, that is not true. Feminism will benefit men as much as it benefits women. Feminism puts an end to gender roles and stereotypes for women but also for men. Feminism strives to eliminate all gender roles. It advocates for men to break out of stereotypes and norms and to be given the freedom of individuality.

* 1. Lack of Equal Representation in Media

Media can shape public perceptions and attitudes towards gender. Underrepresentation of women in media can be detrimental for women, contributing to disrespect and violence towards women. Currently, women are seriously underrepresented in media, and even when they are represented, they are often represented poorly. To name a few facts: only 24% of the people in the newspaper, television, and radio news are women; women are only the subject of political and governmental coverage 16% of the time; women reporters are only responsible for 37% of stories; and only 4% of traditional and digital news challenge gender stereotypes explicitly.

1. **Empowering the Next Generation**
	1. Promoting Positive Masculinity

Positive masculinity is about focusing on how men and boys can use their strength, power, and privilege to support women, and this in turn strengthens the entire community.

Gender inequality is not only about women and girls. It is also about men and boys. Men and boys play a critical role in feminism and the fight for gender equality. Promoting and prioritizing positive masculinity is greatly beneficial for feminism.

There are a few simple steps to promote positive masculinity:

1. Targeting and Talking to male in the position power and male decision makers

Though men only make up about half of the population, men are mostly in the positions to make decisions. By talking openly to the men making the decisions about gender equality, potentially these men can convert to allies and support the cause. In the future, they can help elevate more women to make decisions. Of course, these men must be willing to listen and engage in these efforts.

1. Engaging in open dialogue with men at every level

Societal change becomes possible when change has happened at every level at society. Though changes at the decision-making level is most important, it is also crucial to make sure that there are men at all levels supporting feminism. Educating male children at an early age and boys in school is a great and convenient avenue to do so, and that is exactly what Boy For Girl has been doing with our efforts in early childhood education of gender equality.

* 1. Role Models and Leaders in Gender Equality

Throughout history, there are many respectable feminists who serve as great leaders and role models for us. We will briefly talk about a few of these role models here. They set a great example for the rest of us to follow. Because of limited space, we will introduce some female feminist role models. To note: though we will not discuss them here, in addition to female role models, there are many male leaders in supporting feminism, as well as leaders of other genders.

* Eleanor Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt, the first First Lady to take on responsibilities beyond merely hosting in the White House, was involved with women’s issue. She worked actively with the Women’s Trade Union League and the International Congress of Working Women. Roosevelt was very outspoken, and she wrote about women’s work, equality, and rights. It was impactful for a First Lady to speak out about this issue, especially in a time when such issues were deemed controversial. After serving as First Lady, she served as the first US delegate to the United Nations.

* Maya Angelou

Through writing and speaking, Maya Angelou inspired women to overcome gender discrimination and inequality. In 2011, Angelou was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her literature continues to leave a lasting impact on today’s world, inspiring people to fight for gender and racial equality.

* Michelle Obama

In 2009, Michelle Obama become the first Black First Lady. During her time at the white house, she launched the Let Girls learn initiative, which empowered girls around the world to gain access to education. After her husband’s presidency, she continues her work by supporting feminism through the Girls Opportunity Alliance, which supports girls’ education.

1. **Resources for Young Advocates**
	1. Books on Gender Equality for Children and Teens

For Children:

* BC for Me: ABC What Can She Be?
* Think Big, Little One
* A is for Awesome
* The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor
* Suffragette: The Battle for Equality
* Sparkle Boy
* Annie’s Plaid Shirt
* The Princess Knight

For Teens:

* Yes She Can
* The Handmaid’s Tale
* The Hate U Give
* I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
* I Am Malala
* Beyond the Gender Binary
* Feminism is…
* Fight Like a Girl: 50 Feminists Who Changed the World
	1. Online Platforms and Websites for Support

A Mighty Girl: This is an excellent resource for finding children's literature that showcases strong and heroic female characters. Website

Girls Who Code: This organization offers free coding lessons for girls and promotes female involvement in technology. Website

Amy Poehler's Smart Girls: This online community encourages girls to be themselves, be creative, and foster their intelligence and individuality. Website

SheHeroes: This organization provides short, web-hosted videos highlighting successful women in various careers to inspire young girls. Website

UN Women's "I am a girl" Interactive Page: A resourceful interactive page showcasing stories of girls around the world. Website

The Representation Project: Offers resources, including an online action center and curriculum, to challenge and overcome limiting stereotypes. Website

"Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls - The Podcast": This podcast shares the stories of exceptional women throughout history. Podcast

Girls Inc. Online: A safe and moderated online space where girls can interact with peers and learn about relevant topics like leadership and body positivity. Website

National Women's History Museum's Online Exhibits: It offers a collection of online exhibits highlighting the accomplishments of women in various fields. Website

PinkStinks UK: This campaign focuses on positive role models and challenging the culture of pink for girls, offering resources and blogs for educators and parents. Website

1. Taking Action: How Children Can Get Involved
	1. Starting Conversations and Organizing events

Children can start conversations about issues like gender discrimination and stereotypes with their friends. They can also bring up such topics in the classroom. When witnessing issues first-hand, children can step up to address these problems, instead of being a bystander. Addressing the issue does not necessarily mean confronting the perpetrator directly. It can also mean going to the teacher, talking to their own parents, and more. Depending on the situation and the children’s comfort zone, there are multiple ways to act without direct conflict. By being a bystander, gender inequality becomes a self-reinforcing cycle, and though people might think even if they acted their efforts may seem minimal, in reality, these small efforts from different individuals build up to a big, unstoppable force against inequality.

In addition to starting conversations, children can also organize community events and projects. For example, children can host workshops regarding gender equality, start a mini-research project about a feminist role model, create a bulletin board at school filled with the pictures and biographies of inspirational female in STEM, and the list goes on. Possibilities for community events and projects are endless. Exactly what you do doesn’t matter as much as your heart to help the cause!

* 1. Becoming a Boy for Girl Ambassador

Boy for Girl is always eager to welcome new ambassadors into the team. If you are interested in becoming a Boy for Girl ambassador, please check out the corresponding page on our website, boyforgirl.org. If you have any questions, please contact info@boyforgirl.org for many information.