"Whatever life you choose, it’s up to you and it depends on your interests. Share your ideas. Get support from your peers, teachers and families. Get things done. Nobody can stop you if you believe in what you do and follow your dream."

Zulaykho Ermatova, 22, Uzbekistan

The **International Day of the Girl 2019** is a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to mark progress on the Beijing Declaration, and to equip girls with the power, knowledge and space to continue to voice their passions and concerns.

The progress since the Beijing Declaration is remarkable, but girls around the world – especially those living in rural areas or humanitarian settings and those with disabilities – still need us to stand with them to achieve their full potential.

As we come together to celebrate our progress, let’s work to reinforce girls’ rights to a safe childhood, to decide for themselves, and to education and skills – in short, their right to the future they want.

Girls are breaking boundaries and barriers posed by stereotypes and exclusion, including those living in marginalized communities. As entrepreneurs, innovators and initiators of global movements, girls are creating a world that is relevant for them and future generations. Today, movements have been organized by and for adolescent girls. They tackle their issues including child marriage, education inequality, gender-based violence, climate change, and self-esteem. Girls are proving they are unscripted and unstoppable. [https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality](https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality)

In the industrialized countries many girls enter into the teaching profession after several years of mentoring by competent and caring educators. It is fitting that we as SSND teachers pause to also celebrate **World Teachers’ Day**, October 5th. On this day, we focus on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. On this day, the United Nations celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables girls, boys, and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society.