

Welcome to the United Nations and thank you all for joining us in celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child.

This evening is about SISTERHOOD and COMMITMENT.

SISTERHOOD in convening this event with Ashley Bernhard, CEO of Haven Hill, an amazing advocate for gender equality, equal pay and empowerment of girls and women,

Sisterhood in screening Brave Girl Rising with the support of CEO of Girl Rising Christina Lowery,

Sisterhood with the moderator award-winning journalist Isha Sesay and panelists Sandra Uwiringiyimana and Nargis Bigzad, former refugees who rebuilt their lives,

Sisterhood of my colleagues,

Director Marie-Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO,  
Dana Sleiman, UNHCR Senior public information officer  
and Lauren Rumble, UNICEF Principal Adviser on gender and development.

I believe we couldn't get a better example than **Brave Girl Rising** for the 2019 theme of the International Day of the Girl child: UNSCRIPTED AND UNSTOPPABLE

The compelling and inspiring story of Nasro showcases the power of EDUCATION in changing one's apparent destiny.

It takes COMMITMENT to face adversity and find a purpose to creating a better future for oneself and an entire sisterhood,

Commitment to action through education gave Nasro the freedom to dream big and grow wings to lift her out of the refugee camp.

In committing to educate girls everywhere we can help them make the same choice and allegiance as Nasro: **stand for themselves and strive.**

The message of hope, resilience and achievement that transcends Nasro's uplifting story wouldn't be possible without the dedication of peoples on the ground who work relentlessly to bring a sense of normalcy in the middle of despair and chaos, peoples represented here tonight by Ashley, Christina, Isha, Sandra, Nargis, Marie-Paule, Dana, and Lauren.

Each of them has made a commitment to MAKING A DIFFERENCE and DELIVERING RESULTS.

Each of us tonight can be a champion of girl empowerment through education. Each of us can contribute to fortifying the vows of the many Nasros around the world waiting to spread their wings and fulfill their dreams.

On behalf of the Monaco Mission to the UN let me express our most sincere thanks for your Sisterhood and commitment in helping every girl achieve her full potential.