

**GSUSA Statement sent via email from Joshua Ackley,
Media Relations and Spokesperson for Girl Scouts of the USA
to Sharon Slater, March 19, 2010**

**See highlighted text below stating that the “Girls’ Statement” was handed out
to the girls attending the Girls Only Workshop**

From: **Ackley, Joshua** <JAckley@girlscouts.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 19, 2010 at 10:02 AM
Subject: GSUSA Statement
To: slater4families@gmail.com
Cc: "Tompkins, Michelle" <MTompkins@girlscouts.org>

Hello Sharon,

Thanks so much for reaching out to us. Below, please find our statement.

Very Truly Yours, Joshua

Earlier this month, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) was honored to attend and participate in the 54th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, where girls were encouraged to take action on global issues concerning women and girls. Our participation in that conference was recently the subject of numerous internet stories and blogs that are factually inaccurate and troubling. Here are the facts of that meeting:

- The Girls Only Workshop was jointly hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA, UNICEF’s Working Group on Girls, Girls Learn International and The Grail. The meeting was only open to the girls and participating sponsors.
- Only seven adults were in the room at the time of the meeting, each representing one of the sponsors of the event. No one from Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute was in the room to report on the event.
- 30 - 35 girls from across the world participated in this event. All teenagers.
- **The girls received a copy of the only document they were working on titled (“The Girls’ Statement”). No other documents were given to the girls as part of this event.**
- The room in question was also used to host other events over the course of the multi-day conference. Prior to our girls entering the room, we did not “sanitize” the room to ensure that no trash or other items were left behind. We did request that those not associated with the sponsors leave the room prior to our session.

- The Girl Scouts of the USA was not contacted by Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) regarding its initial story to discuss the facts of this event. Had they applied these basic journalistic standards, perhaps the true details of this event would have been reported.

Let's be very clear: GSUSA did not provide girls with any materials from any third party at the Girls' Only workshop conducted on March 1 at the United Nations. Girl Scouts did not distribute any brochures at The United Nations. GSUSA does not partner with Planned Parenthood.

Here is an external endorsement of Girl Scouting from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry that does address the Girl Scouts at the United Nations issue. We received permission to send this out, so please use it well. www.nfcym.org/news.htm

Our Mission in Girl Scouting is to build girls of courage, confidence and character – who make the world a better place. We continue to be proud of our girls and look forward to showing the world what our girls can do. We thank everyone for their support of Girl Scouting.

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