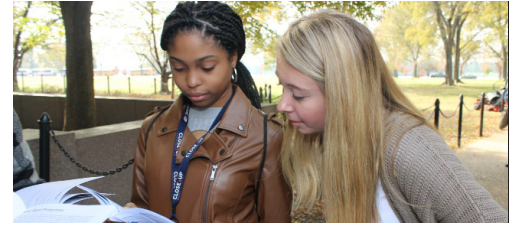


# ENGAGING GIRLS IN DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CLOSE UP, ICGS & STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY LAB



Young people are coming of age at a trying time, one that has been too often defined by political polarization and a lack of understanding and cooperation across differences. In this political landscape, the skills and practices of civil discourse and deliberative dialogue are more essential than ever. Deliberation is a key to understanding public policy issues from multiple perspectives, to making informed decisions about how to resolve those issues, and to acting cooperatively in the best interests of communities.

Join **Close Up**, the **International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS)**, and the **Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab (DDL)** as we bring together high school students to identify the issues most pressing for girls worldwide and engage in deliberative dialogue around those issues. Through this experience, students will identify topics that matter to them and to girls around the world, hear and learn from an array of perspectives, weigh competing arguments, and come away with their own carefully considered opinions.

*Schools are encouraged to select the opportunities that best fit their goals and student availability. Participation in one, two, or all three experiences is welcome.*



**LEARN MORE >**

## EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES

February 3-6, 2026 | Washington, D.C.

Close Up and ICGS will partner for a global summit for students and educators that uses the international survey results and report to inform the policies and topics considered. Empowering Girls' Voices will help girls of all backgrounds identify their own policy priorities, develop empathy for the perspectives of others, and build the skills and confidence to be strong civic leaders. The student summit will culminate in the Empowering Girls' Voices Civic Action Symposium, with girls sharing selected policy proposals with a panel of female leaders and policymakers.

## CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY

Coming in 2026 | Online

This online webinar, hosted by DDL and the World Association of Public Opinion Research, will introduce students to the factors they must consider when creating a survey or poll for their community. Through this experience, students will learn how to identify bias in questions, avoid making assumptions, target the survey for specific audiences, and tailor the survey to answer the identified questions. Following the webinar, students will reconvene to create a survey to be shared with over 350,000 students at girls' schools worldwide. They will work in cohorts to identify the information they wish to gather, construct unbiased and thoughtful questions, and then analyze the incoming data and create a report that will shape future programming with ICGS.

## ONLINE DELIBERATION EXPERIENCE

Coming in 2026 | Online

Using the data and topics identified in the worldwide survey, students will participate in an online deliberation with girls from across the globe. During this event, students will engage on important issues with peers worldwide and with a panel of experts on the topics. They will hear and learn from an array of perspectives, weigh competing arguments, and come away with their own thoughtful, reasoned opinions.

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## ABOUT THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation's capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit [www.CloseUp.org](http://www.CloseUp.org).

## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF GIRLS' SCHOOLS

The International Coalition of Girls' Schools is united in elevating women's leadership worldwide by educating and empowering our students to be ethical, globally minded changemakers. Our Coalition is the leading advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and mission-aligned entities dedicated to educating and empowering girls. To learn more, visit [girlsschools.org](http://girlsschools.org).

## ABOUT THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY LAB

The Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling®. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in over 50 countries around the world through over 150 projects, at varying levels of government and society. To learn more, visit <https://deliberation.stanford.edu/>.