

Menstruation matters to everyone, everywhere



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DC Coalition for Menstrual Hygiene Day

May 25, 2016, Washington DC: On May 28th, we will celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day to help break the silence and build awareness about the fundamental role that good menstrual hygiene management plays in enabling all those who menstruate to reach their full potential.

Menstruation is a matter of inclusion. The theme for [Menstrual Hygiene Day 2016](#) is “Menstruation matters to everyone, everywhere.” Women and girls are not the only menstruators. Transgender and intersex people may also menstruate if they were born biologically female. They often face specific challenges in managing their menstruation with normalcy and in dignity, especially with regard to the use of facilities and access to health services. **On Menstrual Hygiene Day and every day, let’s advocate for a world where everyone, everywhere, who menstruates can do so in privacy, in safety, and with dignity. Show your support on social media by tweeting: We all have a stake in safe and dignified menstrual hygiene management. #MenstruationMatters to everyone, everywhere.**

Menstruation matters to girls’ education. Girls should not be missing school because of their menstrual cycles. The DC Coalition is poised to support the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama (@FLOTUS), should she decide to support Menstrual Hygiene Day, acknowledging as she did in her World Bank [speech](#) and [tweet](#) on April 13, 2016, that menstruation is deeply linked to girls’ education, a passion of hers embodied in the global Let Girls Learn initiative. **On Menstrual Hygiene Day and every day, let’s advocate for a world where girls can attend school during their period and attain a quality education that empowers them to reach their full potential. Show your support on social media by tweeting: Every day can be a good day if girls can attend school during their period. #LetGirlsLearn for #5MoreDays.**

Menstruation is a necessity, not a luxury. Closer to home in the United States and in the nation’s capital of Washington DC, the spotlight has turned to what is called **the Tampon Tax**, with calls to abolish **a discriminatory tax on a product that women and girls must purchase because of their biological make-up.** Lawmakers, especially women lawmakers, are introducing bills to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products, but only 5 states have done so and 5 states don’t have sales taxes. **On Menstrual Hygiene Day and every day, let’s advocate to end the tampon tax. Show your support on social media by tweeting: #NoTaxForTampons. Period.**

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About Menstrual Hygiene Day

Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28) was established with the vision of creating a world in which every woman and girl can understand her menstruation and manage it in a hygienic way – wherever she is – in privacy, in safety, and with dignity. The objective of the day is to help to break the silence and build awareness about the fundamental role of good menstrual hygiene management for girl's and women's overall health and well-being. For more information about Menstrual Hygiene Day, visit www.menstrualhygieneday.org.

About the DC Coalition for Menstrual Hygiene Day

A coalition of organizations based in Washington DC have joined forces to advocate for the important link between access to menstrual hygiene management and water, sanitation, and hygiene, education, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, women's and girl's empowerment, and the realization of fundamental human rights.

The DC Coalition for Menstrual Hygiene Day includes:

BeGirl
Catholic Relief Services
FHI 360
Georgetown University Institute for Reproductive Health
Girls Health Ed
Human Rights Watch
International Medical Corps
Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
Millennium Water Alliance
PeaceCorps
Plan International USA
Public Private Partnership for Hand Washing
Rebecca Fishman Consulting
Save the Children
WASHplus
WASH United
WaterAid America
Women & Girls Working Group
World Vision

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