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EVENT RECAP

'SITARA' FILM PREMIERE JOINS CHANGEMAKERS IN CONVERSATION TO PROMOTE GIRLS' RIGHT TO DREAM



On October 10, the eve of International Day of the Girl, Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE hosted the premiere of *SITARA*, produced with VICE Studios, at the Metrograph Theater in New York City, followed by a panel conversation moderated by activist Kimberly Drew, featuring the following guests:

- Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Director/Writer/Producer
- Gloria Steinem, Executive Producer
- Ariel Wengroff, Executive Producer
- Imke Fehrmann, Producer
- Laura Karpman, Composer

Compelled by the critical global issue of child marriage, CHIME FOR CHANGE partnered with two-time Academy and three-time Emmy Award-winning director Obaid-Chinoy on *SITARA*, her new animated short film about Pari, a young girl whose dream of being a pilot is crushed when she is forced into child marriage. It is the story of 12 million girls around the world who are married off as child brides every year.

The group discussed the global prevalence of child marriage, the role of film in activism and how organizations, corporations and civil society can gather together to accelerate progress towards gender equality, among other topics.

"Young girls everywhere still face considerable hurdles in achieving their dreams. SITARA embodies that struggle; it is the story of Pari, a young girl who dreams of becoming a pilot and is robbed of it. It is a story about the burdens of family and the impact of patriarchal culture. For me, SITARA is more than a film, it is a movement that we want to start across the world, that encourages parents to invest in their girls' dreams, freeing their daughters from the burdens of early marriage."

– Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Director

To accompany the film and mark International Day of the Girl, CHIME FOR CHANGE launched #LetGirlsDream, a social impact campaign in partnership with Obaid-Chinoy and in support of **Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage** and **Equality Now**'s efforts to bring an end to child marriage. At LetGirlsDream.org, visitors are encouraged to share their dreams and to call on the global community to help break down the barriers that keep so many girls and women from pursuing theirs. Educators globally have the opportunity to request a local screening, discussion materials and activities that encourage girls and young people to share their dreams and inspire one another.

Many have shared their dreams on the platform, including Alessandro Michele, Marco Bizzarri, Lou Doillon, Elle Fanning, Bethann Hardison, Leymah Gbowee, Angelica Hicks, Katja Iversen, Neelofa, Elise by Olsen, Saoirse Ronan, Jodie Turner-Smith, Alison Wonderland, John Yuyi, and acid attack survivors from Hothur Foundation, girls and women from mothers2mothers, Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, Lower East Side Girls Club.

View highlights from the premiere event in the gallery below.

