

OUR GIRLS MATTER.

#BRINGBACKOURGIRLS

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated

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Dear Mothers,

As we seek for all children the same advantages which we desire for our own, I ask that we join with the world community in praying for the hundreds of girls who have been kidnapped from their school in Chibok, Nigeria. Ostensibly, these girls were targeted because of their desire to further their education and pursue their dreams. This is tragic.

As mothers, I know we all share deep compassion for the families who are affected by this horrific act, and we join with them in praying for the girls' safe return. This situation is particularly troubling because the efforts to find these girls and raise awareness of their plight has not shown the level of urgency that these families deserve.

As members of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., we can use our collective voice to tell the world that "Our girls matter." Here are ways each of us can show support:

1. On Tuesday, May 6th at 3:30 p.m. the Congressional African Staff Association (CASA), a bipartisan association of staff members who seek to educate colleagues on issues of importance to Africa, held a moment of silence on the steps of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. CASA is partnering with the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association (CHSA), the Congressional Black Associates (CBA), and other organizations in solidarity. JJOA Headquarters staff and National Executive Board joined in a moment of reflection.
2. Social media has played a key role in raising awareness of this travesty. You may use the attached Facebook banner to show your support and encourage others to visit the #BringOurGirlsBack sites that have been created on behalf of the girls. You may also want to share photo message of support that we can post on our Jack and Jill social media sites.
3. You may sign the petition created by Change.org by using the link (http://www.change.org/petitions/over-200-girls-are-missing-in-nigeria-please-help-find-them-bringbackourgirls?utm_campaign=link&utm_medium=tweet&utm_source=twitter). You may also write to your government representatives to express support for the actions that the U.S. government has taken and to encourage we do more to assist with efforts to find these girls and return them safely to their families.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We must not be silent in the face of this terrible threat to the well-being and safety of children.

We will share more information on ways we can be supportive when available. In the meantime, please remain prayerful and ever vigilant in our advocacy for our children and ALL children.

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