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Justice in These Times – Artists and Community for Equality
Brooklyn Hosts the Third Annual Gender Equality Festival
(July 19, 2008 * 10am – 3pm)

(Brooklyn, NY – June 24, 2008) Girls for Gender Equity presents the Third Annual New York City Gender Equality Festival, a celebration of arts and activism in central Brooklyn. The Gender Equality Festival will recognize women and men who organize for a diverse and equal world everyday.

The Third Annual New York City Gender Equality Festival is a free public event for education, community interaction, networking, resource sharing, arts and recreation, and is open to New Yorkers of all ages and genders. It will take place on July 19th from 10am to 3pm at Von King Park in Brooklyn, NY. Free food and prizes will be given out to those who attend.

Over 100 artists, community organizations, and local politicians will participate, offering inspirational performances and important information to attendees about a wide variety of topics – responding to street harassment, HIV/AIDS, self defense, youth leadership, every day activism, ending police violence, reproductive justice, and more.

At last year's festival, over 500 community members and youth from throughout New York City braved heat and humidity – proving that the struggle for women's rights is not only alive, but fierce as well. The event goes, both male and female came together to celebrate girls' and women's rights and create strategies for further action to ensure equality.

"We tabled at the festival and had a great time. I found it to be very effective in getting the word out about our organization as well as networking with other organizations that were attending. I felt that it was very inspiring to see so many people working for the common good," said Tara Sherry Torres, Volunteer Coordinator for RightRides for Women's Safety.

International Women's Health Coalition's Whitney Welshimer agreed, "I learned something from every group I spoke to." And Shawtieroc from Collaborative Movements added, "We enjoyed the energy of all of the empowered females."

Girls for Gender Equity's Sisters in Strength teen interns will also be presenting the findings from their groundbreaking research on sexual harassment in NYC schools. As the first high school lead Participatory Action Research project on the topic, their goals are to raise awareness about students' experiences of harassment and make recommendations for change. Girls for Gender Equity is forming a coalition to address this crucial issue, and extends an invitation to organizations interested in participating in this effort.

We fight for gender equity because women have the right to be safe and respected. And we celebrate the efforts of organizations and artists alike who call for change, equality, and justice on a daily basis. Girls for Gender Equity is a grassroots organization that advocates for the rights of girls and women by providing them with opportunities to live self-determined lives and organizing to affect social change. To get involved or find out more about their work, visit www.ggenyc.org.

- *For more information, contact Meghan Huppuch at 718-857-1393 or sisters@ggenyc.org.*