



How to Begin a Global Women Group

Global Women (GW) is an ecumenical missions movement with a vision of a world where every woman is empowered by the love of God, valued by her community, and equipped to fulfill her unique purpose. Global Women groups exist to provide women with an opportunity to discover ways to meet needs of women worldwide and to do something life-changing together.

Why Global Women has groups

Global Women wants to unite women so that we can change the conditions of women worldwide! Group members develop friendships and grow together in their own understanding of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ as they seek to see women's lives transformed.

Global Women is connecting and empowering women to transform our worlds!

Why Global Women needs groups

When women organize themselves around an issue, event, or task things happen! Groups are one way that the ministry of Global Women can be active in a church, community, workplace, or on a campus. Together group members can raise the awareness of global issues affecting women, meet needs through hands-on projects, pray for the needs of women, observe International Women's Day (IWD), participate in the annual Global Voices Summit, raise funds to invest in the work of GW, and minister as part of a GW trip.

What is the goal of a Global Women Group?

Groups help members and people they know become aware of the global issues affecting women and then put hands, feet, and voices to the task of making a difference in our world.

What do groups do?

Members of Global Women Groups investigate the global issues affecting women and respond as God calls them to involvement locally and globally. Groups meet, pray, think, serve, do and give to help other women, especially those who are profoundly unreached.

Who can be a Global Women Group?

Groups may be formed on campuses, in churches, in local neighborhoods or communities, in a workplace, or any where there are like-minded women who desire to be a part of the ministry of Global Women.

Groups can be anytime and anywhere there are women motivated by the love and mercy of Jesus Christ who want to investigate the needs of women, involve themselves and their communities in meeting those needs, and influence leaders to cultivate cultures that value women.

How do you become a global woman and help change the world?

Decide to make a difference! Your decision to involve yourself, friends, family, students, church members, co-workers, and/or women from other churches in your community signals you have already taken the first step toward the organization of a group! Your group will decide when, where, and how long to meet. Some groups get together monthly for investigation and prayer, others meet quarterly and complete a hands-on project together, some have a book group, and others get together once a year to observe International Women's Day.

Groups may be ecumenical and formed on campuses, in churches, in local neighborhoods, in communities with women from multiple churches, in a workplace, or any where there are missional women who desire to be a part Global Women.

Tools for Groups

Global Women wants to equip and empower your group! One of the first things you may want to do is make sure potential group members have an understanding of GW and our mission. Why not call, email, or write Cindy Dawson or Trudy Johnson (205.663.0505, globalwomen@globalwomengo.org, or PO Box 1535, Pelham, AL 35124) and let them know you would like brochures, *Prayer Guides*, and copies of *VOICES* to share with interested women. You may also find spending time on our Web site (www.globalwomengo.org) helpful. We have a visual presentation, *The Call: Investigating Global Women*, which explores the global issues affecting women and GW's response. There is no charge for this or any GW resources. If you are interested in getting a good handle on the global issues affecting women we recommend reading *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. This outstanding book is also a great resource for your new group and we have a Group Study Guide that can be downloaded from our Web site or requested from the GW office.

Preparing for your first meeting

- Pray.
- Set your meeting date.
- Arrange for your meeting location.
- Check for conflicts with a church, campus, or community calendar.
- Write a promotional announcement (or ask someone else to – it will help you start to involve more women).
- Send out email/mail announcements of the meeting.
- Post the meeting details on appropriate Web sites, Facebook pages, and/or Twitter.
- Arrange for child care (optional).
- Arrange for any food to be served (optional).



Global Women Groups

- Invite women of all ages and from multiple churches to attend. If possible, give them a GW brochure in advance of the gathering.
- Duplicate copies of the current Global Women *Prayer Guide* and *VOICES* or contact the GW office to determine availability of print copies for the gathering.
- Request a copy of *The Call: Investigating Global Women* if needed.
- If you are meeting somewhere that has internet access, consider having a computer to check out the GW Web site and/or Facebook page as part of your gathering.
- Familiarize yourself with the project options in recent GW Connections (on the Web and in *VOICES*).

At the meeting

- If attendees do not know each other consider providing name tags and giving women the opportunity to introduce themselves to one other.
- Start and end on time.
- Open with prayer.
- Share why you want to organize the group by telling about your interest in Global Women and desire for connecting and empowering women to transform our worlds.
- Share the vision and mission of Global Women

VISION STATEMENT

Every woman is empowered by the love of God, valued by her community, and equipped to fulfill her unique purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

Motivated by the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, Global Women is a nonprofit organization connecting and empowering women to transform our worlds through global friendships as we:

- Investigate the needs of women,
 - Involve ourselves and our communities in meeting these needs, and
 - Influence leaders to cultivate cultures that value women.
- Show *The Call: Investigating Global Women*.
 - Ask women several of the following questions or use your own:
 - What surprised you about what you heard?
 - How do you feel after seeing *The Call*?
 - Did any scripture verse come to mind as you were watching?
 - Do you believe there is something you can do?
 - What issues or needs did you hear? (As they respond, list these on a white board or paper where everyone can see the responses)
 - Distribute a Post-It note or index card or small piece of paper to each woman – ask her to write her name on it and place it on or near the issue or need she would like to investigate and/or doing something about.
 - Identify the top three issues the group feels most drawn to (if you have a large group, consider asking them to gather in smaller groups based on the needs or issues that interested them the most).
 - Discuss the GW Connections options related to your top issues or needs.

How to Begin a Global Women Group

- Tell about the two annual GW events: observance of International Women's Day (IWD) on or near March 8th and the Global Voices Summit held in the fall. Depending when you are meeting, request information about the event closest to your gathering date from the GW office.
- If you are using a computer, allow time for familiarizing yourselves with the GW Web site and/or Facebook page. Encourage attendees to sign up for eVOICES on the Web site.

Closing the first meeting

- Distribute copies of the *Prayer Guide* (if you haven't already) and close with a time of prayer for the global issues and needs affecting women. You may want to ask someone to come prepared to lead this special time.
- Distribute copies of *VOICES* (if you haven't already) and encourage women to read it. Compile a list of those who want to receive print copies each quarter and email or send it to the GW office.
- Complete and mail the Global Women Group Registration Form to the GW office or complete the form on the GW Web site.
- Call or email the GW office with news of your organization meeting! Hint: take photos to share too!

See the helpful on-going meeting suggestions included in your Group Starter Kit materials.