

# Sarah Ireland

Chief Executive Officer at One Girl

Sarah Ireland is the CEO of One Girl, an Australian non-profit organisation that harnesses the power of education to drive change for girls and their families in Sierra Leone and Uganda.

Sarah's career began with Save The Children UK as a first-responder to the disaster zone in Myanmar following Cyclone Nargis. Since then, Sarah has built front-line experience over 10 years in humanitarian outreach and international aid.



After leading emergency responses in countries such as the Philippines, Iraq and in the Horn of Africa, Sarah shifted her focus to creating long-term sustainable change. Taking on a position as a Humanitarian Advocacy and Policy Adviser, Sarah has lobbied both Australian and overseas governments to increase foreign aid budgets and the intake of refugees and to prioritise women and girls in their overseas aid programs.

As a result of Sarah's advocacy work, the Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced a stronger focus on girls and women in the government's humanitarian strategy and foreign policy and the Abbott Government announced an increase in the intake of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. This advocacy work included lobby letters to the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, public petitions, parliamentary briefing speaking engagements, public vigils, national advertising and media interviews.

Throughout Sarah's experience on the front line during disasters and crises, she witnessed the power of education. It was education that empowered children and young people to drive their own change.

As One Girl's CEO, Sarah makes sure the organisation's girl-focused education programs in Sierra Leone and Uganda have a significant and positive impact not just for the girls involved in the programs, but for their families and communities as well. Sarah regularly speaks at youth leadership conferences, in businesses, across schools, through the One Girl website and other platforms to advocate for change and fight for a more equitable world, especially for the 130 million girls around the world who are denied their right to an education.

Sarah is currently the humanitarian representative on the Red Cross Australia Victorian International Humanitarian Law Advisory Committee. She has a Bachelor in Journalism, a Master of International Studies (Peace and Conflict Resolution) and is currently studying a Master of International Law.

## **Areas of expertise/able to comment on:**

- The impact of education – what we can achieve through education and how this can make an impact on the lives of girls in developing countries.
- The importance of empowering women globally.
- The benefits of humanitarian outreach around the world.

**[www.onegirl.org.au](http://www.onegirl.org.au)**

For more information, high res images, and interview requests please contact:

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