

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Labor Day · GCR Team

Good morning/Good afternoon everyone.

As we gather today to celebrate Labor Day, I want to take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of this day — not just as a global commemorative date, but as a meaningful recognition of the incredible work that each of you do on a daily basis in this organization.

We work in a field that demands more than just professional competence. It requires compassion, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Every day, you dedicate yourselves to your work with the awareness that it directly impacts the lives and futures of girls and women who deserve dignity, safety, and opportunities. **This is extraordinary, and I want you to know how much I appreciate it.**

Our Mission and Your Role

To make it perfectly clear: The work we do is extremely important. Whether you work directly with survivors of gender-based violence, advocate for changes in public policy, manage our finances, coordinate logistics, or support our partners on the ground — you are part of a movement that is transforming lives.

It is part of a movement that challenges deeply entrenched systems and asserts, loud and clear, that the rights of girls and women are non-negotiable.

We work with complex, emotionally demanding, and sometimes painful issues. We combat gender-based violence in all its forms. We fight for women's economic empowerment. We defend the education, health, and protection of girls. These are not easy battles, but they are essential.

Recognition and Gratitude

Today, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each member of this team.

◆ Program Team

Your dedication to listening to, supporting, and empowering the women and girls we serve is the foundation of everything we do. Your compassion in the face of so much pain is a gift that should never go unnoticed.

◆ Defense and Public Policy Team

The strategic work you do behind the scenes has resulted in meaningful conversations with decision-makers and partners who increasingly recognize the urgency of our mission. Your voices are being heard.

◆ Operations and Administration Teams

You are the backbone that keeps this organization running. You ensure that our programs run smoothly, that our resources are used efficiently, and that we can focus our energy where it is most needed.

★ Finance Team — Special Recognition

Over the last period, you worked tirelessly with our auditors to ensure that our financial management met the highest standards of integrity and transparency. An unqualified audit report is not just a bureaucratic achievement—it is a testament to their professionalism. When our donors ask, "Are you using the resources responsibly?", we can answer with complete certainty: **YES.**

The Power of Teamwork and Partnership

One of the most encouraging things I've witnessed recently is the positive feedback we're receiving from our partners. They're recognizing the impact of our collective work. They're recognizing that when we collaborate, we achieve more than any one of us could alone. This is the power of teamwork.

Our partnerships are built on shared values and a common vision of a world where girls and women live free from violence and have equal access to economic opportunities.

Resilience in the Face of Challenges

The work we do isn't always easy. There are days when the challenges seem insurmountable. There are moments of frustration, exhaustion, and doubt. But here's what I've repeatedly seen in this team:

RESILIENCE. The ability to face these challenges, manage their weight, and return to work the next day with renewed commitment. Your resilience is changing the world, one girl, one woman, one community at a time.

Growth and Future Prospects

We recently welcomed new members to our team, and I want to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. You bring innovative perspectives, renewed energy, and talents that strengthen our collective capabilities. Together we are stronger.

We are reaching more people. We are expanding our programs. We are deepening our impact. The work you do is not static—it is evolving and expanding in ways that reflect constantly changing needs.

A Call for Reflection and Commitment

As we celebrate this day, I invite each of you to reflect on why you joined this organization. What about our mission attracted you? What motivates you to be present, even on difficult days? Hold on to that. That purpose is your anchor.

Let us commit to:

- ✓ Maintain the highest standards of integrity and accountability.
- ✓ Supporting each other in the face of the challenges we face.
- ✓ Celebrate the victories, both big and small.
- ✓ Continuous learning and growth.

"Labor Day celebrates the dignity of work. Today, I honor each and every one of you—your dedication, your sacrifice, your compassion, and your resilience. I honor the choices you make every day to stand up for what is right."

Thank you for being part of this team. Thank you for your dedication to this mission. Thank you for reminding us that another world is possible — a world where girls and women can live with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

Together, we are making this world a reality.

◆ Happy Labor Day, GCR Team! ◆

Thank You.

