



**a path
appears**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Teen Pregnancy

IN COLOMBIA



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Using This Guide

Community Cinema is a rare public forum: a space for people to gather who are connected by a love of stories and a belief in their power to change the world. This discussion guide is designed as a tool to facilitate dialogue and deepen understanding of the complex issues in *A Path Appears*. It is also an invitation to not only sit back and enjoy the film, but to step up and take action.

This guide is not meant to be a comprehensive primer on a given topic. Rather, it provides important context and raises thought-provoking questions to encourage viewers to think more deeply. The guide provides suggestions for topics to explore in conversations in community and classroom settings, and online. It also offers information about organizations working on the ground to make a difference and provides further resources for deeper learning and opportunities to get involved. For information about the program, visit communitycinema.org

NOTE TO READERS, FACILITATORS, AND EDUCATORS

This discussion guide gives a brief synopsis of the entire *A Path Appears* series, and then provides specific background information and resources on teen pregnancy and parenting in Colombia and beyond. It also draws on stories and information from the corresponding book *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, including discussion questions and ways to take action that connect both resources.

Trigger Warning

This episode of *A Path Appears* focuses on teen pregnancy—a sensitive yet pertinent topic that may not be suitable for all audiences. Facilitators and educators are strongly encouraged to review all of the readings, materials, and links and preview the film module to be sure the topic and lesson are appropriate for their curriculum and students. At the facilitator's or educator's discretion a trigger warning or other preparation/discussion may be advisable, as well as identifying viewers who might be personally or adversely affected by this material. Additional resources for the film and book *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* are included at the end of this discussion guide, including organizations and hotlines to which to refer those who need help or support.

About the Guide Writer



**ALLISON
MILEWSKI**

Allison Milewski is an educator and curriculum designer with over ten years' experience in arts and media education. She has developed art integration programs, professional development workshops, and arts and media curricula for organizations such as ITVS, Tribeca Film Institute, Latino Public Broadcasting, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and Urban Arts Partnership and managed arts-based enrichment programs for over 20 New York City public schools. Allison's professional experience also includes over 15 years of program management and administration with domestic and international NGOs such as PCI-Media Impact, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and the Union Square Awards for Grassroots Activism.

About the Filmmakers



MARO CHERMAYEFF

**Executive Producer and Director,
Show of Force**

Maro Chermayeff is an award-winning filmmaker, producer, director, author and former television executive at A&E/AETN. She is Founder and Chair of the MFA program in Social Documentary at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and partner in the production company Show of Force. Some of her extensive credits include: *Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace* (PBS, 2014), the landmark four-hour PBS documentary series *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (PBS, 2012), 6-hour series *Circus* (PBS, 2010), the Emmy-award winning *Marina Abramovic: The Artist is Present* (HBO, 2012) *Mann v. Ford* (HBO, 2011), *Parasomnia* (France 2, 2010), the Emmy Award-winning 10-hour series *Carrier* (PBS/Nat Geo International, 2008), the 6-hour series *Frontier House* (PBS, 2002), *American Masters: Juilliard* (PBS, 2003), *The Kindness of Strangers* (HBO, 1999), *Role Reversal* (A&E 2002), *Trauma, Life in the ER* (TLC, 2001) the *Vanity Fair* web series *Eminent Domains* (2014), and over 15 specials for Charlie Rose. Represented by WME, Chermayeff is a principal of Show of Force, the production entity for the Half the Sky Movement. She is an Executive Producer of Half the Sky Movement's Facebook Game and 3 Mobile Games with Games for Change.



JAMIE GORDON

Executive Producer

Jamie Gordon co-founded Fugitive Films in 2005 after running the Development Department of GreeneStreet Films in New York City for six years as well as working on multiple award-winning Hollywood feature films. Most recently, Gordon executive produced *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity For Women Worldwide*. Her company produced *Coach* starring Hugh Dancy and the comedy *Wedding Daze* starring Jason Biggs and Isla Fisher. Among other projects, she is developing a film based on the National Book Award finalist *River Town* by Peter Hessler and a film adaptation of Brooke Berman's off-Broadway hit "Smashing." Previously, Gordon was the Head of Development for GreeneStreet Films, working on *In the Bedroom*, and co-producing *Swimfan* and *Pinero*. She worked as a story editor for producer Wendy Finerman where she worked on *Forrest Gump*. She graduated with a B.A. in history from Princeton University.



MIRA CHANG

Co-Executive Producer

Mira Chang is a producer, director and director of photography of nonfiction content for domestic and international television and several feature length documentaries. Her work can be seen regularly on ABC, National Geographic, A&E and Discovery. Her projects include *Sold* and *Jesus Camp*, nominated for a 2007 Oscar for Best Documentary. Recent projects include A&E's *Runaway Squad* and *Garó Unleashed* for the Sundance Channel. Chang was also series-producer of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.



JEFF DUPRE

**Executive Producer,
Show of Force**

Jeff Dupre has been producing and directing documentary films for over 15 years. Together with Show of Force partner Maro Chermayeff, Dupre is director, creator and executive producer of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (PBS, 2012), *Circus*, a six-part documentary series that also premiered on PBS. He conceived and is producer and co-director of *Marina Abramovic The Artist is Present*. He is a producer of *Carrier* and Michael Kantor's *Broadway: The American Musical*. Dupre's directorial debut, *Out of the Past*, won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, among other awards.



JOSHUA BENNETT

Series Producer

With over 10 years experience producing film and television, Joshua Bennett has produced shoots in over 35 countries and on all seven continents, including the PBS series *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (2012). He has also produced programming for PBS, HBO, MTV, Discovery, A&E and The Sundance Channel, as well as music videos commercials, independent shorts, experimental works, corporate, new media and viral media campaigns. Bennett teaches documentary producing at New York City's School of Visual Arts' master's program for social documentary film.

About the Film Series



From the creative team that brought you the groundbreaking *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, *A Path Appears* investigates young women in America forced into a life of prostitution and the innovative programs that have evolved to achieve remarkable results in empowering their lives. Sex trafficking and prostitution. Domestic slavery. Teen pregnancy. The devastation of poverty. These troubling situations are happening not just halfway across the world, but also in our own backyards — in Chicago and Nashville and Boston.

In the second part, the series continues around the globe tracking children in Haiti, living in abject poverty after years of political corruption during times of violent protest and captures the transformation of Kenya's most notorious slum through expanded education for girls. The series uncovers the roots behind the incredible adversity faced every day by millions of women, while also presenting glimpses of hope and change.

With Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporters Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn and a number of celebrity activists as guides — including Malin Akerman, Jennifer Garner, Mia Farrow, Ashley Judd, Eva Longoria, and Alfre Woodard, each with painful stories from their own pasts — *A Path Appears* journeys across the country and around the globe to drive home shocking stories of gender inequality and vulnerability.

Q&A with Producer Maro Chermayeff

1. What spurred you to make *A Path Appears*? How is *A Path Appears* different from *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*?

A Path Appears is inspired by and based on Nick Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's newest book *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*. This four-hour series and book is a natural follow-up to our groundbreaking transmedia project *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Kristof and WuDunn started formulating their concept for their new book as we were nearing our PBS broadcast premiere of *Half the Sky* in fall 2012. They recognized the enormous response from the readers and audience, people asking, "What can we do to truly make a difference?" They both wanted to address the subject matter and answer questions, using stories and storytelling to provide examples of organizations and methodology that had truly made a difference in philanthropic impact and outcomes.

Additionally, they were both interested in expanding the geographic footprint of their work — most particularly to include stories from our own backyard, the United States, as well as from Latin America and the Caribbean, parts of the world they'd worked far less in. The subject of what works and what doesn't in global giving, and the ripple effect of poverty and the vulnerability of women, in challenging and oppressive circumstances, remained very interesting to all of us as filmmakers — so we decided to continue our work together. An interesting new approach was that the book and the television series were developed in tandem — meaning many of the stories were found by the production team and folded into the book, as well as Nick and Sheryl telling more stories in the book than we were able to include in only three nights of primetime television.

2. What went into selecting the issue areas and locations for this new series? In particular, why did you decide to feature the stories taking place in the United States?

At the end of Kristof and WuDunn's [first] book, they had a final chapter called "What You Can Do: Four Steps You Can Take in the Next Ten Minutes." That call to action launched a huge response, and people began to think of Sheryl and Nick, and also of the Project Production Team (who run the *Half the Sky* Movement project and website), as a hub, a resource to help find ways to get involved. Our readers and viewers spoke, and we listened! Thousands of people talked about the many issues facing women and girls that were important to them. In selecting our issues we relied on the following criteria:

1. That the issue was impacting a large number of people around the globe and was falling doubly hard on women and girls
2. That we could connect the issue to an NGO [nongovernmental organization] and individuals we felt were effectively addressing and implementing opportunities for change
3. That the issue was relevant and emotionally accessible to our audience
4. That it was an issue and an organization or individual we could present in a fresh way, and was potentially underreported

Our team got together and over the course of many months talked about the issues we wanted to address, as well as the locations of interest and how to narrow our focus to places where the issue could be best amplified, and most importantly where we could meet and tell the stories of inspiring individuals and organizations tackling these issues in their own communities and countries. We particularly wanted to expand our geographic regions because Nick and Sheryl's initial reporting in *Half the Sky* was focused on the developing world and the Global South, and we all knew that these issues were also prevalent right here at home. We wanted to add to the dialogue and to break down the illusion that some Americans seem to have: that extreme poverty, sex trafficking, or gender-based violence are not happening here to the same extent, when in fact these are very much happening here at home. We also wanted *A Path Appears* to shine a light on solutions — what was happening around the world and here in the United States. with early childhood intervention, education, effective local police and government work — so that people understood and could explore and learn more about some of these effective interventions. The reality is that these kinds of effective solutions are vastly underfunded and undersupported — when in fact if you invest in the front end, in the safety, security, and education of young people, they have far more opportunity to thrive and avoid the ripple effects of poverty and neglect, and you save enormous amounts of money on the back end in the form of prisons, drug treatment facilities, emotional and psychiatric treatment. Not to mention that they live better and more enriched lives, without oppression, fear, and abuse.

3. How did you go about choosing your subjects, and selecting which stories to tell in the final episodes of the series?

As a production team, we vet hundreds of stories, to find the ones we feel meet the criteria we have to merit inclusion in our content. The criteria include: compelling work; location; safety of our crew in telling that story in that location; inclusion of diverse, compelling, and relatable subjects who wish to be filmed and wish to be part of the project. We are always mindful that the stories we are telling are tough, but our intention is always as storytellers to be immediate and in the moment, and to add positively to the dialogue. Our goal is

to introduce our audience to individuals and issues they may not know about, and to take them to new places they may never go, in the interest of raising awareness and fostering positive solutions and change.

4. You probably had to make some tough decisions around how to portray the stories of several minors in the film, both here in the United States as well as in Kenya, Haiti, and Colombia. Please discuss what went into your choices in telling each of their stories.

As filmmakers (Show of Force) and journalists (Kristof and WuDunn) we are all highly conscious of the serious and important ongoing dialogue of how to best tell stories about individuals facing enormous challenges and brutal circumstances. Show of Force has been part of those conversations around how best to portray these stories while recognizing the effect this has on each person who agrees to share their own truth. Nick has been a leader and influencer in keeping their stories alive in the minds of the people. We have spoken with some of the leading experts including Human Rights Watch, the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, and numerous other leading NGOs and educators in this subject matter all around the world. There is no single "right way" to portray an adult or a minor; every story is a case-by-case decision, with the top priorities being safety, security, long-term well-being, and the fair and equitable treatment of all.

This series is about tough issues and harsh realities facing women and girls around the world and here in the United States. It is important that people understand that these harsh realities — sex trafficking, gender-based violence, slave labor, and lack of access to education, to resources, and to opportunity — even to hope — are affecting children.

For all of the stories we tell, we work hand-in-hand with highly experienced NGOs and government officials — and all of our subjects, who are participating voluntarily and with full knowledge of their role in the project — to make our decisions. We also understand that this is a complex issue with differing viewpoints: Should minors be shown or not be shown in the context of these difficult stories and situations? Many people feel the bravery and courage it takes to come forward, both as the minor and also as the guardian or parent of the minor, is courage that deserves to be honored. Sometimes, when people on camera are blurred — it is not seen as a protection of that person, but rather a continued silencing or shaming of that person. It may continue to suggest that they are a perpetrator rather than a victim with a right to speak, a right to be seen, and a right to fight for justice.

As extremely experienced and professional filmmakers, we properly and legally release all of our subjects, of course, but more important than the paperwork is our word and [our] wish for all of our subjects to be treated as they wish to be treated — and [our desire] to help them tell their stories honestly, fairly, and openly if that is what they so desire. In some cases we do blur individuals, because of specific circumstances in which we feel it may be in their best interest or [safer] not to be seen. It is always a thoughtful and intricate decision-making process, with the respect and dignity of our subjects in mind. But on the whole, we know the subjects we spoke to and we filmed and show on camera want to tell their stories, and want to be seen and heard. We are honored to give them that opportunity.

5. Portraying the stories of survivors of trauma and abuse can be challenging terrain to navigate as well. How did you and your team approach working with survivors to tell their stories?

Between *Half the Sky* and *A Path Appears*, the production team at Show of Force, in our collaboration with Kristof and WuDunn, has spent more than five years completely immersed in the complex issues facing women and girls around the globe. We take our role as storytellers very seriously and form long-lasting bonds with all of the subjects and the agents of change we feature in our films. This is also true of the actor-advocates we have brought with us on the project. Our relationship begins long before and remains long after the camera stops rolling. Through our conversations with our subjects prior to filming, and with the record that our previous body of work demonstrates, we are able to develop trust and demonstrate the quality and integrity [with] which they will be profiled. Trust is developed with subjects the same way friendships are developed between any people — through conversation, through shared experiences, through serious dialogue, and through moments of joy and laughter — and tears — where our shared goals and hopes all lie.

All the survivors — both adults and minors — we work with in our films are individuals who find the process of participating in the project empowering and rewarding, and [this] helps them to move forward and shed the shame and guilt that have weighed on them as victims. They all take their participation very seriously and all shared with us their desire to let their own story and experience help others to avoid similar fates or pitfalls. They wish to use their traumatic experiences and their survival as a beacon.

6. Was it difficult to convince the subjects to share their stories on camera? Was there a common factor that drew all of the subjects to agree to share their stories publicly through *A Path Appears*?

What is difficult is to find the right subjects, not only for this film, but for any documentary film with this nature of sensitive storytelling.

As a team, we need to look for more than one kind of story or experience, so that various facets of the story can be told, and we also need to find subjects who are emotionally prepared to share their story in this kind of way. Months of conversations and discussions take place to secure participation and work with our subjects. However, we have found that our participants on the whole are empowered by the possibility of sharing their story. Their first instinct is to want to share what happened to them, in hopes of helping others in the same situation. They appreciate being heard, and one of the most devastating experiences for them as subject is when they are not taken seriously or believed; they know in our filmmaking team that they have experienced and sympathetic "listeners" who know what they are talking about and what they have been through. We most certainly have not been through the same kind of trauma they have, but we know and care and trust our subjects, and hope and believe that they feel that.

7. What was your process for selecting the local experts on the ground in each story? And the celebrity activists?

We went into finding the stories for *A Path Appears* as we do with most films — very rigorously, with a certain focus in mind both in terms of subject matter and geography. In conjunction with Kristof and WuDunn, our team does extensive research on the people and organizations that are making an impact, and whose models are proven, scalable, and replicable. Once a good potential story was identified, we began extensive conversations with the local NGOs and activists, understanding their work and the types of stories that we would be able to capture if we were to film with them. Every potential story goes through multiple rounds of phone conversations with the subjects, vetting with other experts in the field, followed by in-person meetings, and on-the-ground scouting to determine both the strength of the work and of the stories that we will be able to capture.

The actor-advocates who travel with us are chosen based on both their own interest in and commitment to social justice and human rights issues, and their desire to raise the visibility of the work we are profiling. All of them have issues and causes to which they have already devoted a great deal of their time, although frequently we invite them on trips that are not directly related to their prior work so they can bring fresh eyes to the subject. There are always many logistical and scheduling details that have to be worked out with such busy and high-profile celebrities, but we've found that the actor-advocates who inevitably do travel with us are the ones who are immediately enthusiastic and positive about the invitation. In building our roster, we always have an eye toward diversity, not only diversity of race and age, but also diversity in terms of their prior knowledge about the subjects, and the life experiences that they bring. The nine celebrities who traveled with us for *A Path Appears* were an amazing group of dedicated individuals, and we feel each one was a unique and valuable addition to the series.

8. What message do you hope viewers will take from *A Path Appears*?

I hope that people will leave the series having been transported by incredible storytelling and filmmaking, understanding that there are real issues out in the world that deserve and require our attention and that importantly, there are solutions to the issues of sex trafficking, teen pregnancy, child labor, gender-based violence, poverty, and the overall cycle of vulnerability and exploitation that keeps so many people trapped in these situations. We wanted people to become aware, but to embrace and engage, understanding that they can have an impact and be part of sustainable change. We also want to shine a light on amazing people in our world doing incredible work to help others in peril. The film deals with incredibly difficult subject matter, and the stories are heartbreaking, but the overall message is intended to be a positive and hopeful one. We do know that early intervention, local leadership, and holistic programs that instill hope and empower the recipients work and have a lasting, generational effect. Our viewers have the opportunity every day [to] get involved and contribute toward these solutions. We hope they will seize on that message and become a part of this movement for change.

9. What have you learned from the experience of making *A Path Appears*?

Both *Half the Sky* and *A Path Appears* have been completely life-changing journeys. Before this work, before having the distinct honor of knowing Nick Kristof and having him as my good friend, I did not know very much about these issues at all. I was educated and capable, and of course [I] understood that, as Nick would say, "I had won the lottery of life," but I did not understand the web of pathologies that conspire to keep women and girls in the world from fulfilling their potential and living happy and valued lives. It was so important, as a citizen of our planet, to engage in these and other issues and get involved! As we often found, in the worst circumstances and the most daunting places, we met the most amazing people. Out of hardship comes a resilience that is frankly humbling. Everyone at my company Show of Force and specifically the dedicated producers of these two series — Jamie Gordon, Jeff Dupre, Josh Bennett, Mira Chang, Rachel Koteen, and Jessica Chermayeff — as well as the incredible postproduction team and editors Howard Sharp and Donna Shepherd, we discuss regularly how this has brought us together and brought meaning and value to our work. I have never before had so many young people contact my company asking to work on a project — or [express] how impressed they are by the stories we have been able to share with our audience. This is also true because these are not just television series, far from it. These are among the most successful social media campaigns in the world; we have a following of millions around the globe and have created extensive educational content,

and games. We all learned what a "movement" is ... what it can be, and how we can be part of it. This is the project that makes me proud to tell my daughter about what we do all day.

10. What's it like to work with Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn? What was it like to produce the film alongside the development of the book?

Nick and Sheryl are our colleagues, our teachers, and our friends. They are not always right, they don't always know everything — because they're human beings, covering a lot of territory and with a lot of responsibility. But they are always investigators and humanitarians. I admire them daily for being so tenacious, and I truly believe they have brought this kind of content forward and into the public eye (at times like [a] drumbeat) and forced people to look, listen, and "do." They also had the bright idea of letting the audience know that doing good for others will make you happier at the end of the day. We feel that way now as well.

Working in tandem on *A Path Appears*, as opposed to creating our content based on an existing book, had some tricky elements to it. One interesting element for us as filmmakers is that sometimes we found stories, and sometimes Nick and Sheryl found them — and we shared and discussed how that worked. Many more stories are in the book, and also some are more suited for text and not camera; it was interesting as a team to sort out that difference. It was extremely fun for us (gave us some bragging rights!) that we found many subjects and stories and essentially pitched them to Nick and Sheryl — and many of those are in the series and also in the book. It was fascinating to see how Nick and Sheryl would tell those stories in the context of the book, and then watch how they play[ed] out in the series. Of course for television we want and need the stories to be unfolding; the drama and stakes have to be seen and experienced — not told "after-the-fact," which in writing can be infused with drama. In the case of film ... if you don't see it ... essentially you don't know it happened.

11. Please share a few memories or experiences that stand out to you from your time in production.

Following are moments that will stay with me forever:

1. We as a team were integrally and directly involved in finding a young girl, missing for over three months: [S]uddenly, without preparation, Nick found her on a trafficking site, in the presence of her shocked and frightened mother and father. She was rescued within 12 hours by the Boston Police. We felt very lucky, but also angry. But it gave us an immediate understanding that with focus and attention to detail, young girls can be found, and pulled out of the life — and very fast.
2. Going into a Kenyan prison to talk to the man who had repeatedly been raping his granddaughter Flavian. It was dark, cold, and raining — and Nick and our producer in the field, Jessica Chermayeff, and myself had been following the story all day. In the end, we had to be fair and talk to everyone, and have everyone surrounding the story know and understand the rights release [in order] to film their stories. It was hard, it felt dangerous, but we felt we were on the right side of a horrible situation, and we were dedicated to helping this young girl. Today she is in school, and in recovery with extensive support from the NGO we worked so closely with, Shining Hope for Communities. Every day, they actually change lives for the better.
3. Driving around Nashville with Shana, and seeing the women on the street; understanding how they got there, and seeing an American city in an entirely new light. Shana is a powerful and incredibly honest person — I may never have met someone like her if I had not gone so deeply into a film trying to reveal the realities of sex trafficking in this country. I would have driven by, unaware ... I would have seen only one side of Nashville ... and there is another side. She opened my eyes, and she made me see the power of possibility.
4. The slums of Kibera in the mud rain. It is one of my favorite places on earth: the mud, the smell, the children, the world within a world — and the reality that millions and millions of people live like this in slums all over the world. Go there. You will never turn on your tap and drink a glass of water again without a reality check, and it may make you stand up and do something. Seriously!
5. The first shock of seeing an 11-year-old girl in Cartagena holding her week-old baby. She looked terrified. And I was scared for her. She didn't know she had to hold his head. He looked a little nervous too, but like all babies, he really looked right into the eyes of his mother and felt love. It was hard to understand how they could go forward together, but there they were, and there was only [moving] forward.
6. Haiti: It takes an hour and a half to get there on American Airlines ... put that in your pipe and smoke it. Insane. And we all play a part in that insanity. So chip in.
7. The girls from [the] Kibera School for Girls: Love love love them all. Kennedy and Jessica Odede — nothing but respect and love and their school is miraculous and hopeful. Little Ida, the most adorable smile on earth; "juicy sentences" being formed in the classroom; Eunice's poetry on the power of a dream. Take the time to learn more about this incredible school and how you can support their important work.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Teenage Pregnancy in Colombia

“I cannot ignore the reality here and what surrounds me...I cannot imagine myself doing anything else.”

– **Catalina Escobar Restrepo, Founder and President of the Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar (Juanfe) Foundation**

“The world desperately needs to help kids avoid unintended pregnancies — for their sake and for the sake of their children.”

– **Nicholas Kristof, Journalist and Co-Author of *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity***

Individuals Featured in This Episode

- **Nicholas Kristof** — Journalist; Co-author, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*
- **Sheryl WuDunn** — Journalist; Co-author, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*
- **Eva Longoria** — Actor/Advocate
- **Catalina Escobar Restrepo** — Founder and president, the Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar (Juanfe) Foundation

COLOMBIA IN CONTEXT

Colombia is one of the most populous nations in South America but also has a highly stratified society influenced by a colonial past. Traditionally, rich families of Spanish descent have benefited from the country’s wealth to a far greater degree than the majority, whose cultural and racial heritage is a combination of indigenous, African, and European ancestry. The extreme economic disparity and limited social mobility led to a long history of political unrest that included the rise of left-wing activists and insurgents and brutal, right-wing paramilitary groups. In recent years, the country has been working to change the global image of Colombia as a troubled nation associated with drugs and kidnapping.

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Colombia is a middle-income country, but development is slower to take hold in rural areas and among the millions of people uprooted by conflict (2008). Adolescent fertility is high, and the maternal mortality rate indicates substantial gaps in health services. Inequalities exist in the access to contraception, according to wealth: 75 percent for women at the richest level, compared to 67.5 percent for women who are less wealthy (Naciones Unidas en Colombia, 2014). A 2010 report by Profamilia in collaboration with the Colombia Ministry of Social Protection and the Directorate of Public Health highlighted a decline in fertility rates of adolescents aged 15 to 19: from 90 per 1,000 women in 2005 to 84 per 1,000 women in 2010. However, roughly “16% of adolescents were already mothers, 4% were pregnant with their first child, and 20% had been pregnant at least once” (Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], 2012). The risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes is four times as high for adolescents under the age of 16 than it is for women over 16. Pregnant adolescents are also more likely to have preterm or low-birth-weight babies, and newborns of teenagers have higher rates of neonatal mortality (Naciones Unidas en Colombia, 2014). Legal abortions are only available in Colombia when the mother or baby is at risk.

Sexual education became obligatory across Colombia in the 1990s in the hope that young people would have a place to discuss questions and concerns about reproductive health—conversations which are perceived as taboo in many communities. Efforts to provide education and free contraception have been problematic. In a country that is 90 percent Catholic, resistance to these policies from the Catholic Church has had a notable impact. Representatives of the church have expressed concern that the programs were promoting ideas of sex over abstinence.

In 2006, Colombia implemented a pilot project in four cities to improve sexual and reproductive health education in schools called Education for Sexuality and Citizenship Construction. This curriculum was based in civil rights and covered sexuality and reproductive and sexual health.

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Juanfe: Catalina Escobar Restrepo, Educating Teenage Mothers

"Our main goal here is to break the poverty cycle... We do a 360° intervention."

— Catalina Escobar Restrepo, Founder and President of the Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar (Juanfe) Foundation

Catalina Escobar Restrepo started her career in the private financial sector, but after experiencing the tragic death of her son, Juan Felipe, in the year 2000, she and her family were inspired to found the Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar (Juanfe) Foundation to address the ongoing poverty and social inequality in Cartagena, with a focus on the high rate of teenage pregnancy.

Restrepo's active leadership in the social sector has made her a widely recognized trailblazer with a great social-business spirit. She is also providing an example for leadership among Colombia's youth. In May of 2012, she was among the 25 women chosen worldwide for the Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership. She was also elected an "Innovative Leader" by *Poder* magazine in 2008 and chosen as one of the "100 Leaders of Colombian Society" by *Gerente* magazine in 2011.

HISTORY OF JUANFE

The Gomez Escobar family based Juanfe's structure on business models, with the goal of helping to save the lives of thousands of children who are dying because of the lack of resources in hospitals and clinics throughout the city. Initially, Juanfe committed itself to serving the impoverished communities by improving the quality of, and access to, health care for children and by providing support to marginalized teenage mothers.

Juanfe then began to pursue its two primary objectives: The first is to reduce child mortality through the Crib Sponsorship Program and the Juan Felipe Medical Center, and the second is to train teenage mothers through the Teenage Mothers Program and the Teenage Mothers Extension Program.

Juanfe determined that in order to design a socially committed organization, it needed to understand the problem. The Foundation studied the statistics on infant mortality and teenage pregnancy and how this data connected with global policies such as the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Based on this research, the Foundation was designed as a social enterprise that would be managed and administered as any large company but measuring success not by profits but by the social impact created.

In September 2011, the Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar Foundation opened a new main headquarters in Cartagena: the Social Center. The building includes classrooms for workshops, a cafeteria, the administrative offices, the Comprehensive Child Development Center, the Juan Felipe Medical Center, an auditorium, and gardens. The beneficiaries of the programs of the Foundation are children under 5 years of age, teenage mothers and their children, and the marginalized communities of the city.

Source:

- » Fundación Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar. 2014. juanfe.org

Prejudice, Poverty, and Prevention: The Complex Issue of Teenage Pregnancy

When countries work to address teenage pregnancy, the first course of action is often aimed at influencing and changing the behaviors and choices of girls. This approach highlights the entrenched belief that teenage pregnancy is a girls' problem and ignores the roles and responsibilities of boys as well as the social and economic pressures that contribute to the issue.

According to the UNFPA, governments and communities need to take a different approach: "Instead of viewing the girl as the problem and changing her behavior as the solution, governments, communities, families, and schools should see poverty, gender inequality, discrimination, lack of access to services, and negative views about girls and women as the real challenges. The true pathway to fewer adolescent pregnancies is through the pursuit of social justice, equitable development, and the empowerment of girls" (2013).

Teenage pregnancy is also a human rights issue. When a pregnant girl is pressured or forced to leave school, she is denied her right to an education. And, the UNFPA stresses, "A girl who is forbidden from accessing contraception or even information about preventing a pregnancy is denied her right to health."

Girls who do become pregnant need support, not stigma. The UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree that what is needed is a shift away from narrow interventions targeted at girls, toward broad-based approaches that build and recognize girls' value (CDC, 2014; WHO, 2014; UNFPA 2013 [a or b]).

Sources:

- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2014. "Teen Pregnancy: The Importance of Prevention." cdc.gov/teen-pregnancy
- » Guttmacher, 2012: guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-Teen-Sex-Ed.html
- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2013a. "I Am Not a Lost Cause! Young Women's Empowerment and Teenage Pregnancy in the Pacific."
- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2013b. "The State of World Population 2013: Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy." unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/UNFPA%20SWOP%20Supplement_1%20am%20Not%20a%20Lost%20Cause.pdf
- » unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf
- » World Health Organization (WHO). 2014. "Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health." who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/en/

Fast Facts: Teen Pregnancy

Adolescent pregnancy radically changes the lives of young women and young men. The negative consequences of teenage parenthood are disproportionately disruptive for girls. A girl's education may end; her job prospects evaporate; and her vulnerabilities to poverty, exclusion, and dependency multiply.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY WORLDWIDE

- Twenty thousand adolescent girls give birth every day, about 16 million every year—most in low- and middle-income countries (UNFPA, 2013).
- Seventy thousand adolescent girls die annually from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth (UNFPA, 2014).
- Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 years in many low- and middle-income countries (WHO, 2014).
- “Stillbirths and newborn deaths are 50% higher among infants born to adolescent mothers than among those born to mothers aged 20–29 years” (WHO, 2014).
- “Infants of adolescent mothers are more likely to have low birth weight” (WHO, 2014).
- “An estimated three million girls aged 15-19 undergo unsafe abortions worldwide every year” (WHO, 2014).
- “Birth rates among women with low education are higher than for those with secondary or tertiary education. Education is a major protective factor for early pregnancy: the more years of schooling, the fewer early pregnancies” (WHO, 2014).

TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN THE UNITED STATES

- The “United States consistently has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates among industrialized countries, despite the fact that the pregnancy rate has declined dramatically over the past 40 years” (AAPNEWS, 2013).

- “In the United States in 2012, a total of 305,388 babies were born to women aged 15–19 years” (CDC, 2014).
- A national survey found that 13 percent of sexually experienced teenage men had been involved in a pregnancy in 2002 (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy [NCPTUP], 2006).
- “Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls in the United States. Only about 50% of teenage mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, versus approximately 90% of women who had not given birth during adolescence” (CDC, 2014).
- In the United States, “Teen pregnancy continues to affect youth of color disproportionately, with rates for African American women and Latina women ages 15-19 more than double the rate for young white women” (Advocates for Youth, 2013).
- “An estimated nine percent—or 900,000—of young men between the ages of 12 and 16 will become fathers before their twentieth birthday” (Office of Adolescent Health, 2014).
- The behavior of adolescent males is central to preventing teenage pregnancy and childbearing but research has tended to focus on adolescent females. As a result, less is known about how to engage males in preventing teenage pregnancies or their attitudes toward being a father (Office of Adolescent Health, 2014).
- The children of teenage mothers in the United States are more likely to drop out of high school, “have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult” (CDC, 2014).
- Since 1991, the teenage pregnancy rate in the United States has declined 51 percent, and the teenage birth rate has fallen 57 percent (CDC, 2014).
- Declines in teenage pregnancy and teenage birth have occurred in all 50 states and across all racial/ethnic groups (Office of Adolescent Health, 2014).

Sources:

- » Advocates for Youth. 2013. “Unintended Pregnancy among Young People.” researchguides.advocatesforyouth.org/adolescentpregnancy
- » American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). 2013. “Boys Need to Be Included in Discussions about Preventing Teen Pregnancy.” aapnews.aappublications.org/content/34/9/17.1.full
- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2014a. “National Vital Statistics Reports: National and State Patterns of Teen Births in the United States, 1940–2013.” cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_04.pdf
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- » The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (NCPTUP). 2006: thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/SS/SS23_ExpTeens.pdf
- » Office of Adolescent Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. 2014. “Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing.” hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/reproductive-health/teen-pregnancy/trends.html
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- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2013. “The State of World Population 2013: Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy.” unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf
- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2014. “Girl Summit Aims to End Child Marriage and FGM/C.” unfpa.org/public/home/news/pid/17906
- » World Health Organization (WHO). 2014. “Adolescent Pregnancy.” who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/

Let's Hear It for the Boys: Programs for Boys and Young Men

Despite a growing awareness of the importance of involving male adolescents in conversations about reproductive health and rights, there is limited research on and there are few resources targeted to the needs of boys and young men.

INFORMATION IS POWER

Empowering boys and men with the information, community, and resources they need to make healthy choices for themselves helps them make healthy choices for their partners and families.

TARGETED PROGRAMS

Boys and young men need programs that speak in their language and recognize the complex social and cultural pressures that they are facing. Mentors need to acknowledge the barriers to communication that masculine culture constructs and collaborate with youth to examine and break down negative stereotypes surrounding their reproductive health and sexual behaviors.

TEENAGE FATHERHOOD

According to Healthy Teen Network, “There is growing evidence that teen fathers want to be, and are increasingly involved in, their children’s lives through more than just financial support” (Healthy Teen Network). Sadly, there are often few and limited resources for young fathers who seek support and guidance on developing positive responsible relationships as a co-parent.

CAREGIVING COMBATS VIOLENCE

The MenCare Campaign, a collaborative effort between Promundo and the Sonke Gender Justice Network, cites studies that confirm that “men who witness and experience violence growing up are more likely to use violence against children and women later in life, and less likely to participate in the home in a variety of ways when they become fathers” (MenCare, 2014). But there is also substantial evidence that men were less likely to experience violence later in life when raised by fathers who were positively and actively engaged in their households.

MENTORSHIP AND AGENCY

Mentors teach by leading and modeling positive life choices. Successful programs for boys provide opportunities for boys to connect with responsible, caring adult men in their community. They also give the young men the opportunity to take on leadership roles and help shape the programs in ways that make them relevant to their experiences.

Sources:

- » Healthy Teen Network, 2003. “Fast Facts: Supporting Young Male Involvement in Pregnancy Prevention & Parenting.” healthyteennetwork.org/sites/default/files/supporting-young-fathers.pdf
- » Linda Hock-Long, Guttmacher Institute, 2003: guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/3521503.html
- » MenCare. 2014. “What Fathers Have to Do with It: Engaging Men as Caregiving Partners.” men-care.org/data/What%20Fathers%20Have%20to%20do%20with%20it.pdf
- » US Department of Health and Human Services: aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/get-organized99/ch4.pdf

A Path Appears: Bang for the Buck

Comprehensive sex education programs in schools and communities and publicly funded clinics have been demonstrated to be among the best investments in curbing teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. As discussed in *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, one study by the Guttmacher Institute found that without publicly funded contraception, the rate of unintended pregnancies among teenagers would be 73 percent higher (CNN, 2014).

In addition to the financial and health costs to the parents, the social costs of unintended pregnancy are high. In 2011, teenage pregnancy and childbirth cost U.S. taxpayers \$9.4 billion in services, including increased health care and foster care, increased incarceration rates among children of teenage parents, and lost tax revenue because of lower income among teenage mothers (CDC, 2014; NCPTUP, 2014).

Each dollar invested in contraception programs pays high dividends, yet funding for Title X—the federal grant program providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services—has decreased by more than two-thirds since 1980. A recent public-private partnership in Colorado demonstrated the positive impact of improving access and training. The Colorado Family Planning Initiative (CFPI) sought to address these barriers with the help of partial private funding to provide long-acting contraception. As a result, teenage pregnancy in Colorado dropped 40 percent between 2009 and 2013 with a \$42-million-dollar savings in health care costs to the state (Guttmacher, 2014; CNN, 2014). The authors of the study suggest that the initiative could serve as a model for family planning coverage under the Affordable Care Act funded by public money.

Learn more about this issue and the individuals and organizations who are making a measurable difference in the book *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

Sources:

- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2014. “Teen Pregnancy: About Teen Pregnancy.” cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about-teenpreg.htm
- » CNN. 2014. “Colorado Teen Birthrate Drops 40% with Low-Cost Birth Control.” edition.cnn.com/2014/07/10/health/colorado-teen-pregnancy
- » Guttmacher Institute. 2014a. “Game Change in Colorado: Widespread Use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives and Rapid Decline in Births Among Young, Low-Income Women.” guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/46e1714.html
- » Guttmacher Institute. 2014b. “In Brief: Fact Sheet: Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States.” guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.html
- » National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (NCPTUP). 2014. “Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing.” thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/public-cost#

Roots and Costs

According to WHO, “Adolescent pregnancy is a major contributor to maternal and child mortality, and to the vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty” (2014). In the United States, about 85 percent of teenage pregnancies are unplanned. The Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General in 2010, is working to improve the health and welfare of teenage girls in order to achieve the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on maternal mortality reduction.

ROOTS

There is a broad range of complex forces that contributes to teenage pregnancy, including social norms and attitudes, access to resources and services, and a lack of support and communication across genders.

The *Voices of Youth (VOY)* blog, founded by UNICEF in 1995, identifies the following as the primary root causes of teenage pregnancy (2013):

- Child marriage
- Gender inequality
- Obstacles to human rights
- Poverty
- Sexual violence and coercion
- National policies restricting access to contraception and age-appropriate sexuality education
- Lack of access to education and reproductive health services
- Underinvestment in teenage girls’ human capital

Economic security also has a substantial impact on a young woman’s confidence when making decisions about her body and her health. A study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, “Cash, Cars, and Condoms: Economic Factors in Disadvantaged Adolescent Women’s Condom Use,” illustrates the intersection of economic and personal independence: “Women whose boyfriend was their primary spending money source were 50% more likely never to use condoms at 6 and 12 months and less likely to respond to the intervention at 12 months. Women whose boyfriend had been their primary spending money source but found another spending money source were more likely to start using condoms than women who continued. Women whose boyfriends owned cars were more likely never to use condoms” (2012).

COSTS

Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls in the United States. According to the CDC, only about “50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, versus approximately 90% of women who had not given birth during adolescence. The children of teenage parents are more likely to have lower school achievement and drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.” (CDC, 2014).

Teenage pregnancy and childbirth are economic burdens as well. In the United States, teenage pregnancy costs over \$9 billion annually for increased health care and foster care, and additional long-term costs include lost tax revenue because of lower educational attainment and income among teenage mothers and fathers (CDC, 2014).

Sources:

- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2014. “Teen Pregnancy: About Teen Pregnancy.” cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about-teenpreg.htm
- » *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2012. “Cash, Cars, and Condoms: Economic Factors in Disadvantaged Adolescent Women’s Condom Use.” [jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(11\)00672-0/abstract](http://jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(11)00672-0/abstract)
- » The National Campaign, 2013: thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/public-cost#
- » UNFPA, 2013: unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf
- » *Voices of Youth (VOY)*. 2013. “Adolescent Pregnancy.” voicesofyouth.org/es/posts/adolescent-pregnancy
- » World Health Organization (WHO). 2014. “Adolescent Pregnancy.” who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/

What Is Needed?

Teenagers are the future and the choices and opportunities they have during this period in life will impact their development and the health of their communities and societies. Here are a few strategies that may help teenagers make informed decisions and build a better future:

INVEST IN GIRLS

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), “Many of the actions by governments and civil society that have lowered adolescent fertility were designed to achieve *other objectives*, such as keeping girls in school, preventing HIV infection, or stopping child marriage” (2013). Investing in girls at every level expands their opportunities and helps them to delay pregnancy until they are ready to start their own family.

EDUCATION IS KEY

Girls and boys gain immediate and long-term benefits from education. Education’s protective power provides girls with the skills to think critically and make informed decisions, and offers alternatives to early marriage. It can also prepare girls for a range of adult roles beyond the traditional roles, with benefits for the girls and their families and communities.

PROVIDE SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR TEENAGERS

Adolescents often lack access to and information about contraceptives and their use. They may not know where to find resources or be frightened of the stigma associated with asking for help. Barriers also include opposition by a male partner, cultural taboos about contraception or teenage sexuality, costs, and concerns about privacy and confidentiality.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Age-appropriate sex education provides young people with opportunities to examine attitudes and values and to better understand how to make informed decisions about their sexual lives. Teenagers have “a right to comprehensive sexuality education through several human rights agreements and documents, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (UNFPA, 2010).

END SEXUAL COERCION AND VIOLENCE

Sexual violence usually refers to sexual intercourse that is physically forced, especially rape, but often includes forcing or attempting to force another individual through violence, threats, verbal insistence, deception, cultural expectations, or economic circumstance to engage in sexual behavior against his or her will. Successful strategies include sexual violence prevention resources and policies, stronger sentences for perpetrators, and comprehensive survivor services.

INVEST IN YOUNG MOTHERS

Much can be done to reduce the harmful health, social, and economic effects of pregnancy on girls. Ensuring access to services for pregnant teenagers or new mothers often means providing financial support for health care and diet, advice about breastfeeding, help returning to school or training, shelter and services if they have been rejected by their families, and contraceptive or birth-spacing information and services.

START EARLY

The UNFPA highlights the importance of educating preteenage girls, whose needs and vulnerabilities are very different from those of older teenagers (2013). Successful programs highlight gender equality, poverty reduction, and the importance of education, and also examine the economic incentives for child marriages.

ENGAGE BOYS AND MEN

The gender-related attitudes expressed by men and boys directly affect the health and well-being of women and girls. Promoting gender equality by empowering women and engaging men is fundamental to achieving a number of development objectives, such as reducing poverty and improving sexual and reproductive health, and it also improves the health of communities as well as individuals.

STOP THE SHAME

The reality is that many curricula, discussions, and public service campaigns that seek to deter teenage sexuality and prevent teenage pregnancy are rooted in shaming teenagers and depicting teenage pregnancy and parenting as the worst possible outcome for a young person. By highlighting perceived “negative” narratives about teenage parenthood, anti-teenage-pregnancy campaigns and messages perpetuate a cultural narrative that shames young people for their sexuality, ensuring that policies and attitudes toward young people are slow to evolve (UNFPA, 2013).

Sources:

- » CDC, 2014: cdc.gov/teenpregnancy
- » Gloria Malone, RH Reality Check, 2013: rhrealitycheck.org/article/2013/11/22/shame-from-all-angles-why-doesnt-anyone-seem-to-respect-teen-parents
- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2010. "Comprehensive Sexuality Education: Advancing Human Rights, Gender Equality and Improved Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Report on an International Consultation to Review Current Evidence and Experience." unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/groups/youth/public/Comprehensive%20Sexuality%20Education%20Advancing%20Human%20Rights%20Gender%20Equality%20and%20Improved%20SRH-1.pdf
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- » United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2013b. "The State of World Population 2013: Motherhood in Childhood: Facing the Challenge of Adolescent Pregnancy." unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp2013/EN-SWOP2013-final.pdf
- » WHO, 2014: who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/en
- » advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/thirdeditionexecutivesummary.pdf

Thinking More Deeply

1. What insights did the film give you into the status of teenage pregnancy in the United States? What information surprised you the most?
2. Why is it important to address the issue of unintended teenage pregnancy? Discuss how it affects children, families, communities, and nations.
3. What impact has teenage pregnancy had on your life/family/community? Do you have insight into teenage parenting that you can share?
4. Who is responsible for preventing pregnancy?
5. What role should boys and men play in addressing the issue? How does teenage pregnancy impact boys and young men?
6. How is teenage pregnancy connected to the cycle of poverty?
7. What is your response to campaigns that attempt to curb teenage pregnancy by stigmatizing teenage parenthood? What are the best ways to address this issue?
8. How do you feel about Catalina Escobar Restrepo's decision to turn her personal tragedy into social action?
9. In the film, Eva Longoria expresses her anger at what she perceives as the "relaxed attitude" toward teenage pregnancy in the community she visits in Cartagena. She says that teenage pregnancy is a choice. Do you agree? Based on what you saw in the film, what are some of the factors that may have led these young women to "choose" to get pregnant?
10. How do you feel about the selection process that Restrepo and Juanfe use to recruit new participants into the program?
11. Longoria praised the programs at Juanfe and said that it was refreshing to see a program that was addressing teenage pregnancy beyond condoms and birth control. What was your impression of the programs offered at Juanfe?
12. Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn debate whether the cost per resident is as good an investment as improving prevention programs. Do you think this program gives enough bang for the buck? Is this an efficient model that could be used in the United States?
13. There is a wide economic gap in Colombia that is tied in with politics of race and the country's colonial history. Kristof and Longoria mention that Restrepo comes from an affluent background and Longoria praises her strong personality and direct approach to interacting with the girls in the Cartagena slums. In what ways does her position benefit or hinder her ability to engage with and understand the community of girls she is working with? How does her background inform the direction her program model is taking?
14. Is there a risk that providing teenage mothers in Cartagena with skills training and educational opportunities—that would otherwise be unavailable—could incentivize teenage pregnancy rather than prevent it?
15. In the book *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, Kristof and WuDunn talk about Options for Youth, a Chicago-based program that provides school-based support to teenage mothers to help them complete their education and build their plans for the future (options4youth.org). The program has helped over four thousand adolescent mothers, and 70 percent of the girls go on to graduate from high school (twice the national average for teenage moms). Compare the residential model of Juanfe with the Options for Youth program and discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each approach.

Suggestions for Action

1. **What's your path?** Join the global movement to educate women and girls and improve the quality of life for all children. Visit our website to find out how to host a screening of *A Path Appears* with your friends, family, community, or organization and facilitate a discussion of the film and the book that inspired it: pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears
2. **Be a change agent!** Learn more about the Children's Aid Society's Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (stopteenpregnancy.childrensaidsociety.org) and check out the tools and resources at The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (thenationalcampaign.org).
3. **Meeting the goal?** Find out more about how addressing teenage pregnancy can help end poverty. In September 2000, the United Nations (UN) signed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the aim of halving the number of people living in poverty, reducing child mortality, fighting disease, and improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries by 2015. Learn more about the Millennium Campaign's focus on women and find out how you can help:
 - UN Millennium Development Goals: un.org/millenniumgoals
 - End Poverty 2015: endpoverty2015.org
 - The "Get Involved" section of the UN MDGs website: un.org/millenniumgoals/getinvolved.shtml
 - The "Millennium Development Goals" section of the UN Women website: unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/the-gender-dimension-of-the-millennium-development-goals-report-2013
 - MDG Monitor: mdgmonitor.org
4. **Education is power** ... for young moms and young fathers! Learn more about Options for Youth and their school-based programs that provide training and individual support to pregnant or parenting high school women and their young children. While you're there, find out about their Peer Advocates for Health project that trains adolescent males to be advocates for male and female health: options4youth.org.
5. **Lend a Hand.** Get involved in an area chapter of CARE and connect with the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA). CARE and the CEDPA are among the many organizations and campaigns that have partnered with the Women and Girls Lead initiative of the Independent Television Service (ITVS) to improve the lives of millions of people around the world. See womenandgirlslead.org for more details.
 - The "Get Involved" section of the CARE website: care.org/get-involved
 - CEDPA: cedpa.org

For additional discussion questions and ideas for facilitated activities that may be adapted for a variety of audiences and age groups, visit pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears/resources to download the *A Path Appears* salon guide and lesson plans.

Resources

To purchase a DVD of the film *A Path Appears*, visit shoppbs.org.

To purchase the book, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, visit apathappears.org.

Note: The following resource descriptions are adapted from language provided on the organizations' websites.

pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears — Hosted by ITVS, this is the online source for discussion guides, lesson plans, and a salon guide for the film.

juanfe.org/en/https://juanfe.org/en — The Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar Foundation is an organization for the social protection of children and adolescents in Colombia, with the capacity to generate high social impact, as well as to be an organization recognized for its models of intervention, efficiency, and accountability.

thenationalcampaign.org — The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization grounded in science and working to improve the lives of this generation and the next.

- **Too Young (video):**
thenationalcampaign.org/resource/too-young
- **Demasiado Joven (video):**
thenationalcampaign.org/resource/demasiado-joven

options4youth.org — Options for Youth has school-based programs that provide training and individual support to pregnant or parenting high school women and their young children.

stopteenpregnancy.childrensaidsociety.org — The Children's Aid Society's Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program has comprehensive initiatives that provide education, resources, and empowerment programs for girls and boys.

insightstpp.org — Insights is one of the few nonprofit agencies in the United States devoted exclusively to the needs of parenting adolescents and their children.

care-international.org — CARE International is an organization fighting poverty and injustice in more than 70 countries around the world and helping 65 million people each year to find routes out of poverty.

everymothercounts.org — Every Mother Counts is an advocacy and mobilization campaign to increase education and support for maternal and reproductive health globally.

amnesty.org — Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights.

globalhealth.org — The Global Health Council is the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health throughout the world.

ippf.org — The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights in 172 countries.

mariestopes.org — Marie Stopes International is a leading provider of sexual and reproductive health care services to six million people every year in more than 40 countries.

msf.org — Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, health care exclusion, and natural or man-made disasters.

nationalcompadresnetwork.com — The National Compadres Network is a national project whose focus is the reinforcement of the positive involvement of Latino males in the lives of their families, communities, and society.

who.int/pmnych/en — The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health is a partnership to support the global health community in working successfully toward achieving MDGs four and five.

savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGlpI4E/b.6115947/k.8D6E/Official_Site.htm — Save the Children is an organization that works to save and improve children's lives in 120 countries worldwide.

stayteen.org — Stay Teen provides honest information for teens about sex, love, relationships, delaying sex, contraception, and related topics. It is run by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

unfpa.org — The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man, and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

whiteribbonalliance.org — The White Ribbon Alliance is an international coalition created to ensure that pregnancy and childbirth are safe for all women and newborns in every country around the world.

womendeliver.org — Women Deliver is a global advocacy organization bringing together voices from around the world to call for action to improve the health and well-being of girls and women.

girlsinc.org — Girls Inc. provides programs that inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold through life-changing programs and experiences that help girls navigate gender-related, economic, and social barriers.

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ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning independently produced documentaries and dramas on public television and cable, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning series *Independent Lens* on PBS. ITVS receives core funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people.

ITVS's **Women and Girls Lead** is a strategic public media initiative to support and sustain a growing international movement to empower women and girls, their communities, and future generations. Women and Girls Lead is supported by CPB and Eileen Fisher, Inc. To learn more, visit womenandgirlslead.org

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SHOW OF FORCE

Founded in 2006 by veteran television producers Maro Chermayeff and Jeff Dupre, Show of Force is known for creating some of the last decade's most ambitious and creative programs, including feature documentaries, event television series and innovative transmedia projects. Included in its projects to date is the groundbreaking *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, a multi-platform project based on the bestselling book by *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Other recent projects include the Peabody and Emmy Award-winning *Marina Abramovic: The Artist is Present* (HBO), *Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace* (PBS) winner of the 2014 Jury Prize for Best Documentary Short at SXSW, the 6-hour series *Circus* (PBS) and the Emmy Award-Winning 10-hour series *Carrier* (PBS).

