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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rise Up Advocates for Girls, Youth and
Women at the United Nations**

*Advocates from Africa will make their voices heard
at the United Nations General Assembly*

Oakland, CA – [Rise Up](#), based at the Public Health Institute, will participate in the 2016 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, September 19 to 22. Central to UNGA activities is a delegation of girls and women from Malawi and South Africa who will raise their voices for change, celebrate stories of daily courage, and speak with global leaders about the need to invest in the health, education and equity of girls, youth and women everywhere.

Girls, youth and women worldwide face tremendous obstacles in securing their basic human rights. For many, obtaining health, education and economic wellbeing is a systemic challenge that affects them, their families, and their communities. Rise Up understands that even in the face of poverty, violence, and discrimination, girls, youth and women are inspiring agents of change. Investing in them promotes gender equality, contributes to poverty reduction, and improves health outcomes.

Rise Up's Delegates

Memory Banda

Girl Leader and Advisory Board Member, Rise Up, Malawi

Memory Banda is a tireless leader for girls' rights around the world. At age 18, she led Malawi's campaign that culminated in landmark legislation outlawing child marriage through her work with Rise Up and the Girl Empowerment Network of Malawi. Memory works with girl leaders to eliminate child marriage, end sexual initiation practices, and enable girls to finish school. Learn more in her powerful [TED Talk](#), which has more than 1.1 million views.

Grace Kaimila-Kanjo

Africa Regional Senior Advisor, Rise Up, Malawi/South Africa

Grace Kaimila-Kanjo is a 25-year veteran in international development program management and advocacy, working on education, gender, youth, and HIV/AIDS. She works with Rise Up's initiatives as lead advisor on capacity building and advocacy. Grace was instrumental in working with Rise Up partner

the Girl Empowerment Network of Malawi, supporting their campaign resulting in national legislation to end child marriage.

Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning

Founder and Executive Director, Rise Up, U.S.

Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning is a passionate advocate for girls, women and young people. She is the founder and executive director of Rise Up, which impacts the lives of 115 million girls, youth, and women globally. Denise is a Fulbright Scholar whose work has been featured in The New York Times, Ms. Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Guardian, and she now is writing a book about girls' empowerment globally.

Rise Up's participation in UNGA includes:

Social Good Summit

Monday, September 19 at noon

Memory Banda will be speaking the Social Good Summit 2016 about her powerful work with girls.

Clinton Global Initiative, "Girl, Interrupted" Plenary

Tuesday, September 20 at 11:00am

Memory Banda's participation in the Clinton Global Initiative Plenary will feature her inspiring story of the campaign that led to landmark national legislation outlawing child marriage.

Introduction: Oprah Winfrey

Memory Banda, Grace Kaimila-Kanjo and Denise Dunning will also participate in a range of meetings and events with United Nations policymakers and global leaders. These conversations will focus on putting girls, youth and women at the center of development, ensuring that girls, youth and women are included in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and advocating for much needed investments in the health, education and equity of girls, youth and women around the world.

About Rise Up

[Rise Up](http://riseuptogether.org) creates a better future for girls, youth and women globally. Since 2009, Rise Up leaders have successfully advocated for over 100 laws and policies that impact the lives of 115 million girls, youth and women. We invest in visionary leaders, local organizations, and innovative solutions to achieve large-scale change through leadership development, advocacy, grantmaking and storytelling. Rise Up creates sustainable solutions for girls, youth and women in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the United States.

For More Information Please Visit:

www.riseuptogether.org

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