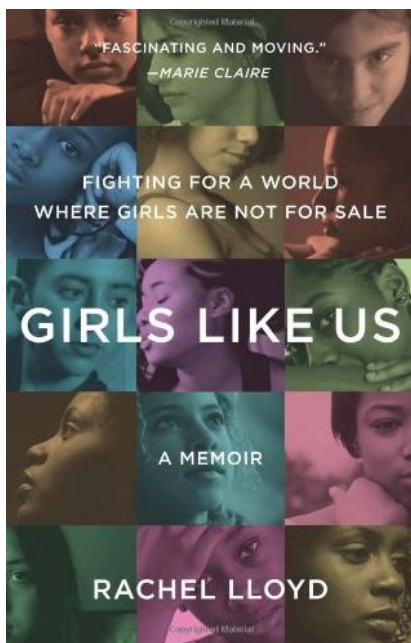


BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION: GIRLS LIKE US

Books can offer a good basis for discussion and further understanding of important subjects, and book clubs can be a great method for NCJW members and supporters to get more involved and active. Reading a book about sex trafficking with a group is an excellent way to raise awareness about the issue of sex trafficking.

Looking for a book recommendation? Look no further...

Girls Like Us, by Rachel Lloyd: *Girls Like Us* is an honest and disturbing look at sex trafficking of American children. Rachel Lloyd tells the stories of victims of commercial sexual exploitation — including her own — with compassion and clarity, and offers informative data illuminating how race, class, and the prevalence of gender-based violence work to create an endless source of victims. This is a compelling book you will want to read to the end.

Invite Rachel Lloyd to Speak! Rachel Lloyd is founder and executive director of GEMS: Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, the only organization in New York State specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. To invite Rachel to speak to your section or at a community anti-trafficking event, contact Jody Rabhan in NCJW's Washington Office (Jody@ncjwdc.org).

Preparation for the Book Club Gathering:

- ▶ Remind participants to be prepared to discuss how the book relates to NCJW's mission.
- ▶ Encourage participants to bring statistics and information about sex trafficking in your community.
- ▶ Confirm location and decide who is bringing snacks and beverages.

Discussion Questions to Consider:

- ▶ What does the author say about 'choice' on pages 78-81? Does she believe trafficking victims choose their fate? Does she think anybody chooses to work in the commercial sex industry? What do you think?

- ▶ The author writes that Americans blame victims of commercial sexual exploitation on pages 11 and 115-132. Under the laws in your state, who is the victim of the sale of sex? Who is the criminal? What would be different if no money were exchanged: are there statutory rape laws in your state?
- ▶ Many factors conspire to make victims vulnerable to trafficking, especially the most marginalized members of society. What are the factors? What does NCJW currently do to address them? What could your section do to address them in your community? For ideas and information visit my.ncjw.org/trafficking.
- ▶ The anti-trafficking movement has been compared to the nascent domestic violence movement years ago. What are the similarities? What are the differences? How do race, class, and gender affect them?
- ▶ Kirkus Reviews wrote *Girls Like Us* “asks readers to examine personal prejudices, find compassion for those most view as throwaways and recognize child abuse however it manifests.” How did the book challenge your views and assumptions? Were you surprised? How can your NCJW section educate your community so they provide trafficking victims compassion and social services, rather than criminal convictions and jail time? For ideas and information visit my.ncjw.org/trafficking.
- ▶ The author writes about stigma and prejudice against trafficking victims as an obstacle to real societal change and personal healing on pages 209-221 and 241-243. Demi Moore writes that after reading *Girls Like Us*, “Never again will you look at young girls on the street as one of ‘those’ women – you will only see little girls who are girls just like us.” Has that happened to you? Have you begun to notice those girls in your community?
- ▶ The author writes that finding meaning in one’s experience and telling one’s story promotes recovery on pages 236-41 and 243-44. How does NCJW use this tool of storytelling?
- ▶ Where do you want your community to be with respect to trafficking in five years? Ten years?
- ▶ Dealing with the misery, violence, and abuse related to trafficking is emotionally upsetting and overwhelming. How can NCJW help volunteers and advocates manage their feelings and avoid emotional burnout while working to end trafficking?

Additional Resource: Watch Rachel Lloyd’s Ted Talk before your book discussion or show her Ted Talk at your book club meeting. Make sure to discuss your impressions: <http://bit.ly/VfuOOH>.

Looking for more book club ideas? Visit <https://www.ncjw.org/act/action-resources/basics-sex-trafficking/>.

Questions? Contact Jody Rabhan in NCJW’s Washington Office (Jody@ncjwdc.org).