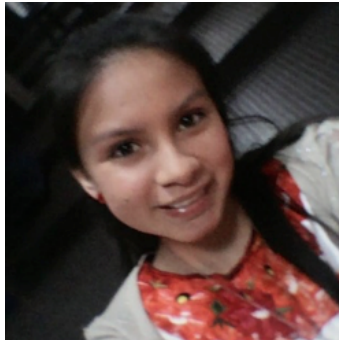


## Global Girls' Voices: Education and Vision for Girls' Rights Panelists



### **IXCHEL | Rise Up Girl Leader, Guatemala**

Ixchel is a 17-year-old indigenous girl from Concepción Chiquirichapa, who has been involved with Rise Up since she was 11 years old. She helped advocate for the passage and implementation of girl-friendly public policies that ensure local government addresses girls' unique needs across health, education, HIV prevention, and family violence prevention. Ixchel is a member of the Municipal Youth Council in La Esperanza, Quetzaltenango.



### **LAVANYA | Girl Up Teen Advisor, United States**

Lavanya is a 16-year-old girl from Fremont, California, who is the leader of the Bay Area Coalition of Girl Up Clubs. As the founding president of her school's Girl Up Club, she organized free public speaking and English camps for over 1,000 underprivileged girls in India, and hosts monthly discussions on issues girls face globally. As a passionate Lincoln-Douglas debater, Lavanya debates about reducing the gender gap and fighting sexism. She is a high school junior.



### **ISRA | Malala Fund Girl Ambassador, Somaliland**

Isra, originally from Somaliland, came to the the United States at age 11 after fleeing her home country during the war. She sought asylum in the US and was granted an opportunity to begin a new life. Challenging all barriers, Isra and her sisters broke the cycle of female illiteracy within their family. She links her faith with values such as equality and human rights. Her dedication to girls' education and gender equality stems from her personal experiences in areas including assimilation, access to opportunities, and confronting stereotypes within her own community.



### **PRECIOUS | Global Girl Media Reporter, United States/Nigeria**

Precious is a high school senior in Southern California. Within her school and community she promotes altruism, advocation and diversity through journalism, and her position as the school's Commissioner of Philanthropy, Black Student Union President, and debate team member. Outside of school, she is passionate about literature and her Nigerian culture. She plans to major in Economics and live the life of a financial advisor, lobbyist and professor.



**SHOBHA RAO | Author & Panel Moderator**

Shobha Rao is the author of the 2016 collection of short stories, "An Unrestored Woman," which focuses on the lives of women during the partition of India and Pakistan. She is the winner of the 2014 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Fiction, awarded by Nimrod International Journal. Shobha has been a resident at Hedgebrook and is the recipient of the Elizabeth George Foundation fellowship. Her story "Kavitha and Mustafa" was chosen by T.C. Boyle for inclusion in the Best American Short Stories 2015.