

'Half the Sky' Examines the Worldwide Oppression of Women and Girls Oct. 1 and 2 on NET1/NET-HD

LINCOLN, Neb. (Sept.19, 2012) – Women and girls around the globe face threats -- trafficking, prostitution, violence and discrimination -- every day of their lives. Now a landmark series based on a book by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn examines the movement for change. “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” airs Monday, Oct. 1, at 8 p.m. CT and Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 9 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

The programs follow six actress-advocates including Diane Lane, America Ferrera, Meg Ryan and Olivia Wilde, as they travel to six countries and meet inspiring, courageous individuals who are confronting oppression and developing solutions through health care, education, and economic empowerment for women and girls. “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” aims to amplify the central message of the book -- that women are not the problem, but the solution -- and to bolster the broad and growing movement for change.

In the Oct. 1 episode, Kristof travels with Eva Mendes to investigate gender-based violence in Sierra Leone; with Meg Ryan to examine sex trafficking in Cambodia; and with Gabrielle Union to Vietnam to see an organization that promotes literacy and equal education for girls.

On Oct. 2, Kristof and Diane Lane learn about efforts to reduce maternal mortality caused by female genital mutilation in Somaliland; Kristof visits India with America Ferrera to see a project that works to break familial traditions of forced prostitution; and with Olivia Wilde, Kristof sees projects in Kenya that empower female entrepreneurship.

A production of “Independent Lens,” “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” is an ambitious transmedia project with robust content across multiple platforms, including the four-hour PBS and international broadcast event, a Facebook-hosted social-action game and mobile games created by Games for Change, two websites, 20 educational video modules with companion text, a social-media campaign supporting over 30 partner NGOs, and an impact assessment plan. For more information, visit: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/half-the-sky/>.

NET1 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET’s website (netNebraska.org/television).

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