

 Print

CLOSE WINDOW

The ChronicleHerald.ca

Published: 2011-03-09

Girls' blog takes action on the issues

By LOIS LEGGE Features Writer

Canadian girls are powered up for some serious talk.

Earlier this week they joined a month-long blogging carnival that goes beyond everyday Facebook chatter.

Organizers expect thousands of girls from coast to coast to comment, once selected guest bloggers get their modems running. Sexual identity and politics, issues facing young immigrant women, cyberspace and other issues will be up for discussion.

The Kickaction Blogging Carnival is a project of Girls Action Foundation, a non-profit organization which tries to empower girls and young women (ages 16 to 25) by giving them forums to express themselves or contribute to their communities.

The carnival's launch March 8 coincided with the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and the foundation's annual National Day of Action, bringing attention to a wide range of issues facing girls.

The foundation started the blogging carnival four years ago to give girls who don't have access to programs an avenue to link up. It wants as many girls as possible to participate in the blogging event, an extension of its regular blogging forum Kickaction.ca.

"The way it works is that once we have our topics, we'll recruit . . . about 15 to 20 young women bloggers who will post on those themes during . . . March and then everyone is invited to comment," says Kickaction co-ordinator Andrea Zoellner.

"The great thing is women from Halifax can connect with women from the Yukon, women from British Columbia. . . . Online blogging opens up boundaries and breaks boundaries and women can connect throughout Canada, which is amazing."

Young women are already connecting about important topics far more than others realize, she says. They face all kinds of pressures — peer pressure, pressure to be thin, pressure to conform.

But they're also willing to speak up for themselves when given support, which the Montreal-based foundation provides through conferences or programs that tackle everything from self-esteem and violence prevention to critical thinking.

(llegge@herald.ca)

CLOSE WINDOW

