



 **connecther**



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Contact:

Lila Igram, Founder

Connecther.org

lila@connecther.org / 512.560.5608 / Facebook.com/connecther / @connecther / #GITW

Lisa Amend, Volunteer Public Relations & Marketing Manager

Ian Somerhalder Foundation

lisa.amend@isfoundation.net / 719.201.3619 / Facebook.com/ISFoundation / @IS_Foundation

The Ian Somerhalder (IS) Foundation and Girls Impact the World Team Up To Present the Green IS Award

In partnership with the Harvard College Social Innovation Collaborative, Connecther.org and its planning team of Harvard students will present the first-ever Green IS award through a unique opportunity for film students to submit a 3-5 minute original film that either 1) proposes solutions to environmental issues impacting women and girls; or 2) creates awareness about environmental issues that impact women and girls. Students who submit their work will have a chance to win \$2500 for their project, which will be presented at the awards ceremony at Harvard's Girls Impact the World Red Carpet Film Showing in 2014.

The Green IS award was born when Connecther.org founder Lila Igram attended the Global Good Summit in Austin, Texas where Ian Somerhalder was speaking about the work of the IS Foundation. Through a directive of the Harvard Office of Sustainability, the founders of the two like-minded organizations decided to create the opportunity for students to address environmental issues.

The first annual Girls Impact the World Film Festival (GITW) was held at Harvard College this past February, 2013. GITW calls on high school and college students to submit original short films that address global women's issues such as: education for girls, maternal health, violence against women and girls, economic independence and a variety of other issues. Monetary prizes of more than \$20,000 are awarded by a distinguished panel of judges and the winning

submissions are screened at Harvard College.

“We are thrilled to be partnering with the Ian Somerhalder Foundation to offer this award,” said Lila Igram, founder of Connecther.org. “Our organization focuses solely on global issues that impact women and girls who often times lack opportunities to advance themselves. For instance, women and girls in developing countries often walk 6 kilometers a day to carry 20 litres of water. This greatly reduces the amount of time they have for productive work or school. We find this alarming and work diligently to implement change through education and collaboration.”

“Meeting Lila and learning about the work of Connecther.org and the Girls Impact the World Film Festival was a life-altering experience,” said Ian Somerhalder, president of the Ian Somerhalder Foundation. “Our philosophy at the IS Foundation is that we are all part of one interconnected organism. Nature is something we are all part of, not separated from. Because we are all part of each other, there is no room in this world for disparity. Literally everything we do impacts everyone and everything else on the planet. Think about that. Women have literally been the driving force in my life since the day I was born. I would not be the person I am today without the virtue, wisdom and energy of any of these amazing women who taught me respect, compassion and integrity. Plus, young people have some of the most creative minds on the planet. I can’t wait to see the film submissions. I am sure that the solutions they come up with for some of these challenges and will blow our minds!”

For a full list of eligibility requirements and procedures, please visit <http://www.connecther.org/gitw/guidelines>

About Connecther.org: Connecther is a global communication and crowd-funding platform working to advance women and girls globally. We seek to end global poverty by partnering with donors, non-profits and other stakeholders that focus on aiding women and children in their quest for self-reliance.

Connecther provides a platform for matching donors to projects that provide poverty alleviation services to women and children in their quest for self-reliance. We help our project partners raise funds and awareness via our communications & crowd-funding platforms insuring that givers' contributions are invested to make the biggest positive impact. For more information, please visit www.connecther.org

About the Girls Impact the World Film Festival:

The Girls Impact the World Film Festival provides a platform for students to share their stories about advancing women and girls around the world. Our goal is to tell stories about girls and women that raise awareness, envision in film the possibilities of our time for females globally, and propose solutions, all the while providing the young adult voice an outlet in a compelling medium.. The first annual Girls Impact the World Film Festival (GITW) was held at Harvard College in February of 2013. For more information, please visit <http://www.connecther.org/gitw/>

About the Ian Somerhalder Foundation: Founded by actor/activist Ian Somerhalder, the Ian Somerhalder Foundation (ISF) is a 501 (c)(3) public charity that aims to educate, empower and collaborate with people and projects that positively impact the planet and its creatures. We are a team of individuals who view the environment as an interconnected organism of which we are not separate but a part. Therefore, we believe that our solutions to issues of sustainability and survivability must be enacted in an interconnected manner. For more information, please visit www.isfoundation.com.