The idea of devoting a special issue of *Girlhood Studies* to what Jonathan Bock (2012) calls technologies of nonviolence comes at a critical time in girlhood studies. On the one hand, technology—especially digital technology—and various social media platforms are firmly entrenched in the everyday lives of many young people around the world. On the other, questions regarding who has access to technology and how technology is used and abused continue to dominate the fields of girlhood studies in particular and of youth studies more broadly. Nowhere is this more evident than in relation to violence and social media in the lives of girls and young women. The many movements and organizations—some of them, like Take Back the Tech, global in scope—are playing a key role in contributing to altering the landscape.

The notion of technologies of nonviolence offers a frame, as it were, in which to set the various approaches, interventions, movements, and personal experiences that see technology as something that can be central to creating a counter discourse rather than one that is only about threat and danger. While this idea has been explored in the many versions of a topic that may be defined as “Social Media: Friend or Foe?” over the years, it is clearly one that is not going to disappear. The questions raised in this special issue explore this framing in a variety of ways that range from offering close readings of the vlogs of girls and young women in relation to rape culture through to a careful consideration of the legal implications of online violence, and from seeing the emancipatory potential in areas such as disability studies to the promotion of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) for girls. At the same time, as several authors explore, there is still a great deal of work to be done, particularly in the context of sex trafficking but even (or especially) in approaches that explicitly seek to be non-
violent. The very tools of technology used, for example, in participatory visual research may bring with them new expressions of violence.

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**Notes**

1. www.takebackthetech.net
2. www.networks4change.ca

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