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STORY HEADLINE: Award-winning skateboard organisation Skateistan claims 2020 IOC Women and Sport World Award.

LOCATION: Berlin, Germany
DATE: 6.3.2020
LANGUAGE: English
Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:
Skateistan is an award-winning modern success story, using skateboarding and education to empower children and particularly girls. Its programmes now reach over 2500 children aged five to seventeen years of age, in Afghanistan, Cambodia and South Africa.

"It was amazing when girls stepped on a skateboard because they didn’t ride bicycles, they didn't play volleyball and they didn't play football” says Skateistan founder Oliver Percovich. “They weren’t allowed to do those things because they were seen as activities for boys, and skateboarding was new so it didn't have these societal rules that said that girls couldn't do it.”

In many countries sporting opportunities for girls are limited. Yet close to 50% of Skateistan participants are female. Skateistan strives to create female-first environments by employing female teachers and staff, running female-only classes and girl’s days, and providing indoor, culturally-appropriate facilities.

Says Percovich: “It really came from those brave girls on the streets of Kabul that didn’t care what other people were thinking watching them step on a skateboard, and I’m sure they got a lot of abuse from older brothers and sisters, from their parents and people in the street, and they didn’t care. They were brave and they became role models for other girls. Today skateboarding is the largest sport for girls in Afghanistan.”

Skateistan’s success has been internationally recognised by UNICEF and others. In 2020 a film about Skateistan ‘Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You’re a Girl)’ won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short.

Speaking of the IOC award, Oliver Percovich added: “This is really for all of the girls in Afghanistan that were brave enough to step on my skateboard way back in 2007 and help grow something very very special. This award is going to create more and more opportunities for girls in Afghanistan as well as other countries where it’s so difficult for them to access sport and also education.”

Women and Sport Background
Women first competed at the Olympic Games Paris 1900, before they had even been granted the right to vote in most countries around the world. While only 22 women competed at the 1900 Games, female participation has increased steadily since then and the event programme for Tokyo 2020 will see female participation rise to a projected 48.8 per cent, with double the number of mixed events compared to Rio 2016.

The IOC Women and Sport Awards were introduced in the year 2000 to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of those who promote gender equality in sport.

Every year, the IOC invites each National Olympic Committee, International Federation and Continental Association to nominate a person or association active in promoting gender equality and the presence of women in their sport or country.

An IOC jury composed of members of the IOC Women in Sport Commission reviews the nominations and chooses six winners per year including the World Trophy Winner and FIVE Continental Trophy winners. This year’s winners were selected from amongst 50 strong candidates.

Sport provides a fantastic opportunity for girls and women to break free of barriers and negative stereotypes, giving them the chance to demonstrate what they are truly capable of.

SHOTLIST:

00:02 Shot of 2020 IOC Women in Sport Award.
00:06 Wide shot of a Berlin neighbourhood.
00:10 Low shot of Oliver Percovich skating through the streets of Berlin.
00:14 Oliver Percovich arrives at the entrance of Skateistan.
00:21 Close up of Skateistan sticker on the entrance wall.
00:27 Shot of Oliver Percovich walking into Skateistan office.

00:35 SOUNDBITE: Oliver Percovich, Skateistan, 2020 IOC Women and Sport Awards World Trophy (English Language).
“"This is really for all of the girls in Afghanistan that were brave enough to step on my skateboard way back in 2007 and help grow something very very special for them and created opportunities for them and this award is going to create more and more opportunities for girls in Afghanistan as well as other countries where it's so difficult for them to access sport and also education.""

01:05 Shot of Oliver Percovich at his desk at Skateistan HQ.

01:08 SOUNDBITE: Oliver Percovich, Skateistan, 2020 IOC Women and Sport Awards World Trophy (English Language).
"It was amazing when girls stepped on a skateboard because they didn't ride bicycles, they didn't play volleyball and they didn't play football. They weren't allowed to do those things because they were seen as activities for boys and skateboarding was new so it didn't have these societal rules that said that girls couldn't do it, so I saw an opportunity and I gave girls more time to skateboard on my board than the boys and because they had more opportunity they also got better than the boys."

01:44 Various close up shots of girls at practise.

'It really came from the children themselves and it came from those brave girls on the streets of Kabul that didn’t care what other people were thinking watching them step on a skateboard and I’m sure they got a lot of abuse from older brothers and sisters from their parents from other people in the street and they didn’t care they were brave and they became then role models for the other girls and it all grew and today skateboarding is the largest sport for girls in Afghanistan.'

02:28 Various close up shots of young girls at school.
02:42 Shot of a pile of skateboards.
02:44 Various shots of girls warming up for skateboard training.
02:53 The girls are coached.
02:56 Various shots of young girls and boys being coached at skatepark.
03:03 Young girls help each other to skate.
03:06 Aerial view of the skateistan skatepark.

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