

# Networks

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## *Letter from the Focal Point for Women*

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to bring you the next edition of **Network**, covering the period May to August 2012. In it, we highlight developments at the UN and around the world affecting gender equality and women's empowerment.

We begin with news of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) as it turns 30 and a landmark ruling by the International Criminal Court strengthening women's access to justice for conflict-related crimes.



We highlight a number of partnerships, agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed by UN Women to advance women's empowerment. These include the new partnership with the European Union to enhance gender equality worldwide; a framework cooperation agreement with the International Organization of La Francophonie; an MoU agreed with the French government to strengthen cooperation for women and girls' empowerment; and a cooperation agreement with the Latin American Development Bank (Corporación Andina de Fomento, CAF).

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We also report on UN Women's intervention at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development held in Brazil in June.

We look at women's representation in government and business, highlighting the record number of women entering parliament in recent elections in Algeria and Senegal and noting how the number of women on the boards of UK companies is exceeding the goals set.

This issue of Network also contains updates on a new tool to manage gender-based violence and the designation of the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month as "Orange Day" to commemorate violence against women.

We share these stories in the hope that they will inspire and strengthen all our efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment wherever we may be around the world.

*In solidarity,*

*Sharna Mehrota  
Focal Point for Women in the UN System  
Coordination Division UN Women  
UN Women*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



**Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma** of South Africa on her election in July 2012 as the first woman Chairperson of the African Union.

Congratulating Dr. Dlamini-Zuma on her election, Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, noted that in choosing Dr. Dlamini-Zuma as Chairperson, African leaders had taken a significant step forward in advancing women's leadership and representation.

Dr. Dlamini-Zuma, a former anti-apartheid activist, is a former Minister of Health (1994-1999) and a former Minister for Foreign Affairs (1999-2009). Between 2009 and her appointment as Chairperson of the African Union, she served as Minister of Home Affairs.



**Zainab Bangura** of Sierra Leone on her

appointment as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Ms. Bangura, current Minister of Health and Sanitation for the Government of Sierra Leone, previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She has been instrumental in developing national programmes on affordable health, advocating for the elimination of genital mutilation, managing the country's Peace Building Commission and contributing to multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community.

As part of the UN Mission in Liberia, Ms. Bangura was responsible for the management of the largest civilian component of the Mission, including promoting capacity-building of government institutions and community reconciliation.

## AROUND THE UN ...

### **The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at 30**

For three decades, the 23-member Committee on the Elimination of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) has worked to make the promises made in the landmark UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women a reality.

In response to the CEDAW Committee's reviews and recommendations, governments have changed their laws, policies and practices to address violence against women and trafficking; to advance reproductive rights; to ensure women's rights in marriage and after divorce; and to advance women's rights in the workplace, and to land and property.

All over the world, lawyers and judges, parliamentarians, representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions have relied on the Convention and reports of the CEDAW Committee to advance justice for women.

The Convention and the work of the CEDAW Committee have also helped empower women and girls. CEDAW was a foundation stone for key global agreements such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Speaking at an event in July at the UN Headquarters in New York to mark the 30-year anniversary, Michelle Bachelet commended the members of the Committee for their dedication. She went on to stress that despite the huge progress made in women's political representation, there was still much work to be done. "Women constitute 51 per cent of the world's population, yet they are under-represented in the allegedly representative bodies that make key decisions affecting their lives," she said, noting that the global average for women parliamentarians stands at just 19.5 per cent.

## **Landmark International Criminal Court ruling paves the way for strengthening women's access to justice for conflict-related crimes**

In July 2012, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a landmark ruling in the case of convicted former Congolese militia commander Thomas Lubanga.

For the first time, the ICC ruled on reparations, using strong language on aspects of gender-sensitivity and women's inclusion. Commenting on the ruling, UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, said: "Reparations have the potential to provide recognition of women's rights as equal citizens, acknowledgement of the harm suffered, as well as a concrete contribution towards victims' recovery".

In the past, reparation programmes have tended to marginalize and exclude women, who should be primary beneficiaries. The ICC ruling will make a significant contribution to strengthening women's access to justice for conflict-related crimes. In particular, the decision notes the need for specific attention to be paid to the needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes. It also stresses that "gender parity in all aspects of reparations is an important goal of the Court" and lays out innovative recommendations for overcoming the administrative obstacles faced by women, such as possession of formal identification documents.

Many of the recommendations detailed by the Court form the basis for UN Women's own efforts to support and strengthen reparations programmes and ensure they are delivered in a way that benefits women.

In addition, UN Women in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHCR) is currently finalizing guidelines on reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. These guidelines will build upon and make recommendations to put into effect the

important principles established by the ICC. UN Women is also working with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to increase awareness of the needs of women among development practitioners involved in justice processes.

impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, ensure better protection of women and improve their access to justice.”

### **UN Women and the International Organization of La Francophonie agree a new cooperation framework**

## **AROUND THE WORLD ...**

### **New partnership between the EU and UN Women on gender equality**

In April, a new partnership was signed between the EU and UN Women to strengthen cooperation on work to empower women and advance gender equality.

Cooperation will primarily focus on ensuring women’s representation worldwide in decision-making in the fields of economics, politics and justice, as well as better access for women and services for those affected.



A framework agreement of cooperation was signed in May in Paris, France between UN Women and the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

The agreement places special emphasis on the following areas: the fight to end gender-based violence; women’s participation in political and decision-making processes; advocating for gender equality; and the inclusion of gender equality issues as part of sustainable development.

Signing the agreement, Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of OIC, which brings together 56 governments and 19 observers, said: “As part of our overall duty to express solidarity, we need to explore ways and means of giving impetus to and strengthening relations between la Francophonie and such a key player as UN Women”.

### **UN Women agrees a Memorandum of Understanding with French Government**



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the EU, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission said: “Discrimination against women and girls remains the most pervasive and persistent form of inequality. Together with UN Women we will work to improve the role of women in political and economic decision-making. We will also fight



Michelle Bachelet met with the French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris on 24 May 2012 to sign an MoU. This important agreement aims to strengthen cooperation on putting women's and girls' empowerment and equality at the top of the national, European and global agenda.

It covers several areas of engagement including increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women and girls; and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, both in law and in practice.

For example, studies show that since 1992, less than 8 per cent of peace negotiators have been women and less than 6 per cent of reconstruction budgets specifically address the needs of women and girls or promote their empowerment.

The agreement commits both parties to work together to advance women's economic empowerment, their active engagement in peace and security as well as their right to sexual and reproductive health. Both parties also undertook to promote gender-responsive planning and budgeting so that policies and programmes benefit men and women, and girls and boys equally.

#### **UNWOMEN AT RIO+ 20**



The June 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) brought together heads of state and government, and representatives of civil society and the private sector to build a road map for a sustainable future, aiming to reduce poverty and advance equality and environmental protection. Gender equality and women's empowerment were the cornerstones of the Rio+20 Outcome Document and related sustainable development frameworks.

Hundreds of representatives of governments, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector attended a high-level forum on 21 June – "The Future Women Want". The event was organized by UN Women in collaboration with the Brazilian and other partners.



Heads of state and government join Michelle Bachelet to sign a "Call to Action: The Future Women Want", 21 June, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Women Heads of State and Government signed a Call to Action with concrete policy recommendations on integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in all sustainable development frameworks. They urged governments, civil society and the private sector to follow their lead and prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment in efforts for sustainable development.

Speaking at a roundtable on “Looking at the Way Forward in Implementing the Expected Outcomes of the Conference”, Michelle Bachelet stated that women’s leadership and participation are necessary to achieve the transformational change needed for sustainable development. The Call to Action calls on governments to take urgent measures, including temporary special measures, to accelerate women’s full and equal participation in governance at all levels and women’s leadership in all decision-making.

The Women’s Major Group, a civil society coalition, presented the findings of a global survey that gathered the diverse voices of women from around the world. The survey and its dissemination were supported by UN Women in the lead-up to Rio+20.

For details on the Call to Action see: <http://www.unwomen.org/2012/06/women-leaders-in-rio-for-action-to-prioritize-gender-equality-for-a-sustainable-future/>

Three related events organized jointly by UN Women and the UN Global Compact brought together prominent business leaders and government officials, members of civil society and UN Women’s Executive and Deputy Executive Directors, Michelle Bachelet and Lakshmi Puri, at the Corporate Sustainability Forum.

The meetings highlighted the ways in which businesses can maximize their contribution to sustainable development by placing women at the heart of all corporate sustainability efforts. Using “The Women’s Empowerment Principles — Equality Means Business” as a guide, the sessions drew attention to the positive results achieved by fully integrating women into all facets of business and society. Michelle Bachelet, called on business to get involved with the Principles to focus on implementation and to report publicly to stakeholders.

A Rio+20 session entitled “Local Opportunities to Turn Principles into Progress” explored good practices and pilot projects that have increased women’s leadership in business. It also addressed improving workplace conditions, and ending sexual violence and harassment.

The Women’s Empowerment Principles Statement of Support has been signed by more than 425 CEOs from around the world and national stakeholder groups have formed in many other countries. Find out more at <http://www.weprinciples.org>

“The Future We Want” – a common global vision reaffirming commitments made in the Programme of Action of the 1994 Cairo ICPD – was adopted by consensus by all UN Member States.

It contained a commitment to reduce maternal and child deaths and to improve the health of women, youth and children. Government leaders reaffirmed their “commitment to gender equality and to protect the rights of women, men and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including access to sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.”

### **More women are needed in climate change decision-making**

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Research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) shows that more women are needed in climate change decision-making in order to ensure an effective response to the challenges ahead. The EIGE report, “Gender Equality and Climate Change”, introduces for the first time EU indicators in the area of women and the environment.

The new proposed indicators are an important tool to support successful



evidence-based policy-making and to monitor the effectiveness of actions in the area of gender equality and the environment. The indicators measure the involvement of women in decision-making on climate change in the public sector, and the number of women students in fields related to the environment and climate change. EIGE Director Virginija Langbakk stated that: "Women and men cause climate change and contribute to the mitigation of the effects in different ways, which means that climate change policies can only deal with climate change effectively, if they systematically consider and respond to the needs and choices of both women and men" says.

In June, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council adopted the conclusions on gender equality and climate change prepared by the Danish Presidency on the basis of the EIGE report. This was an important contribution to the Rio+20 discussion on the green economy and sustainable development.

The EIGE report concludes that even though women are often hit harder by the effects of climate change, their perspective and needs are not taken sufficiently into account. Women hold only about a quarter of climate-related decision-making positions in the public sector in EU Member States. Levels vary greatly between countries: for example only 8 per cent of high-level decision-making positions on climate change policies are held by women in Italy while the equivalent figure for Sweden and Finland is 50 per cent.

The analysis concludes that although the EU has played a key role in advancing international negotiations on climate change, the gender dimension has largely been absent from policy initiatives and debates at the European and international levels. For example, in the European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment,

women hold only 25 per cent of high-level positions.

The EIGE report also shows significant differences in the proportion of women and men graduating in scientific and technological subjects. The educational choices of women and men are known to be influenced by gender stereotypes, the absence of female role models in science and engineering, and lack of appropriate career counselling and guidance at school.

The EIGE put forward a number of recommendations including: the development of strategies for integrating a gender perspective into policy-making processes; raising awareness about the relevance of gender issues for climate change; and taking action to encourage women to study science and technology.

#### **Cooperation agreement between UN Women and the Latin American Development Bank**



Michelle Bachelet meets Enrique Garcia, President of the Latin American Development Bank

UN Women and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) signed an agreement at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. Its aim is to strengthen the work developed by both organizations in the area of poverty reduction.

In recent years, Latin America has achieved significant progress in poverty reduction.

However, levels of inequality remain high. The two organizations pledged to work together to address this and to integrate a gender perspective into efforts to reduce inequality.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### Landmark law in Bolivia against the harassment of women political leaders

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On 14 May, Bolivia's Legislative Assembly finally gave the green light to the Law against Harassment and Political Violence against Women. This ground-breaking law is a response to an urgent need: in the past eight years, Bolivian police have received more than 4,000 complaints of harassment from women participating in politics. Many more incidents are likely to have gone unreported.

"Women from different organizations have demanded loudly for this law to be approved and implemented" said Caty Cauna, a councillor in Coroico city and President of the Association of Councilors in La Paz (ACOLAPAZ). "The authorities must now ensure compliance with this legislation so that society learns not to violate the rights of those elected by the people."

The new law provides for prison sentences of between two and five years for anyone convicted of pressurizing, persecuting, harassing or threatening an elected woman or a woman exercising public functions. The penalty for inflicting physical, psychological or sexual aggression is between three and eight years in prison.

The law was passed following extensive advocacy by women's groups, particularly the national women's network, Coordinadora de la Mujer, which has been supported by the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality since 2010. The challenge for law makers now will be ensuring that the law is implemented systematically and effectively.

### UN General Assembly cultural event highlights efforts to end violence against women

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The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, hosted a special cultural event on 6 June featuring the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. The aim of the event was to promote UN Women and boost support for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The Fund provides grants for local initiatives around the world to help address the pandemic of violence against women. This year, it is focusing on supporting efforts to help women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings. The President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet attended the event, along with UN Goodwill Ambassadors Mira Sorvino and Nicole Kidman.

### UN Women calls for urgent action against femicide

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Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, presented her report at the 20th Session of the Human Rights Council in June 2012.

The report provides an overview of the prevalence of femicide and outlines some of the major factors contributing to gender-motivated killings of women. It also recommends concrete measures to prevent and eradicate such killings.

This gross human rights violation exists in all countries and cultures to varying degrees. Gender-related killings are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are the ultimate act in a continuum of violence. They are the tip of the iceberg, rooted in centuries of discrimination and inequality between men and women. The report stressed the need for women and girls who are subjected to gender-based violence to have access to services for their timely protection, safe haven and empowerment to escape life-threatening situations. It also highlighted the importance of paying special attention to groups of women greatest at risk.

#### **Orange Day to end violence against women**

In July, the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign designated the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month as **Orange Day** leading up to the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in March 2013. The objective is to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls, not only once a year on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), but every month.

## **WOMEN'S HEALTH**

#### **UN Women joins UNAIDS as co-sponsor**

In June, UN Women became the 11th UN body to join the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a co-sponsoring partner.

Gender equality and respect for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for women living with HIV, are essential for an effective response to HIV. Persistent gender inequalities and violations of women's rights are continuing to put women and girls at greater risk from HIV and preventing them from accessing HIV services. In 2010 there were around 17 million women living with HIV, which continues to be the leading cause of death in women of reproductive age.

UNAIDS and UN Women will collaborate closely in a number of areas including: addressing the intersections between HIV and violence against women; integrating gender equality into national HIV planning; and using strategies that promote the leadership and participation of women living with HIV, and women affected by HIV, in decision-making. UNAIDS and UN Women will also work on strengthening national institutions to enable them to deliver on commitments made on gender equality and women's rights in the context of HIV.

#### **Parliaments urged to scale up efforts to secure the health of women and children**



In April 2012, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world's largest body of lawmakers, approved a resolution to secure access to health, as a basic human right, for women and children. Leaders of nearly 120 national parliaments attending a major meeting in Kampala, Uganda, called on all Member Parliaments to take all possible measures to achieve Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) 4 and 5 by 2015. MDG 4 aims to reduce child deaths around the world by two thirds by 2015, while MDG 5 aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters by the same year.

This was the first time that the world's parliaments, acting through the IPU, have passed a resolution on this issue. The resolution was initiated by parliamentarians from Uganda in April 2011 at the IPU Assembly in Panama, and arose from a September 2011 special report, "Access to Health as a Basic Right: the Role of Parliaments in Addressing Key Challenges to Securing the Health of Women and Children."

Dr. Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) expressed his desire to further strengthen collaboration with the IPU and underlined the positive impact that parliamentarians can have not only in accelerating action to achieve the MDGs, but also in terms of awareness raising, oversight and monitoring.

The Canadian Parliament, as host of the next Assembly of the IPU in October 2012, will follow up with a dedicated push on maternal, newborn and child health to support the implementation of the resolution.

## WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

### Algeria elects record number of women legislators

In May, Algeria became the first and only country in the Arab world to have more than 30 per cent of its parliamentary seats held by women, according to the IPU. The May 2012 elections saw 145 women elected as parliamentarians.

The outcome of these elections put Algeria among the top 25 countries worldwide in terms of the proportion of women legislators.

The increase in the number of women now in the Algerian parliament has partly been the result of a new law on women's political participation that set quotas for women candidates on political party lists.

### Number of female parliamentarians in Senegal almost doubles



Senegal has come close to achieving parity in its National Assembly: 64 of its 150 parliamentary seats (44.6 per cent) are occupied by women. The number of women parliamentarians in Senegal's National Assembly almost doubled following the July 2012 elections thanks to the impact of new parity laws.

The new legislation aims to secure full equality in all elected and semi-elected bodies at all levels by requiring political parties to submit an alternating list of men and women candidates, with a ratio as close as possible to 50 per cent.

As early as 2008, UN Women supported the committee responsible for drafting the legislation, as well as the Senegalese Council of Women (Conseil Senegalais des Femmes, COSEF), which brings together women from the country's various political parties.

"This is the end of a long and hard fight, taken up over several generations. The road has been long, the fight must continue and there is no doubt in my mind that we will succeed", said Fatou Sarr Sow, gender expert and

President of Senegal's Caucus of Female leaders, a women's organization set up to facilitate the adoption of the law.

Collaborating with COSEF and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Children, and Female Entrepreneurship, UN Women helped implement the legislation by launching a large-scale public awareness campaign on 30 May 2012. It also organized training for about 300 women on the electoral lists. The women in turn participated in the public awareness campaign.

### **Increase in number of women in British boardrooms**

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The number of women joining the boards of the largest British companies is on the rise, according to an article published by Boryana Dzhambazova in the *New York Times* on 3 July 2012.

One in four of FTSE 100 companies has a board where women make up 25 per cent or more of directors. This exceeds the goals set by the British government, according to the Professional Boards Forum. The organization, which operates in Norway and Britain, helps companies find women candidates for non-executive directorships.

Last year, the British government implemented a package of measures intended to encourage gender diversity. It included a guideline that by 2015, 25 per cent of the board members of the largest British companies should be women. The guideline was one of the recommendations in a 2011 report commissioned by the government and written by Mervyn Davies, former UK Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business.

Britain has joined many European countries in stepping up attempts to address the gender gap in business leadership. A decade ago, for example, Norway adopted quotas for women in boardrooms. France and Spain followed suit.

The pace of change has been slower among the next tier of British businesses; 98 of the FTSE 250 companies have all-male boards, down from 131 in February 2011.

Access complete article at:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/business/global/british-companies-exceed-goals-on-women-in-boardrooms.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/business/global/british-companies-exceed-goals-on-women-in-boardrooms.html?_r=0)

### **Consultation on gender imbalance in corporate boards in the European Union**

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Following the presentation of a progress report, "Women in economic decision-making in the EU", by European Commissioner for Justice Viviane Reding in March 2012, the European Commission launched a public consultation. Stakeholders were asked to contribute to the discussion about possible measures to improve the gender balance on the boards of companies listed on stock exchanges.

In the context of the continuing gender imbalance on corporate boards, which constitutes an untapped potential of skilled human resources, the consultation will inform the Commission's decision on whether to propose action and what form it should take

Increasing evidence that mixed-gender business teams perform better than all-male groups has helped to erode the reluctance in some businesses to hire women executives. Pressure from Brussels has also increased. In March, the European Parliament threatened to introduce quotas for EU companies if Member States failed to show enough progress in closing the gender gap. Viviane Reding has campaigned for women to make up 30 per cent of European board members by 2015 and 40 per cent by 2020.

### **European Union launches "Equality Pays Off" initiative**

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In August 2012, the EU launched a new programme called "Equality Pays Off". This aims to support the efforts of companies in tackling a skills shortage by promoting

equality between men and women and reducing the gender pay gap. The programme offers workshops for companies in all participating countries and is organizing a conference in Brussels that will facilitate the sharing of good practices and networking on gender equality across borders.

## IN YOUR INTEREST

### “I wish” – a campaign against sexual harassment in Egypt



On a Wednesday in May 2012, inspired by snowballing social media discussions on sexual harassment in Egypt, a group of independent activists took the conversation to an offline public. They aimed to build support in Cairo and beyond, using the most simple of approaches: the country’s first “human chain” against sexual harassment.

UN Women were there to document and support the statement, in line with the global UN project “Safe Cities”, which works in five urban hubs around the world, including Cairo, to increase safe access to public spaces for women and girls.

The group of activists called the campaign “Nefsi” (“I wish”). The group mobilized women and men of all ages and backgrounds to line the sidewalks of Gam’et El Dewal Street in Mohandessin, a Cairo thoroughfare, holding messages and engaging passersby.

The messages – “I wish you’d admit that you harass”, “I wish I could feel safe in the streets” – were impassioned and compelling and sparked conversations among those shopping, working and commuting.

On the Arabic [UN Women Facebook page](#), the photos went viral. The number of fans jumped by 4,000; the photo album was viewed by 50,000 Facebook users, and through comments, shares and clicks, engaged at least 45,000 people.

### New tool to manage gender-based violence programmes in emergencies

Gender-based violence kills or disables as many women aged between 15 and 44 as cancer does. Every day the media reports on gender-based violence in countless crises around the world and on a scale that is difficult to grasp. How can humanitarian professionals better prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergency situations?



UNFPA has launched a companion guide to its [free e-learning course](#) for professionals working to address gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts.

The e-learning course uses case studies from real contexts to guide learning. Integrated throughout the modules are videos, activities and quizzes. The [E-learning Companion Guide](#) covers all of the content in the e-learning course and also provides new case

studies, sample tools, best practices, and activities.

As part of this project, UNFPA also completed a series of Face-to-Face Training Workshops in February 2012 and the curriculum is currently being revised for broader review. A Community of Practice that enables ongoing field-based learning and mentoring is also being developed.

**Available at :**  
<https://extranet.unfpa.org/Apps/GBVinEmergencies/index.html>  
<http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/10495>

## RECOMMENDED READING

### World Bank eAtlas of Gender

The World Bank eAtlas of Gender, the latest in a suite of user-friendly, interactive electronic atlases, allows users to map and graph dozens of gender indicators over time and across countries. With this eAtlas, you can:

- Map more than 80 World Bank indicators worldwide
- Compare and view two maps simultaneously
- Animate maps to show change over time
- View all data in ranking tables and charts alongside maps
- Export maps and data for use in presentations
- Import your own data.

**Available at:**  
<http://www.app.collinsindicate.com/worldbankatlases-gender/en-us>

### The 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index

Social and legal discrimination against women remains a major obstacle to economic

development in emerging and developing countries, according to the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) launched in May 2012.



While conventional indicators of gender equality capture inequality in outcomes such as education and employment, the SIGI focuses instead on the underlying drivers of these inequalities. SIGI measures underlying discrimination against women using 14 indicators, including early marriage, gender-based violence and women's property rights.

Applying the SIGI data to issues as diverse as employment, hunger and the achievement of the MDGs has shown that countries with higher levels of discrimination against women are also performing more poorly on a range of development indicators.

Of the 121 countries covered in the 2012 SIGI, 86 have discriminatory inheritance practices or laws. On average across these countries, around half of women believe domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances. In some countries, like Niger or Mali, over half of girls between 15 and 19 are married. Such an environment is a massive obstacle to women getting an education and contributing to their own wellbeing and their countries' progress. The countries with the highest levels of discrimination according to the SIGI are in Africa and the Middle East.

There has been some progress in reducing discrimination against women since the first SIGI report in 2009. South Africa and Morocco are among the countries where the social and legal status of women improved considerably over the past years. South Africa has introduced landmark reforms of inheritance laws, while in Morocco, reforms to the Family Code have granted women equal rights in marriage and the country has also introduced quotas to boost women's political representation.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index is available at <http://www.genderindex.org>  
The updated Gender, Institutions and Development Database is available at [http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=GID\\_DB2012](http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=GID_DB2012)

### **European Commission: Special Eurobarometer 376**

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In March, the European Commission presented a report on progress made towards a better gender balance on company boards in the EU. The report showed that, one year after European Commissioner for Justice Viviane Reding called for credible self-regulatory measures, limited progress had been achieved. Only one in seven board members at Europe's top firms is a woman (13.7 per cent); a 1.9 per cent increase since 2010. At this rate, it would take more than 40 years to reach a significant gender balance.

In March 2011, Viviane Reding called on European companies to voluntarily increase women's presence on corporate boards by signing the "Women on the Board Pledge for Europe". Companies who sign this pledge, commit themselves to raising female representation on their boards to 30 per cent by 2015 and 40 per cent by 2020. However, during the 12 months to March 2012, only 24 companies across Europe signed the pledge.

### **Deloitte report: "Women in the Boardroom"**

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In its report "Women in the Boardroom", the Deloitte Global Center for Corporate Governance presents a number of current initiatives around the world, both legal and regulatory, to increase the number of women serving on corporate boards. The report looks at countries that have taken steps to increase the participation of women in boardrooms.

Available at <http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-Tanzania/Local%20Assets/Documents/Deloitte%20Article%20Women%20in%20the%20boardroom.pdf>

### **EU report on progress on equality between women and men in 2011**

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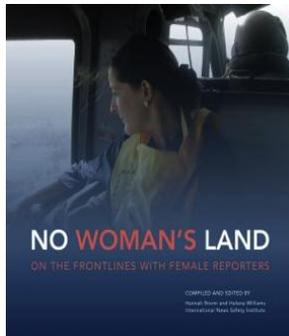
Improving equality between women and men is essential to the EU's response to the current economic crisis, according to the European Commission's latest annual report on gender equality published in April 2012. The report looks at progress over the past year in tackling the remaining gaps between women and men in employment, the economy and society in general. While some progress has been made in increasing the number of women in top jobs in business and in narrowing the gender pay gap, major challenges remain.

The report highlights the fact that EU countries need to get more women into the labour market if they are to meet the EU's overall objective of a 75 per cent employment rate for all adults by 2020. The report also looks at the main developments at both national and European level across the five key areas in the EU's overall gender equality strategy for 2010-2015, namely: the economy, equal pay, decision-making, gender-based violence and gender equality beyond the EU.

Report available at [Report on progress on equality between women and men in 2011](#)

## **“No Woman’s Land” – frontline experiences of female reporters**

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“I have never thought of myself as a female journalist. I think of myself as a journalist full-stop.”  
Shahira Amin,  
award-winning  
Egyptian journalist

“No Woman’s Land”, a new book on frontline reporting by female correspondents supported by UN Women, was released in early 2012 by the International News Safety Initiative. Compiled by Hannah Storm and Helena Williams, the book features the voices of more than 30 reporters as they recall episodes of harrowing assault and inspirational bravery in contexts from conflict to civil unrest.

The reflections were collected shortly after the violent sexual assault of CBS correspondent Lara Logan by a crowd of men as she reported from Cairo’s Tahrir Square in February 2011. Lara Logan, who wrote the foreword to the book, has been praised for voicing concerns that many women reporters have formerly suppressed, out of fear for their professional freedoms and reputations.

## **“Side by Side: Women, Peace and Security”**

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“Side by Side: Women, Peace and Security” is a 30 minute video Jointly developed by the Australian Civil-Military Centre and UN Women. It highlights the role of women in peace and security worldwide and explores how the international community has met and can meet its commitments regarding women and conflict.

The documentary covers the specialized training arranged for peacekeepers on

addressing conflict-related sexual violence and the efforts toward system-wide protection for those at risk. It also highlights the need to strengthen mechanisms that hold perpetrators to account for gender-based violations.

Available at:  
<http://www.unwomen.org/2012/09/international-day-of-peace/>

## **Report of the UN Secretary-General: Trafficking in women and girls**

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The report provides information on measures by states and activities within the UN system to tackle trafficking in women and girls.

Available at  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/170](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/170)

## **Report of the UN Secretary-General: Follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly**

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The UN Secretary-General report contains a review of the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. In particular, the report focuses on the extent to which gender perspectives are reflected in selected inter-governmental processes of the UN. The report concludes with recommendations for further measures to enhance the implementation of gender equality mandates.

Available at  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/185](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/185)

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

### ■ New online tools to help campaign against violence against women and girls



The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (VKC), an online platform that helps to design programmes against gender-based violence, continues to expand its scope – and its users. A recent survey found that its 8,500 users span more than 200 countries and territories, and 45 languages. Service providers have become the fourth largest group in the last year, while government partners have more than doubled

A new campaign module has been launched dedicated to communications, from the crafting of messages to the use of print, audio-visual and electronic media. It offers state-of-the-art tools and draws on practice case studies from around the world.

The Centre is a unique global knowledge initiative managed by UN Women. It currently offers resources in English, French and Spanish on topics including health, work with police, monitoring and evaluation. Its 800 tools can be filtered by language, country, topic and category, and include an emerging roster of organizations addressing violence against women around the world.

Nearly 70 per cent of registered members represent low and middle income countries, mostly from Latin America and Africa.

Recent feedback received from users across the world confirms that the Centre has supported, among many other issues, the development of public policies and legal reforms in Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea; zero tolerance programmes for sexual harassment in South African workplaces; the costing of national plans in countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Seychelles; and empowerment activities for acid crimes survivors in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda.

More tools and programme modules are in the pipeline.

Available at <http://www.unwomen.org/2012/06/new-online-tools-launched-to-help-campaign-against-violence/>

### **Vision 2020 – equality in sight**

Vision 2020 is a national initiative advancing women's economic and social equality. It was developed by the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at the Drexel University College of Medicine in the USA.

Vision 2020's Campaign for Equality will work to achieve the following five goals by the year 2020:

- Increase the number of women in senior leadership positions in American life to reflect the workforce talent pool and demographics.
- Achieve pay equity, so that equal pay for equal work will be the norm in the USA.
- Educate employers about the value of policies and practices that enable men and women to share fairly their family responsibilities.
- Educate new generations of girls and boys to respect their differences and to act on the belief that the nation is at its best when leadership is shared and opportunities are open to all.

■ Mobilize women to vote, with particular emphasis on a record-setting turnout in 2020, the centennial of the 19th Amendment.

Available at  
<http://www.drexel.edu/vision2020/goals/initiatives/>

### **New World Bank launches website improves access to data and statistics on gender**

A new data portal focusing on gender issues was launched in July. The website is a resource center for gender equality data, with statistics, tools and reference materials covering employment, access to productive activities, education, health, public life and decision-making, human rights, and demographic outcomes for women and girls.

The portal provides country, regional and thematic dashboards, with key indicators displayed through interactive visualizations.. Featured datasets and resources are drawn from the World Development Indicators, national statistical agencies, databases of UN agencies, and surveys conducted or funded by the World Bank and are organized around eight modules:

- Thematic data featuring indicators related to dimensions of gender equality;
- Regional data providing access to major statistics from UN agencies, regional commissions, and World Bank regional departments;
- Microdata for researchers, with gender-relevant microdata from surveys, and links to a repository of survey datasets;
- Tools for analysis, from eAtlas of Gender and ADePT Gender to Little Data Book on Gender and wboptions Stata module;
- Monitoring progress with indicators selected to show country level performance on gender equality;
- World Bank lending data showing the extent to which World Bank projects are “gender-informed”
- Guidelines and training materials on a range of topics, from the broad rationale for

collecting gender-relevant data to sector-specific guidelines;

■ A “query data” function giving access to time-series indicators relevant for gender analysis, covering demographics, education, health, labor force, and political participation, with the ability to create and share maps, tables and charts.

Available at  
<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>





**Employment opportunities**

You can find a monthly list of vacancy announcements at <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>

You can read *Network* online at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/fpnetworks.htm>  
To receive hard copies of *Network* please send an e-mail request to [network-newsletter@un.org](mailto:network-newsletter@un.org)

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