



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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## International Activism

### Women for Climate Justice: A Call to March in New York City and Around the World on 21 September 2014

IAW is calling all women to join our contingent of Women for Climate Justice as we help create a massive People March – the largest climate march in history – on Sunday, September 21st in New York City, two days before heads of state of the world's nations will meet in a climate Summit at the United Nations.

*Full details on IAW website.*

Organisations all around the world are having rallies on 21 September 2014

This is a global issue that needs global action - and it starts with you!

Check what is happening where you live or organise something with your friends, families and colleagues.

### From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Gender-Based Violence!

For the past twenty-three years, the global **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign** has been dedicated to advocacy and coordination of work in support of ending gender-based violence at the local and international levels. The dates, November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and December 10 (Human Rights Day), were chosen to emphasise the links between ending gender-based violence and human rights values and highlight that gender-based violence is an international human rights violation. The 16 Days Campaign is used as an organising strategy to call for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence by individuals and groups throughout the world. Since its founding in 1991, the Center for Women's Global Leadership has been the global coordinator of the 16 Days Campaign.

• 16 Days Campaign: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>

• Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign>

• Join the 16 Days Listserv: [https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days\\_discussion](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days_discussion)

• Email: [16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu](mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu)

• Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16dayscampaign>

# Violence : horrific human and financial cost and some ways to combat this scourge

On 10 September 2014 *The Guardian* reported that **nine times as many people are killed in disputes between individuals, including incidents of domestic violence, than are killed in wars and conflicts**, according to a report which urges global bodies, governments and aid agencies to review approaches to tackling violence.

**The cost of all forms of violence amounts to \$9.5tn a year, equivalent to more than 11% of world gross domestic product**, says Conflict and Violence, an assessment paper commissioned by the Copenhagen Consensus Centre.

But "collective violence" – deaths and injuries caused by conflicts and terrorism – accounts for only \$167bn of the total figure. Homicides, violent crime, child abuse, domestic violence and sexual violence make up the rest, the report says.

**"For each battlefield death in civil war, about nine times as many people are killed in interpersonal disputes,"** say the authors. They add: "Physical violence in societies is a much larger and more pervasive phenomenon than just civil war violence", and that the economic consequences are much greater.

Between 20 and 25 countries have engaged in conflicts over recent years, causing thousands of deaths and injuries. But **in 2008, one in three countries in the world had a homicide rate greater than 10 per 100,000 "which the [World Health Organisation] considers to be an epidemic level"**.

The report says that 43% of all female homicide victims are killed by a current or former intimate partner, and that 30% of women worldwide are subject to domestic violence during their lifetime – a total of around 769 million. About 290 million children suffer violence in their homes.

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## Istanbul Convention comes into force!



Adopted on 7 April 2011, the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)** came into force on 1st August 2014.

This followed its ratification by the 10th member of the Council of Europe, Andorra, on 22 April 2014. The Convention was since ratified by Denmark, Sweden, France and Malta, and 22 states have signed the document.

The Istanbul Convention represents a landmark in efforts at the European level to prevent and combat violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute and punish perpetrators.

First of its kind, the very comprehensive Convention covers most forms of violence against women including physical, psychological, emotional, economic, and sexual violence, as well as sexual harassment and cyber harassment. If strongly implemented and given deep commitment from member states, it should enhance the sustainability and autonomy of essential specialized support for women and their children.

*Source WAVE Women Against Violence Europe)  
August 2014 Newsletter*

Globally, **White Ribbon** is the world's largest male-led movement to end men's violence against women. Originating in Canada in 1991, White Ribbon is now active in more than 60 countries.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a white ribbon as its iconic symbol. This date starts the **16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence** against Women, which ends on Human Rights Day (December 10).



*Garbage collection truck in Sydney, Australia*

White Ribbon began in Australia in 2003 as part of UNIFEM (now UN Women), formally becoming a Foundation in 2007. White Ribbon Day (November 25) signals the start of the However the campaign runs all year and is evident across the community through, for example, advertising and marketing campaigns such as Uncover Secrets, social media, community events and White Ribbon Night in July.  
[www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au)

## Global Summit to end Sexual Violence in Conflict

The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2014 was a significant milestone in the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) campaign. The Summit was attended by 128 countries, 79 Ministers, eight UN agency heads, Presidents, prosecutors from the International Criminal Court, international tribunals and over 300 delegates from conflict affected countries. It was open to thousands of members of the public at 175 public Fringe events. Around the world, British embassies took part in a global relay, holding events to mirror those taking place in London.

Summit outcomes include:

- the launching of the first ever International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, a set of guidelines for those working on the ground to help gather evidence to prosecute for these crimes.
- £6 million in funding to support survivors of rape, along with the United States, Finland, Bahrain, Australia and Japan amongst others who also made generous pledges.
- Countries including Somalia and the Central African Republic announcing plans to respond to survivors of sexual violence through new projects, supported by the UN and the international community.
- More than 155 countries endorsing the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, over three quarters of all UN Member States. This sends a powerful message about the growing international resolve to end sexual violence in conflict and bring perpetrators to justice.

The Summit was hosted by William Hague, former British Foreign Secretary, and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie. William Hague was later appointed the UK Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.

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Before taking up this position with NATO, **Mari Skåre** was Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy in Kabul.

She has held the position as legal adviser in the Secretariat of the Minister of International Development and head of the Division for Environment and Sustainable Development. Throughout her career Skåre has worked extensively with the UN-system, and served as Counsellor at the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations on financial, reform and legal issues.

Later William Hague, hosted a meeting with NATO Secretary General's first Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, **Mari Skåre**. *See footnote*



He commented: "I am delighted that NATO has created a permanent Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security who will lead NATO's new ambitious framework of action to ensure that women's participation in conflict resolution is seen and taken forward as an integral part of the peace and security agenda. NATO's new streamlined policy and comprehensive action plan has been developed by NATO Allies, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and partners in Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates and in consultation with civil society.

The participation of women helps to secure more sustainable peace, which is vital to all of our security interests. The action plan contains practical steps towards realising this goal."



Mr Hague welcomed the appointment of Dutch diplomat

**Mariët Schuurman**

as the next NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, saying "this position underscores the Alliance's active engagement and commitment to this agenda".

A career diplomat, prior to her current appointment to Macedonia, **Ambassador Schuurman** served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of Cooperation to the Netherlands Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan; Head of the Great Lakes Unit in the Sub-Sahara Africa Department and country economist and Deputy Head of Cooperation in Lusaka, Zambia. Previous duties include humanitarian assistance officer in the Ministry's Western Balkans Taskforce and political officer in Moscow, Russian Federation.

Board positions held include Presidency of the Works Council of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Presidency of the Dutch language school in Lusaka.

# Agreed Conclusions CSW 58

## An evaluation by Joanna Manganara

**After two weeks of negotiations in New York, the Commission on the Status of Women ended with an Agreement that calls for the acceleration of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development goals and confirming the need for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the set of international targets that will be introduced once the MDG's will expire in 2015. The Agreement also stresses the need for gender equality and women's human rights to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework.**

The compromised Agreed Conclusions have many progressive paragraphs but do not go far enough. As the EU declared, this year's outcome should hopefully expand next year.

In the text there is no sign of reversal of doing business as usual, that is of transforming the current vicious circle of development focused on economic growth alone that fuels inequalities, environmental degradation and marginalization to a cycle focused on human rights and justice. For example, paragraph 21 of the draft Agreed Conclusions of 17/05/2014 was asking for a shift from the current economic model which perpetuates gender inequality and women's poverty on the basis of the ongoing crises that reflect the need for it. The paragraph was traded away for the sake of making an agreement.

During CSW there was strong resistance to talking about human rights as central to development. This means that we cannot be very optimistic for the future as there cannot be sustainability in any development model without human rights. Member states should demonstrate the necessary political will to take a transformative roadmap for the future.

The issue of political will backed by commensurate resources was also stressed by the Executive Director of the UN, Phumzile Mlambo Ngeuka, who said the Agreement of the CSW represented a milestone towards a transformative global development agenda that puts the empowerment of women and girls to the centre.

The Egyptian Minister also expressed her fears that we might find that the 2015 agenda is not good for women.

The agreement on a stand-alone goal was not an easy job due to a small but very vocal conservative opposition. A



stand-alone goal recognizes that sustainable and meaningful development must address the root causes of gender inequality which deny women and girls an education, the right to make decisions about their bodies and childbearing, decent employment and equal pay for equal work and to live free of violence.

I will now refer to the position of different states and groups of states concerning major issues of controversy. The Holy See demanded the removal from the CSW document of reference to sex workers, lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual rights, and some of the wording around sexual and reproductive health and rights specifically that related to abortion and sexuality education. It also wanted the document to include explicit reference to the importance of the family, that is family in its traditional nuclear sense.

Mexico, the EU and other states pushed for family in its different forms, single parent families, child or female headed households, or same-sex families because the wording of the family if used can reinforce gender roles and stereotypes: women or wives, mothers, homemakers.

Finally the language adopted on family did not recognize the diversity of families.

El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines and other states have defended the inclusion of the particular situation of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women in the Agreed Conclusions.

Argentina, Brazil, Australia, US regretted that sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) was left out.

The African Union voiced its reservations regarding family, sexuality education for children and the paragraphs on official development assistance (ODA) which they found were not strong enough, sexual orientation and gender identity and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

It is interesting to note that South Africa and Egypt broke away from the group. South Africa supported the whole Agreement, in particular sexuality education.

A sovereignty clause again this year allowed the African Union to sign the outcome document but ignore the bits it did not like - usually the points that could potentially restrict cultural and religious practices.

## Agreed Conclusions CSW 58

### An evaluation by Joanna Manganara continued

Another issue on which the African Union put emphasis is the precedence of religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions as well as national and regional variations over the universality of human rights, in particular women's human rights. Doing this, according to them, should contribute to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights in order to achieve equality, development and peace. The final text adopted was much more balanced. The wording put an emphasis on the duty of states regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.

Many states, like Russia, Norway, Brazil, had reservations about sexual and reproductive health and rights and sexuality education and others regretted that sexual rights were not adopted this year and expressed the view that next year we should work to have them accepted.

China supported the stand-alone goal and national sovereignty while the US regretted that women's crucial role in climate solutions was not highlighted.

The paras that were strong have to do with violence against women and girls. There was agreement to eliminate all harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. They also called for the elimination and prevention of violence and for the prosecution of perpetrators.

There was also strong language concerning paras that had to do with upholding women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

There were explicit references made to a woman's right to access "quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care including emergency contraception, information and education, safe abortion where allowed by law and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV".

Furthermore, the Conclusions called for the recognition of the human rights of women to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

It was recognized that progress towards achieving the Millennium Development goals has been held back due to persistent unequal power relations between women and men and governments were called to address discriminatory social practices, laws and beliefs that

undermine gender equality and to strengthen accountability mechanisms for women's human rights.

Feminist groups as well as women's and community based organizations have been recognized in placing the interests and visions of women on national, regional and international agendas.

The Agreed Conclusions publicly acknowledged the important and legitimate role of women's Human Rights Defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights and asked for appropriate and practical steps to protect them.

Finally, I think we should start working on an issue of particular importance. That is how feminist and women's organizations could participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms for development processes and the stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights and its integration into all other goals of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

### CSW59 / Beijing+20 (2015)

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, tentatively scheduled for 9-20 March 2015.

The Commission will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The review (Beijing+20) will also include the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action, which highlighted further actions and initiatives.

The session will also address current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action, as well as opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

The review will be conducted at national, regional and global levels. States are urged to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. (See guidance note for the preparation of national reviews: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).

The regional commissions of the United Nations will undertake regional reviews. Both the national and regional review processes will feed into the global review.

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015#sthash.VzEVxxS8.dpuf>

# Opportunities for Women

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of **JAPAN** has unveiled a reshuffled cabinet that includes five women. Since taking office in December 2012, Mr. Abe has spoken of the need to revive Japan, the world's third-largest economy, by more fully unleashing the potential of its huge pool of highly educated women. The new cabinet is the first since 2001, when Junichiro Koizumi, Mr. Abe's political mentor, was prime minister, to have five of its 18 minister-level posts filled by women. Mr. Abe's previous cabinet had two women.



*Prime Minister Abe of Japan with female Cabinet ministers  
Credit Toru Hanai/Reuters*

Of the five female members, the most prominent is Yuko Obuchi, the 40-year-old daughter of a former prime minister who has been seen as a rising star in Japanese politics. She will become Trade Minister, a powerful post. The four other women are lesser known political figures, though one, a former journalist, Midori Matsushima, was named as Justice Minister, another important post.

The United Nations says 8.1 percent of Japan's national lawmakers are women, less than half of the 18.3 percent in the United States. According to GovernanceMetrics International, a New York based research company that monitors corporate behaviour, women make up less than 1 percent of board members in Japanese corporations, ranking the country at the bottom of advanced economies. By comparison, women make up 11.4 percent of corporate boards in the United States and 9 percent in Germany.

*Extracts from an article by Martin Fackler for AsiaPacific  
3 September 2014*

## SAMOA

**September 2014 Last year the Government unanimously passed a law reserving 10 per cent of parliamentary seats for women in an effort to improve women's political participation.**

One of the longest serving Samoan MPs is a woman. Justice Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa followed her father's footsteps into politics as a young woman. She said that women are still a large untapped human resource and urged them to speak out with their own voices about the issues that matter.

At the **Third International Conference on Small Island and Developing States**, one of the six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues focuses on women and youth, as well as social development and health, including family planning and non-communicable diseases.

The overall goal of the partnerships is to bring together representatives of government, private sector, civil society and the UN family to network and partner for sustainable development on small island nations.

According to UN figures, islanders have high rates of teenage pregnancies, poor access to good quality education, and sexual support and reproductive health services, especially in rural areas.

Through a partnership with UN Women, the SVS group distributed cell phones to rural women in 2012, enabling them to report abuse to a centre helpline. In the first five months, some 1,700 calls were logged and callers, whose ages ranged from 14 to 80, were put in contact with a counsellor or the police, as needed.

Another issue facing rural women is **climate change and erratic weather patterns** which impact agriculture, particularly subsistence farming.

Speaking to the UN News Centre, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change Mary Robinson stressed that "**climate has to be an issue that women and young people and the very poorest have their voices heard**". Mrs. Robinson is planning an event with her Foundation, UN Women and other partners to highlight the importance of **women's participation on climate change**, to coincide with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit on September 23.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

For market vendor Rose Starlyn, attending a series of UN Women-run workshops in April and May 2014 in Honiara, the capital city of her native Solomon Islands, turned out to be the beginning of a journey which, so far, has seen her address an audience including politicians and diplomats, and be elected as the first chairperson of the newly formed Honiara Central Market Vendors Association.



Between 75 and 90 per cent of market vendors in the Pacific region are women;

hours are long, profits are often low, and conditions difficult. Many female vendors come from rural areas and sleep at the market for the three or four days they are there, exposing them to a higher risk of gender-based and sexual violence as well as theft. They are rarely represented in – and often excluded from – the planning and decision-making that determines how markets are run.

The UN Women's Markets for Change (M4C) project has been developed specifically for the Pacific region. The goal is to create accessible, inclusive and representative governance structures that will help markets thrive, while strengthening the role and influence of women vendors.

# AFRICA

## Looking to the future

### Young African Leaders Initiative

In late July 2014 President Barack Obama spoke to young Africans visiting Washington as part of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). In response to a question about US commitment to ending gender inequality in Africa, **the President told the young Africans that they should strive to "update and create new traditions," particularly when it comes to the role of women in society. "If you look comparatively at countries around the world, what societies succeed, which ones don't, one of the single best measures of whether a country succeeds or not is how it treats its women,"** he said. Using the analogy of a soccer game, the President said if a team were to go out with only half of its team, "you will not do as well".

"As a continent you have to update, and create new traditions and that's where young people come in. You don't have to accept what was the old way of doing things. You can respect the past and respect traditions while recognizing they have to be adapted to a new age," the President said. He cited women's education as "an absolute priority" for the US because women will spread their education to their children and their villages. But while he encouraged the young leaders to be respectful of tradition, he said it's also time for some customs to go. "There are some traditions that just have to be gotten rid of and there's no excuse for them. Female genital mutilation, I'm sorry, I don't consider that a tradition worth hanging on to."

YALI, which was created in 2010, is being renamed for the late former South African President Nelson Mandela. The program will be expanded by 2016 to bring 1,000 participants to the U.S. for leadership training at some of the top US universities. The six-week courses focus on business and entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and public administration.

President Obama announced the creation of four Regional Leadership Centres in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa. Over the next three years, the US Africa Development Foundation (USADF) will also provide \$2.5 million seed funding for 250 social entrepreneurship grants to members of the YALI network. The money will go to projects in Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

### Agenda 2063 - the Future We Want for Africa

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, addressed a gathering of thousands of decision makers and the African Development Bank earlier this year in Kigali Rwanda. She said there are critical questions that need true answers:

- **How can women be part of the citizenry that is driving the continent, when they are the least employed, least empowered, least healthy and least food secure?**

- **How can Africa fulfil its potential and become a dynamic and credible force in the global arena when more than half of its population is disempowered?**

Acknowledging the host country Rwanda, the UN Director said, "Rwanda as a country has come far in its work towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Rwanda is internationally known for having the world's highest percentage of female parliamentarians, occupying 64% of the seats in the Lower Chamber, but also for its progressive policies in advocating for women across all social and economic sectors."

"The African continent continues to be one of the fastest growing developing regions in the world and hosting six of the world's fastest growing economies, we see great prospects in agriculture, the extractive industry and a growing service industry. **The critical question is whether this growth trend, currently over 5% per annum, compared to the global average of 3% (IMF 2013), will be sustained if the potential of more than half of the population, that is, women and youth is not fully harnessed.**

While **this impressive growth** and improving business environment on the continent is attracting a lot of foreign direct investment, **it is not translating into poverty reduction and increased well-being across the continent. Africa therefore still holds 30% of the world's poor the majority of whom are women** (World Bank 2013).

While much progress has been made to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women, we must admit that **unless radical efforts are made, women will remain behind in this growing and prospering continent which will, in turn, affect the ability of the continent to achieve its full potential."**

### CHINA to ban foetus sex identification

According to the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, China is going to severely crack down on identifying the sex of a foetus and sex-selective abortions, with exceptions for certain medical reasons.

In order to promote an equal ratio of males to females among the population, the *Provisions on the Ban of Sex Appraisal for Foetuses for Non-Medical Reasons and Selective Abortion (Draft)* were jointly drawn up by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the Ministry of Public Security, the State Administration for Industry & Commerce and the China Food and Drug Administration, with a view to stopping parents identifying the gender of a foetus and selective abortions for non-medical reasons.

The Draft explicitly stipulates that it prohibits any unit or individual from organizing or carrying out foetus sex identification and selective abortions for non-medical reasons.

The Draft also points out that when a medical situation arises in which it is necessary to determine the sex of a foetus, at least three professional, qualified doctors should be consulted and carry out a group review. According to the diagnosis, if an artificial termination is really needed, the authentication institution should provide a medical diagnosis report to the pregnant woman and at the same time report to the local health and family planning departments.

*From WUNRN 3 September 2014 (Source: Chinanews.com / Translated and Edited by [Women of China](#))*

# Gender Equality

## CEDAW Environment

### TUNISIA

7 September 2014 Tunisia's lifting of key reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is **an important step toward gender equality**, Human Rights Watch said today. The Tunisian government should next ensure that all domestic laws conform to international standards and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, Human Rights Watch said.

The Tunisian Council of Ministers adopted a draft decree on August 16, 2011, to lift the reservations. "Many of the reservations limited women's equality within their families, and their removal finally recognizes that women are equal partners in marriage and in making decisions about their children," said [Nadya Khalife](#), Middle East women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The Tunisian government, by lifting major reservations to CEDAW, is proclaiming its commitment to advance women's rights."



**Tunisia is the first country in the region to lift all specific reservations to CEDAW. Tunisia is also one of only two countries in the Middle East/North Africa region to adopt the Optional Protocol to CEDAW**, which entitles individuals or groups of individuals to submit complaints on women's rights violations to the CEDAW Committee.

However, **Tunisia is one of only four members of the African Union that have refused to sign, let alone ratify, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Tunisia made reservations to some of the Charter's clauses related to marriage.**

"Tunisia has proven itself a leader on women's rights in the region, and we hope it will set an example to other countries as the calls for reform sweep the Middle East and North Africa, Khalife said. "To ensure that it continues this leadership on gender equality, Tunisia should also sign and ratify the Maputo Protocol."

Source: *Human Rights Watch*

### SRI LANKA

24 August 2014 COLOMBO (Thomson Reuters Foundation) – When Sri Lankan government officials and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) put together a \$260 million rural water project in 2010 in the North Central and Eastern Provinces, **they made sure women would have a major role in managing the scheme.**

In Talpotha, a village in the rural Polonnaruwa District, women formed the core management group for the ADB-funded water project. They listed over 200 households connected to water pipes and regularly visit each household to check that usage does not exceed agreed limits.

"No one can play tricks with us because we know how much water is needed for household work as we are the ones who do most of that work," said management committee member Liyadurige Siyriyawathi. Committee members fine households that use too much water, which helps ensure the community has water throughout the year, she said.

#### Searching for Water - India/Bangladesh/Sri Lanka

The impact of the absence of women from public life is clear. IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) research shows that women and young girls in some parts of rural India spend over 30 percent of their time looking for safe water as fluctuating rain patterns lead to long droughts. The same is true of rural northern and eastern Sri Lanka, currently baked by a 10-month drought.

In Bangladesh many pregnant women suffer from eclampsia, partly because their drinking water has a high salt content. But "they have hardly any say in how water resources are managed in their villages," said Lorena Aguilar, a senior gender adviser at IUCN who oversees the organisation's [Environment and Gender Index](#), launched last year to monitor gender equality and women's empowerment in making and carrying out environmental policies.

Experts and local women say policymakers, virtually all of them men, need to make women active partners in decision making in order to address the problems affecting them. Getting women involved has already shown benefits. In Bangladesh, a project supported by GrameenPhone has provided women living in areas prone to natural disasters with mobile phones so that they can not only receive alerts but also inform the authorities of possible dangers.

But IUCN research found that among the 14,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) that manage 1.2 million hectares of Nepal's forests, women were among the members of executive committees - but their roles were often silent and token. "That should not be the case. Their role should be valued," Aguilar said.



## Les 3 L de l'autonomisation des femmes

par Christine Lagarde *la première femme qui dirige le Fonds monétaire international (FMI)*

Le 21<sup>e</sup> siècle pose de nombreux défis qui nécessitent de nouvelles manières de penser, mais aucun n'est plus important que le rôle économique des femmes dans un monde en rapide mutation.

L'économie mondiale se débat pour engendrer la croissance qui offrira à toutes et tous une vie meilleure, et toutes et tous peuvent y contribuer, mais les femmes ne peuvent toujours pas contribuer à la croissance économique comme le leur permettrait leur véritable potentiel.

Ce qu'il nous faut pour changer les choses, c'est un effort concerté en faveur de l'égalité des sexes, par ce que j'appelle les « 3 L » de l'autonomisation des femmes : *learning*, *labour* et *leadership* (l'apprentissage, le travail et le leadership).

Tout d'abord, l'apprentissage (*learning*) : l'éducation est le fondement même du changement. L'apprentissage permet aux femmes de se prendre en charge elles-mêmes et de briser les chaînes de l'exclusion. Nulle part au monde, l'éducation ne joue un rôle plus important que dans les pays en développement : d'après les estimations d'une étude de 60 pays, la perte économique annuelle imputable au fait que les filles ne bénéficient pas du même niveau d'éducation que les garçons atteint les 90 milliards de dollar des États-Unis. Une autre étude suggère qu'une année supplémentaire d'enseignement primaire accroît le revenu potentiel de 10 à 20 pour cent, et une année supplémentaire d'enseignement secondaire de 25 pour cent.

Il y a un proverbe africain qui dit : « Quand on éduque un garçon, on forme un homme. Quand on éduque une fille, on forme un village. » Non seulement c'est vrai, mais on peut le mesurer. Par exemple, une femme est beaucoup plus susceptible de consacrer ses revenus aux soins de santé et à l'éducation qu'un homme : elle y consacre jusqu'à 90 pour cent de ses revenus, contre seulement 30 à 40 pour cent pour un homme. Cette façon de faire a des répercussions sur l'ensemble de la société, au-delà des générations.

L'apprentissage n'est que la première étape à franchir, et le travail la deuxième : il permet aux femmes de s'épanouir et d'exprimer tout leur potentiel.

Toutefois, à l'heure actuelle, lorsque les femmes travaillent, elles doivent bien trop souvent se contenter d'emplois précaires, mal rémunérés et mal considérés, souvent dans le secteur non structuré dans le cas des pays en développement. Est-il donc surprenant que les femmes et les filles soient les principales victimes de l'extrême pauvreté ? Elles représentent 70 pour cent des milliards de personnes qui se battent pour survivre avec moins d'un dollar par jour. À l'échelle mondiale, les femmes ne gagnent que les trois quarts de ce que gagnent les hommes, et ce, même lorsqu'elles ont atteint le même niveau d'instruction et qu'elles occupent le même emploi qu'eux. L'une des règles les plus élémentaires que nous devrions respecter est très certainement « l'égalité de rémunération pour un travail égal » !

Selon des recherches récentes du FMI, l'élimination des disparités entre les sexes dans le cadre de la participation économique peut entraîner une augmentation du revenu par habitant. Celle-ci peut avoir d'importantes répercussions : les femmes tiennent les cordons de la bourse de la plupart des ménages du monde, et si elles dépensent davantage, la demande augmentera et stimulera la croissance économique.

Comment pouvons-nous favoriser la réussite professionnelle des femmes ? Il s'agit parfois de modifier la législation, par exemple pour faire en sorte que les lois portant sur les droits patrimoniaux et les droits de succession ne soient pas discriminatoires à l'égard des femmes. Il faut également que les politiques adoptées soient favorables à l'éducation et aux soins de santé, et qu'elles facilitent l'accès au crédit, de sorte que les femmes puissent atteindre une plus grande indépendance économique. C'est un domaine dans lequel le FMI s'efforce d'apporter sa contribution grâce à des analyses et au renforcement des capacités dans les pays membres.

Mais ce terrain de jeu n'est pas non plus équitable dans les pays riches. Ceux-ci ont encore besoin de plus de systèmes de congé pro-femmes, pro-famille ; de solutions abordables et de qualité pour la garde des enfants ; d'une fiscalité individuelle (plutôt que familiale) ; et de crédits d'impôt ou d'avantages fiscaux pour les travailleuses et travailleurs les moins bien rémunérés/ées.

L'éducation et le travail sont donc essentiels. Le troisième « L » est le leadership : donner aux femmes la possibilité de se lever et d'exploiter leurs aptitudes innées et leur talent. Il reste beaucoup à faire dans ce domaine : par exemple, seuls 4 pour cent des PDG de la liste des 500 entreprises de Standard and Poor sont des femmes, et seulement un cinquième des parlementaires du monde entier.

Cette situation est d'autant plus ironique que quand les femmes sont au pouvoir, elles ont tendance à faire aussi bien que les hommes, sinon mieux. Une étude montre que les entreprises du classement Fortune 500 qui ont promu des femmes à des postes de cadre supérieur enregistrent des profits largement plus élevés que ceux de la moyenne des sociétés de leur secteur. En outre, les femmes sont moins susceptibles de prendre des risques irréfléchis comme ceux qui ont engendré la crise financière mondiale de 2008. Elles sont plus enclines à prendre des décisions fondées sur le consensus, l'inclusion et la compassion, et à viser la viabilité à long terme.

Il est vrai, et c'est compréhensible vu les préjugés auxquels elles se heurtent, que les femmes ont parfois moins d'assurance que de compétences. Mais elles doivent changer d'état d'esprit pour modifier le cours de l'histoire à leur avantage. Il est donc primordial que les femmes s'apprennent à « oser la différence », à prendre des risques et à sortir de leur zone de confort.

Toutefois, même celles qui veulent vraiment réussir sont encore confrontées à des obstacles. J'en suis donc arrivée à considérer qu'il nous faut fixer des cibles et adopter des quotas pour les femmes et les hommes afin que les femmes prennent place à table, elles aussi. Nous devons choisir entre un changement forcé et l'enlisement dans la complaisance.

**Que nous parlions d'offrir l'enseignement primaire aux filles d'un village ou d'engager des femmes à des postes de direction dans les entreprises, il est temps de créer un monde dans lequel toutes les femmes peuvent exprimer leur potentiel sans entraves ou parti pris. Le monde entier récoltera les fruits de ce changement. Et les trois L nous aideront à y arriver.**

## L'exclusion sociale des femmes âgées accusées de sorcellerie au Burkina Faso

par Gudrun Haupter

**À l'invitation du Cadre de Concertation Genre (CCG) PromoFemmes/Développement Solidarité (PF/DS), une organisation non gouvernementale associée à l'AIF, a partagé son expérience dans la réinsertion sociale des femmes accusées de sorcellerie.**

De 2009 à 2011, l'ONG a mis en œuvre le projet « Promotion des Droits des Femmes Agées et Accès à leurs Acquis Sociaux au Burkina Faso », en partenariat avec Help Age International, l'Union Européenne, l'Association pour la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Enfant (APF), la Croix Rouge Burkinabè (CRBF) et certains ministères. A travers ce projet, PF/DS s'est attaquée au phénomène de l'exclusion sociale des femmes dans plusieurs départements au Nord du Burkina Faso. Les femmes de troisième âge, majoritairement les plus pauvres et démunies, sont accusées d'être des sorcières ou des « mangeuses d'âmes » en cas de décès d'un membre de leur famille ou de leur communauté. Elles se retrouvent bannies de leurs villages après avoir subi des traitements inhumains et dégradants notamment les sévices corporels, la lapidation et l'incendie de leurs habitations. Après trois ans d'actions pour donner un lendemain meilleur à ces femmes, PF/DS a acquis une riche expérience qui mérite d'être partagée.

Selon le coordonnateur du projet, Bruno Ouédraogo, l'objectif spécifique était de réduire l'exclusion sociale et les violations des droits des femmes âgées au Burkina Faso. Le projet a permis d'apporter un appui psychosocial à plus de 479 femmes exclues et de suivre 72 femmes suspectées de sorcellerie et expulsées de leurs communautés. Sur ces différents cas, seules 4 femmes ont réintégré leurs familles respectives.

Par ailleurs, PF/DS a formé 60 para-juristes en droits humains et 74 latrines ainsi qu'un forage ont été réalisés dans les villages au profit des

personnes âgées. De plus, divers outils de sensibilisation aux droits de la femme, à l'hygiène et à la santé des personnes âgées ont été conçus grâce au projet. La sensibilisation est aussi essentielle. C'est pourquoi 600 membres des clubs d'écoute et 30 forces de l'ordre ont été informés sur les droits humains de la femme et ses droits liés au mariage, et 874 personnes alphabétisées.



← Une « sorcière » menacée par les villageois

Outre ces résultats, le projet a permis de poser le problème de l'exclusion sociale des femmes au niveau national et communautaire.

Tout ceci a entraîné une plus grande visibilité de la question des droits des personnes âgées en général et de l'exclusion sociale des femmes en particulier, et a contribué à la prise en compte des besoins des personnes âgées. Par ailleurs, les actions de plaidoyer, menées dans le cadre du projet, ont amené le gouvernement à prendre des mesures au niveau programmatique et structurel. Par exemple un plan d'action national de lutte contre l'exclusion sociale des femmes a été élaboré par le ministère de l'action sociale et de la solidarité nationale. « *Toutefois, un projet de loi contre l'exclusion sociale des femmes, proposé par un groupe de députés de l'assemblée nationale peine à être adopté* », a déploré Bruno Ouédraogo au cours de sa présentation.

A l'issue de la communication, les participants, impressionnés par l'ampleur du phénomène, ont décidé d'effectuer une visite de terrain au projet « *Contribution à la lutte contre l'exclusion sociale et les violences faites aux femmes : le cas des femmes accusées de sorcelleries au Burkina Faso* », financé par le Fonds Commun Genre, et en cours d'exécution par la Commission épiscopale « Justice et Paix ».

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Ils se sont également engagés à faire un plaidoyer pour le financement des initiatives de lutte contre l'exclusion sociale des femmes au Burkina Faso.

Note de la rédactrice :

Depuis longtemps le Centre *Delwendé* situé dans le quartier Tanghin près d'un barrage, servait de refuge à des femmes bannies de leur village. Allaient-elles être récupérées à bout de forces au bord de la route ou sur le terrain, et acheminées vers ce centre entretenu de dons faits à l'église? Le hasard en déterminait. Pendant un de mes séjours au Burkina dans les années quatre-vingt du dernier siècle, dans le cadre de la coopération de l'ONG *Deutscher Frauenenring* avec ses partenaires Burkinabè, j'ai visité le centre et vu des femmes maigres et d'un âge avancé assises au sol, occupées à faire de la vannerie. Les corbeilles dites « Bolga », étaient tressées à partir de paille de mil en partie colorée, l'anse entourée de cuir de chèvre teint en rouge. Leur preneur le plus important - que je connaissais bien - les importait en Allemagne dans le cadre d'un projet de l'Association des Caisses d'Épargne. Par la suite, notre *Comité des Projets* dirigé alors avec élan par Brigitte Pross, passait des commandes à Ouagadougou et revendait, au profit de nos projets, ces Bolga pratiques et durables, au sein de notre organisation et aussi pendant des actions organisées par d'autres ONG ou des communes.

Pour terminer je cite Boukari Ouedraogo, journaliste du quotidien *Sidwaya* qui écrit en Septembre 2011 : « Des histoires déconseillaient d'approcher le centre. Ma première surprise est que j'ai vu une fille de 6 ans venue acheter des arachides avec l'une « des mangeuses d'âmes ». Selon ce qu'on racontait concernant ces sorcières, elles seraient capables du simple regard de dévorer un individu. Ce dernier mourrait subitement une fois rentrée chez lui ou en circulation.

Des films ont été réalisés par des Burkinabè dont le dernier en date est « *Delwendé lève toi et marche* » du réalisateur burkinabè Saint-Pierre Yaméogo.

Dans ce film, l'auteur montre l'absurdité de la politique d'exclusion des « mangeuses d'âmes ». Le réalisateur Idrissa Ouédraogo était déjà revenu sur le sujet dans son film *Yaaba*, prix spécial du jury lors du Festival Panafricain du Cinéma et de la Télévision de Ouagadougou (FESPACO) de 1989. »

*Gudrun Haupter*

*Commission Santé de l'AIF*

<sup>1</sup> Cet article s'appuie sur une communication d'Emmanuel KANSIE, Unité communication du FNUAP – Burkina Faso

<sup>2</sup> Ancienne présidente de notre organisation et vice-présidente de l'AIF

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### Salwa Bugaighis

le 25 Juin Salwa Bugaighis fut assassinée chez elle à Benghazi par un groupe d'inconnus. Son mari a été enlevé. Il venaient de voter pour le parlement.

Salwa Bugaighis avait joué un rôle actif dans la révolte de 2011 contre le colonel Kaddafi. L'avocate en droits humains et ancien membre du Conseil national de transition (CNT) était connue pour son opposition aux milices armées et aux extrémistes islamiques radicaux.

Elle a initié le Plateforme Libien des Femmes pour la Paix.

Ce terrible meurtre eut lieu le lendemain de la Table Ronde sur Perspectives du Genre, Sécurité, Paix de la Conférence ONGI au Conseil d'Europe. Salwa était une des contacts du Groupe de Travail de l'ONGI 'Inclure les Perspectives du Genre en procès politiques et démocratiques'.

Le 24e Juin la Conférence ONGI écouta l'activiste pour les droits humains Syrienne Mouna Ghaneen, coordinatrice du Plateforme Syrien pour la Paix, qui cherche à mettre fin à la guerre des armes, en remplaçant celles ci avec des mots.

Malgré les menaces de mort ces femmes courageuses on choisi de rester dans leur pays à promouvoir la paix, et certaines, comme Salwa, en paient avec leurs vie, Alliance Internationale des Femmes nous condamnons toute violence contre ces avocates pour le Droits Humains, nous admirons leur courage, en nous continuerons de les supporter.

*Anje Wiersinga*

*IAW Representative Council of Europe*



**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**  
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## De la paix chez soi à la paix dans le monde : Défions le militarisme et mettons fin à la violence contre les femmes!

La Campagne des 16 jours commence le 25 novembre, Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes, et se termine le 10 décembre, Journée des droits de l'homme, afin de bien souligner que les actes de violence de genre, ou sexiste, sont des violations du droit international humanitaire. À l'approche des 16 jours d'activisme et pendant ces 16 jours, les participants insisteront sur la nature systémique de la violence sexiste et du militarisme qui encourage l'inégalité et la discrimination et fait passer les dépenses d'armement avant le financement d'une éducation et de soins de santé de qualité ainsi que d'espaces publics sûrs. La culture du militarisme s'appuie sur des régimes et les protège en éliminant la dissidence et en recourant à la violence pour régler les différends économiques, politiques et sociaux. Le militarisme encourage et perpétue des modèles patriarcaux de domination politique, économique et sociale des populations par des élites peu nombreuses et privilégie la masculinité violente comme comportement acceptable.

La Campagne des 16 jours se concentre sur les recoupements entre violence sexiste et militarisme afin d'œuvrer à l'instauration d'un monde plus pacifique et plus équitable.

L'intersectionnalité de divers facteurs – âge, classe, sexe, lieu géographique, race, ethnicité, affiliation religieuse et orientation sexuelle, entre autres catégories d'analyse – éclaire sur la façon dont les femmes vivent la violence, l'inégalité et la discrimination et y réagissent.

### Agissez pour mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes et au militarisme!

Reconnaître l'indivisibilité des droits humains et le fait que les droits de la femme sont des droits humains fait partie intégrante d'un monde sans violence sexiste où toutes et tous peuvent vivre libérés de la crainte et de la misère.

### Restez connectés!

Campagne des 16 jours : <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS / NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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