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## The EU Istanbul Convention enters into force on 1 August 2014

*This is an important milestone in the history of the Women's Movement and much remains to be done to improve the situation of women survivors of violence and their children.*

On the 1st of August 2014, the Istanbul Convention will come into force. For Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) and all of our Focal Points and Partners, the upcoming event is a tremendous accomplishment in the history of the Women's Movement. The Istanbul Convention is the first ever truly comprehensive instrument at the European level which addresses violence against women. As of beginning of July 2014, 13 countries have already ratified the Convention, and 23 have signed it. The Convention's coming into force is an important step, and strong implementation and commitment of member states is needed to effectively work towards preventing and combating violence against women and their children.

Important themes of the Convention include Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Substantive law and Monitoring. Prevention of violence against women and domestic violence is essential to save multiple lives and lower human suffering. The Convention sets requirements for governments for preventative work to function, including training of professionals who are in contact with victims, working closely with NGOs, involving the media and private sector in eradicating gender stereotypes and other points.

Read more:

<http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Press%20release%20-%20Istanbul%20Convention%20coming%20into%20force%20on%201st%20August.pdf>

## Egypt's new anti-harassment law to make a difference?



*A YouTube video of a woman being sexually assaulted in Tahrir Square during the inauguration celebrations for new Egyptian president Abdul Fattah al-Sisi has again drawn attention to the problems of sexual violence against women in Egypt. For the first time in history the country has a new law criminalizing sexual harassment, yet activists remain skeptical as to how effective it will be if it is left to stand on its own.*

Colonel General Abdul Fattah el-Sisi, the new president of Egypt, was installed into office on 8 June this year. The following day, a video was leaked on YouTube that catapulted an unexpected issue to the top of the newly inaugurated president's agenda.

The shaky and chaotic video shows a woman who during the evening's celebrations in Cairo's Tahrir Square is sexually attacked in a most brutal manner by a large group of enraged and agitated men.

Unfortunately, this attack is not something new in itself. According to new studies, 99.3% of Egyptian women have experienced sexual harassment on the street, ranging from degrading jeering and groping to all out rape.

Read more:

<http://www.womendialogue.org/magazine/goer-ny-lov-om-sexchikane-en-forskel-egyptens-kvinder>

## Egyptian feminists raise awareness of women's cultural and political role

*Feminist groups like the National Council for Women (NCW) are trying to reach their goal by initiating projects to empower women in society and support women in politics.*



Women for Women and the Alliance for Arab Women have launched a series of lectures discussing women's rights and culture.

"Everything evolves over time and so does the role of women in culture and society," said Mohamed El Sawy, founder of the El Sawy CultureWheel, during the first event after Ramadan.

Shahira Mehrez, professor of Islamic architecture and art at the American University in Cairo (AUC), gave an introduction on the cultural role of Egyptian women from the countryside. She illustrated the dress codes and the evolution of traditional fashion amongst this group during the event.

The fashion design of rural Egypt is a good example of the cultural impact women have in a society, she said.

Read more:

[http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/08/06/egyptian-feminists-raise-awareness-womens-cultural-political-role/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+DailyNewsEgypt+](http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/08/06/egyptian-feminists-raise-awareness-womens-cultural-political-role/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+DailyNewsEgypt+)

## Cairo court sentences 2 men to life for Tahrir sexual assault



Women chant slogans as they gather to protest against sexual harassment in front of the opera house in Cairo

*Two men get life in jail and a third a 20-year sentence after sexual assault in Tahrir Square on the day of President El-Sisi's inauguration*

Cairo Criminal Court has sentenced two men to life in prison, and another to 20 years in jail, convicted of sexual assault during the celebrations of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi's inauguration in Tahrir Square.

The court sentenced Karim Shaaban and Ahmed Said to life, while Magdy El-Siyad was sentenced to 20 years and another five on probation after serving his term. The convicted were also ordered to pay the victims LE100,000 in compensation.

The defendants were convicted of charges that included indecent assault and abduction, as well threatening victims with force.

The sexual assaults in the case took place in June.

Read more:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/107924/Egypt/Politics-/Cairo-Criminal-Court-sentences-two-men-to-life-for.aspx>

## **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

### **Man faces prison for attacking Saudi woman in U.S.**



A US court has charged a young American with inciting hatred and racism after he attacked a Saudi Ph.D. student on a street in Michigan, [sabq.org](http://sabq.org) electronic newspaper reported.

Jonathan Patrick Deuel, 29, and two others reportedly tried to pull off the woman's face veil and abaya as she walked down the street with her five-year-old daughter.

Deuel faces up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine if convicted, the media said. Deuel, along with two other men and one woman, reportedly surrounded the woman and tried to remove her abaya, but she fell to the ground as the attackers shouted slurs at her, according to press reports.

The attackers fled after the woman's husband heard her cries and rushed to the scene. The Saudi woman was hospitalized for 36 hours after complaining of pain in her left arm.

"Though she is in stable condition, the woman is still psychologically shaken up by the incident," media sources said.

Read more:

<http://islam.ru/en/content/story/man-faces-prison-attacking-saudi-woman-us>

### **ISIS Targeting Women; International Action Needed Now**

*The news coming from Women's Learning Partnership (WLP) partners on the ground in Lebanon and Jordan and media outlets in Iraq and Syria is horrifying. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is terrorizing innocent civilians living in areas under their control. Women are their primary target. ISIS's ethnic cleansing of large swaths of Iraq is quickly reaching genocidal proportions across the region.*

A staff member of WLP Lebanon/CRTD.A recently fled Arsal, which fell to ISIS control this past weekend. Women are forced to cover from head to toe, and are forbidden to use mobile phones. Music and sports are banned. Those who were unable to leave Arsal wait in fear.

Across ISIS controlled territories in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria residents are told to convert to ISIS's extremist ideology or be killed. Non-muslims who fled imminent death in Sinjar, Iraq, are dying of thirst hiding on a neighboring mountaintop, the land too dry to bury the children and elderly who have not survived.

WLP calls on the international community, the United Nations, and member-states to take urgent action. There must be international acknowledgement of the tragic reality on the ground and immediate humanitarian assistance to displaced people. Intelligence sources must release the names of the countries and individuals providing funds and military arms to ISIS, and severe sanctions must be immediately applied to all parties.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/Get-Involved/Urgent-Actions3/ISIS-Targeting-Women-International-Action-Needed-Now>



## Turkey struggles with femicide as domestic violence mounts



Women chanted slogans in protest of violence against women. Domestic violence is a major concern in Turkey, where on July 2 three women were murdered by their husbands.

*On a single day -- July 2 -- three women were murdered by their husband in Turkey. The following day, a young woman was killed by her 16-year-old brother. Since then, there have been several murders of women by their husband or a close male relative. The Turkish government continuously fails to tackle the issue, and instead tries to defend itself from any responsibility or blame. This week, Sunday's Zaman spoke with several representatives from women's organizations in İstanbul and discussed the many facets of the nationwide femicide (killing of women).*

The rate of murders of women in Turkey is increasing. There have been several murders in the recent weeks; on July 2, there were three in one day. All show one pattern: Women are being killed by the men who are closest to them. According to Bianet's 2013 report of murders of women, out of the 214 women that were murdered that year, 66 percent were slain by husbands, ex-husbands and lovers, and the rest by close male relatives: fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. Looking at the first six months of this year, there have been at least 139 murders of women.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/turkey-struggles-femicide-domestic-violence-mounts>

## Iraq - gunmen kill 25 women on prostitution raid in Baghdad

Gunmen killed 25 women when they stormed two buildings in a residential Baghdad compound reputedly used for prostitution.

"Twenty-five women were killed and eight people wounded, among them four men, when gunmen stormed two buildings in a residential compound in Zayouna in east Baghdad," an interior ministry official told AFP.

A senior police officer, who said the attackers used silenced weapons, gave the same death toll but reported 11 wounded.

"Unidentified gunmen stormed building number 43 in Zayouna, killing 10 women and wounding five. They also stormed building number 44, where they killed 15 women and wounded six men," a police colonel said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"When we walked up the stairs, we saw a couple of women's bodies and blood streaming down the stairs. We entered a flat and found bodies everywhere, some lying on the sofa, some on the ground, and one woman who apparently had tried to hide in a cupboard in the kitchen shot to death there."

An AFP correspondent on the scene said police cordoned off the area while eyewitnesses also said several people were arrested in the aftermath of the killings.

"This is the fate of any prostitution," read a inscription on the door of the one of the raided buildings.

Read more:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/10964313/Gunmen-kill-25-women-in-Baghdad-prostitution-raid.html>

## Middle East conflict: 500 women and children buried alive by Islamic extremists, claims Iraqi minister

*Iraq's human rights minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, claims there is undeniable evidence that Islamic gangs have executed at least 500 Yazidis*



On the run: Thousands of Yazidis escape from Islamic State forces

Petrified women and children were buried alive in a mass slaughter by Islamic State extremists, it was claimed yesterday.

An estimated 500 Yazidis were murdered in the atrocity in Iraq, according to the country's human rights minister. He also said around 300 girls and women have been kidnapped as slaves by the terror group.

The outrages have piled pressure on the West to step up its actions against the jihadists who have besieged around 150,000 Yazidis in the Sinjar region of the country.

Desperate families on foot continued to flee for their lives at the weekend. Children and stricken adults were carried during the exodus in the searing heat.

Read more:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/middle-east-conflict-500-women-4034384>

## Women stoned to death in Syria for adultery



A preacher read the verdict before the truck came and dumped a large pile of stones near the municipal garden. Jihadi fighters then brought in the woman, clad head to toe in black, and put her in a small hole in the ground. When residents gathered, the fighters told them to carry out the sentence: Stoning to death for the alleged adulteress.

None in the crowd stepped forward, said a witness to the event in a northern Syrian city. So the jihadi fighters, mostly foreign extremists, did it themselves, pelting Faddah Ahmad with stones until her body was dragged away.

"Even when she was hit with stones she did not scream or move," said an opposition activist who said he witnessed the stoning near the football stadium and the Bajaa garden in the city of Raqqa, the main Syrian stronghold of the Islamic State group.

Read more:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-10/266648-women-stoned-to-death-in-syria-for-adultery.ashx#axzz3AZxqj5ns>

## Who will condemn the sexual enslavement of Iraq's minority women?

*Slavery and rape are being used as weapons of war by Isis against Yazidi and Christian women, yet rights activists are silent*



An Iraqi Yazidi family that fled the violence in Sinjar take shelter at a school in the Kurdish city of Dohuk.

Evidence that women belonging to the Yazidi and Christian religious minorities in Iraq are being raped and sold into slavery by the Islamic State (Isis) is mounting. One of the first to speak out was Vian Dakheel, the only Yazidi female MP who addressed the Iraqi parliament last week, despite the speaker telling her to be quiet and stick to the agreed statement.

“Mr Speaker, our women are being taken as slaves and being sold in the slave market,” she said.

A spokesman for Iraq's human rights ministry, Kamil Amin, confirmed that the Islamist group had captured Yazidi women under 35 years old, that it is holding them in schools and likely to use them as slaves.

The news was reaffirmed by the Iraqi Red Crescent and the international press, which reported that those fleeing had received phone calls from their daughters, wives or sisters saying they were being taken as brides or warned to convert or die.

Read more:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/aug/15/sexual-enslavement-iraq-minority-women-isis-slavery-rape>

## GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

### Isis ideology spreading fast & recruiting – what will this mean for women & girls over time, in South Asia?

*The ISIS ideology is spreading fast on social media, 'the new machine to recruit militants.'*



The Loyalty to the Islamic state. Senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon swears allegiance to Isis

The Islamic State (IS), formerly known as ISIS or the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq or ISIS, is expanding its recruitment on social media in the Philippines.

On July 23, a video of senior Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon along with masked men was posted on YouTube. Hapilon carries a reward of up to \$5 million from the US Rewards for Justice Program. He was indicted in the District of Columbia for “terrorist acts against United States nationals and other foreign nationals.” The FBI says he was “the deputy or second in command for the foreign terrorist organization, the Abu Sayyaf.”

The propaganda video begins with still photos establishing the notoriety of Hapilon: his encircled photo on posters of most wanted terrorists from the United States, which include al-Qaeda's leaders.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/08\\_14/08\\_04/0804\\_14\\_philippines.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/08_14/08_04/0804_14_philippines.htm)



## Turkey – Deputy prime minister says women should not laugh aloud in public, claims moral corruption in Turkey



*Women should not laugh out loud in public, Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç has said while complaining about “moral corruption” in Turkey*

Speaking during an Eid el-Fitr meeting on July 28, Arınç described his ideal of the chaste man or woman, saying they should both have a sense of shame and honor.

“Chastity is so important. It is not only a name. It is an ornament for both women and men. [She] will have chasteness. Man will have it, too. He will not be a womanizer. He will be bound to his wife. He will love his children. [The woman] will know what is haram and not haram. She will not laugh in public. She will not be inviting in her attitudes and will protect her chasteness,” Arınç said, adding that people had abandoned their values today.

People need to discover the Quran once again, Arınç said, adding that there had been a regression on moral grounds.

“Where are our girls, who slightly blush, lower their heads and turn their eyes away when we look at their face, becoming the symbol of chastity?” he said.

Read more:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/women-should-not-laugh-in-public-turkish-deputy-pm-says-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=69732&NewsCatID=338>

## Iraq - Isis Orders All Women & Girls in Mosul to Undergo FGM, Says UN



Iraqi families displaced by the Isis offensive in Mosul and northern Iraq at a refugee camp near Irbil.

*UN says 'fatwa' issued by militant group in and around Iraqi city could affect 4 million females.*

The militant group Islamic State (Isis) has ordered all girls and women in and around Iraq's northern city of Mosul to undergo female genital mutilation, the United Nations says.

The "fatwa" issued by the Sunni Muslim fighters would potentially affect 4 million women and girls, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, Jacqueline Badcock, told reporters in Geneva by videolink from Irbil.

"This is something very new for Iraq, particularly in this area, and is of grave concern and does need to be addressed," she said.

"This is not the will of Iraqi people, or the women of Iraq in these vulnerable areas covered by the terrorists," she added.

No one was immediately available for comment from Isis, which has led an offensive through northern and western Iraq.

Read more:

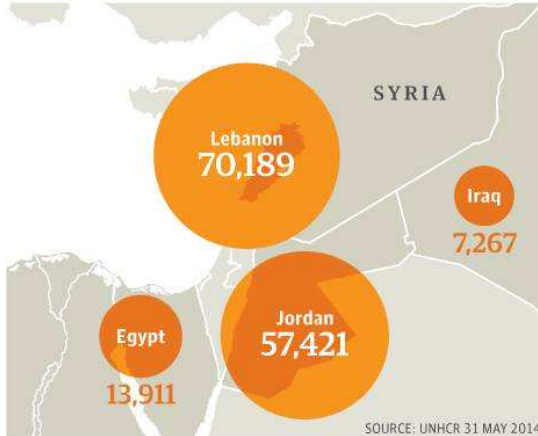
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/24/isis-women-girls-fgm-mosul-un>



## Syria – Women refugees are sole provider for ¼ of families who have fled the fighting – poverty, harassment, isolation – UN

### Syrian refugee women

Syrian refugee women who head their household



Syria Women Refugees

Women are the sole providers for one in four Syrian refugee families, struggling to provide food and shelter for their children and often facing harassment, humiliation and isolation, according to a report from the UN high commissioner for refugees.

More than 145,000 Syrian families now living in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan are led by women, it says. The civil war in Syria has torn apart families and communities, forcing almost three million people – mostly women and children - to flee the country.

Those interviewed for the report, *Woman Alone – the Fight for Survival by Syrian Refugee Women*, said they lacked resources, jobs, food, housing, protection and security. One in three reported they did not have enough to eat.

Read more:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/women-head-quarter-syrian-refugee-families>

## Rehab program for female extremists

The Interior Ministry has confirmed the establishment of a special rehabilitation program for women previously involved with Al-Qaeda. “Women who have been arrested in connection with terrorism activities will be involved in a special rehabilitation program like men, but rehab will take place in cooperation with their families,” Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour Al-Turki told local media. Only a limited number of women are detained on suspected terrorism charges compared with men.

Al-Turki did not clarify whether there would be a special female department at the Mohammed bin Naif Consulting and Care Center, which is devoted to correcting behavioral patterns and ideas that lean toward terrorism. The center also plays a big role in promoting moderation.

Yemen recently handed over a Saudi woman who had joined Al-Qaeda in Yemen. The woman was among eight Saudis extradited to the Kingdom on charges of associating with the terrorist group.

The woman had illegally left the Kingdom for Yemen without the consent of her family and husband.

Saudi Arabia has released 166 former Al-Qaeda members and former militants after they underwent a long-term state-sponsored counseling program (Munasaha) in 2013 aimed at reintegrating them into society, said Al-Turki.

Read more:

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/saudi-arabia/610986>

## **Palestinian Women: Trapped Between Occupation & Patriarchy**

On a warm and bright Sunday morning, three-year-old Saqer was cuddling with his mother when she was shot several times in the head and chest. Dishevelled, tremulous, and smirched with his mother's blood, Saqer was spotted by a neighbour pleading for help, but was unable to give utterance to what had just befallen his household. Saqer's mother, Mona Mahajneh, had just been murdered in cold blood in front of his own eyes; the only suspect so far is his maternal uncle, whose detention has been extended in order to allow the investigation of the murder to progress.

Mahajneh, a 30-year-old mother of three from Umm al-Fahm in the Northern Triangle, is the latest martyr of domestic violence against Palestinian women in the Palestinian territories occupied by Zionist militias in 1948 (hereinafter referred to as the Green Line, Israel's internationally-recognized armistice border). She tried to start a new life after her divorce, despite being separated from her other two children. However, in a patriarchal society, where divorced women are often dehumanized and treated like scourges and onerous burdens, Mona paid with her life for seeking independence and the freedom to choose.

### *Tragic Irony*

Ironically, Mona was murdered only two days after a protest against killings of women under the cloak of "family honor." On Friday, 26 April, the Committee Against Women Killings, a coalition of 20 Palestinian feminist groups, toured Palestinian villages and cities in the Green Line in two separate motorized processions.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/07\\_14/07\\_14/0714\\_14\\_palestinian.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/07_14/07_14/0714_14_palestinian.htm)

## *RESOURCES & CALLS BOOKS & REPORTS*

### **New Evidence Highlights What Works to Empower Girls and Young Women**



Girls with little or no education are far more likely to be married as children, suffer domestic violence, and live in poverty than better-educated peers.

*Despite recent advances in important aspects of the lives of girls and young women, pervasive challenges remain.*

Educating, empowering, and employing the largest-ever generation of young people is vital to ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity – the World Bank Group's twin corporate goals. New impact evaluation (IE) briefs by the World Bank Group (WBG), released ahead of International Youth Day 2014, shed new light on what works in development interventions targeting girls and young women, who still account for a disproportionate share of the world's poor and face persistent inequalities at home, school, and work that keep them and their families in poverty

Read more:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/08/11/new-evidence-highlights-what-works-to-empower-girls-and-young-women>

## **Text from Birthing Justice - Women Creating Economic & Social Alternatives**

*Rewriting the rules of the global economy: creating economics that improves people's lives - women*

In writing the "rules" for economies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO) are the major proponents of neoliberal ideology. That ideology is based on the theory that slashing government spending, reducing tariffs, privatizing public resources, and promoting corporate investment will result in higher economic growth, and that this will eventually result in a reduction in poverty. This is directly opposed to more human rights development viewpoints that say in order to reduce inequality, we need to invest in health care, education, and opportunities for the poor.

When it comes to economic policies, we would be better off if the people affected by the issues had more voice and power over such policies.

The mandate of the International Monetary Fund is to help countries overcome short-term financial difficulties by giving our loans. However, these loans are only provided if countries restructure their economies, cut government spending as for social programs, and thus result in what may well be a reduction of growth and development, and more unemployment. Thus, while the creditors are bailed out by the IMF, often the borrowing country is unable to repay the loan, resulting in an endless cycle of impoverishment and indebtedness.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/08\\_14/08\\_04/0804\\_14\\_women3.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/08_14/08_04/0804_14_women3.htm)

## **Gender at work: a companion to the world development report on jobs**

Gender inequality is a major part of the global jobs challenge. Appropriate responses require leveling the playing field and creating the types of jobs that can empower women. Gender inequality in the world of work has been stubbornly persistent across multiple dimensions, despite relatively large gains in recent decades in women's health and education. This report focuses on one dimension of inequality that is often related to other aspects of disadvantage. The starting point is the recognition that women are disadvantaged globally on virtually every indicator in the world of work - earnings, quality of employment, employment status, participation, and that these differences matter for development. This report was initiated as a companion to the world development report (WDR) 2013 on jobs and builds on key findings and frameworks from both the report and the preceding WDR 2012 on gender equality and development. The value added of this report is to revisit the key constraints to gender equality in the world of work in light of new evidence, and go more deeply into the importance of women's agency for boosting their participation in the world of work (and vice versa) using a lifecycle perspective. Global action is needed to fill knowledge gaps about the problems of, and the solutions to, gender inequality in the world of work.

Read more:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/02/19790446/gender-work-companion-world-development-report-jobs>

For a direct link to report:

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/07/15/000442464\\_20140715121401/Rendered/PDF/892730WP0Box3800report0Feb.02002014.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/07/15/000442464_20140715121401/Rendered/PDF/892730WP0Box3800report0Feb.02002014.pdf)



## Too young to wed: the growing problem of child marriage among Syrian girls in Jordan



Save the Children's new report, "Too Young to Wed: The Growing Problem of Child Marriage among Syrian Girls in Jordan," spells out a number of reasons why families are opting for early marriage for their daughters. As refugees, Syrian families are reliant on dwindling resources and lacking economic opportunities.

At the same time, they are all too aware of the need to protect their daughters from the threat of sexual violence. Given these pressures, some families consider child marriage to be the best way to protect their female children and ease family resources.

Children who drop out of school are more likely to marry, and conversely, children who get married are more likely to drop out of education, with girls expected to leave school in order to care for their husband and home, or to begin childbearing and childcare.

Read more:

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=8rKLIXMGIpI4E&b=8943305&ct=14076957>

For a direct link to report:

[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Too\\_Young\\_to\\_Wed.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Too_Young_to_Wed.pdf)

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