

Issue #139

Collective for Research and Training on Development . Action  
Middle East & North Africa Gender And Development Electronic Brief

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## NEWS & ARTICLES

### GENDER ACTIVISM

#### **One billion rising: The 2014 campaign to end violence against women**

*There have been many victories, but still the violence continues. The refusal to hold perpetrators to account is a 'global plague' – and this year the campaign will focus on justice*

This year we are escalating and deepening the campaign with One Billion Rising for Justice. Justice is about restoring the primacy of connection so that we understand that violence against women is not a personal problem, but connected to other systemic injustices whether they be patriarchal, economic, racial, gender, or environmental.

Our work this year is to weave this bigger story. On 8 January 2014, many cities, including New York, Santa Fe, Miami, Mumbai, Manila and London, are organising forums called the State of Female Justice, where leaders of activist groups, lawyers, thinkers and survivors are talking about a more inclusive, multilayered story. Many questions have arisen. How do we create justice when the state is paralysed or against us? What does justice look like? How do we address root causes of violence? How do we join our struggles? How do we distinguish between justice and revenge?

Justice is resonant across all kinds of boundaries because the refusal to hold perpetrators of violence accountable is a global plague often an equal or sometimes worse trauma than the act of violence itself. Many places are planning events where women will come forward to tell their stories of injustice. All the member groups of International Women's Alliance around the global south will be rising not just against corporations, but against the whole system that keeps women poor. Syrian women are rising from the front lines of war.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/One-Billion-Rising-the-2014-campaign-to-end-violence-against-women>

#### **Lebanon: Pregnant refugees seek assistance through the Syria Emergency Response Fund**



Hana's twins suffered complications during delivery but recovered with neonatal care, supported by OCHA's Syria Emergency Response Fund. They are now healthy. Credit: UNRWA

*In the summer of 2012, when Thawra Al Jabal fled violence and shelling in her hometown of Deir El Zoor, in Syria, she was two months pregnant.*

"I left home with only my clothes on. All I could carry were my kids and our credentials," says the 29-year-old mother of four. The family moved into a tent in the village of Baalool in West Bekaa, Lebanon.

By the time they arrived, Ms. Al Jabal knew something was wrong with her pregnancy. She felt exhausted and unwell, but she was reluctant to go to a doctor, fearing the cost.

When she learned that the health centre in Kamed El Laouz offered free prenatal consultations, she sought help immediately. The gynaecologist there referred her to a cardiologist, who diagnosed her with weakness in her aortic valve, a serious condition that would require a Caesarean-section delivery.

Over the following months, she experienced constant pain in her right leg and had difficulty moving. Her family feared she might not survive. "I needed a C-section, and I couldn't afford hospitalization," she says.

Read more:

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/pregnant-refugees-seek-assistance-lebanon-through-syria-emergency-response>

## 16 days of activism against gender violence campaign 2013



Nation-wide media campaign under the slogan “Alla Ysa’eda”... Ma Betsa’eda, which reads: Saying “God helps her”, does not help her

“Alla Ysa’eda...” (may God Help Her) Is a sentence we often hear that reflects a very common sentiment in Lebanon. We frequently hear and see violence against women happening in our country, in our neighborhood, in our media, and in our own families regardless of our social status, nationality or sect. Yet, we tend to distance ourselves from the problem maybe because of a collective feeling that there is nothing that we can do. Moreover, since addressing the issue of violence against women is still considered a taboo in our context, we respond to it with passivity; we place its burden on some higher power expecting God to exert actions, saying “Allah ysa’eda” (*may God Help Her*). We have become so passive to the extent that violence in Lebanon has become normalized!

Currently, we in Lebanon find ourselves in a position where we have no cabinet, an inactive parliament, with politicians who are more concerned with regional politics than with social problems that are affecting the daily lives of its citizens; such that violence against women is not considered a priority. The rationale behind this might be that issues relating to violence are wrongly regarded as ‘just women’s issue’ when they are in fact one of the most important societal concerns, for women and men alike. This issue is a pressing matter of public health, human rights, and social justice. And since we can no longer rely on the institutions that we are supposed to rely on to address these issues; It becomes paramount to be proactive in addressing this issue ourselves.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12\\_13/12\\_02/120213\\_lebanon.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12_13/12_02/120213_lebanon.htm)

## Egypt’s new constitution a victory for women’s rights to full citizenship



(Cairo, December 2nd, 2013) Yesterday the 50-member Constituent Assembly tasked with amending the suspended 2012 constitution came to an end. A preliminary reading of the Constitution, with an eye to safeguarding women’s rights, shows that, as well as the favorable constitutional provisions on economic and social rights, civil and political rights and public freedoms, Egyptian women for the first time have won the right to full citizenship as stipulated in **Article 6**: ‘Nationality is the right of a person born to an Egyptian father or an Egyptian mother. The legal recognition of that person and the granting of official documents proving that person’s personal details are rights guaranteed and regulated by law. The law shall determine the conditions for acquiring nationality.’

Egyptian women married to non-Egyptians have faced huge difficulties conferring their nationality on their children, which is regarded as a diminution of a woman’s rights as a citizen and as a form of guardianship or patriarchal oversight over her decision when choosing a husband.

**Article 11** is a paradigm shift in terms of a woman’s right to participate in decision making and holding public office, and also shows concern for poor and marginalised women, together with reducing all forms of violence against women.

Read more:

<http://ecwronline.org/blog/2013/12/02/egypts-new-constitution-a-victory-for-womens-rights-to-full-citizenship/>

## Syrian women's groups push for equal role at Geneva II talks



Syrian refugee women attending a counseling session in northern Jordan. Syrian women's groups want full representation at the Geneva II peace talks in January 2014. RUSSELL WATKINS/DFID

Recognizing that women in the Middle East and North Africa must play an active role in their countries' political processes, especially amid the regional backdrop of upheavals and conflicts, the Netherlands government is providing money for a new program, Women on the Frontline, to help women-run initiatives organize themselves better to assert their rights to equal civic participation. One such prominent effort is a push for the participation of Syrian women's groups in the Geneva II peace negotiations between President Bashar al-Assad and the opposition, scheduled by the United Nations for Jan. 22. Achieving that goal is shared by a global network of women's groups representing thousands of activists, but they are meeting tough resistance.

Some of the groups not only want women included in official representative parties but also as an entity of their own, an unprecedented move that reflects the increasing frustration felt by women's organizations that despite the internationally laws mandating women's place at high-level peace talks, they remain excluded from the table.

The Dutch program, which includes an international development organization, Hivos, has 5.8 million euros (about \$7.9 million) to invest in young women's groups formed just before or during the national "transitions" in the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region, said Jetteke van der Schatte Olivier, the manager for Women on the Frontline at Hivos, based in The Hague.

Read more:

<http://passblue.com/2013/12/05/syrian-womens-groups-push-for-equal-role-at-geneva-ii-talks/>

## Constructing a future for youth in Tunisia



Najet weaves a colorful patterned rug inspired by traditional concepts (Photo: UNDP Tunisia)

Ever since Najet Salem was a young design student, she dreamed of two things: reviving the ancient carpet-weaving tradition and empowering the women artisans of her hometown of Gafsa, in southwest Tunisia.

"From the time I was young, I was fascinated by weaving and I sensed how many women who carried on this tradition were lacking support," says the 25-year-old, today a successful businesswoman. "It hurt my heart to see that, compared with the products of (towns like) Ouedhrif or Kairouan, there was a big difference in terms of quality," she says of Gafsa's famous "Mergoum" carpets.

Local artisans were losing their expertise, Salem explains, and unskilled producers were eroding the traditional luster of the Mergoum carpet, whose unique bright colors and geometric patterns are reminiscent of the art of the Berbers and Romans.

Read more:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/capacitybuilding/successstories/construire-le-futur-des-jeunes-en-tunisie/#>

## Milestone for Jordanian women in politics + WLP training participants join senate



(Clockwise from top left) MP Khould Alkhatabeh, Senator Asma Khader, Senator Nawal Faouri, MP Wafa bani Moustafa, and MP Hind Al Fayez at WLP's December 2012 MENA Regional TOT

After years leading trainings and capacity building on women's leadership and political participation based on WLP methodology, WLP Jordan/SIGI-J's work has resulted in a number of key achievements in 2013. Most recently, in October SIGI-J General Coordinator Asma Khader along with Emily Naffa and Nawal Faouri, both of whom completed the WLP training program, were appointed to the Senate of Jordan, which includes a total of nine women in the seventy-five member body.

These newest appointments follow on the heels of the January 2013 election of three additional WLP training participants – Hind Al Fayez, Wafa bani Moustafa, and Khould Alkhatabeh – to Jordan's lower house of Parliament.

SIGI-J's hard work demonstrated additional impressive results this summer as well. While the country has a municipal women's quota of roughly one third, women exceeded the quota in the August 2013 municipal elections. According to Khader, not only did the leadership and political participation trainings and outreach serve to bolster participants' practical skills for engaging in campaigns, but they also shifted local perspectives on women's ability and legitimacy as political leaders.

Read more:

<http://www.learningpartnership.org/lib/jordan-women-politics-training-parliament>

## *GENDER BASED VIOLENCE*

### **Lebanon: Women refugees from Syria harassed, exploited**

*Women refugees from Syria are being sexually harassed by employers, landlords, and even faith-based aid distributors in Lebanon, Human Rights Watch said. Human Rights Watch interviewed a dozen women who described being groped, harassed, and pressured to have sex.*

The women Human Rights Watch interviewed said they did not report incidents to local authorities due to lack of confidence that authorities would take action and fear of reprisals by the abusers or arrest for not having a valid residency permit.

“Women who have fled death and destruction in Syria should find a safe haven, not sexual abuse, in Lebanon,” said Liesl Gerntholtz, women's rights director at Human Rights Watch. “Government and aid agencies need to open their eyes to the sexual harassment and exploitation of these vulnerable refugees and do everything in their power to stop it.”

Twelve female refugees from Syria, interviewed separately in August and September 2013, told Human Rights Watch that they had experienced sexual assault, harassment, or attempted sexual exploitation, sometimes repeatedly, by employers, landlords, local faith-based aid distributors, and community members in Beirut, the Bekaa, and North and South Lebanon. Eight of the women are widowed, unmarried, or in Lebanon without their husbands. All 12 women are registered as refugees with UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency.

Hala, 53, from Damascus, who said her husband is detained by the Syrian government, cleaned homes in a Beirut suburb to support herself and her four children.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News2/Lebanon-Women-Refugees-From-Syria-Harassed-Exploited>

## **Syria – Abduction of human rights defenders Ms. Razan Zaitouna, Mr. Wael Hamada, Mr. Nazem Hamaadi and Ms Samira Khalil**

*On 9 December 2013, human rights defenders Ms Razan Zaitouna, Mr Wael Hamada, Mr Nazem Hamaadi and Ms Samira Khalil were abducted by masked armed men and taken to unknown whereabouts.*

They were kidnapped from the offices of The Center for Documenting Human Rights Violations in Syria, located in Douma. Razan Zaitouna is an award-winning human rights defender who worked on the rights of political prisoners in Syria before the revolution, and continued her activities throughout the peaceful uprising in 2011, founding the 'local coordination committees'. In 2011, she received the Anna Politkovskaya award "RAW (Reach All Women) in WAR" for her bravery standing up for victims of human rights violations in times of conflict. She is a prominent journalist, actively monitoring and documenting crimes and violations in Syria, particularly in the Douma region. For this she received the International Women of Courage Award in 2013.

Wael Hamada is an active human rights defender who had been kidnapped by the authorities in 2011 for his legitimate work in the defence of human rights in Syria, and Nazem Hamaadi is a well-known lawyer and poet, respected for his defence of detainees who were arrested in Damascus during the revolution. Samira Khalil is a human rights activist and a member of a peaceful political opposition party in Syria.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/Get-Involved/Urgent-Actions3/Syria-Abduction-of-human-rights-defenders-Ms-Razan-Zaitouna-Mr-Wael-Hamada-Mr-Nazem-Hamaadi-and-Ms-Samira-Khalil-by-unknown-assailants>

## **UN women's rights resolution passed despite backlash**

*UNITED NATIONS – A UN General Assembly committee has agreed a landmark first resolution on women's rights defenders such as Malala Yousafzai, despite a hard fought campaign by an alliance including the Vatican to weaken the measure.*

A Norwegian-led coalition, which has prepared the resolution for months, had to delete language that condemned "all forms of violence against women" to get the text passed by consensus late Wednesday, November 27.

African nations, the Vatican, Iran, Russia, China and conservative Muslim states had sought to weaken the resolution passed by the assembly's human rights committee, diplomats and activists said.

The campaign for women's rights defenders has been given a huge boost in recent months by the likes of Malala, the Pakistani teenager shot in the head by the Taliban for her battle for girls' education, and Denis Mukwege, the Democratic Republic of Congo doctor briefly forced into exile for his work helping rape victims.

Both had been named as Nobel Peace Prize candidates this year.

The resolution calls on all states to publicly condemn violence against women human rights defenders, amend legislation that hinders them and give activists free access to UN bodies.

"The international community has sent a clear message. It's unacceptable to criminalize, stigmatize or curtail women's human rights defenders," said Geir Sjoberg, the Norwegian government's lead negotiator on the resolution.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/un-womens-rights-resolution-passed-despite-backlash>

## GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

### Yemen - Quota for women ensures female political participation, but flaws remain



Since the 2011 Arab Spring, Yemeni women have gained political rights, but some say they are not enough

*In order to ensure the effectiveness of the quota system, it is necessary for Yemen's government to ensure that there are strong enforcement mechanisms in place that require a set number of women in the country's legislature, as the law explains.*

SANA'A, Yemen – Yemeni women have long struggled for equal participation in the country's political processes, but their efforts dramatically increased following the 2011 Arab Spring demonstrations in Yemen, where women stood alongside men during protests and called for the resignation of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

At the time, a failing economy, widespread unemployment, public dissatisfaction with the country's constitution and government corruption meant Yemen was on the brink of experiencing a civil war.

But by many standards, it was ordinary Yemenis who forged a solution, and in November 2011 the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative was signed by Saleh, transferring power to Vice President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi in exchange for freedom from prosecution.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12\\_13/12\\_02/120213\\_yemen.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12_13/12_02/120213_yemen.htm)

### Egypt – African commission declares “Virginity tests” case admissible

*Lack of accountability for violations in military prisons addressed in regional human rights mechanism*

December 2013 - The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has recently declared admissible a case arising out of the sexual assault on female protesters who were detained in military prisons in Cairo in March 2011.

The case, filed by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) and Interights, addresses the failure of the Egyptian government to respond to violations by army personnel against female detainees, in what has come to be known as the “virginity tests” incident.

The case was filed at the African Commission in September 2012 on behalf of Samira Ibrahim and Rasha Abdel-Rahman, two of seventeen female protesters detained after participating in a protest that was forcibly dispersed by the armed forces on 9 March 2011. All seventeen female detainees were subjected to different forms of assault. Together with five other detainees, Samira and Rasha were subjected to a forced genital examination to determine their virginity. Members of the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) had countered that “virginity tests” were aimed at protecting soldiers from allegations of rape.

A positive admissibility decision by the African Commission means, among other things, that the complainants have exhausted domestic remedies, or that such remedies have been unduly prolonged. In March 2012, a military court found the doctor accused of performing the forced genital examinations innocent of all charges.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12\\_13/12\\_02/120213\\_egypt.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12_13/12_02/120213_egypt.htm)

## Syria refugee women have a key role to play in the country's future – UN



A line of Syrian refugee women, some carrying children, cross into Jordan from southern Syria. Photo: UNHCR/N. Daoud

4 December 2013 – Syrian refugee women have a key role to play in shaping the future of their war-torn homeland, the protection chief of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) told a conference in London today.

"Despite the conflict, horrors and human rights abuses they have escaped in Syria, refugee women have an amazing motivation and determination to be a positive part of shaping Syria's future," said Volker Türk, UNHCR Director of International Protection, at the Thompson Reuters Foundation Trust Women conference during a panel discussion on *Women's rights in the Arab world: Has spring turned into winter?*

Recently returned from meeting Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt, Mr. Türk said he came away with a profound desire to create opportunities to empower Syrian refugee women to build a stronger future for themselves and play a positive role in the future of their country.

He added that more than 80 per cent of the more than 2.2 million Syrian refugees were women and children – a particularly vulnerable population facing serious protection risks such as early marriages, child labour, isolation and lack of livelihoods.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12\\_13/12\\_02/120213\\_syria.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2013/12_13/12_02/120213_syria.htm)

## Lebanese women's rights to nationality and full citizenship campaign holds record-breaking sit-in



This November the Lebanese Women's Right to Nationality and Full Citizenship Campaign, led by WLP Lebanon/CRTD.A, realized important new achievements in its mobilization efforts, including record-breaking numbers of protestors in its November 25 sit-in. The Campaign, started by CRTD.A in 2011, seeks reform of the country's discriminatory nationality laws, which prevent women from passing on their citizenship to husbands and children. As a result of CRTD.A's two-year capacity building program with Campaign volunteers, using WLP leadership and political participation trainings, these volunteers launched the most successful protest mobilization the Campaign has seen to date. Following completion of the WLP program, volunteers formed a Campaign General Assembly to facilitate outreach throughout the country and stimulate widespread grassroots support for women's equal right to nationality.

Over the past several months, the General Assembly has tirelessly conducted awareness raising activities across the country, with volunteers going door to door, passing out informational pamphlets in front of stores, and setting up "friendly roadblocks," to inform the public of the injustice of women's unequal citizenship rights in Lebanon and to encourage them to make their voices heard at the upcoming protest. As a result of these efforts, busloads upon busloads of women, men, and children came from all over the country to participate in the Nationality Campaign sit-in in front of the seat of government on Monday, November 25, 2013.

Read more:

<http://www.learningpartnership.org/lib/lebanon-womens-nationality-citizenship-november-2013-protest>

## From aid to investment: Funding women's rights groups

*A paradigm shift in funding from human rights toward 'investments' and 'business solutions' is threatening women's rights organizing and the rights-based approach to development. We need greater understanding of these new trends and engagement with new players. A contribution to the "funding for human rights" discussion*

From being pictured on the cover of Newsweek to becoming a focus of the World Bank's 2012 Annual Development Report women and girls are high on the global development agenda. Today, every major funding sector is paying attention, at least rhetorically, to the role of women and girls in development. Why, then, is this enhanced interest not reflected in the amount of money available for women's rights organizations worldwide?

For the past eight years, the international Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), where I work as a manager, has been observing shifts in the funding landscape. Our most recent report, "Watering the leaves, starving the roots" notes a disturbing trend: As the private sector becomes more involved in funding women's issues, donors are prioritizing support for individual women and girls - the "leaves" - rather than on sustained, collective action by women's rights activists and organizations - the "roots."

A good example is the Third Billion Campaign, launched last year by a global alliance of corporations, governments, non-profit organizations, academics, foundations and individuals to help a billion women participate more fully in the global economy by 2025. The campaign's title comes from the notion that over the next decade, the impact of women will be at least as significant as that of China's and India's respective one-billion-plus populations.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/From-aid-to-investment-Funding-women-s-rights-groups>

## Poll misrepresents women's rights in Tunisia

A controversial poll by the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the status of women in Arab countries has stirred debate in Tunisia, long seen as the Arab world's leader in women's rights.

Greater religious freedom after the 2011 revolution and the rise to power of an Islamist party have raised complex questions about how these issues should be addressed in the new Tunisia.

While the poll addressed a multitude of issues relating to women's rights, critics argue its breadth came at the expense of country-specific nuances and, at times, factual accuracy.

The poll notably ranked Egypt as last among 22 countries surveyed on women's rights. Tunisia fared well in the poll, ranking sixth overall. Readers were quick to call out the foundation for errors, citing Tunisia's longstanding legal protections for women.

The foundation initially stated that "polygamy remains widespread in Tunisia and contraception is illegal" in the country.

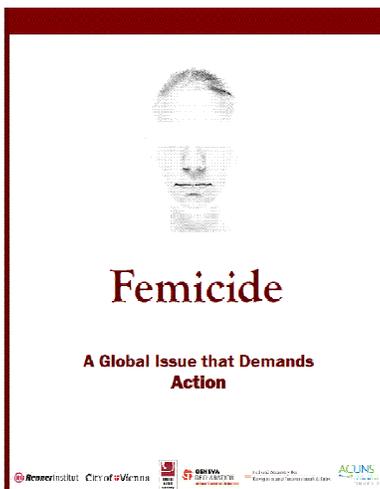
Tunisia officially banned polygamy under its 1956 Personal Status Code, making it the first country in the Arab world to do so. The code was amended in 1973 to legalise abortion. Contraception is legal and available.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/poll-misrepresents-womens-rights-tunisia>

## Femicide – A global issue that demands action

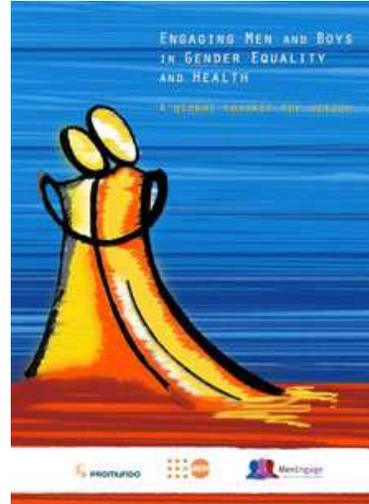
Femicide is the ultimate form of violence against women and girls and takes multiple forms. Its many causes are rooted in the historically unequal power relations between men and women and in systemic gender-based discrimination. For a case to be considered femicide there must be an implied intention to carry out the murder and a demonstrated connection between the crime and the female gender of the victim.<sup>1</sup> So far, data on femicide have been highly unreliable and the estimated numbers of women who have been victims of femicides vary accordingly. Femicides take place in every country of the world. The greatest concern related to femicide is that these murders continue to be accepted, tolerated or justified - with impunity as the norm. To end femicide we need to end impunity, bring perpetrators to justice, and every individual has to change his/her attitude towards women.



Read more:

[http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/Co-publications/Femicide\\_A%20Gobal%20Issue%20that%20dmands%20Action.pdf](http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/Co-publications/Femicide_A%20Gobal%20Issue%20that%20dmands%20Action.pdf)

## Engaging men and boys in gender equality and health



Promundo and MenEngage Alliance with support from UNFPA produced this Toolkit that addresses strategies and lessons learnt for Engaging Men and Boys in diverse themes such as Sexual and Reproductive Health; Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Fatherhood; HIV and AIDS; Gender-based Violence; Advocacy and Policy, as well as addressing issues around Monitoring and Evaluation of this work. It includes tools and activities from organizations and programs from around the world which can be adapted and utilized by other organizations.

Read more:

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/6815>

## Undressing patriarchy and redressing gender inequalities on International Men's Day



Achieving gender equality must be a central ambition of a post-2015 agenda. Yet debates on patriarchy have all but disappeared from gender and development discourse – debates that IDS and partners feel are crucial if we are to remove the underlying social and cultural attitudes, constraints and institutions that buttress gender inequalities. International Men's Day 2013 is a highly pertinent time to reinvigorate those debates.

### *Working with men and boys for gender equality and women's empowerment*

In close collaboration with our partners, IDS has for over a decade been working on masculinities, men and boys in our efforts to create gender equal and less violent societies. Development interventions with men and boys have so far been mostly at pilot project level and have often had a narrow focus on changing the behaviour and attitudes of individuals. While working with men and boys at an individual level to change attitudes to gender equality is important, we must also look beyond changing hearts and minds to focus on the structures and social determinants that continue to shore up gender inequality.

### *Linking different perspectives*

The feminist insistence on a focus on the subordination, discrimination and marginalisation of women, has brought attention not only to male supremacy and privilege, but also to an almost invisible and presumptive male-centeredness of public life and discourse.

Read more:

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/undressing-patriarchy-and-redressing-gender-inequalities-on-international-men-s-day>

## Paid work, women's empowerment and inclusive growth: Transforming the structures of constraint

Drawing on household survey data collected in Egypt, Ghana and Bangladesh as part of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Consortium, this report provides insights into the 'resource' pathways that enhance women's agency and thereby contribute to the inclusiveness of the economic growth process.

Moreover, it looks at the extent to which the structure of economic opportunities, generated by a country's growth strategies, translated into positive impacts on women's lives in these three country contexts. Briefly, the findings suggest that economic growth alone does not promote gender equality. Rather, unless patterns of growth generate reasonable quality jobs for women, the extent to which greater gender equality is achieved will depend on the actions of the state and civil society.

Greater gender equality, in turn, does have the potential to contribute to inclusive growth when it is achieved in education, employment and other valued resources. In particular, women's access to valued resources, such as decent jobs and higher education, can have positive distributional implications for growth.

The report highlights three broad areas of interventions that are needed to transform the gender-specific constraints that keep women out of the market or trapped in poorly paid activities. Creating a more enabling regulatory environment will, among other things, require action to address discriminatory legislation, such as inheritance laws, and promote legislation that seeks to level the economic playing field for women and men, such as state support for maternity leave. Social protection policies are also important as they assist women and men to cope with, and recover from, the various kinds of risks and insecurities associated with globalization.

Read more:

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/1/Paid-work-womens-empowerment-and-inclusive-growth2%20pdf.pdf>

## What would a feminist CCT program look like?

The Ain es-Sira Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) pilot programme in Egypt is one of the first of its kind to be launched in the Arab world. The programme works with ultra-poor families, especially mothers and female heads of households with school-aged children, in the Cairene slum of Ain es-Sira. The case study describes a pilot which served as an experimental research model for scaling up such the scheme at the national level and provides insights into its impact.

Read more:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender&id=66644&type=Document#.UriFOqIdtYC>

You can find the report on:

[http://www.pathwaysofempowerment.org/Egypt\\_CCTs.pdf](http://www.pathwaysofempowerment.org/Egypt_CCTs.pdf)

## Contextualizing the economic pathways of women's empowerment findings from a multi-country research program

Women's paid work has featured in the development literature for two main reasons. The instrumental reason relates to its potential to contribute to a variety of development goals, from poverty reduction to human development to economic growth. The intrinsic reason is its potential to transform the lives of women and girls by addressing gender inequalities on a wide variety of fronts. However in both cases, paid work is most likely to achieve this potential if it empowers women; since it is women's capacity to exercise voice and influence in the key arenas of their lives that provides the impetus for change.

Research from Egypt, Ghana, Bangladesh by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Consortium suggests that:

Read more:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender&id=66641&type=Document#.UriH5KIDtYC>

You can find the report on:

[http://www.pathways-of-empowerment.org/Economic\\_Pathways\\_to\\_Womens\\_Empowerment.pdf](http://www.pathways-of-empowerment.org/Economic_Pathways_to_Womens_Empowerment.pdf)

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