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The MENA Gender and Development e-Brief receives material from various sources for its publication. Should you wish to refer to these sources/ sites directly, the list includes publications from: AWID: [www.awid.org](http://www.awid.org), Democracy Digest: [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org), e-Civicus: [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org), Eldis: [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org), ESCWA: [www.escwa.org.lb](http://www.escwa.org.lb), GDB: [www.developmentex.com](http://www.developmentex.com), ILO: [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org), One World: [www.oneworld.net](http://www.oneworld.net), Siyanda: [www.siyanda.org](http://www.siyanda.org), The Daily Star: [www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb), The Drum Beat: [www.comminit.com](http://www.comminit.com), The World Bank: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), UNDP: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org), WLP: [www.learningpartnership.org](http://www.learningpartnership.org), WIDE: [www.wide-network.org](http://www.wide-network.org), IRIN News: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), Women's UN Report Network: [www.wunrn.com](http://www.wunrn.com), Women Living Under Muslim Laws: [www.wlum.org](http://www.wlum.org)

## In Palestine, specialized prosecutors ensure women survivors' access to justice



*UN Women is working with the Attorney General's Office in Palestine on a human-rights-based approach to handling cases of domestic and gender-based violence, by training public prosecutors in line with international standards and supporting the development of special operating procedures*

A scene from daily life at the Mehwar Centre for survivors of violence in Palestine. Photo: UN Women/Ventura Formicone

When Zahara\* divorced her second husband her family locked her in an abandoned house for more than four years before police, acting on anonymous information, found and freed her. "The [Palestinian Civil Police Family Protection Unit] advised me to press charges against my family, but I did not want to increase shame. My brother signed a pledge not to harm me. I trusted them and thought the situation would change. It did not."

Read more:

[http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/11/in-palestine-specialized-prosecutors-ensure-women-survivors-access-to-justice?utm\\_source=UNDP-UNWOMEN+addresses&utm\\_campaign=b08c40b226-Monthly+Updates+Human+Rights&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_48b497d44d-b08c40b226-70870553](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/11/in-palestine-specialized-prosecutors-ensure-women-survivors-access-to-justice?utm_source=UNDP-UNWOMEN+addresses&utm_campaign=b08c40b226-Monthly+Updates+Human+Rights&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_48b497d44d-b08c40b226-70870553)

## Yazidi Girls Seized by ISIS Speak Out After Escape

**ISIS 'Slave Market Day'** - In a video posted last month on YouTube, a group of men believed to be Islamic State fighters are shown sitting in a room bantering about buying and selling Yazidi girls on "slave market day."

KHANKE, Iraq — The 15-year-old girl, crying and terrified, refused to release her grip on her sister's hand. Days earlier, Islamic State fighters had torn the girls from their family, and now were trying to split them up and distribute them as spoils of war.

The jihadist who had selected the 15-year-old as his prize pressed a pistol to her head, promising to pull the trigger. But it was only when the man put a knife to her 19-year-old sister's neck that she finally relented, taking her next step in a dark odyssey of abduction and abuse at the hands of the Islamic State.

The sisters were among several thousand girls and young women from the minority Yazidi religion who were seized by the Islamic State in northern Iraq in early August.

The 15-year-old is also among a small number of kidnapping victims who have managed to escape, bringing with them stories of a coldly systemized industry of slavery.

Their accounts tell of girls and young women separated from their families, divvied up or traded among the Islamic State's men, ordered to convert to Islam, subjected to forced marriages and repeatedly raped.

While many of the victims are still living in areas of northern or western Iraq under the control of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, many others have been sent to Syria or other countries, according to victims and their advocates.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/11\\_14/11\\_10/111014\\_yazidi.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2014/11_14/11_10/111014_yazidi.htm)

## Law Society Withdraws Sharia Succession Principles Practice Note

*The press release was issued today by the Law Society in the United Kingdom, announcing their withdrawal of a practice note issuing guidance for writing 'Sharia-compliant' wills.*

In a letter to the Lawyers' Secular Society, the Law Society stated:

“We have reviewed our practice note on Sharia succession principles following [sic] your feedback, and that of our members and other stakeholders. Following this review, we have withdrawn the note and it will no longer be available through our website. We have no plans to amend or replace the note.”

“We are mindful of the criticism we received and we apologise.”

On the 28th March of this year, Women Living Under Muslim Laws issued a statement calling for the withdrawal of the Practice note, highlighting how it enshrined and promoted unequal gender relations and promoted a damaging idea of cultural relativism to the British legal practice.

WLUML is pleased to receive this good news, and heralds it as a triumph for British women, especially Muslim women.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/uk-law-society-withdraws-sharia-succession-principles-practice-note>

## Iranian Human Rights Lawyer Vows to Continue Protest



*Well-known Iranian human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh says she's determined to continue protesting a decision to ban her from practicing law.*

Sotoudeh started picketing outside the offices of the Iranian Bar Association in Tehran a month ago, holding signs reading "right to work" and "rights of dissenters," after the association, reportedly under official pressure, banned her from working as a lawyer for three years.

"If my sentence is not overturned, I will keep protesting until the end of the three-year ban," Sotoudeh told RFE/RL by telephone on November 26.

She also said the independence of the Iranian Bar Association must be restored.

Sotoudeh was released from jail last year after serving half of a six-year sentence on charges that included acting against Iran's national security and spreading propaganda against the establishment.

Read more:

<http://www.rferl.org/content/iranian-human-rights-lawyer-vows-to-continue-protest/26711946.html>

## Israeli ultra-orthodox women launch election campaign



Ultra-orthodox Jewish women in Israel have begun an unprecedented campaign to have women candidates on the lists of religious parties for next March's early general election, media reported on Sunday.

"We want ultra-orthodox women -- five percent of the population -- to have a say in the Knesset and demand that the heads of the ultra-orthodox parties choose at least one candidate of their choice," activist Esty Reider-Indorsky, a driving force behind the move, told public radio.

However, the broadcaster reported that the leaders of the parties in question (Shas, with 11 of 120 seats in parliament) and the Unified Torah list (seven seats) have no intention of agreeing to the demand.

In a manifesto published on social networks online and supported by personalities including secular Israelis, the ultra-orthodox women say they are prepared to go as far as an election boycott.

"And we (women) represent half of the electorate," Reider-Indorsky told the station.

Read more:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/158264-israeli-ultra-orthodox-women-launch-election-campaign>

## WLP Morocco posts an open letter to the Moroccan government to take action on anti-VAW programs

*Coinciding with the launch of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, on November 25, 2014, WLP/Morocco-Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM) directed the following open letter to the Moroccan Prime Minister to express their concerns over the Moroccan government's "foot dragging" over pending anti-violence against women (VAW) initiatives and legislation that would protect Moroccan women.*

### An Open Letter to the Honorable Prime Minister

Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and today also marks the third year of your presiding over the Moroccan government. To mark these occasions the organizations listed below wish to register their concern over your administration's continued stalling and foot dragging in implementing programs to protect women from violence and discrimination, and give women's issues the role they should have in public policy and government programs, particularly those related to the constitution and to international treaties to which Morocco is a signatory. Procrastination by the government is evident in the following ways:

1. The delay in forming an equality-committee to fight all forms of discrimination against women.

Read more:

<http://www.learningpartnership.org/lib/wlp-morocco-posts-open-letter-moroccan-government-take-action-anti-vaw-programs>

## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### Saudi-Arabia: Domestic violence laws take effect on Dec. 23



A judicial source has disclosed that the new domestic violence laws will take effect from the beginning of Rabi Al-Awwal (Dec. 23). The Council has examined a draft of the domestic violence law and has since finalized its text, confirmed the source.

The source said that the new text of the law pays full attention to violence against women, noting that the majority of domestic violence cases that are monitored by the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs were against women, according to statistics.

The source said the new system incorporates a role for police by forcing them to respond to phone calls and complaints without any precondition.

The new law represents a major step forward in the modernity of the legislation concerning the protection of women, children and other vulnerable groups. He noted that the new system is compatible with international laws and agreements relating to domestic violence, as well as fundamental women's and human rights. Under the new law, social security protection is offered to those who report cases of violence without revealing their identity.

Read more:

<http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/660366>

### Egypt's first female genital mutilation trial ends in not guilty verdict

*Dr Raslan Fadl and father of girl who died during the procedure have been acquitted, dashing hopes for a nationwide crackdown*



Sohair al-Bata'a, who died after being subjected to female genital mutilation in Egypt. The first doctor to be brought to trial in Egypt on charges of female genital mutilation (FGM) has been acquitted, crushing hopes that the landmark verdict would discourage Egyptian doctors from conducting the endemic practice.

Raslan Fadl, a doctor and Islamic preacher in the village of Agga, northern Egypt, was acquitted of mutilating Sohair al-Bata'a in June 2013. The 12-year-old died during the alleged procedure, but Fadl was also acquitted of her manslaughter.

No reason was given by the judge, with the verdict being simply scrawled in a court ledger, rather than being announced in the Agga courtroom.

Sohair's father, Mohamed al-Bata'a, was also acquitted of responsibility. Police and health officials testified that the child's parents had admitted taking their daughter to Fadl's clinic for the procedure.

Read more:

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/20/egypt-first-female-genital-mutilation-fgm-trial-not-guilty?CMP=fb\\_gu](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/20/egypt-first-female-genital-mutilation-fgm-trial-not-guilty?CMP=fb_gu)

## United Nations members resolve to end child marriage

The United Nations agreed on Friday that all members should pass and enforce laws banning child marriages, resolving to end a practice that affects about 15 million girls every year.

The committee of the 193-nation General Assembly that deals with human rights adopted by consensus a resolution urging all states to take steps to end "child, early and forced marriage."

There are now more than 700 million women who were married before their 18th birthday, many in conditions of poverty and insecurity, according to U.N. statistics.

Child marriage among girls is most common in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In Niger in West Africa, which has the highest overall rate, 77 percent of women between 20 and 49 were married before the age of 18.

Bangladesh has the most girls who married under 15 and India is home to one third of all child brides worldwide.

Christine Kalamwina, the deputy permanent representative of Zambia, which initiated the resolution with Canada, said child marriage impeded poverty reduction, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, child mortality, maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/united-nations-members-resolve-end-child-marriage>

## Campaign takes on militarism and gender-based violence



The annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, International Human Rights Day, emphasizing that gender-based violence is a human rights violation.

This year's campaign challenges militarism, with a focus on peace. Building on 2013's theme the focus is: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women."

"If we look at nearly every part of the globe, we are contending with violent conflict, escalating militarization, proliferation of small arms, extremist groups, unprecedented gender-based violence, political, economic, and social rights violations, and targeted attacks and killings of women human rights defenders," said Doctor Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director of CWGL in a press statement.

The 16 Days campaign originates from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. The event was convened by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) which is still the campaign's global coordinator.

Read more:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/latest-news/news/campaign-takes-on-militarism-and-gender-based-violence#.VliV09KUfRY>

## Iraq, sexualized violence: how to understand and fight it

Sexualised and gender-based violence in Iraq, highlighted in recent weeks in relation to ISIS atrocities, has been at the heart of sectarian and authoritarian politics and developments since 2003. How can we talk about it and mobilise against it?

In July 2014, whilst catching up with an older Iraqi male friend, he surprised me by saying: “ISIS, is going to rape even more women than were raped in Yugoslavia, particularly Shi’a women”. I was stunned because as a secular, previously staunchly non-sectarian Iraqi he had apparently bought into sectarian propaganda about the danger posed by the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). At the time, the threat of sexual violence from ISIS was played up heavily by Nouri al-Maliki, then prime minister. After ISIS and other Sunni militants took the city of Mosul on 10 June 2014, Al-Maliki and his allies tried to rally Shia Iraqis, using the threat of sexualized violence as a form of sectarian aggression. As we were having this conversation, I was reminded of reports and facebook postings alleging that ISIS had issued an edict that would force all Iraqi women under their control to undergo FGM. It took a couple of days before the media expressed their doubts and finally declared it a hoax.

Initially, even leading women’s rights activists in Iraq stated that the government had seized on the threat of sexualized violence as a tool for political manipulation — part of a cynical sectarian strategy to maintain power.

Read more:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/nadje-alali/sexualized-violence-in-iraq-how-to-understand-and-fight-it>

## SIGI/J spreads awareness of women’s legal rights to combat violence against women in Jordan

WLP Jordan/Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J) held two seminars on the topic of violence against women on October 14th and October 21st in the Jordanian cities of Dhullail and Russeifa. A total of 69 women attended the seminars, including some who were refugees from Syria. The seminars, entitled “Women, Violence, and the Law” and led by Jordanian lawyer and activist Alaa Khasawneh, are part of an ongoing SIGI/J project begun in 2012, which targets local women as well as Syrian refugees. The project’s aim is to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women (VAW), and to educate women about their legal rights and protections in Jordan and about the social and legal services that SIGI/J offers. To date, SIGI/J has held over 300 workshops throughout Jordan since the beginning of 2014.

One of Khasawneh’s primary goals in leading the seminars was to make sure that the participants understood that their right to a violence-free and stable life stems from many sources, including Jordanian civil law, Islamic law, and international human rights codes. She stressed that Islamic law dictates that women be treated with kindness and respect and that VAW in any form is unacceptable. Khasawneh also spoke about Jordanian civil law which, while still deeply flawed in many areas in its treatment of women, does afford them certain legal protections of which many women in Jordan are unaware. Additionally she stressed that every woman has the right to make her own decisions regarding her health, her future, and who she chooses to support politically.

Read more:

<http://www.learningpartnership.org/lib/sigij-spreads-awareness-womens-legal-rights-combat-violence-against-women-jordan>

## North Africa: Racism, sexism and violence against sub-Saharan African migrant women

*“Political platforms using security discourse to stop mafia organisations have actually strengthened human trafficking networks, which are now turning to women and children. If a woman has full access to her rights she will not need to turn to these trafficking networks,” according to migrant and human trafficking researcher Helena Maleno Garzón. The intersections of racism, sexism and violence create entrenched problems for migrant women in North Africa.*



A demonstration for migrants' rights in Lausanne, Switzerland in June 2014

The politics of border militarization has led to women migrants' rights abuses

Following the externalization of borders and the politics of border militarization by the European Union (EU), Caminando Fronteras, a regional advocacy network, composed mainly of women from several disciplines (physicians, directors, nurses, social workers, journalists, etc), decided to work closely on the issue of women migrants' rights abuses in the border areas in North Africa (Mauritania, Algeria, Morocco, Mali) and Spain.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/north-africa-racism-sexism-and-violence-against-sub-saharan-african-migrant-women>

## GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

### Egypt Making Slow Progress on Genital Mutilation



Raslan Fadl, the first doctor in Egypt to be put on trial for committing female genital mutilation, is still practicing even through a 13-year-old girl died after he performed the procedure. And in this Nile Delta Village, he has plenty of patients.

Young girls and their families on a recent day sat in his waiting room, where the bright yellow walls are decorated with Winnie the Pooh pictures, in the same building where Soheir el-Batea came for her operation last year. Residents call him a well-respected figure in the community, known for his charity work.

It could not be determined whether any were at his office for "circumcision," as it is known here, and Fadl would not speak to The Associated Press. But Fadl's continued popularity demonstrates the challenges to curbing the practice in Egypt, where more than 90 percent of women are estimated to have undergone it — one of the highest rates in the world. Female genital cutting was criminalized in 2008 and the most important Sunni Muslim religious authority has declared it dangerous and without any religious justification.

Read more:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/155897-egypt-making-slow-progress-on-genital-mutilation>

## Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: 'women not equal to men'



*Turkish president also accuses feminists of not understanding special status attributed to mothers by Islam*

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan speaking during a ceremony in August where he formally took over from predecessor Abdullah Gul. Photograph: /AP The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has been accused of blatant sexism after declaring that women are not equal to men and claiming feminists in Turkey reject the idea of motherhood.

The devoutly Muslim president said biological differences meant women and men could not serve the same functions, adding that manual work was unsuitable for the "delicate nature" of women.

His comments ignited a firestorm of controversy on Twitter and one well-known female TV news anchor even took the unusual step of condemning the remarks during a bulletin.

"Our religion [Islam] has defined a position for women: motherhood," Erdoğan said at a summit in Istanbul on justice for women, speaking to an audience including his own daughter Sumeyye.

Read more:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/24/turkey-president-recep-tayyip-erdogan-women-not-equal-men>

## Turkey Jails Professor for 'Denying Headscarved Student Entry'



A prominent Turkish professor on Thursday began a jail sentence after being convicted of preventing a female student wearing a Muslim headscarf from entering the university where he worked, his lawyer said.

Rennan Pekunlu, a former professor of astrophysics at Ege University, was sentenced to two years in prison in 2012 for violating a headscarf-wearing student's "constitutional right to education" by barring her from entering the faculty.

Pekunlu began his sentence in a prison in the western city of Izmir, becoming the first individual in Turkey to be jailed for such an offense, his lawyer Murat Fatih Ulku told Agence France-Presse.

Before heading to prison, the 64-year-old professor gave a public lecture on the "universe and evolution" to an audience including his former students, colleagues as well as members of several labor unions.

"This is not our last lecture. We have a lot more to do. This is not the end," Pekunlu said before bursting into tears, as gasps and sobbing erupted inside the packed hall.

Read more:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/157052-turkey-jails-professor-for-denying-headscarved-student-entry>

## Early Marriage Figures Underline Global Bias Against Women, Claims Study

*Study highlights enduring discrimination in areas ranging from land and inheritance rights to politics and social justice*

Roughly 16% of girls in poor countries between the ages of 15 and 19 are married, suggesting that discriminatory beliefs and practices continue to undermine women's rights globally, according to the latest gender index.

Despite a worldwide decline in early marriage, the practice remains a huge issue. In countries like Niger, up to 60% of girls are married in their teens, according to the 2014 edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (Sigi), published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) development centre on Thursday.

The index, which draws data covering five key social-economic areas in 160 countries, including the 34 OECD states, also found that 102 countries still deny women rights over land. Just 55 states give women the same inheritance rights as men, while 35% of women believe domestic violence is justified in some circumstances.

The Sigi, first published in 2009, also found that, globally, only one member of parliament in five is a woman. While female MPs account for more than 60% of the Rwandan parliament, Qatar and Yemen have none. In countries with quotas, such as Brazil and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, women occupy less than 10% of seats.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News2/Early-marriage-figures-underline-global-bias-against-women-claims-study>

## Iran releases British-Iranian woman on bail

*Ghoncheh Ghavami was detained in June after trying to attend a men's volleyball match between Iran and Italy, in defiance of a push by hard-liners to enact full gender segregation.*



*Iranian authorities released a British-Iranian woman on bail on Sunday, the semi-official ISNA news agency said.*

Ghoncheh Ghavami was detained in June after trying to attend a men's volleyball match between Iran and Italy, in defiance of a push by hard-liners to enact full gender segregation.

The report quoted Sousan Moshtaghian, Ghavami's mother, as saying a judge released her daughter on nearly \$30,000 bail ahead of an appeal.

"My daughter has insisted in the initial court that she is not guilty," said Moshtaghian. "We are hopeful that she will be acquitted in the appeal court."

The case highlighted limitations placed on women inside Iran and efforts by hard-line authorities to enforce strict interpretations of Islamic norms despite a policy of greater openness being pursued by moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

Read more:

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.628101>

## Saudi Arabia extends detention of female drivers



Two Saudi women detained nearly a week ago for violating the kingdom's female driving ban were ordered to be held for 25 more days Sunday, a relative told the Associated Press.

The women, who were arrested Dec. 1 after driving into Saudi Arabia from the United Arab Emirates, are supporters of a grassroots campaign launched last year to oppose the ban. The two women have a combined Twitter following of more than 355,000.

Organizers behind the Oct. 26 campaign say the ban on women driving is part of wider issues regarding guardianship laws in Saudi Arabia that give men powerful sway over women's lives.

Loujain al-Hathloul, 25, set out to defy the kingdom's ban on women driving by crossing into her country from the UAE.

In a video uploaded to YouTube Nov. 30, Hathloul filmed herself driving toward the Saudi border in what she said was "an effort to sustain the campaign for women's driving."

Read more:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Dec-08/280259-saudi-arabia-extends-detention-of-female-drivers.ashx>

## Lebanese women underrepresented in the workplace



Women in Lebanon continue to outnumber men in universities but are underrepresented in the workplace due to social norms, discrimination by employers and an inhospitable economy, experts say.

The World Economic Forum's annual Gender Gap Report found that only 26 percent of working-age women are in the workforce in Lebanon, compared to 76 percent for men. There were particularly few female legislators, senior officials and managers.

However, Lebanon ranked first in terms of the proportion of women in secondary and postsecondary education, with more women enrolled than men.

Social norms that dictate that women should give up work in order to attend to domestic duties are the most evident reason for the lack of women in Lebanon's labor force.

Read more:

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-08/280249-lebanese-women-underrepresented-in-the-workplace.ashx>

## RESOURCES & CALLS

### *BOOKS & REPORTS*

#### **Report: Female Extremist Group Recruiting Girls in North Lebanon**



An extremist group formed of veiled females, linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is secretly working in several areas in northern Lebanon and spreading the “takfiri salafist ideology,” Ad-Diyar newspaper reported on Monday.

The group is comprised of veiled women who are reportedly recruiting girls in return for large sums of money and convincing them of adopting their ideology.

Sources told the newspaper that the danger of such a group lies in the difficulty of identifying the women wearing niqab, which could cause a sectarian incitement under the pretext of violating religious freedom.

The report continues that the women underwent military and security training and some of them have an experience in sniper shooting and weaponry fields.

In October, media reports said that terrorists are plotting to attack Ashoura gatherings through explosive-rigged cars and female suicide bombers.

Read more:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/155582-report-female-extremist-group-recruiting-girls-in-north-lebanon>

#### **The work-life conflict and well-being of Turkish employees**

This study aims to produce empirical evidence on the impact of over-and underemployment on the life satisfaction of Turkish employees with a primary interest in female workers. More specifically, it looks at whether (i) the life satisfaction effects of over-and under-employment are the same and (ii) the magnitude of their effect differs for married and non-married workers as well as those with and without children.

The authors hope is to be able to complement the empirical findings in the existing literature using data for a predominantly Muslim country where the female labor participation rate is quite low, the labor market is relative less flexible, and the traditional views about the division of labour within the household are still very common. Using data drawn from the 2004 European Social Survey, the paper examine the determinants of the life satisfaction of employees in Turkey. The data reveals that the majority of Turkish wage and salary workers is under-or over-employed. The share of matched workers in the full sample is only 22 percent while about half the workers have to work longer than they desire.

Gender is closely linked with the hours mismatch status, as the share of over-employment is 8 percentage points higher among female workers than men.

Read more:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender&id=69897&type=Document#.VH4jcnKUfRY>

Direct link to report:

<http://www.erf.org.eg/CMS/uploads/pdf/827.pdf>

## Exclusive Report on Acid Attacks in Iran

Reports on attacks of splashing acid on the faces of women and girls in Iran, particularly in Isfahan, by gangs affiliated to the Iranian regime in the past week, again proves the depth to the misogynist nature of the mullahs' ruling Iran and their antagonism to women. This is a regime which has, from the onset of its reign, built its Foundations on repression, particularly of women and was the one to come forth with the slogan of "Or wear the veil, or get beaten". It has ruled the society by establishing a fundamentalist culture. Also parallel to this, it has carried out crimes, particularly against women that do not exist anywhere else. Truly, the Iranian regime is the epicenter of a fundamentalist and fanatical Islam.

The heads of the regime have created various suppressive bodies under the name of combating "mal-veiling" which is cleric's made name to prevent the outburst of popular protests, particularly women and has increased suppression and a climate of fear. These days, they have tried to legalize their suppressive measures. They have organized their fanatical and medieval laws so that their repressive agents and gangs can freely carry out such crimes.

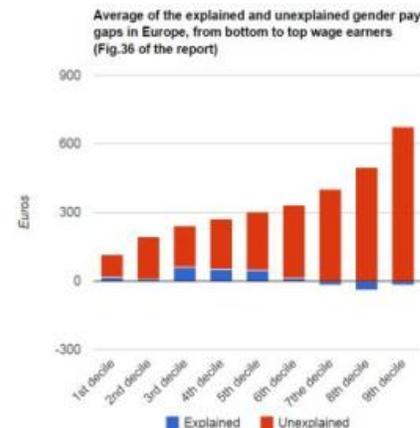
For example, the recent bill that has been presented in the mullahs' Majlis (parliament) and parts of it which have been ratified under the name of "supporting the promotion of virtue and the prevention of vice" has in reality lead to the recent acid attacks and any forms of discrimination and harassment against women.

Read more:

<http://www.women.ncr-iran.org/images/publications/documents/Exclusive-acid-attacks-2014.pdf>

## Gender pay gap widens for higher-earning women

*The new edition of the ILO's Global Wage Report reveals a substantial gender wage divide across a sample of 38 countries, and calls for equal pay for work of equal value to ensure inclusive growth for all.*



Women's average wages are between 4 to 36 per cent less than men's but the gap widens in absolute terms for higher-earning women, according to the ILO's Global Wage Report 2014/15.

For example, in Europe in 2010 (see chart below), the bottom 10 per cent of women workers earned about 100 euros per month less than the bottom 10 per cent of men.

Read more:

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_324651/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_324651/lang--en/index.htm)

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