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## Turkey elections mark the start of a revolution for women

*With more female MPs than ever before and the success of a political party that supports women, Turkey is on the threshold of a gender revolution*

"This victory is the common victory of all women of Turkey," Selahattin Demirtaş, co-president of the Peoples' Democratic party (HDP), said in a television address to millions of citizens awaiting the outcome of the national elections on 7 June.

As a young feminist, I was pleasantly surprised when the election results delivered a blow to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's growing authoritarianism.

It's important to be aware of the weight of Demirtaş's words. In an environment where politicians rarely recognise women in the public sphere other than as someone's mother, wife or daughter, his words were revolutionary.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/turkey-elections-mark-start-revolution-women#sthash.etfLyRXa.dpuf>

## Britain must ban sharia "kangaroo courts", say activists



A banner calling for British Muslims not to vote as part of the Stay Muslim Don't Vote campaign is held aloft outside the London Central Mosque in London April 3, 2015.

Britain's new government must abolish Islamic sharia courts, campaigners said on Monday, describing them as "kangaroo courts" that deliver second-rate justice and trample over the rights of women and children.

They called for the government to stick to pre-election promises to hold an inquiry into sharia courts which first appeared in Britain in the mid-1980s.

"Over the years, we have witnessed with increasing alarm the influence of 'Sharia courts' over the lives of citizens of Muslim heritage," nearly 200 women's rights and secular campaigners said in a statement.

"Though the 'Sharia courts' have been touted as people's right to religion, they are in fact, effective tools of the far-right Islamist movement whose main aim is to restrict and deny rights, particularly those of women and children."

Read more:

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150615155710-r8kxz/?source=shtw>

## Women's team to supervise municipal polls in Jeddah

Twenty-three women employees at the Jeddah municipality have been assigned to supervise municipal elections, which have women contestants for the first time.

According to sources quoted by local media, there will be 10 women election campaign supervisors, 10 adjunct wardens, an administrative assistant, a local committee representative and a representative to rule in contestations.

Election centers are distributed over 108 centers in Jeddah and its governorates, with 45 centers allocated for men and 19 for women. The number of female centers in governorates affiliated with Jeddah reached 15 for women and 29 for men, with six extra centers.

Sources pointed out that stages for the third election cycle will start in August. This election will witness a number of updates which have been approved by the new municipal council system; there will be an increased percentage of elected municipal council members to two-thirds after they were one half, and the age of registered voters has been changed to 18 instead of 21 which will increase youth participation in the elections.

This election will also witness the participation of women as both candidates and voters, and they will be allowed, for the first time, to nominate those who are capable of dealing with civic issues.

Read more:

<http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/775746>

## Women's rights mini skirt protest fizzles in Tunisia

*Tunisian rights group's initiative to protest repression of women in Muslim world receives support of few dozen women.*



Only a handful of women have answered a call by a Tunisian rights' group to protest the repression of women in the Muslim world by demonstrating in mini skirts.

Saturday's rally was organised by Tunisia's League for the Defence of Secularism and Freedom in response to an online campaign in Algeria a week ago which called on Algerian men to not let women revealing clothes appear in public.

Rachid Ben Othman, the league's leader, launched a counterinitiative and created a Facebook event, calling on women worldwide to rally on June 6 wearing mini skirts.

Read more:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/women-rights-mini-skirt-protest-fizzles-tunisia-150607145324852.html>

## **Women leaders tell United Nations that arab women are still being ignored in conflict**

Arab States and the United Nations have a long way to go in order to meet their international obligations for the protection of women in conflict, a consultation with leading women activists and experts has concluded.

Women from across the Arab region met in Cairo earlier this month as part of the United Nations' Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. This international agreement sets out how women's rights and needs should be taken into account in countries affected by conflict, and women's role in prevention and peacebuilding. The resolution was agreed in 2000, and the UN is currently reviewing its implementation.

Since 2000 the Arab region has been scarred by numerous conflicts. These have included foreign-led interventions, civil conflicts following the Arab revolutions ranging from extreme violence and the breakdown of law and order to outright civil war, as well as on-going conflicts that predate the agreement of 1325. Experts discussed the impact that these and other conflicts have had on women, and how the principles of resolution 1325 have and have not been implemented in those cases.

The consultation was attended by 38 women leaders from 12 countries across the region. During its discussions it heard from leading experts, activists and diplomats, including Director General of the Arab Women Organisation, Dr Mervat Tallawy, Dr Maya Morsy of the UNDP and Hibaaq Osman CEO and Founder of the Cairo-based NGO Karama, which has led the development of the Arab Network on Women, Peace, and Security.

Read more:

<http://www.el-karama.org/news/women-leaders-tell-united-nations-that-arab-women-are-still-being-ignored-in-conflict>

## ***GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **Detention of Women in Syria: a Weapon of War and Terror**

In its latest report, Detention of Women in Syria: a Weapon of War and Terror, EuroMed Rights exposes violations against Syrian women arbitrarily detained at the hands of governmental security forces. Looking into patterns of detention supported by victim's narratives, the report provides an analysis of the use of detention as a weapon of war, spreading terror in entire communities and eroding Syria's social fabric.

The release of the report intervenes on the eve of the Interactive Dialogue with the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to be held on 23 June in Geneva as part of the Human Rights Council's 29th session. The report echoes the Commission's findings regarding increasing resort to detention of women in Syria since 2011, and reiterates the Commission's call upon UN member states to urgently take action to address the issue of accountability in the Syrian conflict.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/detention-women-syria-weapon-war-and-terror#sthash.tx2FYw01.dpuf>

## Domestic violence in Turkey reaches boiling point



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has openly admitted that he finds it 'unnatural' to consider men and women equal

*A series of violent attacks against women in Turkey has put the entire country on edge - with little hope for change. Could one woman's act of defiance begin to challenge an established culture of patriarchy?*

Turkish authorities arrested a 28-year-old woman in the southeastern city of Adana earlier this week after her uncommon crime sparked a great deal of public interest - and even some admiration.

Cilem Karabulut turned herself in to the police and admitted to killing her husband, Hasan, aged 33, with his handgun. But Karabulut insisted that she was defending her "honor;" the husband had allegedly beaten, drugged and abused her. Furthermore, Karabulut claimed that he had also tried to force her into prostitution.

Soon the Turkish press descended on Adana and focused Karabulut's defiant attitude toward the crime. "It shouldn't only be women who do all of the dying here. It's time for men to do some dying, too," she said in regards to the escalating violence against women in the country.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/domestic-violence-turkey-reaches-boiling-point>

## Afghanistan: Men throw acid into girls' faces 'for going to school'

Attackers on a motorbike threw acid in the faces of three teenage girls on their way to school in Afghanistan's western Herat province on Saturday, an official told CNN.

The girls, age 16 to 18, are students at one of the biggest girls' schools in Herat city, the provincial capital, said Aziz-ul-Rahman Sarwary, head of the education department for the province.

All three girls were admitted to Noor hospital in Herat city before their parents took them elsewhere, said hospital head Jamal Abdul Naser Akhundzada.

Two of the girls were in critical condition after the acid was thrown in their faces, he said.

Akhundzada quoted the girls as saying that their assailants were two men on a motorbike.

"This is the punishment for going to school," the men told the girls after pouring the acid on them, according to Akhundzada.

Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial police chief, said police were working very hard to find the attackers.

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/afghanistan-men-throw-acid-girls-faces-going-school>

## Domestic violence more severe against women with disabilities, research shows

*Disability advocates say the discussion around domestic violence has so far excluded the experience of victims living with a disability*

Women with disability can experience violence within their family but they can also encounter it in institutions such as aged care homes, group homes, hospitals and prisons.

Tackling domestic violence may have finally found its place on the national agenda, but disability advocates say the discussion has so far “obscured” and “excluded” the experience of victims living with a disability.

Dr Aminath Didi, an academic for a joint project between the University of New South Wales and Women with Disabilities Australia, spoke at a domestic violence conference on Wednesday in Sydney.

She said this exclusion happened despite the fact violence suffered by women with disabilities tended to be “more extensive, suffered over longer periods of time and more severe” than violence against men with disability or violence against women without a disability.

Read more:

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/10/violence-much-more-severe-against-women-with-disabilities-research-shows>

## Ghazala's Story: Whether We Live Or Die, The Important Thing Is To Escape



A file photo of a Yazidi woman who escaped Islamic State captivity earlier this year.

"We stayed on our feet while they looked for the ones who were pretty, those with a nice body, or pretty eyes, or pretty hair, or a pretty face. They would take them, rape them, and pass them on to others."

This is one of the terrifying memories that 28-year-old Ghazala, a Yazidi woman from Sinjar in Iraq's Kurdistan region, has of her ordeal in Islamic State captivity.

Ghazala and her younger sister Narin (their names have been changed for security reasons) were held prisoner in the extremist group's de facto capital, the Syrian city of Raqqa, for nine months.

Sold as slaves, the sisters were forced to work in servitude there for an IS gunman.

Read more:

<http://www.rferl.org/content/islamic-state-yazidi-woman-s-ordeal/27081860.html>

## **ISIS executes women by beheading for the first time**

Known for their extreme brutality and use of summary executions, ISIS have reached a new level of evil with activists reporting that the jihadi militants beheaded two women in Syria for alleged 'sorcery.'

It is believed to be the first time ISIS have executed a woman in Syria for crimes of 'witchcraft' and 'sorcery', the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said today.

'The Islamic State group executed two women by beheading them in Deir Ezzor province, and this is the first time the Observatory has documented women being killed by the group in this manner,' Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The Britain-based monitor said the executions took place on Sunday and Monday and involved two married couples.

In both cases, the women were executed with their husbands, with each pair accused of witchcraft and sorcery.

The Islamic State group has become infamous for gruesome executions and is reported to have stoned women to death on allegations of adultery.

But the Observatory said this was the first time it was aware of the group beheading women.

According to the monitor, IS has executed more than 3,000 people in Syria in the year since it declared its Islamic "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq.

Nearly 1,800 of them were civilians, including 74 children.

Readmore:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3144213/ISIS-executes-women-beheading-time-group-kills-two-married-couples-witchcraft-sorcery-Syria.html#ixzz3gclrm1LU>

## ***GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS***

### **Egypt: Country of remarkable, yet jailed, women**

No country in the world is safe for women human rights defenders, yet Egypt is particularly dangerous for women who want to contribute to democracy and assert their presence in the public-political sphere.

Here are a few examples of defenders who have been punished, attacked, who have experienced others attempting to silence them, and threatened for merely being socially conscious women.

On 16 June 2015, Esraa Abdel Fattah, of the Egyptian Democratic Academy, was banned from travelling due to her work in promoting the use of new media tools for democracy and human rights.

On 28 December 2014, Yara Sallam was sentenced to two years in prison for taking part in a peaceful protest. It appears that she received this harsh sentence because of her advocacy with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights [EIPR] on transitional justice.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/egypt-country-remarkable-yet-jailed-women#sthash.cUtW80lz.dpuf>

## Women travelling without mahram under study



Saudi women are seen at a shopping mall in Riyadh in this file photo. The Passport Department is currently drafting regulations that would see women travel without the permission of their guardians.

The Passport Department is currently drafting regulations that would see women travel without the permission of their guardians. Maj. Gen. Sulaiman Al-Yahya, director general of the department in Riyadh, said the rules would be based on the reasons for travel, not age. The procedures to allow women to travel without permission include the interior, justice and social affairs ministries, and other bodies, he said. He added that the passport department complies with court decisions that allow women to travel abroad, or get passports issued and renewed without the approval of their parents or guardians. These were in line with laws in “advanced countries,” he said. Al-Yahya was speaking at a press conference to launch a two-month campaign entitled ‘Your Passport Your Identity,’ aimed at encouraging citizens to safeguard their passports.

Read more:

<http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/759181>

## Blood money marriage makes comeback in Iraq



An Iraqi newlywed sits holding a Quran and a bouquet of flowers during her wedding party in Baghdad

*Despite protests, and being banned since the 1950s, fasliya marriage has re-emerged among Iraqi tribes.*

Women took to the streets of al-Mutanabbi Street in central Baghdad June 2, holding large banners denouncing fasliya marriage — the Arabic word for marriages arranged as compensation, through which tribal conflicts are resolved — which has surfaced in Iraq anew. The return of this type of marriage comes as a result of a frail state and the predominance of tribal values over social life, as well as the exacerbation of conflicts between Iraqi tribes in central and southern areas.

Women who have been placed in a fasliya marriage are not entitled to file for divorce or separation because, according to tribal customs, they are stripped away of any rights.

In Basra in the south of Iraq, tribal disputes worsened with the spread of arms, leading to the death of many civilians. Details on these incidents remain unknown because of the closed nature of tribes.

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/iraq-tribes-women-blood-money-marriage-dispute-settlement.html#ixzz3gKe9kzHu>



## Female genital mutilation: why Egyptians girls fear the summer



Summer days: They're what childhood memories are made of, glorious afternoons of unchecked freedom to frolic with friends in the sun, unshackled from the earthly obligations of a math class that never seemed further away.

But for millions of schoolgirls in Egypt, this time of year represents something much darker: the start of the female genital mutilation (FGM) season.

Mona Mohamed was 10 years old when she underwent what's also known as a female circumcision on a hot summer day in her village in Upper Egypt.

"I was terrified," she said. "They tied me down, my mother on one hand and my grandmother on the other."

As Mona thrashed around, pinned by her loved ones to the living room floor, a doctor injected her with anesthesia.

Mona remembers being given a piece of bubble gum to chew on before she finally passed out. It wasn't until she woke up that she realized she had been mutilated.

Read more:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/25/middleeast/egypt-female-genital-mutilation/>

## Global survey shows rising women's participation in co-operatives

*A joint survey of the ILO and the International Co-operative Alliance reflects gains for women in co-operatives while pointing to the need for better recognition by governments*

An online survey conducted by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Cooperatives Unit and the International Co-operative Alliance shows 75 per cent of survey respondents feel that women's participation in co-operatives has increased over the past 20 years.

The findings come ahead of a panel and debate to be held 10 March at the United Nations in New York, called "Co-operatives: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment." The panel is being organized as a side event to the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place from 9 to 20 March.

Regarding the survey findings, the president of the International Co-operative Alliance, Dame Pauline Green said, "The Alliance and ILO joint survey highlights the unique effectiveness of the co-operative model in providing women with a dignified way out of poverty, often away from violence and abuse."

"I am also thrilled with the survey's indicators towards a high number of women in leadership positions, particularly in our finance and insurance co-operatives," she added.

Read more:

<http://ica.coop/en/media/news/global-survey-shows-rising-women%E2%80%99s-participation-co-operatives>

## Sex slavery and the Islamic State



Jamie Walker, Middle East correspondent for *The Australian*, asked two critical questions in a [recent article](#) that discussed the involvement of two Australian citizens, Mohamed Elomar and Khaled Sharrouf, in Islamic State sex slavery. In 2014 Elomar purchased sex slaves, of whom four, all Yazidis, later escaped to a refugee camp, where the ABC caught up with them and [interviewed them](#). Elomar had also boasted on Twitter that he had "1 of 7 Yehzidi slave girls for sale" at \$2500 each.

Walker's questions were "why this debased appeal seems to be gaining traction with Islamic State's target audience, which increasingly includes women, and why it's not challenged more stridently in the public arena."

The Islamic State has given its own answer to the first question. In the fourth edition of its magazine *Dabiq*, it aggressively promoted sex slavery as an Islamic practice, arguing that the practice conforms to the teaching and example of Muhammad and his companions.

Read more:

<http://www.meforum.org/5361/islamic-state-sex-slavery>

## Yemen – The Female Face of the Dire Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

Yemen's humanitarian crisis leaves a million people in dire straits – in pictures  
The UN has declared its highest-level humanitarian emergency in Yemen, where months of fighting and a blockade by a Saudi-led coalition have left about 80% of the population in need of aid. Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary general, has called for a pause in hostilities until the end of Ramadan so that assistance can be delivered. But a senior UN official warns the country is one step from famine

We are deeply concerned about the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in Yemen, where civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict. Between 17 June and 3 July, at least 92 civilians, including 18 women and 18 children, were killed and 179 others, including 43 women and 30 children, were injured throughout the country. These figures bring the total number of civilians reportedly killed and injured since 27 March 2015 to 1,528 and 3,605 respectively. Over 1 million civilians have been internally displaced or have sought refuge in neighboring countries since the conflict began..... In addition to insecurity on the roads and the blocking of access to food and clean water, restrictions of movement have been imposed on civilians.

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/07\\_15/07\\_06\\_15/07\\_0615\\_yemen.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/07_15/07_06_15/07_0615_yemen.htm)

**RESOURCES & CALLS**  
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**Gender and indicators: can equality be measured?**



The year 2015 signals the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era and the creation of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A new Key Issues Guide, written by BRIDGE for the Eldis website, provides an overview of some of the key debates and approaches in measuring change in gender equality.

This new guide updates some of the issues originally covered in BRIDGE's popular 2007 Cutting Edge Pack on gender and indicators, discusses the proposed stand-alone SDG on gender, and considers what more needs to be done to design measuring frameworks and approaches that go beyond assumptions of linear change around cause and effect, and can capture the complexity of change in the lives of women, men, girls and boys.

For direct link to report:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender/key-issues/gender-and-indicators#.Va64oaSqkq>

Read more:

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/news/gender-and-indicators-can-equality-be-measured>

**State of the World's Fathers Report 2015**

Fathers matter. Father-child relationships, in all communities and at all stages of a child's life, have profound and wide-ranging impacts on children that last a lifetime, whether these relationships are positive, negative, or lacking. Men's participation as fathers and as caregivers also matters tremendously for women's lives. And, it positively affects the lives of men themselves.

For a direct link to report:

[http://sowf.men-care.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/State-of-the-Worlds-Fathers\\_12-June-2015.pdf](http://sowf.men-care.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/State-of-the-Worlds-Fathers_12-June-2015.pdf)

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/06\\_15/06\\_22\\_15/06\\_2215\\_state.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/06_15/06_22_15/06_2215_state.htm)

## Women, work and income inequality – why less inequality benefits all



*The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.*

For a direct link to report:

[http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/in-it-together-why-less-inequality-benefits-all\\_9789264235120-en#page334](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/employment/in-it-together-why-less-inequality-benefits-all_9789264235120-en#page334)

Read more:

[http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/07\\_15/07\\_06\\_15/07\\_0615\\_women2.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2015/07_15/07_06_15/07_0615_women2.htm)

## Advancing gender equality: The co-operative way

Great strides have been made towards gender equality over the last two decades. Nevertheless, deep gender disparities persist across the globe, surfacing in labour markets, as well as other realms. Compared to men, women continue to earn less, are more likely to partake in unpaid labour, and are more apt to be excluded from decent work and opportunities for advancement. As gender equity is increasingly seen as a pillar for sustainable economic development and broad social well-being, alternative models to development which incorporate women's equality in work are needed. Rooted in values of self-help, equality, and equity, as well as economic growth through cooperation and democratic processes, co-operative enterprises are well-positioned to answer this call.

The adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 laid the foundation for action towards gender equality in all aspects of economic, social, cultural and political life. Twenty years later, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) have joined together to assess how one particular sector—the co-operative movement—is impacting (and is impacted by) progress towards women's empowerment and gender equality.

For a direct link to report:

[http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/media\\_items/Report%20-%20Advancing%20Gender%20Equality%20-%20The%20Co-op%20Way.pdf](http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/media_items/Report%20-%20Advancing%20Gender%20Equality%20-%20The%20Co-op%20Way.pdf)

Read more:

[http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/cooperatives/WCMS\\_379095/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/cooperatives/WCMS_379095/lang--en/index.htm)

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