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Why Palestinian housewives are taking lead in boycott campaigns



Palestinian women join together at a meeting for the women's campaign to boycott Israeli products, Dec. 22, 2015

Sahar Tbaileh began her push to boycott Israeli goods with the help of three of her neighbors who live between the Ain Munjid and al-Masyoun neighborhoods in central Ramallah.

The women met at Tbaileh's house and joined forces to form a women's committee to spread the boycott and cleanse their neighborhood of Israeli goods by talking to women, merchants and store owners. The committee has also contacted neighborhood schools and discuss the importance of the boycott with students, in an unprecedented move that first took place Nov. 5.

Tbaileh told Al-Monitor, "This was a personal campaign initiated by us women, out of our patriotic sense of the need to conduct a boycott. [This step] came in light of Israeli aggression toward our youth and children, taking into account the fact that stores are full of Israeli goods for which there are local alternatives."

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/01/palestinian-women-launch-boycott-campaigns.html>

The Voice of Libyan Women: A progressive voice amid violence and insecurity



Women were at the forefront of the pro-democracy protest in Libya in 2011, which, after escalating into civil war, culminated in the ousting of dictator Muammar Gaddafi. But in the years that have followed, as state institutions have crumbled and insecurity prevails, women have struggled to have their voices heard. AWID spoke to Alaa Murabit, founder of the Voice of Libyan Women, an organization working for women's economic and political representation, and against violence against women, to discuss their work and the situation facing women in Libya today.

AWID: What motivated you to establish The Voice of Libyan Women? How do you stay motivated in the face of turmoil?

Alaa Murabit: Founding The Voice of Libyan Women was about ensuring that women were taking their rightful place as leaders of the movement to rebuild the nation.

Read more:

<http://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/voice-libyan-women-progressive-voice-amid-violence-and-insecurity>

A new strategy to address gender inequality

The evidence is clear: When countries value girls and women as much as boys and men; when they invest in their health, education, and skills training; when they give women greater opportunities to participate in the economy, manage incomes, own and run businesses—the benefits extend far beyond individual girls and women to their children and families, to their communities, to societies and economies at large.

This is the vision behind the World Bank Group's new Gender Equality Strategy. It charts an ambitious path toward improving opportunities for women and girls because it is not only morally right but critical to economic development.

Informed by months of consultations in 22 countries, with governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and others, our new strategy builds on robust evidence that persistent gaps between men and women impose real and significant costs globally that can be addressed.

One area where we can reduce the cost of gender inequality is by expanding access to finance. Women are barred in some countries from opening bank accounts or lines of credit and often don't own the kind of property that banks request as collateral. Promising projects to overcome these constraints include recognizing property such as merchandise and other movable collateral that would allow them to access credit.

Read more:

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/new-strategy-address-gender-inequality>

Don't link extremism to lack of English, Muslim groups tell UK PM Cameron



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron listens during a discussion with members of the local community on a visit to Luton, north of London, on October 19, 2015 to announce a new government strategy for tackling extremism

British Muslim groups accused Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday of demonising their communities by saying that Muslim women needed to learn English to reduce the risk of extremism.

Cameron said some migrants to Britain who cannot pass an English test within 2-1/2 years of arriving may not be allowed to stay, a move aimed at fostering greater integration by Muslim women.

He said while there was no direct causal link between poor English language skills and extremism, those who were not able to integrate into British society were at risk of being more susceptible to extremist ideologies.

"The statements from this government regarding Muslims continue to further demonise and marginalise the Muslim community and are counter-productive," the Muslim Women's Council said in a statement.

Read more:

<http://news.trust.org/item/20160118170241-pxm5l/?source=hpOtherNews1>

Making Motherhood Work – Real-Life Career & Family Balancing Challenges



The statistics are enough to make you believe in Superwoman. Remember her—the idealized (and often maligned) 1980s woman with a baby on her hip and a briefcase in her hand? Her image may be tarnished, but the full-time career woman who is also raising children is still out there—juggling, balancing and trying to make it all work. And in America, at least, she's still getting very little help. While other industrialized countries count the length of fully paid parental leave in months—like Norway (about 10), Vietnam (six) and Brazil (four)—the United States stands alone in not requiring employers to offer a single day of paid parental leave following a baby's birth or adoption [ilo.org, 2013]. Nonetheless, more than 70 percent of U.S. mothers with children under 18 are in the labor force; in 2014, more than 40 percent of mothers were primary breadwinners [catalyst.org].

Read more:

<http://www.wunrn.com/2015/12/making-motherhood-work-real-life-career-family-balancing-challenges/>

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

More female than male domestics run away



A total of 86,549 domestic workers among the 847,927 workers ran away from their workplaces during 2014, according to the annual report for 2014 released by the Ministry of Labor here on Sunday.

Among the runaway workers, the report said, 40 percent were males and the rest were females. During the year, the number of visas issued for domestic workers amounted to 847,927 representing 493,125 male workers and 354,802 female workers.

The number of visas issued to government agencies was 104,466, representing 68,530 males and 35,936 female workers.

The total number of work visas issued during 2014 reached 1.57 million while the number of seasonal visas was 62,152.

During the same period, some 531,000 workers were absent from work, which included 43 percent from the local staff and 53 percent of expatriates who did not return to the Kingdom after going on re-entry visas

The report attributed the issuance of the high number of visas to giant projects such as the expansion of the holy mosques projects in Makkah and Madinah and the construction of the metro in major cities.

Read more:

<http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/863401>

Islamic State Theologians Give ISIS Rules on Sex with Female Captives

Islamic State theologians have issued an extremely detailed ruling on when “owners” of women enslaved by the extremist group can have sex with them, in an apparent bid to curb what they called violations in the treatment of captured females.

The ruling or fatwa has the force of law and appears to go beyond the Islamic State’s previous known utterances on slavery, a leading Islamic State scholar said. It sheds new light on how the group is trying to reinterpret centuries-old teachings to justify the rape of women in the swaths of Syria and Iraq it controls.

The fatwa was among a huge trove of documents captured by U.S. Special Operations Forces during a raid targeting a top Islamic State official in Syria in May. Reuters has reviewed the document, which has not been previously published, but couldn’t independently confirm its authenticity.

Among the fatwa’s injunctions are bans on a father and son having sex with the same female slave; and the owner of a mother and daughter having sex with both. Joint owners of a female captive are similarly enjoined from intercourse because she is viewed as “part of a joint ownership.”

Read more:

<http://www.wunrn.com/2015/12/islamic-state-theologians-give-isis-rules-on-sex-with-female-captives/>

New Year’s Eve sexual assaults in Germany

During the 2015 New Year’s Eve celebrations, widespread theft, alleged sexual assaults including groping, and at least two alleged instances of rape were reported across Germany, primarily within Cologne.^[10] There were also several incidents in Hamburg, several in Frankfurt, one in Stuttgart,^[11] theft in Bielefeld,^{[3][12]} and alleged sexual assault in Düsseldorf.^{[13][14]} The German Federal Criminal Police Office stated on 9 January that the incidents were a phenomenon known in the Arab World as taharrush gamea.^[15]

Former Cologne police chief Wolfgang Albers, who was subsequently transferred to provisional retirement for his handling of the situation, told the BBC that the sexual assault perpetrators were of “Arab or North African appearance” and called the incident “a completely new dimension of crime”.^[14] It was later revealed by police that 18 of the 31 suspects checked by the Federal Police on New Year’s Eve were asylum seekers, who were suspected of grievous bodily harm, robbery and theft.^[16] The 19 suspects identified by the Cologne police include 10 asylum seekers, 7 people who are supposed to have entered Germany illegally, and two who are underage unaccompanied refugees.^[17] Five of these people have been detained.^[18] 14 of these 19 are from Algeria and Morocco.^[17] Meanwhile the number of suspects known by the Cologne Police increased to 23.^[19]

Read more:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Eve_sexual_assaults_in_Germany

Helsinki: Police Prevent “Second Cologne”



A planned mass sex attack involving “thousands” of nonwhite invaders in the city center of Helsinki, Finland, on New Year’s Eve, was only averted by swift police action and the arrest of dozens of “asylum seekers,” it has emerged.

According to a report in the *Yleisradio Oy* (Finnish Broadcasting Company, YLE), the attack was thwarted by police action. Central Criminal Police Detective Superintendent Thomas Elfgren says that in light of “new information” he had “no reason to doubt” that Finland was intended to have “similar New Year’s Eve activities as took place in Cologne, Germany.”

The YLE report says that police gained advance notice of the plans, which included arrangements by the nonwhite “asylum seekers” to arrive in Helsinki from invader centers from other parts of Finland.

“We had information that Helsinki was to be the center of a New Year’s Eve gathering which would result in a variety of disorders,” Helsinki Police Department deputy chief, Ilkka Koskimäki, told YLE.

Read more:

<http://newobserveronline.com/helsinki-police-prevent-second-cologne/>

Female refugees heading to Europe face violence

Women and girl refugees coming into Europe face violence and sexual harassment at every stage of their journey, according to a new report from Amnesty International.

The report released Monday by the human rights group was based on interviews with 40 women and girls in Germany and Norway last month who had traveled from Turkey to Greece and then across the Balkans.

Women and girls traveling alone or accompanied only by children said they felt particularly under threat in Hungary, Croatia and Greece, where they were forced to sleep alongside hundreds of male refugees. Those interviewed included female refugees from Iraq and Syria.

The vast majority of the refugees streaming into Europe are men, which leaves women particularly vulnerable, aid workers say. Women at camps reported having to use the same bathroom and shower facilities as men, and some said they did not eat or drink to avoid going to the toilet.

Read more:

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2016/1/17/female-refugees-heading-to-europe-face-violence.html>

GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

Syria – as Syrian peace talks evolve, how will women take part?



The United Nations is arranging peace talks for Syria in January 2016, the first in years to try to end the nation's long war.

When the United Nations Security Council recently approved timelines to begin peace talks and institute a national cease-fire in Syria, the language in the resolution gave no hint of the magnitude of such undertakings, nor did the congratulatory speeches afterward by diplomats delve into the details.

That means the nitty-gritty work is left to the UN, as Staffan de Mistura, the Syria envoy, just announced Jan. 25 as the target date to start negotiations that could finally end the war in Syria.

Read more:

http://www.wunrn.com/2015/12/syria-as-syrian-peace-talks-evolve-how-will-women-take-part/?sft_topic=women-girls-economics-poverty-work

The Forgotten Women and Children of Iraq



A girl stands beside her mother as they wait in line with other displaced residents in Baghdad's Sadr City

She found out about the devastating consequences for her and her daughter only after her husband's death. As with many Iraqi couples, she and her husband had been married by a religious cleric and their marriage had never been registered with the Iraqi civil authorities. With no official proof of marriage, both mother and daughter were left ineligible for basic state assistance. Their story is not unique.

Iraqi law does not recognise a marriage if it is not registered by the courts. As marriage registration entitles the couple and subsequent children to basic state assistance women in unregistered marriages are left in legal limbo and are extremely vulnerable should their husbands pass away or abandon them. In such cases they are denied the state protection afforded to women in registered marriages, including access to state obstetric care and to give birth in hospitals.

Read more:

<http://news.trust.org//item/20151204135003-365mb/?source=fiBlogs>

German swimming pool closed to male refugees after assaults on women



In a first, male migrants were banned from a leisure center in a German town for sexually harassing female visitors, while authorities in a different German town chose to step up security at a center for similar reasons.

Male asylum-seekers currently living in a hostel in Bornheim, a town on the outskirts of Bonn, were banned from visiting a local swimming pool after the number of complaints of sexual harassment from female bathers became alarmingly high, the town's authorities said on Friday.

None of the episodes can be regarded as criminal offences, but the men's behavior was more than inappropriate, Markus Schnapka, Bornheim's social welfare chief said, as cited by Die Welt.

The ban is a temporary measure. The men can regain access to the swimming pool once they reconsider their behavior, according to local officials.

Read more:

<https://www.rt.com/news/329141-germany-refugees-pool-harassment/>

'Male-dominant migrant wave threatens Europe's gender equality'



As European nations continue to accept thousands of refugees, officials are failing to consider that most young adults entering are males, a fact that could have a huge impact on gender equality, says Valerie Hudson, professor at Texas A&M University.

Critics of Europe's loose and liberal policy towards refugees flooding its shores were galvanized by the harrowing news out of Cologne, Germany on New Year's Eve.

According to an internal report by Germany's state police, the Bundespolizei, obtained by DER SPIEGEL, it was written by an official that "[W]omen, accompanied or not, literally ran a 'gauntlet' through masses of heavily intoxicated men that words cannot describe."

RT spoke with Professor Valerie Hudson on a subject that European leaders are apparently ignoring as they continue to open the door to thousands of migrants from North Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East with little or no concern for the sex-ratio makeup of the arrivals.

Read more:

<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/328280-europe-male-dominant-migrant-wave/>

The Impact of Syrian Refugees on the Turkish Labor Market

Civil war in Syria has resulted in more than four million refugees fleeing the country, of which 1.8 million have found refuge in Turkey, making it the largest refugee-hosting country worldwide. This paper combines newly available data on the 2014 distribution of Syrian refugees across subregions of Turkey with the Turkish Labour Force Survey, to assess the impact on Turkish labor market conditions. Using a novel instrument, the analysis finds that the refugees, who overwhelmingly do not have work permits, result in the large-scale displacement of informal, low-educated, female Turkish workers, especially in agriculture. While there is net displacement, the inflow of refugees also creates higher-wage formal jobs, allowing for occupational upgrading of Turkish workers. Average Turkish wages have increased primarily as the composition of the employed has changed because of the inflow of refugees.

The Poverty and Applied Micro Seminar Series is a weekly series hosted by the World Bank's research department. The series invites leading researchers in applied microeconomics from the fields of poverty, human development and public service delivery, agriculture and rural development, political economy, behavioral economics, private sector development, and a range of other fields to present the results of their most recent research in a seminar format. The full list of seminars can be viewed here.

Read more:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2016/03/23/pove-ty-and-applied-micro-seminar-Mathis-Wagner#2>

For a direct link to seminars:

http://www.worldbank.org/en/research/events/all?event_series_exact=Poverty%20and%20Applied%20Microeconomics%20Seminar%20Series

RESOURCES & CALLS BOOKS & REPORTS

Child Marriage in Humanitarian Settings in the Arab Region: Dynamics, Challenges and Policy Options



This study focuses on the issue of female child marriage in the Arab region, particularly in conflict and humanitarian settings. It explores the various causes and effects of this problem, with a distinction between structural determinants that have been long present in many Arab countries, and unique contextual determinants that are fuelled by circumstances of instability, displacement, and extreme poverty. Drawing on a combination of desk and field research, the study examines the root causes of child marriage in the Arab region and analyses its drivers in conflict and humanitarian situations, such as the shifts in family and community relations, changes in gender roles and deterioration of life conditions.

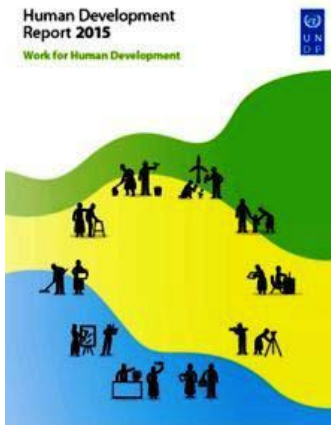
Read more:

<https://www.unescwa.org/publications/child-marriage-humanitarian-settings-arab-region-dynamics-challenges-and-policy-options>

For a direct link to report:

https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/e_escwa_ecw_15_2_e.pdf

Human Development Report 2015



Work, not just jobs or employment, is crucial for human progress: Of the world's 7.3 billion people, 3.2 billion are in jobs, and many others engage in unpaid care, creative and voluntary work as well as other activities or prepare themselves as future workers.

The 2015 Human Development Report 'Work for Human Development' examines the links, both positive and negative, between work and human development in a rapidly changing world of work. Fast globalization, technological revolution, demographic transitions and many other factors are creating new opportunities, but also posing risks. The report examines how the benefits of this new world of work are not equally distributed, generating winners and losers.

Read more:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/2015-human-development-report/>

For a direct link to report:

http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/HDR%202015/HumanDevelopmentReport_EN.pdf

The Little Data Book on Gender 2016

This handy pocket guide is a quick reference for users interested in gender statistics. The book presents sex-disaggregated data for more than 200 economies in an easy country-by-country reference on demography, education, health, labor force, political participation and the Millennium Development Goals.

The book's summary pages cover regional and income group aggregates.

Read more:

<http://data.worldbank.org/products/data-books/little-data-book-on-gender>

For a direct link to report:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/23436/9781464805561.pdf?>

Shelter from the Storm



We live in a world where humanitarian crises extract mounting costs from economies, communities and individuals. Wars and natural disasters make the headlines, at least initially.

Read more:

<http://www.unfpa.org/publications>

For a direct link to report:

<http://www.unfpa.org/swop>

Labour market entry in Tunisia: The gender gap

This report explores how gender issues interact with elements such as type of education and years of labour market experience, to determine young people's transition outcomes in Tunisia. Based on the School-to-work transitions Survey (SWTS) run in 2013, the analysis concludes that labour market experience provides a strong protection against unemployment.

Read more:

http://www.ilo.org/employment/areas/youth-employment/work-for-youth/publications/thematic-reports/WCMS_440855/lang--en/index.htm

For a direct link to report:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_440855.p

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