



## **Gender Equality = Progress For Humanity**

*2013 Edition*

**WWSF Annual Campaign: The Numbers Must Change!**

*Become aware, share, help change the numbers.*

### **Why This Campaign?**

*"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance." - Kofi Annan*

With this updated report, we hope to inspire men and women to commit to gender equality, and to realize the scope of gender equality in human rights issues. All human rights issues must be viewed through the lens of women's rights and gender equality, as women's rights are human rights, and gender equality should be a concern even in those human rights issues that are not typically associated with women's rights, such as armed conflicts, literacy and economic rights. WWSF has compiled various statistics to demonstrate that women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's most pressing issues. We encourage you to share this report, to add to it, and to contemplate how other issues in the world affect women. To not address gender in all aspects of life is a failure to address the issues fully, and that is a disservice to the progress of humanity.

The concept of bringing gender issues into the mainstream of society was clearly established as a global strategy for promoting gender equality in the Platform for Action adopted at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). It highlighted the necessity of ensuring that gender equality be a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development.

### **Definition**

In July 1997, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) defines the concept of gender mainstreaming as follows: "Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."

### **Transformation by Mainstreaming**

Mainstreaming is not about adding a "woman's component" or even a "gender equality component" into an existing activity. It goes beyond increasing women's participation; it means bringing the experience, knowledge and interests of women and men to bear on the development agenda (ILO).

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**On gender:** At conception we start life as equals, but at birth we are immediately treated differently, based on whether we are male or female. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledges that men and women are not the same but insists on their right to be equal before the law and treated without discrimination. Gender equality is not a 'women's issue' but refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and should concern and fully engage men as well as women. After 68 years, it is clear that it is the human rights of women that we see most widely ignored around the world, from female infanticide, sexual slavery and rape as an act of war, to exclusion from education, health and the right to compete equally for jobs. The right to be free of discrimination on the grounds of gender is specifically embodied in Article 2 of the Declaration, but even a cursory reading of all 30 articles is enough to remind us that in much of the world, the promises of the Declaration have not been fulfilled.

**Statistics** (UN Sources):



In a world that is roughly 50% female (49.6%)<sup>1</sup> (49 million more men than women)<sup>2</sup>

**Why is it that:**



70% of the world's poor are women?<sup>3</sup>



80% of the world's trafficked persons are women?<sup>4</sup>



60% of the world's hungry are women and girls?<sup>5</sup>



95% of domestic violence is against women?<sup>6</sup>



80% of refugees in the world are women and children?<sup>7</sup>



On average, women's wages represent only 85% of men's wages?<sup>8</sup>



Women perform 66% of all hours worked in the world?<sup>9</sup>



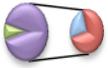
Women own less than 15% of property worldwide?<sup>10</sup>



Less than 20% of landowners worldwide are women?<sup>11</sup>



Women hold only 20% of parliament seats worldwide?<sup>12</sup>



In modern warfare 90% of casualties are civilians, and 75% of these casualties are women and children?<sup>13</sup>



Women are 14 times more likely to die from natural disasters than men?<sup>14</sup>



64% of the world's blind are women due to inequality in access to healthcare?<sup>15</sup>



Only 139 of 193 national constitutions guarantee gender equality?<sup>16</sup>

**3x**

In Canada, indigenous women report 3 times as many cases of domestic violence than non-indigenous women, and are 5 times more likely to be murdered<sup>17</sup>.

### **Millennium Development Goals**

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established during the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. They are eight goals for global development, to be achieved by 2015. A main focus of the summit was protection of women and children, which is reflected explicitly in several of the goals. Gender equality is an important aspect of achieving all of these goals, even in those that do not explicitly refer to gender differences. The achievement of some of these goals, such as improving maternal health and promoting gender equality and empowering women, are obviously closely tied to gender equality. With others, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education, the connection is less clear. In fact, women and girls represent the vast majority of the world's poor, and it is imperative to take advantage of the role women play in food security and agriculture in order to successfully and fully eradicate hunger and poverty throughout the world. Similarly, girls are less likely than boys to attend primary school, and thus empowering young girls and eliminating the gender gap in literacy and education is essential to achieving universal primary education. It is apparent that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the issues that the MDGs seek to address. The advancement of gender equality is paramount to the achievement of the MDGs and thus should be a central focus of work in the MDG period, as well as a focus of the Post-2015 agenda.

### **Call to Action!**

- ✓ Advocate for a strong focus on gender equality in the UN Post-2015 Agenda
- ✓ Post on Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media about the need for gender equality in all issues
- ✓ Become Aware, Share, Help, Change the Numbers
- ✓ Participate in discussions and actions to raise awareness in your community about the importance of addressing gender inequalities and of finding solutions
- ✓ In your advocacy work, always try to consider the role gender plays
- ✓ Question others about the role gender and equality play in their lives and work
- ✓ Create partnerships across genders, communities and organizations to improve the current statistics
- ✓ Translate this campaign into your native language, share it and send WWSF a copy of your translations
- ✓ Add your own statistics in your national campaigns

- 1 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/wwwork2010.htm>
- 2 <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/broker>
- 3 [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_poverty\\_economics/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/)
- 4 [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.php](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php)
- 5 <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>
- 6 <http://www.stopvaw.org/content/wfp-gender-policy>
- 7 [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news\\_events/9.1\\_news\\_archives/2009\\_03\\_05a/women\\_stats.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2009_03_05a/women_stats.pdf)
- 8 [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_poverty\\_economics/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/)
- 9 <http://endpoverty2015.org/goals/gender-equity>
- 10 [www.habitat.org/gov/public\\_policy/property\\_rights\\_for\\_women.aspx](http://www.habitat.org/gov/public_policy/property_rights_for_women.aspx)
- 11 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/al059e/al059e00.pdf>
- 12 <http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/05/women-government-power-forbes-woman-power-women-quotas.html>
- 13 <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/women-peace-and-security>
- 14 [http://www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate\\_change/facts\\_figures.php](http://www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate_change/facts_figures.php)
- 15 [http://www.who.int/gender/other\\_health/en/genderblind.pdf](http://www.who.int/gender/other_health/en/genderblind.pdf)
- 16 <http://progress.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/EN-Summary-Progress-of-the-Worlds-Women1.pdf>
- 17 <http://www.awid.org/eng/Library/violence-and-Indigenous-Women>

### **The Global Gender Gap Report:**

World Economic Forum [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GenderGap\\_Report\\_2012.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2012.pdf)

The Global Gender Gap Index, introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006, is a framework for capturing the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress. The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, educational and health-based criteria and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups and over time. The rankings are designed to create greater awareness among a global audience of the challenges posed by gender gaps and the opportunities created by reducing them. The methodology and quantitative analyses behind the rankings are intended to serve as a basis for designing effective measures for reducing gender gaps.

The index is designed to measure gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities in individual countries rather than the actual levels of the available resources and opportunities in those countries. We do this in order to make the Global Gender Gap Index independent from countries' levels of development. In other words, the Index is constructed to rank countries on their gender gaps, not on their development levels. For example, rich countries have more educational and health opportunities for all members of society and measures of educational levels, therefore mainly reflect this well-known fact, although it is quite independent of the gender-related issues faced by each country, regardless of income. The Global Gender Gap Index, however, rewards countries for smaller gaps in access to these resources, regardless of the overall level of resources. Thus, the Index penalizing or rewards countries based on the size of the gap between male and female enrolment rates, but not for overall levels of education in the country.



**Gender Equality = Progress for Humanity** is published by **WWSF**-Women's World Summit Foundation, an international, not-for-profit, lay NGO with United Nations consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFP, DPI), serving the implementation of women's and children's rights and advocating for a 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women.

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