

## Who, What, Where

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## International Human Solidarity Day 20 December

In connection with its observance of first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), the General Assembly, on 22 December 2005, decided to proclaim 20 December of each year as International

Human Solidarity Day (resolution 60/209). In taking that action, it recalled that the Millennium Declaration identified solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values that should underlie relations between peoples in the twenty-first century.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntSolidarity/index.html>

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## In-house "cooking": Turin and not only:

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### Mainstreaming Gender Equality, Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation

An agreement has just been signed between the Government of South Africa and the ITC/ILO Gender Unit on "mainstreaming gender equality, employment promotion and poverty alleviation" in the South African water sector and more specifically in the management of water resources. In this framework, Benedetta Magri attended a SADC-wide workshop which took place in Rustenburg, South Africa, from 24 to 26 October 2007. Project implementers as well

as local and central authorities from some 10 countries discussed and shared experiences on which would be the best indicators to ensure that water management projects give a sustainable contribution to social, economic and environmental development of the communities. Gender Unit will continue to support the South African Department for Water Affairs in strengthening their operational capacity to deliver gender-sensitive IWRM programmes.

### Brussels Events

During the first week of November in Brussels, Belgium, the Gender Coordination Unit organised two events, contributing to strengthening capacities of the EC to mainstream gender into its development cooperation activities. The first was the "Workshop for EC Gender Focal Persons". This three-day workshop is the first of its kind organized by AIDCO unit E4 to re-launch the network of gender focal persons working in EC Delegations all over the world, as well as at the headquarters in Brussels. Participants

shared experiences and lessons learned from the on-going efforts to implement the EC twin track approach of gender mainstreaming and actions for women's empowerment. The workshop continued with the review of the role of the gender focal persons as well as the mandate of the network for achieving the EC objectives on gender equality in development cooperation. The second event was a two-day training focusing on practical tools and skills for gender mainstreaming into the project-cycle management.

### Jakarta

Johanne Lortie will implement a training activity in Jakarta, from 3 to 7 December 2007: "Decent Work, Gender Equality and Tripartism – A knowledge sharing and training workshop,, in the framework of

project "ILO Dutch TC-RAM training for ILO Gender Bureau", for participants coming from Asia and Europe.

## What's new on the web

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### Nothing But Nets: Malaria Kills – You can help save lifes!

Malaria is a disease caused by the blood parasite Plasmodium, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Infected humans experience flu-like symptoms that can result in coma and death. Malaria, from the Medieval Italian words mala aria or “bad air,” infects more than 500 million people a year and kills more than a million— one person dies about every 30 seconds. The disease is particularly devastating in Africa, where it is a leading killer of children. In addition to being home to the deadliest strain of malaria and the

mosquito best equipped to transmit the disease, many areas in Africa lack the proper infrastructure and resources to fight back.

In Europe mosquitos are annoying, but in Africa they spread malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. **Nothing But Nets** is asking you to send a net and save a life.

<http://www.nothingbutnets.net/>

### UN partners with tech companies to track anti-poverty progress

The United Nations unveiled a new Web site together with Google Inc. and Cisco Systems Inc. in an effort to better track the international community's fight against poverty and efforts to meet the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Several UN agencies as well as governments and the World Bank will provide data for the site, which among other things will allow users to explore places around the world that are key to development by using Google Earth's map and satellite technology.

#### WHAT IS THE MDG MONITOR?

The MDG Monitor shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the 2015 target date fast approaching, it is

more important than ever to understand where the goals are on track, and where additional efforts and support are needed, both globally and at the country level.

The MDG Monitor is designed as a tool for policymakers, development practitioners, journalists, students and others to:

TRACK progress through interactive maps and country-specific profiles

LEARN about countries' challenges and achievements and get the latest news

SUPPORT organizations working on the MDGs around the world

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>

### Atlas of Millennium Development Goals

This website provides maps of accomplishments made under most of the

indicators defined for the eight MDGs. The information is provided by the World Bank.

The site provides additional data in pull down graphs, and has other features such as help buttons.

<http://devdata.worldbank.org/atlas-mdg/>

## What are they doing?

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### The Business School on Wheels for Rural Women

The Business School on Wheels for Rural Women is Mann Vikas' innovative solution to making its range of courses accessible to women who due to financial or cultural constraints would be unable to access training in a central location. A bus has been designed and converted to operate as a mobile classroom which will travel from village to village within the Hubli-Dharwad area. The Business School on Wheels will offer training in a range of technical and

practical business skills which will enable women to expand or start new businesses, which will in turn be supported with start-up micro-loans through Mann Vikas' financial services.

[http://www.mannndeshi.org/ngoprogram\\_businessschlonwheel.htm](http://www.mannndeshi.org/ngoprogram_businessschlonwheel.htm)

### Sonke Gender Justice Network

Sonke Gender Justice Network works with men, women, youth and children in the SADC region to achieve gender equality, prevent gender-based violence, and reduce the spread of HIV and the impact of AIDS. Sonke's flagship project is the One Man Can Campaign, which supports men and boys to take action to end domestic and sexual violence and to promote healthy, equitable

relationships that men and women can enjoy – passionately, respectfully and fully.

<http://www.genderjustice.org.za/>

## Giving Girls Today and Tomorrow: Breaking the Cycle of Adolescent Pregnancy

### Too Young To Die: Adolescent Maternal Deaths, Disabilities & Unsafe Abortion

Pregnancy- and childbirth-related complications are the number-one killers of 15-19 year old girls worldwide. This report highlights the issue of adolescent pregnancy among married and unmarried adolescent girls (10-19 year olds), especially those living in poverty. It draws attention to current trends, as well as the social, economic, and health consequences of adolescent pregnancy not only for the girls themselves, but for their families and countries. The publication argues for strategic investments in the health, education, and livelihoods of adolescent girls to empower them to avoid the trap of becoming mothers while still

children. It also examines how targeted investments will improve the prospects for pregnant girls and young mothers. These investments will pay twice: impacting today's girls and tomorrow's women. The report also outlines ways to better address adolescent pregnancy and the multi-faceted needs of adolescent girls worldwide.

Download pdf here:

[http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib\\_pub\\_file/722\\_filename\\_adol\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/722_filename_adol_eng.pdf)

## Desigualdades Raciais e de Gênero entre Crianças, Adolescentes e Mulheres no Brasil, no contexto dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento do Milênio

Esta publicação é resultado de uma parceria entre UNIFEM e UNICEF. Ela ilustra como as iniquidades por raça/etnia e gênero afetam a maneira como mulheres, crianças e adolescentes, e como é importante

considerá-las não apenas nas análises sobre ODM, mas também nos processos de elaboração e implementação de políticas públicas no Brasil.

<http://www.unifem.org.br/sites/700/710/00000163.pdf>

## CEM



El Centro de Estudios de la Mujer fue fundado en abril de 1984 por un grupo multidisciplinario de investigadoras en ciencias sociales y económicas. Está dedicado a los estudios de género y realiza investigación, formación, difusión y asesorías especialmente en las áreas de Trabajo y Empleo, Ciudadanía y Participación Política, y Políticas Públicas.

### Investigación

La investigación es la actividad fundamental del CEM, que posibilita y da sustento a las demás áreas. Tiene por objetivo producir conocimientos críticos orientados a comprender la dinámica de las relaciones de género y su articulación con otros sistemas de relaciones sociales. A la vez pretende iluminar la forma en que las relaciones de género influyen en la configuración de los procesos sociales, económicos y políticos. El CEM trabaja con una diversidad de enfoques teóricos y metodológicos complementarios. Se utilizan los aportes de distintas disciplinas de las ciencias sociales, se analiza información estadística secundaria y se realizan encuestas, entrevistas, grupos de discusión, historias de vida, lo que permite acercarse de distintas maneras a una variedad de problemas y sujetos.

### Formación

El CEM propicia el uso de nuevas categorías de análisis para interpretar la realidad social y la transferencia de conocimientos de género a distintos grupos sociales y profesionales que les asegure una mayor competencia en su quehacer. Recientemente ha diseñado en conjunto con otras cuatro instituciones el [Diploma en Estudios de Género y Sociedad](#).

### Difusión

Una de las preocupaciones permanentes del CEM es comunicar nuevos conocimientos y puntos de vista sobre la realidad de género al público en general y a las mujeres en particular, a otros profesionales y a los responsables de políticas públicas. Las actividades de difusión contribuyen a que los temas relativos a las relaciones de género se incorporen al debate y formen parte de la opinión pública. En apoyo a esta tarea, el CEM publica [libros](#) y [documentos de trabajo](#), y difunde [artículos](#) en revistas científicas y de divulgación. También publica mensualmente [Argumentos para el cambio](#).

<http://www.cem.cl/que.htm>

## UNIFEM – The Story behind the Numbers: Women and Employment in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Commonwealth of Independent States

This report offers a comprehensive analysis and recommendations on women's true status in the labour market. The regional analysis draws on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Gender Statistics Database as well as on the findings that emerge from several UNIFEM-supported case studies at the national level: In Albania, where there has been an alarming increase in trafficking over the last several years, the study analyzes the link between women's economic vulnerability and increased risk of trafficking. In Kosovo, with women's unemployment at nearly 60%, a study on ways to strengthen women's economic rights will be used to inform decision-makers on policies that provide more economic opportunities for women. A third study in FYR Macedonia, where the quality of women's jobs is poor despite anti-discriminatory labour legislation, will provide evidence-based qualitative data input for drafting

policy documents, particularly annual national employment strategy plans. Finally, women's involvement in the informal economy and its impact on their social and personal lives are explored in the context of Bulgaria in a study that will inform policy makers about the significance of informal employment of women, the risks involved, and the policies needed to alleviate these risks. The UNIFEM regional report will serve to deepen understanding of the challenges women face in the labour market and to advocate for improved data analysis as well as policy actions to address these challenges.

<http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?Module=Static&page=w&s=IWP>

## Latin American and Caribbean Women in the Labour Market: Equal Opportunity or Opportunities Lost?

More women than ever are part of the job market in Latin America and the Caribbean – 33 million entered into the labour force between 1990 and 2004. However, their participation is limited by their responsibilities as mothers and caregivers, as well as the low status of women in some Latin American and Caribbean societies.

Up to 60 per cent of the reasons women give for not entering, or leaving, the labour market are related to their roles as mothers and caregivers.

This was the focus of a special event entitled 'Towards a New Social and Gender Pact: Shared Responsibility for Productive and Reproductive Work in Latin America and the

Caribbean.’ It was organized by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, in conjunction with the Tenth Regional Woman’s Conference here this week.

The [‘Quito Consensus’](#), an agreement reached by 33 governments participating in the conference, paves the way for judicial reform and budget allocations to ensure more female representation in public and political posts. The document also calls for measures to ensure shared responsibility among women and men, facilitating the political participation of women, as well as the establishment of comprehensive public social security systems, improving women’s quality of life and ensuring their rights as citizens.

Even though large numbers of women do have jobs, their salaries trail those of men by

20 to 30 per cent, according to Marcela Suazo, Director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean at UNFPA.

The poorest countries with the highest birth rates, the largest informal economies, and the weakest social policies, including Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay, are also the ones with the highest female participation in the labour market. Women in these countries are over-represented in the informal sector, which typically offers lower pay and no benefits such as health insurance and pension plans. About 16 per cent of women in the region are employed as domestic help.

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=1016>

## FLASH!

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### Spotlight: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala – Nigerian reformer

By William Wallis

African finance ministers are rarely celebrated. It is just as rare that they are women. On both counts, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is an exception.

She played the lead role in rehabilitating Nigeria’s battered image as finance minister between 2003 and 2006, persuading creditor nations that an oil-rich part of Africa, notorious for its wasteful ways, was sufficiently on the mend to justify an \$18bn debt write-off.

In the west, she has been held up since as a model reformer. Tough, articulate and Harvard educated, but dressed traditionally

as a Nigerian, she is the ideal Davos African, in demand round the world.

For the past year, Mrs Okonjo-Iweala has chaired advisory boards on Africa for Renaissance Capital, the Russian investment bank seeking to repeat in Africa the success it had in the former Soviet states during the 1990s. She has set up an opinion poll back home as well as a \$60m fund to promote African women, while also serving the philanthropic foundations of Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela and Mo Ibrahim, the Sudanese telecoms mogul.

Forbes magazine lists her among the world’s 100 most powerful women. Other

publications have queued up to offer plaudits. Mrs Okonjo-Iweala is herself the first to register embarrassment to those who single her out as Africa's potential saviour.

"Give me credit only for what I've done," she says. "We did do something unprecedented in bringing debt relief to Nigeria. We broke the jinx and showed things can change. We brought openness to our finances and I did help to fight corruption. But there were others fighting too. I was not the only one."

In October, Robert Zoellick, the World Bank president, named her to the top level of the

bank as managing director for Africa, South Asia, Europe and central Asia, a job she starts at the end of this week. Mr Zoellick may be hoping some of her magic rubs off on the World Bank as it recovers from the turbulent presidency of Paul Wolfowitz and fights to retain its relevance as the world's largest lender to the poor.

More on:

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/182ae188-99e5-11dc-ad70-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/182ae188-99e5-11dc-ad70-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1)

## Gender Issues

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### It Takes Two: Men as Partners in Maternal Health



Having children is a partnership. It is one in which women face greater risks, both because of physiological differences and gender inequities. Women have a right to health, but protecting that right often depends on a partner's support.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has chosen Men as Partners in Maternal

Health as the theme of [World Population Day](#). There is a simple reason, as UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said recently ([view the video](#)). "Men are equal partners in making the new life that the women will deliver."

This emphasis on men's involvement in maternal health comes at the midpoint of the

15-year period set for achieving the [Millennium Development Goals](#). It is now clear that the target of reducing maternal deaths by 75 per cent by 2015 will not be met without the concerted efforts of all involved. Men – as partners, fathers, husbands, brothers, policy makers and community and religious leaders – have a critical role to play

in safeguarding the maternal health of women

<http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=1000>

## Egypt's fight against female circumcision clashes with tradition

by Ines Bel Aiba

Twice circumcised, Wafaa Helmy swore her own daughters would never suffer the same fate. But one night her own mother secretly took her first-born to go under the knife in their Upper Egypt village.

Despite pronouncements to the contrary by both Muslim and Christian clerics, she believes, as do many Egyptians, that this "purification" is a religious duty that helps preserve a girl's virtue and honour. The social stigma of not having her granddaughter's labia and/or clitoris cut off was just too strong for her.

Official Egyptian statistics say 97 percent of women aged 15 to 49, Christians and Muslims alike, have undergone what the UN prefers to call female genital mutilation, or FGM.

Women here feel they are guarantors of a certain social order and few dare question a tradition that goes back to the time of the pharaohs, in spite of the stories of bleeding, infection and other nefarious effects.

In June, following the death of 12-year-old Bedur Ahmed Shaker, Health Minister Hatem al-Gabali issued a decree banning every doctor and member of the medical profession

from performing the procedure. That ban must still be translated into law and could face a tough debate in parliament's next session in November. A ban was already imposed in 1997 but operations were allowed in "exceptional cases."

Female circumcision can cause death through haemorrhaging and later complications during childbirth. It also carries risks of infection, urinary tract problems and mental trauma. "It's simple: I'm frigid," says Wafaa, attending an information session organised by the Coptic Centre for Education and Development NGO at a church in Bayad al-Arab, south of Cairo.

Kawkaba Fathi, a Muslim, has found her own way of dealing with the problem. "I pretend I'm enjoying it to keep my husband happy and it's going much better," she says, her round face placid and framed by a black veil. Kawkaba's operation was carried out "the Sudanese way," meaning that all her external genital organs were cut off. Traumatized, she decided with her husband not to have the operation done on their three daughters. Around 60 women, all circumcised, are gathered to listen to a gynaecologist from the NGO.

"Circumcision is a very, very old tradition and has no connection with religion," says Mariam Munib, describing common side effects: haemorrhaging, incontinence, painful sexual intercourse, problems giving birth. Some women nod in agreement, but others are concerned about what people will say. "What if the husband rejects my daughter on their wedding night because she hasn't been circumcised," asks one worried mother. "People have to know if the girl is normal, if

(her sexual organs) are too big, or deformed?" says another. She is echoing a belief among many women here that too "prominent" genitals must be cut off -- at least if they're female.

More on:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071021/hl\\_afp/egyptwomenhealthexcision\\_071021223304&printer=1;\\_ylt=A0WTcVrrkB1HpSgBqAOKOrgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071021/hl_afp/egyptwomenhealthexcision_071021223304&printer=1;_ylt=A0WTcVrrkB1HpSgBqAOKOrgF)

## Poets' Corner

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### IMAGINE A WOMAN

*Imagine a woman* who believes it is right and good she is a woman.  
A woman who honours her experience and tells her stories.

*Imagine a woman* who believes she is good. A woman who trusts and respects herself.  
Who listens to her needs and desires and meets them with tenderness and grace.

*Imagine a woman* who has acknowledged the past's influence on the present.  
A woman who has walked through her past. Who has healed into the present.

*Imagine a woman* who authors her own life. A woman who exerts, initiates and moves on her own behalf. Who refuses to surrender except to her truest self and her wisest voice.

*Imagine a woman* in love with her own body. A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is. Who celebrates her body and its rhythms and cycles as an exquisite resource.

*Imagine a woman* who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom. Who refuses to use precious energy disguising the changes in her body and life.

*Imagine a woman* who values the women in her life. A woman who sits in circles of women.  
Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets.

*by Patricia Lynn Reilly*

## Gender Resources

### Delivering on the Promise of Equality: UNFPA's Strategic Framework for Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment 2008–2011

UNFPA's Strategic Framework for Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment 2008–2011 articulates a corporate strategy for working with Governments and partners in promoting gender equality. At a time when the global community is increasingly focused on poverty reduction and broader national development goals, the Framework outlines UNFPA's policy and programme priorities for

the empowerment of women and girls and for incorporating a gender perspective across its mandate, in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and population and development. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2007 [35 Pages, PDF] Available in pdf (English):

<http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=351&filterListType=>

### Asia's Focus on Sons May Fuel Sexual Violence, UN Report Says

By Michael Heath

The focus on having sons in Asian countries such as Vietnam, China, India and Nepal may fuel sexual violence and trafficking in women, the United Nations said in a report. "Sex ratio imbalances only lead to far reaching imbalances in the society," Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, head of the UN Population Fund, said yesterday in a statement in Hyderabad, India. "We must carry forward the message that every human being is born equal in dignity, worth and human rights."

The preference for sons is a result of economic pressure and culture, according to the UN. Sons often support parents in their old age, perform last rites when they die and continue the family name. Daughters are seen as a liability because they contribute little financially to the family and parents must pay a dowry when they marry in some countries.

If Asia's overall sex ratio was the same as elsewhere in the world, in 2005 it would have had 163 million more women and girls, according to studies commissioned by the UN Population Fund and published yesterday.

Greater access to ultrasound and amniocentesis to determine the sex of a fetus and an increase in the abortion of females will mean more men are unable to find wives, the UN said.

"A number of reports have revealed young women being kidnapped or lured by job offers and sold as forced brides into distant poor areas of China," according to the studies.

More on:  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=a9epUHN.fgQA&refer=india>

## Girls' adolescence in Burkina Faso: A pivot point for social change

As closer attention is paid to the lives of adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa, girls are found to be clearly disadvantaged, compared with their male counterparts. In Burkina Faso 74 percent of girls aged 15–19 cannot read (INSD and ORC Macro 2004). Burkinabé girls are frequently married at a young age, and more than one-third of married girls find themselves in polygamous unions as second or third wives, married to much older men. Understanding and recognizing girls' realities

is an important first step in planning appropriate and meaningful interventions for them. Girls who are unmarried, "promised," engaged, or married face different constraints and merit different program approaches. This report aims to fill gaps in our knowledge regarding adolescent Burkinabé girls so as better serve the needs of this most vulnerable population.

View full text:

[http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/BurkinaFaso\\_Girls.pdf](http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/BurkinaFaso_Girls.pdf)

## World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index

Source: World Economic Forum

Published by: World Economic Forum

Published: 2007

[Please note: The information below has been adapted from the source.]

Four Nordic countries, Sweden (1), Norway (2), Finland (3) and Iceland (4) once again top the latest Gender Gap Index released recently by the World Economic Forum. All countries in the top 20 made progress relative to their scores last year – some more so than others. Latvia (13) and Lithuania (14) made the biggest advances among the top 20, gaining six and seven places respectively, driven by smaller gender gaps in labour force participation and wages.

The performance of the United States (31) was mixed over the last year – its scores on political empowerment improved but this was offset by a bigger gap on economic participation – causing the United States to lose 6 places relative to its rank in 2006. Switzerland (40) loses 12 places relative to its

position in 2006. The change was the result of a correction made by the UNDP in its calculation of estimated earned income for women and men – the ratio between women's and men's incomes is now larger than previously reported (0.61 in 2007 vs 0.9 in 2006). Switzerland's scores on all other variables remain largely static. France (51) remains one of the few countries holding the number one ranking on both education and health and has made considerable progress relative to its 70th position in the 2006 ranking. This significant increase is due to an improvement in the ratio between women's and men's labour force participation rates as well as the availability of new data on women in skilled employment. Calculations based on the new data show that the proportion of women among "professional and technical workers" as well as the proportion of women among "legislators, senior officials and managers" increased. In the bottom half of the rankings, countries such as Tunisia (102), Turkey (121) and Morocco (122) not only fall further in the relative rankings but also show

a drop in scores relative to their own performance last year. On the other hand, Korea (97), the United Arab Emirates (105) and Saudi Arabia (124) show encouraging improvements in their 2007 scores as compared to their 2006 scores.

For further information and to access the Gender Gap Index, please visit [http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/Global\\_Gender\\_Gap\\_2007](http://www.weforum.org/en/media/Latest%20Press%20Releases/Global_Gender_Gap_2007)

## Okin–Young Award in Feminist Political Theory.

The award commemorates the scholarly, mentoring, and professional contributions of Susan Moller Okin and Iris Marion Young to the development of the field of feminist political theory. This annual award recognizes the best paper on feminist political theory published in an English

language academic journal during the previous calendar year. To be eligible, the article must have been published in 2007. Deadline: 15. February 2008

<http://www.sophia.be/index.php/announcements/view/407?CAKEPHP=5a935d5790810f5ae6ebbdd3690dbee4>

## Latin American gender and trade network's bulletin in Spanish

The Latin American Gender and Trade Network's (LAGTN) Bulletin July/Sept 2007 brings news and articles on the situation in Latin and Central America regarding bilateral

agreements and the integration process from a gender perspective.

To download: <http://www.igtn.org/page/763>

## GRANT/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Global Fund for Women



<http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/cms/index.php>



## OXUS Afghanistan

OXUS Afghanistan is part of the OXUS Development Network (ODN), a global network of MFIs affiliated to ACTED. OXUS Afghanistan is currently providing loans to solidarity groups of women and men for income-generating activities. The organization works in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh and Faryab provinces. In addition to its

existing product line, Oxus Afghanistan is also piloting an individual loan product designed for business owners.

<http://www.oxus.af/>

## IAS–STS Fellowship Programme 2008–2009

The IAS–STS in Graz, Austria, promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society as well as technology assessment and research into the development and

implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies.

More information at:

<http://www.sts.tugraz.at>

## On-going and/or coming Gender Programmes / Conferences / Events:

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### “Women, Leadership, and Community”

5. – 12 January 2008, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India.

India has an international reputation for localized democracy, as manifested in the breadth and success of its grassroots organizations and the activities of its non-governmental organizations, making this venue an ideal location for addressing issues of women's leadership and activism.

<http://www.towson.edu/itrow/IndiaInstituteMain.asp>

### Workshop Gender & Well-Being – Appel à contributions

"ASSESSING INEQUALITIES IN THE ACCESS TO WELL-BEING FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE" se tiendra à l'Université de Genève le 5 SEPTEMBRE 2008.

Organisé par l'équipe suisse de l'action européenne COST A 34 "Gender and Well-Being: Interaction between Work, Family and Public policies" (<http://www.ub.es/tig/GWBNet/>), ce workshop a pour but de contribuer à la réflexion sur les disparités entre les sexes en terme de bien-être en Suisse.

[www.gendercampus.ch/C5/AlleNachDatum/default.aspx](http://www.gendercampus.ch/C5/AlleNachDatum/default.aspx)

### European Feminist Forum 2008

The Forum will be held on 13–15 June 2008 in Warsaw, Poland. The three important issue areas will provide the basis for discussions at the Forum:

- a) Economic change in Europe: changes in the economy, the labour market, migration and feminist alternatives;
- b) Women's physical and sexual integrity: women's bodies, abortion and the politics of ending violence against women;
- c) Our movement: feminist resource mobilisation and building political power.

<http://europeanfeministforum.org/>

Call for ideas: **“Students Conference in European Feminist and Gender Studies”**, 3. Juni 2009, Utrecht.

WeAVE (a Network for European gender studies students, postgraduate students, PhDs, post-doc researchers, junior teachers or anyone else interested in this field of study) is planning to organise a one day Student Conference, the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, in the frame of the 7th European Feminist Research Conference "Gendered Cultures at the Crossroads of Imagination, Knowledge and Politics" organised by the Thematic Network for European Women's Studies, ATHENA3, the 4–7 June 2009 in Utrecht (the Netherlands).

Send your ideas at:  
studentday2009@gmail.com  
More info at: [www.weave-network.eu](http://www.weave-network.eu)

## Mundos de Mujeres 2008 / WOMEN'S WORLDS 2008

Universidad Complutense, MADRID (Spain),  
3–9 July, 2008

Mundos de Mujeres / Women's Worlds 2008 is open to proposals in ALL fields and themes related to women, gender and sexuality in contemporary societies, as well as historical approaches. However, we have established some thematic guidelines to facilitate classification of proposals for the final program of the congress. We are placing special emphasis on two central themes: violence and migrations, but these themes are by no means the only ones to be addressed at the conference. MMWW08 organizers would like to receive a wide variety of proposals in ALL fields of knowledge and working areas.  
[http://www.mmww08.org/index.cfm?nav\\_id=13](http://www.mmww08.org/index.cfm?nav_id=13)

## VARIOUS

### THE ITALIAN CORNER:

#### Differenze tra i sessi – Le donne parlano troppo? No, è tutto falso

**Una ricerca americana smentisce uno dei più radicati luoghi comuni. E dice che le donne, però, hanno un lessico più ricco**

La donne sono più chiacchierone degli uomini: tutti, tranne, forse, le dirette interessate, sono pronti a giurarlo. Sì, è vero, sembrerebbe confermare una ricerca americana appena pubblicata su Science: le donne profferiscono in media 16.215 parole al giorno rispetto alle 15.669 degli uomini.

Ma, attenzione, la statistica, la scienza che garantisce il marchio di qualità scientifica ai numeri di uno studio, non conferma: la

## Décimo–segundo Foro Internacional sobre los Derechos de las Mujeres y el Desarrollo: El poder de los movimientos

La Asociación para los Derechos de la Mujer en el Desarrollo (AWID) anuncia este foro–conferencia internacional que tendrá lugar del 14 al 17 de noviembre 2008, en la Ciudad del Cabo, África del Sur. Este evento que se celebra cada tres años reúne a mujeres líderes de los derechos humanos y a activistas de todo el mundo para realizar un trabajo en redes, enfocado en la promoción de la igualdad de género y de los derechos humanos de las mujeres.

<http://www.awid.org/forum08/index.html>  
[http://www.awid.org/forum08/call\\_for\\_proposals.html](http://www.awid.org/forum08/call_for_proposals.html)

diferenza non è significativa. E quindi non si può dire, scientificamente parlando, che le donne siano più logorroiche degli uomini.

Così la nuova ricerca, condotta all'Università del Texas, ribalta una delle più «credute» leggende metropolitane e contraddice un guru degli studi di genere, la neuropsichiatra americana Louann Brizendine che ha sezionato, in senso metaforico, il cervello di maschi e femmine analizzandone le attività,

linguaggio compreso. Secondo l'autrice del libro «Il cervello delle donne» (pubblicato in Italia quest'anno) queste ultime usano in media 20 mila parole al giorno, gli uomini 7 mila.

**IL REGISTRATORE** – Ecco come gli psicologi dell'University of Arizona hanno demolito questi dati e uno dei più resistenti luoghi comuni dell'immaginario collettivo, quello della parlantina femminile. Prima di tutto hanno messo a punto un dispositivo attivato elettronicamente (chiamato con l'acronimo Ear) in grado di registrare le conversazioni: si attiva automaticamente per trenta secondi ogni 12,5 minuti e chi lo indossa non sa quando l'apparecchio entra in funzione. Poi i ricercatori hanno selezionato, nel corso di quattro anni, quattrocento studenti universitari americani e messicani, metà uomini e metà donne, e ne hanno raccolto periodicamente le normali conversazioni per una durata compresa fra due e 10 giorni e per 17 ore al giorno. «La differenza nel numero di parole mediamente usate da maschi e femmine – ha detto Matthias Mehel

che ha diretto la ricerca – è soltanto di 500: troppo poche per dire che esiste un vero gap fra uomini e donne. D'altra parte la variabilità fra persona e persona è veramente molto grande: fra quella più loquace e quella meno loquace c'è una differenza di 47 mila parole».

**RECORD ASSOLUTI** – E volete sapere il record di parole usate in un giorno dall'uomo verbalmente più espansivo capitato nello studio? 47 mila. E di quello più taciturno? 500. La ricerca ha indubbiamente un pregio: di essere stata la prima condotta su larga scala e di aver registrato sistematicamente le conversazioni abituali di un gruppo ampio di persone per un lungo periodo di tempo. E se ha demolito uno stereotipo negativo per le donne, quello della (eccessiva?) loquacità, non ne ha però confermato uno «positivo»: l'idea che le donne abbiano un linguaggio più ricco da un punto di vista lessicale rispetto ai maschi.

*Adriana Bazzi, Corriere della Sera*

## Quote for the Day:

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*“Each moment of ours is never the same and we are never the same from one moment to the next, one period of time to the next”*

*~ Heraclito ~*

## JUST FOR FUN:



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03/12/2007/CB