

Newsletter April 2013



Around 200 women gathered at the Women's Centre in the Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced persons near El Fasher, North Sudan, to commemorate International Women's Day. The event was facilitated by the Human rights Section of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and included performances of traditional songs and dances.

UN Photo/ /Albert González Farran

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If you are a member of the Gender and Development Network and would like to publicise an event or send us an update on your work, we will gladly include it in the newsletter. If you are not yet a GADN member and would like to become one please download the application form on our website or contact the GADN Coordinator for more information.

1. GADN News

As 2012-13 comes to an end, we thought we would use the opportunity to reflect on the productive and influential year GADN has had, and to thank you for your support. This year, alongside our continuing work to build the capacity and knowledge of our members, we have been working to influence key areas of policy such as the post-2015 framework, violence against women and sexual and reproductive health rights. We have another exciting year ahead, and look forward to working with colleagues across and outside of the network.

Highlights of 2012-2013 and plans for the coming year include:

- **Engaging with the UK Department for International Development** – GADN was recently invited to co-host a keynote speech by Rt. Hon Justine Greening, UK Secretary of State for International Development on putting girls and women at the heart of development. We plan to follow this up with discussions on the department's strategic framework, political participation, violence against women and girls (VAWG), post-2015 and economic empowerment. You can watch the speech on **DFID's website**

Violence against women and girls: GADN co-hosted an event in the UK Parliament titled 'Saving lives: preventing & responding to violence against women and girls in emergencies' in November. The event saw the launch of a new DFID fund for research and innovation on VAWG, and featured the Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for International Development, as keynote speaker.

- **Influencing the post-2015 framework:** GADN has promoted the need for a standalone goal on gender equality and mainstreaming throughout the framework through various forums and consultations. In January, we released the report, '**Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework**'. The Rt. Hon Justine Greening and the Prime Ministers' Special Envoy on the High Level Panel have both confirmed their support for our proposals. The report, and our previous briefing paper, have been cited by a wide range of actors as an important contribution to the process.
- The **Gender Mainstreaming** Working Group contributed to the creation of a special issue of the Gender & Development Journal: "**Beyond Gender Mainstreaming.**" The articles bring together gender and development policymakers, practitioners, and feminist activists to debate the progress of gender mainstreaming in development institutions and the state. The group will continue to provide a valuable source of shared learning for practitioners in the sector.
- **Feminist Alternatives to Development:** In December, GADN held an online discussion on feminist alternatives to development, bringing together researchers, feminist activists, gender and development advocates, programme staff and community workers, from the Global South and North. This was as the first step in what will become a long-term project aimed at bridging the gap between current donor thinking and ways of

developing policy and programmes on the one hand, and feminist visions of transformative change on the other.

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights:** In July, GADN and the UK SRHR Network met with Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP to discuss concerns that had been raised in the run up to the Family Planning Summit. GADN also produced a briefing on **embedding women's rights into the agenda**.
- **New research:** Economic empowerment (including unpaid care) and the impact on women and girls of the privatisation of aid are new areas of work planned for the coming year.
- **Women's Rights Campaigners:** GADN and Womankind Worldwide held a training day for 20 individuals involved in campaigns, fundraising and communications at UK INGOs. The aim of the day was to help everyone get to grips with these issues and discuss the challenges people face in putting women's rights at the heart of their campaigning. The group will continue to provide support for campaigners in the coming year.
- A new working group on **Girls' Education in International Development** became hosted by GADN this year. The group is comprised of UK-based experts on gender and education from NGOs and academia who aim to share, develop and promote knowledge and learning on programming and policy for girls' education rights in international development contexts. The group is planning to hold a fringe event at the UKFIET conference in September.

As always do get in touch with us if you would like to get more involved in any aspect of our work.

2. GADN Updates

- **Swazi Rural Women celebrated International Women's Day.** In Swaziland, women face poverty, high levels of gender based violence, and are classified as minors under traditional law. The failure to implement laws designed to guarantee rights and equality further contributes to an appalling level of discrimination against Swazi Women. Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly (SRWA), in partnership with **ACTSA** celebrated International Women's Day in rural Sthobelweni. More than 700 women, several NGOs and local politicians attended. The strength of rural women was celebrated through song and dance. Testimonials and discussion groups highlighted the women's personal experiences of violence and discrimination and challenged the community and government to recognise their rights. For more information about the event, and ACTSA's project 'Improving Women's Rights in Swaziland' please see **the ACTSA website**.
- **RFP for Final Evaluation of Supporting Gender Equality in the Context of HIV and AIDS programme**

UN Women seeks a qualified firm/ institution or team of individual consultants to design and conduct a final, end-of-programme evaluation of the joint European Commission-UN Women initiative, “Supporting Gender Equality in the Context of HIV/AIDS”, a cross-regional programme implemented in five countries. The overall purpose of the Final Evaluation is to assess programmatic progress and challenges at the outcome level, with measurement of the output level achievements and gaps, including to what extent these achievements (or non-achievements) affected outcome-level progress.

Please download detailed solicitation documents at <http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/RFP-for-Final-End-of-Programme-Evaluation-for-Supporting-Gender-Equality-in-the-Context-of-HIV-and-AIDS.pdf>

The deadline to apply is **Friday, 12 April 2013, 11:59 PM (EST)**

3. DFID/EU/UN

- **Bringing drama into the streets: interactive theatre performances counter violence against women in Bangladesh**
UN Women, March 26th 2013
- **Ending violence and transforming women’s lives**
DFID, March 22nd 2013
- **On world water day, UN Women spotlights the need to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for all**
UN Women, March 22nd 2013
- **Tanzanian Women Bring Safe Drinking Water to Their Communities**
UN Women, March 21st 2013
- **UN Women urges implementation of historic global agreement to end violence against women and girls**
UN Women, March 20th 2013
- **Michelle Bachelet’s Closing Statement at the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**
UN Women, March 16th, 2013
- **Bolstering efforts to end impunity for femicide and gender-motivated killings**
UN Women, March 15th 2013

4. Development News

- **Hamis Orders Gender Segregation in Schools**
Al Jazeera, April 2nd 2013
- **Women Raise Banner of Women’s Rights in Honduran Popular Movement**
Your Olive Branch, April 1st 2013

- **Oil Giant Shell is Held Responsible for Environmental Pollution – A Small Victory for Women in the Niger Delta**
AWID, March 29th 2013
- **Violence Against Women Is Integral To War And Armed Conflict: The Urgent Necessity Of The Universal Implementation Of UNSCR 1325**
AWID, March 19th 2013
- **Women and the post-2015 agenda: are you on board the ark?**
Open Democracy, March 18th 2013
- **Equal chances for women in ‘healthy, productive society’**
IPS, March 17th 2013
- **Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Are Key to Addressing Global Poverty**
Center for American Progress, March 11th 2013

5. Blogs

Please note that the views expressed in the following blogs are not necessarily endorsed by GADN or its member organisations.

- **Transforming Perceptions to Create Change**
Tabasum Wolayat, April 1st 2013
- **Defend Women’s Rights to Participation**
Rowan Harvey, March 29th 2013
- **Business Can Do More to Aid Women**
Henrietta Miers, March 28th 2013
- **Where Did I Learn About Freedom?**
Noorjahan Akbar, March 24th 2013
- **The UN Commission on the Status of Women unmasks equality’s enemies**
Jill Filipovic, March 18th 2013
- **Women and girls: the smart choice and the right choice**
Sue Turrell, March 13th 2013
- **Are women from Mars?**
Conor Costello, March 6th 2013

6. Publications & Resources

- **2012 Global Food Policy Report**
IFPRI, 2013
- **Her Right to Education, How WASH in schools determines access to education for girls**
WaterAid, March 2013
- **Governing land for women and men**
FAO, 2013
- **Working with men on gender equality**
Gender & Development, March 2013

7. Campaigns/Calls for Papers

- **Irise** celebrated International Women's Day by launching the Pants Protest and would like to invite you to join them in letting the world know just how pants it is that girls are being held back from achieving their potential by something as simple as a period.

They're asking people to send us pictures of them and their pants taking a stand for the rights of girls complete with messages about the rights of all girls to sanitation, dignity and education. The more imaginative the better, from photo stunts of your team with their pants on over their clothes to pants sporting a message about this issue on a famous monument. The goal is to create a stir that will place menstrual hygiene and the education and empowerment of school girls at the forefront of everyone's minds.

Like the page on Facebook, spread the word, and send your pictures to **irise.int@gmail.com** or share them on Facebook to help us raise awareness about this neglected issue. For more information, go to **www.irise.org/pant-protest**

8. Events

- The **Central America Women's Network (CAWN)** has organized an exciting two-days training to learn in detail about the campaign cycle with CAWN's staff and special guests, including award-winning Honduran journalist and human rights defender Dina Meza and a senior expert from Parliament.

The sessions will be held on **Saturday 13 April** and **1 June** and include lunch and an advocacy toolkit. The training is free, however commitment to attend both sessions is a requirement to sign up to it. A limited amount of funding for participants based in the UK and outside London is available. Contact CAWN for details if you wish to apply for a bursary.

You can email **campaigns@cawn.org** to book your place or for more details. Note that places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Please, let CAWN know if there are accessibility or dietary requirements. Looking forward to hearing from you!

- Join the **Wikigender/Wikichild online discussion** on the impact of discriminatory social norms on adolescent girls.

Wikigender and **Wikichild** would like to hear your views, lessons learned and best practices or policies on empowering adolescent girls. From **2-11 April 2013**, they

invite you to participate in an online discussion on **“The impact of discriminatory social norms on adolescent girls”** and to be heard at a seminar on **“Empowering adolescent girls by tackling social norms”** that takes place on **26 April** in London!

The event will be co-organised by the **OECD Development Centre, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Department for International Development (DFID UK) and The Girl Hub**. The inputs from the Wikigender and Wikichild communities in this discussion will be presented via a summary report at the event.

- **FORWARD** would like to invite you to our upcoming conference **'Mobilising African Women in the Diaspora. Theme: Creating a movement for African women's leadership, rights and development'**. The conference will be at **24 Greencoat Place, Greencoat Place, London, SW1P 1RD** (nearest underground station Victoria). For directions, please visit <http://www.greencoatplace.org/location>.

If you would like to attend please, complete a registration form **here** and make a payment **here**. The cost of the conference is £15 fully waged, £5 for unwaged and students.

The conference will provide a platform for discussion, learning, skills building, networking and the opportunity to help shape DAWN (Diaspora African Women's Network) UK. DAWN UK (a FORWARD initiative) aims to provide a space for all African women and girls to influence and shape policies and actions in relation to their health, rights and well-being. It will aim to strengthen the links between African women's organisations in the Diaspora and those in countries of origin.

- **SHARE Research Consortium** are planning an event, **“Making connections: Women, sanitation and health”** on **April 29th 2013**. There will be presentations and a panel discussion from 6.00pm – 7.30pm and networking and refreshments from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The event will take place in the John Snow Lecture Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, WC1E 7HT.

The speakers will be a diverse mix of academics, journalists, practitioners and activists from the WASH and gender sectors, including Dr Helen Pankhurst, Professor Wendy Graham, Rose George and Dr Lori Heise. They will also be launching Menstrual Hygiene Matters, a free and comprehensive resource for improving menstrual hygiene for women and girls in middle and lower income countries.

For full details about the event, please visit the event website **here**. You can register for the event at <http://womenandsanitation.eventbrite.co.uk/>.

- **ODI** is holding an event: **How should inequality feature in post-2015?** on **April 18th 2013** from **12:30 to 14:00**.

At this meeting, which takes place shortly after the UN-facilitated Global Consultation on Addressing Inequalities and precedes a meeting of its Advisory

Group, ODI invites panelists and discussants to give their own insights and suggest proposals. The presentations will address three aspects of this debate: putting the Gini back in the Bottle - 'The Palma' as a new inequality measure; incorporating inequalities associated with disability, mental health & older age, and prospects for a post-2015 agreement to tackle universal inequalities. For more information on the event, please visit the website [here](#).

- You are invited to the **Official Launch: Betty Makoni Story and Fundraiser for Girl Child Network Worldwide**. The event will be held on Saturday **13th April** from **17:00 to 23:00** at **Thurrock Hotel, Ship Lane, RM 19 1YN Purfleet, UK**.

Her Royal Highness Princess Deun Adedoyin- Solarin, Chair of Board of Trustees sends a warm invitation to you on occasion to officially launch the inspirational story of Betty Makoni as well as many stories of girls the charity assisted since 1998. Come hear the story of a girl who started her girls network as a poor vendor at age six. You can read more about the event [here](#).

9. Job Openings

- **Web Editor/Minority Rights Group/Anywhere**
Closing Date: April 9th, 2013
- **Consultant/ActionAid/Mozambique**
Closing Date: April 22nd 2013
- **Entry-level Consultant/Social Development Direct/London, UK**
Closing Date: April 26th 2013
- **Women's Rights Program Officer/Graca Machel Trust/Johannesburg, South Africa**
Closing Date: Open

10. Podcasts/Videocasts

- **Kenya: The Girl Who Demanded School**
The Guardian, April 3rd 2013
- **Transforming Women's Lives**
WaterAid, March 8th 2013

The Gender and Development Network is a diverse membership network of leading practitioners, academics and consultants working on gender and development issues in the UK.

The GAD Network has been active in advocacy and awareness-raising on gender and development issues since its founding in 1985. You can find out more about us on our website www.gadnetwork.org.uk.

If you would like to become a member of the GAD Network please download the application form from our website or contact the GAD Network Coordinator at

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