

**Newsletter December 2011 & January 2012**



Women Leaders at Democracy Day December 2 2011 India

UN Women/Gangajit Singh Chandok

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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

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## **Research priorities in the area of Violence Against Women and Girls**

In January 2012, GADN and GAPS wrote to Liz Fajber, Social Development Adviser in DFID's Research and Evidence Division, to share key research priorities that GADN and GAPS have identified in the area of Violence Against Women and Girls. GADN and GAPS feel more participatory research is needed on:

*1. Links between women's participation and violence against women and girls, particularly:*

- the barriers political violence creates to women's ability to participate effectively in politics, shape political debate and take up leadership positions,
- what approaches are effective in tackling gender-based political violence against women, and protecting women's right to freely participate in politics and public life,
- the impact that women in leadership can have on reducing violence against women and girls at the community level, and what approaches work in building women's leadership.

*2. The impact of women's involvement in governance processes on peace and stability.* The case for women's involvement in peace negotiations and post-conflict governance needs to be made more strongly.

*3. Implementation of security and justice sector reforms, particularly:*

- the impact of increasing the numbers of women at all levels in security sector institutions on rates of incidence and reporting of violence against women and girls,
- best practice on reducing incidence of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in security forces,
- reviewing Standard Operating Practices and establishing what approaches taken by police and security forces are most effective in preventing violence against women and girls,
- women's perceptions and experiences of security forces and reform processes and how to be responsive to community perceptions and experiences, including those of women, in reform,
- links between local and state systems and how best to strengthen the state justice system while developing an intervention strategy that works with and builds on existing community and local structures to addresses women's security needs.

Liz Fajber responded to the letter, thanking GAPS and GADN for sharing the "very useful summary of priorities linking gender, violence and peace and security" and assuring that

many of the points resonate with some of DFID's current thinking and will help inform their research planning.

### **GADN members meet with the Nike Foundation**

In January, GADN members were invited to meet with Janna McDougall from the Nike Foundation. Janna shared some of Nike Foundation's thinking about the Girl Effect U platform, the Nike Foundation's adolescent girl focus, and their priorities for and key learnings within their Health & Safety pillar. During her trip to the UK, Janna met with a range of stakeholders, from Nike, Inc to DFID to government leaders. On her return to Portland, Janna wrote to GADN members to assure them that she would be using all the insights gathered to take the next steps to redesign the platform to really meet stakeholders' needs.

### **Send GADN your International Women's Day plans**

GADN will be compiling a roundup of activities taking place in the UK on International Women's Day (8 March 2012). Please send in your activities by the end of February to Jess at [jessica.summers@gadnetwork.org.uk](mailto:jessica.summers@gadnetwork.org.uk)

## **2. GADN Members' Update**

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- **Women for Women International UK** has launched its **Join me on the bridge** campaign for International Women's Day 2012. Now in its third year, **Join Me on the Bridge** started in 2010 when women from Congo and Rwanda joined together on the bridge connecting their two countries, showing that they could build the bridges of peace and hope for the future. This action sparked a massive global movement, and last year they were joined by thousands of people on hundreds of bridges worldwide. On International Women's Day, 8 March, thousands of people will show that they are with the women of Afghanistan, Iraq, Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan and other war-torn countries.

The campaign asks for you to share your **messages of peace**, stating *"Your messages will show women, who have been through unimaginable hardship, that you are standing with them, giving them the strength to carry on in their plight for equality and peace."* To find out all the ways you get involved, please click **here**

- **Orchid Project's** 7 for 7 campaigns is asking for your support.

*"7 out of my 9 children died, suffocated in my womb"* - Tadelech Shanko, Ethiopia

Tadelech is just one of 140 million women who are living with the effects of female genital cutting. 3 million girls a year are still going through FGC in Africa alone.

Orchid Project believes an end to FGC is possible, and they need your help to make it a reality. To mark International Day against FGC, Orchid is campaigning to find 500 new, regular supporters to each donate on a monthly basis. **Sign up to donate regularly now**, in order to help Orchid plan for the future and step up their work towards ending FGC around the world.

- **Oxfam** is looking forward to its International Women's Day 2012 campaign, which invites individuals to get together with friends, colleagues or the community to raise money to support women around the world. For more information please visit the **website**
- **CARE International** would like to thank the thousands of people who asked William Hague, the UK Foreign Secretary, to ensure that the rights of Afghan women weren't traded away in talks on the future of Afghanistan.

*"Your contribution was hugely important in demonstrating public support for this issue to the Government. In coalition with other charities, we mobilised over 20,000 people to sign the petition, which was delivered on the eve of a conference in Bonn where politicians were meeting to discuss the future of the country. **CARE International** hosted a small delegation of activists from the Afghan Women's Network to visit Bonn prior to the conference and meet with 7 Ministers and Ambassadors, including US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UK Home Office Minister Lynne Featherstone. As a result of all these efforts, the conference conclusions and UK statements both included reference to the need to ensure that guarantees for women's rights are upheld in the Afghan constitution and that women should be included in the peace process. Of course, efforts to empower women and protect them from violence in Afghanistan are far from over. **CARE** will continue to support Afghan women and girls through the delivery of basic services, like health and education, on the ground and to work to ensure that their voices are heard as decisions are taken over the future of Afghanistan."*

You can read CARE staff's reaction to Bonn Afghanistan Summit on their blog **here**, and the photograph of 20,000 signatures being presented to Foreign Office, in support of the women of Afghanistan, can be seen **here**.

### 3. DFID/EU/UN

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- **Commission on the Status of Women**  
UN Women, February – March 2012
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Newsletters**  
Government Equalities Office, February 2012
- **One Year On: UN Women Widens Donor Base, Strengthens Partnerships**  
UN Women, January 18 2012

- **UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet Travels to Beirut to Discuss Women's Role in Transition to Democracy**  
UN Women, January 12 2012
- **New Climate Agreement Increases Gender Equality Commitments**  
UN Women, January 11 2012
- **Safe Houses Provide Critical Support to Survivors of Violence in Haiti**  
UN Women, January 6 2012
- **Leadership in Communities: Thai Women Preparing for Natural Disasters**  
UN Women, January 3 2012
- **Women's Political and Civil Rights in Egypt**  
UN Women, December 21 2011
- **Better Working Conditions for Domestic Workers in Paraguay**  
UN Women, Decemebr 15 2011
- **Gazans Unite at Festival to Combat Violence against Women**  
UN Women, December 13 2011
- **South Sudanese Women Call for their Full Engagement in the Development Planning for South Sudan**  
UN Women, December 13 2011
- **Rural Women Learn Modern Irrigation Technology in China**  
UN Women, December 12 2011
- **UN Women Urges Full Participation of Afghan Women in the Road Ahead from Bonn**  
UN Women, December 5 2011
- **Michelle Bachelet Statement at the Second Regular Session of UN Women Executive Board**  
UN Women, December 5 2011
- **A Salvadoran Law to Achieve Equality Between Men and Women**  
UN Women, December 2 2011
- **Breaking the cycle of violence and HIV in Liberia**  
UN Women, December 2 2011

#### 4. Development News

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- **India 'most dangerous place in world to be born a girl'**  
The Telegraph, February 1, 2012
- **Men who stabbed and stoned lesbian to death are sentenced to 18 years' jail**  
The Guardian, February 1, 2012
- **Women to be allowed on to adapted football terraces in Saudi Arabia**  
The Independent, January 29, 2012
- **Tawakul Karman: 'We brought down a tyrant. Now we need the West to keep him out'**  
The Independent, January 30, 2012
- **Enduring myths about rape victims lead to acquittals, says chief prosecutor**

- The Guardian, January 30, 2012
- **Your Feminism fails to convince, Mr. Vaizey**  
The Guardian, January 29, 2012
  - **Champion for elimination of violence against women, Lynne Featherstone, to focus on women's rights at the Afghanistan Civil Society Forum**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, December 2, 2011
  - **Land rights for women can help ease India's child malnutrition crisis**  
The Guardian, January 20, 2012
  - **Cambodia's future rests on punishing past sexual crimes, argue campaigners**  
The Guardian, December 16, 2011
  - **Women should be focus of energy expansion plans, says UN**  
The Guardian, January 19, 2012
  - **Senegalese hip hop artist Sister Fa calls for an end to the mutilation of girls**  
The Guardian, February 6, 2012
  - **Egypt Parties Refuse to Commit to Women's Rights**  
AWID, January 25, 2012
  - **AWID at the 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**  
AWID, February 2012
  - **British Home Secretary's Visit to Pakistan**  
British High Commission Islamabad, November 2011
  - **'Getting the Busan Gender Plan back on the Rights Track'**  
Oxfam, November 30, 2011
  - **After the Bonn conference, what next for Afghanistan's women?**  
The Guardian, December 6, 2011
  - **'Walk the Busan Talk'**  
IPS, December 13, 2011

## 5. Publications & Resources

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- **Gender WDR: Limits, gaps and fudges**  
Bretton Woods Project, February 2012
- **Mobilising Men in Practice: Challenging Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Institutional Settings**  
IDS, January 2012
- **Close to Parity: challenging the voluntary sector to smash the glass ceiling**  
Rowena Lewis, January 2012
- **Manifesto for Motherhood MP Briefing Pack**  
Women and Children First UK, 2011
- **Women in National Parliaments**  
Inter-Parliamentary Union, November 30 2011
- **The Security Sector And Gender In West Africa: A Survey Of Police, Defence, Justice And Penal Services In ECOWAS States**  
DCAF, December 16 2011

- **Survivors, Protectors, Providers: Refugee Women Speak Out**  
UNHCR, November 2011
- **Stitched Up: Woman workers in the Bangladeshi garment sector**  
War on Want, November 2011
- **Women's Rights Women's Resistance: Lessons from the Honduran Women's Collective**  
War on Want, November 2011

## 6. Campaigns/Calls for Papers

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### **Call For Participation: The 12th AWID International Forum On Women's Rights And Development**

*"Are you willing to move beyond your comfort zone? To question your usual thinking? To engage with actors outside of your every day activism or workplace? Are you ready to build alliances across boundaries so that together we can transform economic power?"*

Through the 2012 AWID Forum, AWID aim to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together they can contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women's rights and justice.

Legacies of colonization, tumultuous transitions from communism and decades of neoliberal policy prescriptions have put public resources in the hands of the private sector, irrevocably damaged the environment, fostered rampant militarization, eroded human rights and, with few exceptions, allowed capitalist markets, rather than lived human experience, to determine what has value. The financial crisis and economic recession that began in 2008, part of a broader systemic crisis of food, energy, and the environment, laid bare the failures and falsities of the current dominant economic model in ways that even the strongest proponents of the system found difficult to defend. While some of the economies that exist outside the dominant model are also built on unequal power relations, others are founded on more equitable principles, offering important insights and possibilities for those committed to transforming economic power.

To find out more about how to get involved with the 2012 AWID International Forum, please click [here](#)

**February 6<sup>th</sup> was the International Day of Zero Tolerance to female genital mutilation. Amnesty International's campaign END FGM has been ensuring that European leaders listen to demands and take action to combat the practice in Europe and abroad.**

The **END FGM European Campaign** created this **video** to represent the 42,000 signatures of supporters demanding European leaders to act! In Europe, 500,000 women and girls are living with FGM and another 180,000 girls are at risk of the practice every year. This is intolerable and Amnesty International believes that supporters need to continue to agitate to make a Europe where women do not suffer from FGM a reality. While laws do exist in various countries, girls are still at risk, and women living with FGM are still not receiving the same level of protection across Europe. Over the next six months the campaign will be bringing the fruits of our collaboration with internationally renowned designers, creators and artists together to new audiences to continue to push for political courage and inspired leaders to fulfil their promises.

*“A Europe free from violence against women is a Europe that we all believe in and is nothing less than the Europe we deserve. “*

Keep an eye on their **website** for further campaign updates and watch the new video **here**. You can also connect with the campaign via the **Facebook page** and **twitter**.

## 7. Events and Conferences

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- **HIV in Europe Conference at the Panum Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences, Copenhagen University, March 19-20, 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark**

The conference will mark 5 years of the initiative joining civil society, policy makers, health professionals and European public health institutions to enhance the evidence base around topics related to optimal testing and earlier care of HIV.

### **Conference objectives**

1. To provide an overview of European initiatives and best practices on optimal testing and earlier care
2. To present and discuss the outcomes of the pilot projects of HIV in Europe and discuss progress in the projects initiated in 2011
3. To discuss and develop a strategy for implementation of changes based on the concrete outcomes of the projects and initiative
4. To inform leaders, including key policy makers and donors, as to increase their commitment to ensure that HIV infected patients enter care earlier in the course of their infection than is currently the case
5. To provide opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop creative solutions to unresolved challenges in research and implementation of HIV policies and programmes to improve early diagnosis and care of HIV across Europe
6. To increase public awareness of the public health problems associated with late presentation for HIV care

7. To present data available on the cost-effectiveness of HIV testing demonstrating how scaling up HIV testing can contribute to more sustainable health systems
8. To sustain the political discussion of the WHO EURO testing guidelines (2010) and ECDC testing guidelines (2010) and their implementation at national level
9. To accompany the debate at EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum and Think Tank level on Council Conclusions on HIV testing towards possible Council Conclusions under the Danish Presidency

For further information, please click [here](#)

- **Women's Economic Empowerment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 6.30pm – 9pm**

The London Committee for UN Women invites you to a special fundraising event, *Women's Economic Empowerment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Keynote speaker for the evening will be **Cherie Blair**, who will discuss the global issues surrounding women and economic empowerment at the private Commonwealth Secretariat residence in Mayfair. A flyer for the event is attached.

The evening will open with welcome drinks and canapés followed by Cherie Blair in an open forum, with the opportunity to ask questions and to network with other guests. Tickets are priced at £65 with all funds being donated to the work that UN Women undertakes throughout the world.

**Places are limited so early booking is recommended.** Tickets can be purchased online [here](#)

- **UN Women UK Education Training Programme 2012. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Would you like to deepen your knowledge of, fundraise or promote the work of UN Women? – Why not attend our Education Training Programme?

**Training includes:**

- UN Women Essential Knowledge
- UN Women Key Subject Areas
- Good Practice in UN agencies
- Building a UN Women Resource Pack
- Planning & Delivering a UN Women seminar, class or workshop

**WHEN?** Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March (6–9pm) and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March (9am–3pm)

**WHERE?** A central London location (TBC)

**COST?** £150 waged, £50 unwaged (including students)

The fee covers essential costs of running the training and a donation to the UN WOMEN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The Education Training Programme is only open to UN Women UK paid members. To become a member and/or to register your place, please contact **Alice Fookes**

## 8. Job Openings

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- **Bank of Montreal Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies/The Institute of Women's Studies at the University of Ottawa/Canada**  
Closing Date: February 29 2012
- **Executive and Communications Assistant/Gender Action/Washington DC, USA**  
Closing Date: not specified
- **Programme Officer, Adolescent Girls/United Nations Foundation/Washington D.C**  
Closing Date: February 21, 2012
- **Team Leader /Solace Women's Aid/London**  
Closing Date: February 21, 2012 at 12 noon
- **Development Assistant Intern/APT Action on Poverty/Worcester, UK**  
Closing Date: not specified
- **Resource Mobilisation Advisor/UN Women/New York, USA**  
Closing date: February 12, 2012
- **Senior Advocate, Women's and Children's Rights/Refugees International (RI)/Washington DC, USA**  
Closing Date: February 19, 2012
- **Chief, Research and Data Section/UN Women/New York, USA**  
Closing Date: February 21, 2012
- **Women's Protection and Empowerment Advocate/International Rescue Committee UK/ London**  
Closing date: February 10, 2012
- **Gender Mainstreaming Review Consultant/UN Women/Home-Based**  
Closing Date: February 9, 2012
- **Program Officer/Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAF)/San Francisco**  
Closing Date: February 6 2012

## 9. Podcasts/Videocasts

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- **Global development podcast: Tunisia, Egypt and the global jobs crisis**  
Guardian, February 2012
- **Significant Moments for Women's Rights in 2011**  
AWID, January 6 2012
- **End female genital mutilation: Is Europe watching?**  
Amnesty International, February 2012
- **Global Development Podcast: looking back at the big global issues of 2011**

The Guardian, 21 December 2011

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](http://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 **[lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk](mailto:lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk)** Responsibility for the content of these notices belongs to the partner organisations submitting them. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the GADN cannot be held responsible for the content of those pages referenced by an external link.

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