

Newsletter October 2011



A local woman in Lesuata, Timor-Leste. UN Photo/Martine Perret

CONTENTS:

1. GADN News
2. GADN Members' Update
3. DFID/EU/UN
4. Gender and Development News
5. Publications
6. Campaigns/Call for papers
7. Events and Conferences
8. Job Openings
9. Podcasts/Videocasts

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

New email addresses for GADN

Please make a note of the new email addresses for the GADN Coordinator and Research and Communications Intern:

Lauren Donaldson (Coordinator): lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk

Jessica Summers (Research and Communications Intern): jessica.summers@gadnetwork.org.uk

The email addresses gadnetwork@oneworldaction.org and gadnvol@oneworldaction.org are no longer in use.

GADN is on Facebook!

For those of you who use the social networking site, GADN now has its very own **facebook page**. If you have a minute please check it out and like us!

GADN Members Meeting in October

In October, GADN hosted a meeting with **Womankind** and the **UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development** on 'Successes and challenges in reducing women's susceptibility to HIV: Ghana a case study'. Participants looked at how organisations can mainstream gender sensitive approaches to tackling HIV, how women's empowerment leads to better outcomes in HIV prevention and looked at the links between violence against women and HIV.

We welcomed Margaret Brew-Ward from the **Gender Centre (the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre)** in Ghana, which works with both women's groups and mainstream organisations, providing support and training in areas such as gender mainstreaming, project planning and advocacy. In Ghana the Gender Centre conducted a national study that clearly established the link between violence and gender norms to women's infection rate. They discussed how they put this research into practice.

We also heard from Mahmood Yaya from **Amasachina Self-Help Association**, an NGO formed from a grass roots network of community development associations. It has been working on HIV and AIDS activities for the last 10 years particularly in relation to establishing community based volunteers operating to provide education, school based HIV prevention clubs and skills training for women and girls.

Amandine Bollinger from the **Salamander Trust** chaired the meeting. The Salamander Trust, chaired by Dr Alice Welbourn, promotes sexual and reproductive health with HIV prevention, care and support, within a holistic, gender-based rights framework. Its Stepping Stones programme, a community-based intervention on gender, HIV and communication is renowned worldwide and implemented by major global NGOs.

In a separate discussion, GADN members also heard from Dierdre Healy from Kimmage Open & Distance Education, Dublin. KODE offers a range of professional development courses through a distance learning model to development workers particularly those working on community projects. Earlier this year KODE launched a new course '**Understanding & Addressing Gender**

Based Violence in Development Contexts'. Please do visit the website for more information www.kodeonline.com or contact Deirdre Healy on deirdre.healy@kimmagedsc.ie

Updates from GADN's Working Groups

Aid Effectiveness

At the start of October WIDE reacted to the EC Communication on Busan, giving WIDE's position and recommendations to the EU common position for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan (see 'News from WIDE' for more information). Alyson Brody (BRIDGE), chair of GADN's working group on aid effectiveness, sent a similar response from GADN to Kim Darroch, the UK's Permanent Representative for the EU.

As you may know, from 29 November to 1 December of this year the Fourth High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness will be held in Busan, Korea. During this meeting decisions will be made that will affect the future of aid, both in terms of the criteria for receiving aid and the principles that govern how aid delivery is managed.

Ministers from across the globe, from both developing and donor countries, government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organisations and private sector representatives will come together for the Forum. Approximately 2000 delegates will review global progress in improving the impact and value for money of development aid and make new commitments to further ensure that aid helps reduce poverty and supports progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

At the third High Level Forum in Accra in 2008 GADN played a key role in lobbying for more gender-aware aid modalities as part of a WIDE/AWID lobby, critiquing the Paris Declaration for its lack of a clear gender focus and calling for a revised agreement that would promote gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral aspect of effective and empowering aid processes. Some gains were made in the Accra Agenda for Action that emerged from the last HLF, but there are real concerns that these will be lost in the forthcoming Forum, as other priorities such as results and accountability to tax payers take priority.

GADN is keen to ensure that the views and experiences of gender equality and women's rights advocates in the Global South are heard by policy-makers participating in this process in the run-up to Busan and in the post Busan period. This is the last High Level Forum and a very significant opportunity to influence global discussions on aid – discussions that will have significant impacts for all of us.

BRIDGE and GADN have produced a **briefing** to share information about the High-Level Forum (HLF-4) and its implications for gender equality and women's rights; and support women's organisations and gender equality advocates to engage with and influence the debates leading up to HLF-4 and beyond.

What can you do?

We are calling for those working on gender equality and women's rights to:

- **Read the Brief, let us know if it is useful and tell us what other information you would like.**

- **Answer four questions about aid effectiveness and pass the questions on to relevant southern partner organisations.** Please send the answers to Lauren at lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk. The questions are:

1. How would you describe your organisation?
 - Women's rights organization
 - Non-governmental organisation with a focus on promoting gender equality
 - Other: Please specify
2. Were you aware that the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness was taking place?
 - Yes
 - No
3. Have you or any other gender and women's rights organisations been consulted by your government officials as part of their preparations for the High-Level Forum? If yes, please explain briefly how you were involved and the outcomes of the consultation.
 - Yes
 - No
4. What message would you like to send to donors attending Busan?

- **Share your stories with us:** what is your experience of applying for and receiving aid, and of reporting to donors? Have you noticed any differences in the past five years? Do you think women's rights issues are being addressed sufficiently in aid effectiveness processes? Why or why not? What is needed at the country level for enhanced and more effective integration of gender equality and women's rights issues in aid effectiveness? What good models of donor funding have you experienced? Please send your stories to lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk

- **Encourage your southern partners to share their stories:** Please recommend southern partner organisations we can contact directly for their stories; and encourage them to send their stories to us. We will be posting the stories on the GADN and BRIDGE websites to share 'voices from the field' with policy-makers.

Violence Against Women and Girls

The working group has new co-chairs. Emily Esplen (Policy and Advocacy Manager, Womankind) will now be co-chairing the VAWG working group with zohra moosa (Women's Rights Advisor, ActionAid). GADN would like to express a huge thank you to Mairi MacRae (Womankind) and Kate Bishop (currently on secondment at DFID from ActionAid) for all their work and effort put into coordinating this group since March. The group has worked extremely hard over the past eight months, including providing DFID with vital expertise on violence against women and girls.

2. GADN Members' Update

- **ActionAid International** and **Womankind Worldwide** are requesting proposals for research organisations and/or individuals to lead a piece of research on the role of women in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Liberia and Sierra Leone. **Deadline for proposals is 21 November 2011.** The aim is to develop a research paper documenting the

role of women in local peacebuilding, as well as conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction at the local level, drawing on examples and experiences from the five countries, and providing recommendations on how women's role can be supported and strengthened. This should draw on case studies of women's collective involvement in peacebuilding at the local level and the impact it has had, and bring to the attention of donors the local level grassroots work that is going on and needs more support. For a full copy of the Terms of Reference please contact Lauren on lauren.donaldson@gadnetwork.org.uk

- **Orchid Project** has two exciting volunteer opportunities at the moment. They are currently looking for a Finance/Administrative Assistant Volunteer to support their financial and administrative processes. This position is for one day a week (either one full day or two half days) ideally for a minimum of 6 months. Please email **Marieke** if you are interested before **November 15**. The second position is for a Fundraising/Communications/Advocacy Volunteer to provide increased support in their fundraising research, communications (especially online) and with their advocacy research and implantation. Ideally the volunteer would be able to spend 3+ days a week in their busy office in Victoria. For further information, please contact **Ruthie**. The closing date for this position is **November 17**. Both positions are unpaid, although Orchid can cover expenses up to £9 a day.
- **Oxfam and Womankind Worldwide**, among others, are supporting women's rights in Afghanistan through the campaign **Green scarves for solidarity**. *"Ten years ago Afghan women were promised a bright future. After more than a decade of civil war followed by repressive Taliban rule, women in Afghanistan were able to work, send their daughters to school, and even stand for parliament. But now those hard-won gains are under threat and women fear that they will be abandoned as the international military forces prepare to withdraw by the end of 2014"*. On December 5 the international community will meet in Bonn, Germany for a conference which will chart the course for the international community's involvement in Afghanistan beyond 2014. This is a key time to make sure that women's rights are firmly on the agenda for the next ten years.

The campaign believes that activists globally have a very important role to play—to show governments that the rhetoric of “women's rights” that was used at the time of western intervention has not been forgotten, *"We need to call on our governments not to sell out Afghan women for the sake of peace at any price"*. The women's movement in Afghanistan has long used green scarves in their campaigning – **Oxfam**, among other agencies, is calling on people to wear green scarves in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan as part of a photo petition that they will deliver to ministers. Add your face to the photo petition **here**

- **Save the Children** is expanding their advocacy and policy capacity and recruiting a number of new senior posts in the Policy and Advocacy Division: Head of Conflict and Humanitarian Advocacy, Head of Child Survival Policy and Advocacy, Head of Equitable Growth and Livelihoods Policy and Advocacy, Head of Education Advocacy, Head of Governance, Protection and Rights, Head of Research and Director of Campaigns (maternity cover). These posts would report to either, Kitty Arie, Director of Advocacy or Nuria Molina, Director of Policy and Research and will also be part of corporate SLT, managing small teams within the Division and driving forward their thematic policy and advocacy strategies. The applications process closes on 21 November. For further information on the positions and how to apply please click **[here](#)**

- **WaterAid**, in collaboration with the WASH Reference Group, is hosting five online workshops bringing together experience and expertise in addressing the WASH needs of people. This will be done through different social inclusion 'lenses': gender, disability, HIV/AIDs and other grounds for exclusion such as age, religion or ethnic minority. This project, which will run for 12 months until 2012, aims to provide practical skills and evidence to support practitioners' implementation of WASH projects that address the needs of all in the community. The inclusive WASH **website** will host a series of discussion forums and live webinars facilitated by **WaterAid's** partners with expertise in the different social inclusion 'lenses'. Project outputs will be available during and at the completion of the project via an online web portal as well as in a publication.
- **Plan UK** is looking for a new Policy Officer to help create Plan UK's public policy agenda, on a wide range of issues including girls' education in the world's poorest countries and emergency response contexts, aid transparency and accountability, food security and the ring-fencing of the UK aid budget.. All applications have to be in by 10am on Tuesday 8 November 2011. Interviews will take place on Wednesday 16 November. For more information you can click **here**
- **CAFOD** is looking for a passionate and organised campaigner to fill the vital role of Campaigns Project Officer within their busy and friendly campaigns team. For a full job description you can click **here**. Closing date is November 13
- **WLUML** is currently monitoring the political situations across the MENA region and the impact and potential threats to women's rights. They have released this press release:

"WLUML is deeply concerned that the first public act of the Libya's National Transition Committee has been to proclaim on October 23rd, 2011, that henceforth, a number of laws will be considered annulled and that 'sharia law' is to replace them. Libya's National Transition Committee is an interim government – what it has responsibility for – and what its first action should have concerned, is to put into place a mechanism for elections for the new government after the fall of the Gaddafi regime. WLUML feels the urgent need to reflect and raise a number of questions regarding this statement on 'sharia law'.

First, if we accept that democracy means the law of the people expressed through their votes, it is disturbing that the first act of this transitional government (which has denounced and follows a very autocratic one), is governing by decree, rather than by consulting the people through democratic means. Laws should not be annulled by the will of a ruler or rulers; they should be changed after due democratic consultation, by the will and vote of the people. Doing otherwise is to replace one undemocratic ruler by another, and to confuse democracy with monarchy, autocracy or oligarchy. WLUML will support any move by independent Libyan women organizations to demand that democratic rules be applied.

Second, when we consider which laws have been de facto annulled and changed for religious ones, we see that these are laws that directly affect the rights of women in marriage, divorce, guardianship, polygamy, inheritance, etc... i.e. family codes or laws of personal status. Women are directly targeted by this change in laws and will lose many acquired rights in the process.

*Finally, what is this 'sharia law' being invoked in the Libyan statement? WLUMML knows from its own **research** that laws said to be Islamic, considered in conformity with 'sharia' vary enormously from country to country - hence proving they are man-made rather than God-given. Furthermore they include elements from culture and traditions that have nothing to do with religion, as well as colonial laws when these best suit the interests of local patriarchy. This is how local traditions such as muta'a marriage or FGM (female genital mutilation) are adopted as part and parcel of 'religion.' This is also how the newly independent Algeria in the 1960s deprived its women citizens of any access to contraception and abortion, using a long abandoned French law dating from 1922. And, in Mali, the family law voted by the Parliament in 2009, provoked such an outcry by conservative Muslim organizations for alleged non-conformity to 'sharia,' that notwithstanding the democratic vote and the support of non-conservative Muslims – including women and secularists, the President suspended it sine die. Here again, what is democracy and 'sharia' in a country that has also signed women's rights international conventions? From the religious point of view alone, the Qur'an itself can be read in different ways: Tunisia took the historic decision in 1956 to forbid polygyny (aka polygamy), as legislators pointed out that the Qur'an clearly indicated both that equal treatment between wives is required and that it was not possible for a man to treat several women perfectly equally; Algeria in 1962 used the same verse to allow a man to have 4 wives and legitimize polygamy. Which of these contradictory interpretations is 'sharia'? We denounce the loose use of the term 'sharia' to give a false religious legitimacy to patriarchal interpretations of religion, as well as to patriarchal traditions.*

WLUMML calls on women's organizations and progressive people around the world to remain alert to the contradictions between pretending to be a democracy and decreeing the application of undefined religious laws. We also call for the utmost protest when governments and political groups justify their patriarchal moves in the name of 'sharia'."

For further information on this, you can send an email [here](#)

NEWS FROM WIDE

WIDE Network's reaction to the European Commission's Communication Proposal for the EU Common Position for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan

In September the European Commission released a **Communication COM (2011) 541** outlining a Proposal for the EU common position for the 4th High level Forum on aid effectiveness, Busan. In a reaction to this proposal the WIDE network calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that gender equality and women's rights feature strongly as goals in themselves and as horizontal issues in all priority focus areas identified by the EU (ownership, transparency, fragmentation, alignment, accountability for results, countries in fragile situation, South-south cooperation, private sector, climate financing, governance and monitoring framework).

WIDE draws its arguments and recommendations from the Key Demands from Women's Rights Organizations and Gender Equality Advocates to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and Development Cooperation Forum that are the result of an International Consultation organized by Women's Organizations in the BetterAid Coordination Group, and

hosted by **WIDE** in Brussels (June 2011); as well as the expert analysis by the WIDE Network which has been actively following the aid effectiveness process since 2007.

WIDE's position and proposals are primary focused on the gender analysis of the Communication and should be treated complementary to the position of **CONCORD**, which **WIDE** fully supports. For the full position paper, further information, feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Kasia Staszewska**

WIDE Board and Executive Committee met in Brussels

The WIDE Board and Executive Committee met in Brussels the 5-6 September 2011. During the meetings, they reviewed the action plan and discussed about possible options and scenarios for the future of WIDE (including legal issues, financial issues, options for restructuring). The Board and Executive Committee also decided about the next **WIDE** General Assembly and Extraordinary General Assembly that will be held in Brussels in December 2011.

3. DFID/EU/UN

- **UN Women Launches Multi-Province Project on Ending Violence against Women in Afghanistan**
UN Women, October 20 2011
- **New Boost for Learning on Security Council Resolutions**
UN Women, October 24 2011
- **UN Secretary-General Releases Report on Women and Peace and Security**
UN Women, October 24 2011
- **Women Gear Up for Security Council Debate on Conflict Prevention and Mediation**
UN Women, October 24 2011
- **Danish Designer Wins European Ad Competition on Ending Violence**
UN Women, October 21 2011
- **Putting Gender Equality at the Centre of Aid Talks**
UN Women, October 21 2011
- **New Protocol Improves Responses to Gender-Based Violence**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **Expert Group Meeting Addresses Rural Women's Empowerment**
UN Women, October 14 2011
- **Women Renew Commitment to End AIDS in Kenya**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **Women Sharpen Skills as Peace Negotiators in West Africa**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **African-Spanish Women's Network for a Better World Celebrates Fourth Anniversary**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **Indian Minister Lauds Programme for Women Leaders**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **Balkans Conference Highlights Women and Security**
UN Women, October 14 2011
- **Income-Generating Initiatives a Lifeline for Rural Women**
UN Women, October 14 2011
- **Expert Group Meeting Addresses Rural Women's Empowerment**

UN Women, October 14 2011

- **A New UN Women Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean Region**
UN Women, October 27 2011
- **Social Protection Floor: For a Fair and Inclusive Globalization**
UN Women, October 27 2011
- **Engaging Women in Mediation and Conflict Prevention to Advance Peace and Democracy**
UN Women, October 28 2011
- **UN Security Council Members Debate Progress and Challenges to Women's Participation in Peacebuilding**
UN Women, October 28 2011
- **UN Women, through the Fund for Gender Equality, Kicks Off New Call for Proposals on Women's Empowerment in Arab States**
UN Women, October 16 2011
- **Girls 20 Summit**
UN Women, October 18 2011
- **UN Women Applauds Nobel Peace Prize Award for Women Leaders**
UN Women, October 7 2011
- **Women, Peace and Security**
UN Women, October 14 2011
- **Women's Political Participation**
UN Women, October 11 2011

4. Development News

- **Jamaica: Paper Recommends Board Quotas for Jamaican Women**
Jamaica Gleaner, October 26 2011
- **Global: Why there's no reason to fear feminism**
Guardian, October 18 2011
- **Global: Feminism in the global south hasn't come from the north**
Guardian, October 20 2011
- **Global: IBM Names Its First Female CEO**
Guardian, October 26 2011
- **Mexico: Women Reject Normalisation of Gender Violence**
IPS News, October 24 2011
- **Pakistan: Gender Disparity in Human Development**
The Nation, October 24 2011
- **Namibia: Women Businesses Need Boosting**
allAfrica.com, October 24 2011
- **Global: World Bank Must Put Its Money Behind the Rhetoric of Gender Equality**
Guardian, October 24 2011
- **India: Women's Participation in Work Force in India Shows Remaining Gender Gap**
SOS Children Villages Canada, October 24 2011
- **Tunisia: Tunisia's Women Fear Veil Over Islamist Intentions in First Vote of Arab Spring**
Guardian, October 20 2011
- **Ghana: The Woes of Women Amid Climate Change**
IPS News, October 19 2011
- **UK: Companies Must Promote Women to Change 'Terrible State' of UK Boards**
Guardian, October 14 2011

- **Madagascar: Women Tackle Population Growth**
IRIN News, October 12 2011

5. Publications & Resources

- **Brief from GADN and BRIDGE: Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and Beyond: What next for Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Aid Effectiveness?**
GADN and BRIDGE, October 2011
- **A Place at the Table: Safeguarding women's rights in Afghanistan**
Oxfam, October 2011
- **EU Donors under Women's Watch – WIDE Checks up on Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Aid Effectiveness Agenda on the Road to Busan**
WIDE, October 2011
- **Economic Alternatives for Gender and Social Justice: Voices and Visions from India and Latin America**
WIDE, October 2011
- **Why Women? Effective Engagement for Small Arms Control**
IANSA women's network, October 2011

6. Campaigns/Calls for Papers

- **2011 AWID Global Survey: Where is the Money for Women's Rights?**
The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) works to increase the amount and the quality of funding for women's rights work globally, under its strategic initiative "Where is the Money for Women's Rights" (WITM). As part of this goal, WITM undertakes research to understand global funding trends, which includes a global survey to obtain data on the size and sustainability of funding available to women's organizations globally. Please help AWID to collect this important data by spreading the word and encouraging all women's rights organizations, groups and initiatives to complete it. It is crucial that a large number of women's rights organisations, groups, and initiatives participate in the survey in order to develop a comprehensive analysis of funding trends for women's rights and gender equality and to strengthen our collective capacity to grow the resources available to women's movements.

By completing the survey you will automatically enter to win a flight to Istanbul, Turkey to attend the 12th AWID International Forum "**Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice**" taking place on April 19-22, 2012. The survey will close on **Wednesday November 23, 2011.**

The survey is available in five languages: **English, Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic.**

Analysis from previous WITM research can be found **here**

- **EC Call for proposals:** The new EC call on Investing in people Investing in People – Gender - Strengthening protection and promotion of women's rights and women's social and economic empowerment is **out** (published on 1.11.2011)

Deadline for submission of Concept Notes: **26 January 2012 at 16:00 hrs (Brussels date and time)**

The overall objective of the call for proposals is to contribute to the promotion of women's social and economic empowerment and rights.

The specific objectives are:

To develop and strengthen sustainable initiatives at local and national level promoting:

- women's equal access to and control of economic resources;
- equal access to existing and/or new services that are instrumental to increasing women's social and economic protection and well-being and their participation in economic growth;
- dissemination of relevant good practice.

The indicative financial envelope foreseen for this call for proposals is EUR 30 000 000 from the 2011 budget.

The European Commission reserves the right not to award all available funds. Equally, this amount could be increased should more funds become available. An indicative amount of EUR 16 490 million of the budget will be allocated to proposals involving countries eligible under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and Yemen. The eligible ENPI countries are: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian territory, the Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. In consideration of the importance of cooperation between the EU and its neighbours, also in addressing gender equality, Yemen is included in this call for proposals in the ENPI countries' indicative budget allocation as gender issues and civil society in Yemen are close to those of the ENPI South region.

Size of grants

Any grant requested for an action under this call for proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- Minimum amount: EUR 200 000
- Maximum amount: EUR 1 500 000

Eligibility: (among others):

be nationals of:

- an eligible partner country as listed in Annex K as well as other developing countries specified in the OECD/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) list¹²

or

- an EEA Member State (The 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or an official EU candidate country (Croatia, Iceland, Turkey, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

- **The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25- International Day Against Violence Against Women- and December 10- International Human Rights Day- in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December

1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organising strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels. In order to find out more, please go to the **website**.

- **BetterAid** for the **World we Want** is a public campaign supported by civil society organisations worldwide, that calls on governments to make aid work for development. Launched on October 17- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty- **BetterAid's** campaign is one of various actions by the **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** asking for the 'World we Want'. Hundreds of billions of aid dollars are used each year for poverty eradication. With the current global finance, climate change and food crises hitting the poorest hardest, there is an even greater need for this aid to work. Governments committing to using this money more wisely could help to do this by making every aid dollar spent count. Their cooperation with civil society organizations that represent the very people that aid is meant to support is vital for effective development.

Yet an **important recent study** shows that over the past decade, governments have made very little progress on previous commitments to make aid effective. Moreover, these commitments made so far were not sufficient for making effective development possible in the first place, and many other government policies beyond those on aid are holding back aid's effectiveness and stopping it really working to end global poverty. There is even a risk that governments are now abandoning their promises to make aid work for development.

At the end of November, decision makers from countries all over the world will come together to look at how well they have kept their commitments, and to make new agreements for the coming years. BetterAid believes this is the crucial time for the international community to make sure that development activities actually result in better lives, and the promotion of equity and human rights, including women rights. It is the time for better cooperation between the very people that aid is supposed to support, and governments.

To sign the petition asking governments to make this happen, to support people's organisations to do their work in development, and to ensure that citizens' voices are heard in development and aid decisions, please click **here**

- **Counting Women In:** a campaign to change the UK's political culture so it works for women. The Fawcett Society, the Hansard Society, the Electoral Reform Society, the Centre for Women and Democracy and Unlock Democracy have come together to form **Counting Women In** this month, supported by Mumsnet, the National Union of Journalists, the Women's Institute and others .

"90 years after women first got the vote, they are still in effect excluded from politics. Men outnumber women 4 to 1 in Parliament and progress is painfully slow: since 1997 the number of women in Parliament has increased by just 4 per cent! The views and experiences of one half of the country are not being heard. As Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron pledged to appoint women to a third of the top jobs in government. But 18 months into government, women are still a rare sight on the coalition's frontbenches."

You can click here to **sign the petition** calling on the Prime Minister to keep his word. You can also follow the campaign on **facebook**, keep up to date on **twitter**, or **visit their website**.

- **Don't turn back time on women's rights:** The Fawcett Society, backed by a coalition of more than 20 charities, unions and academics, has unveiled a new report entitled '**A Life Raft for Women's Equality.**'

Detailing a series of key policy recommendations for government, the Life Raft for Women's Equality comes amid growing evidence that the government's approach to reducing the deficit is 'turning back time' on women's equality – and is published on the same day the Minister for Women and Equalities is expected to give a speech outlining the government's approach to women and the economy.

Unveiling the report, **Anna Bird, Acting Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society** said "Women have not faced a greater threat to their financial security and rights in living memory. Decades of steady, albeit slow, progress on equality for women is being dismantled, as cuts to women's jobs and the benefits and services they rely on turn back time on women's equality.

"Women up and down the country are experiencing greater hardship; for those families affected the cuts to women's jobs, services and benefits will represent a personal loss. But we must add to this the cost to wider society as women's opportunities are scaled back. Fewer women working; a widening gap in pay between women and men; entrenchment of outdated gender roles at work and at home and women being forced into a position where they must increasingly rely on a main breadwinner or the state for financial subsidy – this is the picture that emerges when the many policies of economic austerity are stitched together.

"There are signs of hope that the government realises its economic strategy isn't working for women, and we hope today's speech signals a willingness to change course. Our report identifies a series of targeted and achievable policy measures that could be adopted by or at the 2012 budget, which together offer a life raft for women's equality - and never has the need been so great.

"It represents the combined knowledge and expertise of more than 20 organisations and individuals across the charity, academic, voluntary and union sectors.

"Women's rights are under unprecedented attack. But the government has the power to help stop the clock turning backwards."

"We urge those who support our life raft to **sign the petition** on our website calling on government to adopt it in full, and join us on November the 19 for our national day of action in defence of women's rights."

7. Events and Conferences

UK Feminist Research Methods Workshop at UEA (University of East Anglia) on the 9 December run by DECERe

There will be a range of key note speakers and master classes on feminist research methods (including feminist approaches to project management and securing feminist research funding). Key note speakers include Professor Yvonne Tasker (UEA), Dr. Anne Humbert (Middlesex), Dr. Fiona Poland (UEA) and Dr. Natasha Mauthner (Aberdeen).

For further details and online booking, please click [here](#)

8. Job Openings

- **Communications Officer/Girls Not Brides/London**
Closing Date: November 7
- **Programme Officer/Girls Not Brides/London**
Closing Date: November 7
- **Internship Opportunity/OECD Development Centre, Gender and Development/Paris**
Closing Date: November 7
- **Policy Officer/Plan UK/London**
Closing Date: November 8
- **Food Security Advisor/Care International/London**
Closing Date: November 8
- **Senior Advisor: HIV and Health Services/The International HIV/AIDS Alliance/Brighton**
Closing Date: November 9
- **Social Affairs Officer – Gender (Temporary Position)/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/Lusaka**
Closing Date: November 10
- **Campaigns Project Officer/CAFOD/London**
Closing Date: November 13
- **Community Engagement Adviser (Stabilisation)/DFID/London (with overseas travel)**
Closing Date: November 14
- **Finance/Administrative Assistant Volunteer/Orchid Project/London**
Closing date: November 15
- **Fundraising/Communications/Advocacy Volunteer/Orchid Project/London**
Closing Date: November 17
- **Senior Program Advisor – Gender and GBV/Futures Group/Mozambique**
Closing Date: November 30
- **Women’s Protection and Empowerment Coordinator/IRC (International Rescue Committee)/Nairobi**
Closing Date: December 14

9. Podcasts/Videocasts

- **Civil Society Voices for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness part2**
CSO Effectiveness, September 2011
- **WaterAid inclusive WASH promotional video**
Youtube, October 2011
- **Changing lives: girls can drive development**
DFID, October 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.

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 gadnetwork@oneworldaction.org. Responsibility for the content of these notices belongs to the partner organisations submitting them.

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