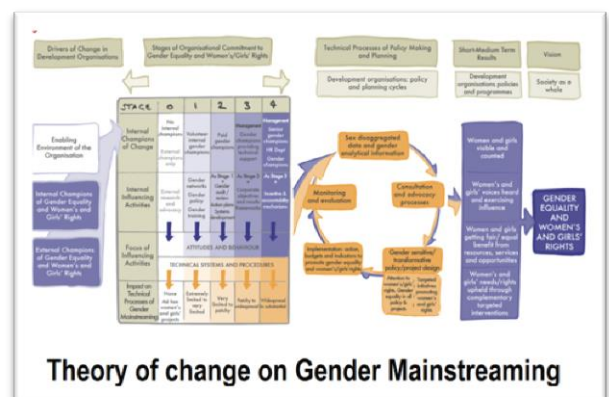


GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Activities Report

April 2014 – March 2015



1. Introduction

GADN is a diverse, effective and inclusive membership network made up of leading UK-based non-governmental organisations' (NGO) staff, practitioners, consultants and academics working on gender, development and women's rights issues. GADN enables members to share information and expertise, effectively lobby government and international bodies on gender and development issues and provide expert advice and comment on policies and projects. Our members work in partnership with development and advocacy organisations throughout the world.

Vision, mission and strategic aims

Our vision is of a world where social justice and gender equality prevail and where all women and girls are able to realise their rights free from discrimination.

Our mission is to relieve poverty and promote well-being by ensuring that international development policy and practice promotes gender equality and women and girls' rights. Our role is to improve the impact that UK development and donor organisations have on the lives of women and girls in developing countries by ensuring that their international development work promotes gender equality and women and girls' rights.

The following **strategic aims** guide the network's work for 2014-2017. Each aim has equal importance.

- To support and increase the capacity of members to deliver effectively on gender equality and women's and girls' rights in development
- To deepen the understanding of, and commitment to, women's and girls' rights and gender equality throughout the UK international development sector
- To strengthen the UK Government's commitment, policy and practice on women's and girls' rights and gender equality in its international work
- To promote alternatives to current international development agendas
- To maintain a strong, effective and inclusive network in order to achieve our mission and objectives

What we do

- Support our members to be more effective in their own work on gender and development through networking with others.
- Share information and analysis and creating space for discussions amongst members on issues central to gender and development to facilitate joint learning.
- Co-ordinate advocacy on our core issues to improve our collective impact.
- Make proposals to DFID and other donors on policy and practice
- Provide analysis on areas identified as 'gaps' within the network, and developing alternative solutions.

How we work

- Working groups lead on issue areas, bringing together members active in that area to develop analysis and best practice and where appropriate undertake joint advocacy.
- Members meetings act as a forum for debate and information sharing on key topics in the sector, and allow members to network with one-another.
- Publications - produced by the working groups or Secretariat - provide information and analysis and are used in advocacy.
- Newsletters and communications keep members up to date with the latest news on gender and development, and publicise member's activities and resources.

2. Summary of activities and achievements 2014-15:

- **Setting an agenda for the future:** In February we released the report '[Turning Promises into Progress: Gender equality and rights for women and girls - lessons learnt and actions needed](#)'. Two major anniversaries this year with **Beijing+20** and the fifteenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security presented an opportunity for reflection, while the conclusion of post 2015 negotiations provide an opportunity for action. The report therefore aimed to identify lessons learnt, and recommendations for the future. For the first time GADN worked jointly with Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS UK), the UK SRHR network and all our GADN working groups. This exciting collaboration enabled us to explore eight different subject areas in detail, and then bring together overall conclusions.

A well attended Parliamentary launch event for the report was hosted by the UN All Party Parliamentary Group in March ahead of International Women's Day (IWD). The report reached a wide UK and international audience and it was profiled in IWD campaigns and communications from [Bond](#), [The World Bank](#), [Oxfam](#) and [Action/2015](#). We will continue to use the recommendations as the basis for future lobbying, including with the new government.

- **Influencing the post-2015 framework:** As the post-2015 process has moved forward this year, GADN has continued to play an active and effective role in promoting the need for gender equality and women's rights to be central to the new framework through engagement with DFID, the UN and other donors, as well as the wider sector. Our positions and language have been adopted into the positions of civil society and the UK government, UN Women have specifically commented that our materials have been consistently valuable.

Throughout the year the Post-2015 working group has shared strategy and information, undertaken lobbying meetings and made joint submissions ensuring our impact is increased. In June, we released a briefing paper '[Unpaid care: A priority for the post-2015 development goals and beyond](#)' which outlined the importance of including a target on unpaid care in the framework. This paper achieved our goal of convincing decision makers of the importance of the unpaid care target, and was cited by DFID and others as very influential. GADN also prepared a briefing on unpaid care for the international post-2015 Women's Coalition, which enabled us to reach a wider audience. In September we responded in full to the Open Working Group proposals in the paper '[Gender equality and women's rights at the UN General Assembly post-2015 discussion](#)' and have recently released our latest '[Summary of](#)

[positions on negotiations for the post-2015 framework](#) which includes recommendations on means of implementation and accountability, which is being used .

In June, GADN was invited to host a side event at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict on the importance of using the post-2015 framework to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG). Speakers at the event were the Rt. Hon Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, Professor Naila Kabeer, London School of Economic, Ruth Ochieng, Director of Isis (Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange), Uganda, Bandana Rana, President of Saathi, Nepal, and a member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group. The event created a platform for sharing the positions of Southern women's organisations with the UK government and for building support for addressing VAWG through the post-2015 framework.

- **Engaging with the Department for International Development (DFID) to promote our priorities:** Throughout the year, GADN has liaised with DFID staff to discuss areas of key priority to members such as the department's strategic framework on girls and women, political participation, VAWG, post-2015 and economic empowerment. This dialogue has been convened through meetings between GADN members and the DFID Gender Team, and also regular meetings with the DFID VAWG and Women's economic empowerment teams, which will continue in 2015-16. GADN is also part of the Women's Leadership Group which has met regularly this year with the Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, where discussions on social norms have proved particularly valuable.

In June we facilitated a members meeting on the Girl Summit which focused on child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Members were able to hear from DFID on the plans and aims of the Summit, and to discuss policy responses. We also released [a briefing](#) on the Summit to inform members about the policy issues and opportunities around the summit.

- **Inputting into the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) process:** GADN has supported over twenty members who are attending the 59th session of CSW which focused on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and review. In November, we were delighted to be represented on a panel of speakers looking at global challenges to gender equality at the Government Equalities Office's (GEO) Annual National Consultation with Women meeting. Throughout the year we have facilitated dialogue between members and DFID and the GEO to input into preparations for Beijing+20. We also inputted into consultations on the draft political declaration eventually approved by governments at CSW.
- **Supporting campaigns on gender equality and women's rights:** GADN produced two tools [Ten steps towards integrating gender equality into campaigns](#) and [Gender and Campaigning Training Pack](#) to support those who want to improve the effectiveness of their gender equality campaigns or to mainstream gender into existing campaigns. These materials have been accessed by a wide range of actors from within the network and wider civil society, achieving our aim of supporting the sector to work effectively on gender equality.
- **Developing understanding within the sector:** Over the year we also started to develop positions on 'engaging with men and boys' to promote gender equality and on possible alternatives to current development models. Both of these areas of work will be developed over the next year.

Our quarterly **member's meetings** are used to discuss key topics related to our member's priorities and provide space for networking and exchange of ideas. Topics this year have included: The Girl Summit; A Theory of Change for Gender Equality and Post-2015 and preparing for CSW.

Working groups activities and achievements 2014-15:

- The **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)** working group launched a briefing '[How a new UK Government can accelerate progress towards ending international violence against women & girls](#)' in November. Ahead of the election this year, the briefing outlines the importance of the UK government in playing a leading role in ending VAWG internationally and makes recommendations for how this can be achieved. The group have used the briefing to have discussions with DFID staff, Ministers and the Shadow Minister for Violence Against Women and Girls, meaning our messages have been successfully shared with key actors ahead of the general election.
- In June, a new working group on **Women's Economic Justice** was formed which aims to build understanding and consensus among INGOs and decision makers on the structural nature of women's economic inequality, and to promote alternative feminist economic policies. In January, the group held an event with ActionAid and Christian Aid – 'Making Economics Work for Women' where speakers included academics Naila Kabeer, Diane Elson and Caren Grown from the World Bank and Fatima Shabodien, ActionAid South Africa. The event was well attended by a range of organisations who work on gender equality, labour rights, the private sector and macroeconomic policy and successfully showed how a feminist economic perspective is important for all these areas of policy.
- The **Gender Mainstreaming Working Group** has continued to support effective Gender Mainstreaming through both programmatic activities and within member organisations. The group acts as a platform for members to share knowledge, best practice and experiences between members. In March the group released [Untangling Gender Mainstreaming: A Theory of Change](#) based on experience and reflection which explores the concept and practicalities of gender mainstreaming. It draws on learning from staff with responsibility for gender mainstreaming in nine UK based international Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and their Southern based partner organisations; wider discussions with GADN members and women's rights activists; as well as the personal experiences and reflections of the authors. It elaborates a Theory of Change setting out the component parts of gender mainstreaming, how these relate to each other, and how they collectively contribute towards the wider goal of gender equality and women's and girls' rights. The paper was very well received in the sector, and supports our aim of increasing the capacity of our members and the sector to work on gender equality. The paper was also presented at a joint workshop with Bond and Gender Links in November, increasing its audience
- The **Girl's Education in International Development** working group continues to share, develop and promote knowledge and learning on programming and policy for girls' education rights in international development contexts. This year, meetings have been held to share the latest research on violence against girls in schools, and to discuss the implementation of the Girls Education Challenge fund with the grant donors.
- The **Humanitarian** working group has continued its advocacy work on ensuring that women's and girls' needs and rights are prioritized through specific policy, funding and programming in humanitarian settings. In September the group released a briefing paper

[‘UNGA Review Event on the Call to Action on Violence against Women and Girls in Emergencies’](#).

- GADN welcomed a new working group in 2014-15 on **Women’s Participation and Leadership**. The group shares information and best practice on member's work in this area, as well as seeking to influence the sector’s approach to increasing women's participation, influence and decision making. The group works through two sub groups - on advocacy and on programming.
- The **Gender and Disability in Development** working group has continued to share resources and develop plans for increasing the knowledge in the sector on the specific disadvantages facing disabled women and girls.

3. GADN Membership

In 2014-15 GADN has continued to update our governance and management procedures to ensure we are effectively and efficiently supporting our members to work on gender equality in development. We now have over 100 members and we are delighted that there is a strong interest in the sector in realising women and girl’s rights.

The network is currently made up of 57 organisations and 59 individuals who believe ensuring women’s rights and gender equality is central to international development. GADN has also continued to partner or work with the following networks which are based in the UK: Bond, Beyond 2015 UK, ABColombia, the Bretton Woods Project (BWP), Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS UK), Girls Not Brides, National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), Population and Sustainability Network (PSN), Restored, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), The UK Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Network, StopAids, Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML).

We have also worked and liaised with international networks where appropriate, including through WIDE+, the Beyond 2015 Global Coalition, the Post 2015 Women’s Coalition, Gender Links, the OECD DAC, and the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID).

2. Members’ Meetings

Our quarterly members’ meetings provide vital networking and advocacy opportunities, as well as enable members to share their experiences and make a real difference to gender and development issues. Each meeting focuses on a particular issue area and invites expert speakers to present the latest research and learnings. During 2014-15 the network held three members’ meetings.

The Girl Summit – July 2014

In July GADN held a meeting to share information and discuss approaches to the Girl Summit, convened by the UK Government. GADN members working on the issues of FGM and Child, early and forced marriage presented the policy issues around the summit and DFID were invited to present their latest updates.

How does Gender Equality Happen? November 2014

This meeting was an opportunity for GADN members to influence a 'Theory of Change on Gender Equality' which was prepared by DFID and the Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA) Learning Partnership on Gender. The theory of change articulates a vision for gender equality and explains the relationship between gender equality, achieving empowerment and securing women and girl's rights. It then sets out the pathways to bringing about change, including guiding principles and key interventions. At the meeting members of the PPA Learning Partnership presented the theory of change and GADN members tested and critically appraised the assumptions, and contributed evidence.

CSW, Beijing+20 and the Post 2015 Negotiations - What's happening and what's missing – February 2015

This members meeting was a chance to hear from GADN members leading on the post-2015 development agenda and engaging with CSW and Beijing+20. Presenters outlined the current position of the post-2015 negotiations, and where the opportunities and risks existed for influencing the framework to include gender equality and women's rights.

Members were also presented with the plans for 2015-16 resulting from the annual strategy day with Trustees and Advisory Group.

3. GADN Communications

GADN communicates with members and the wider sector through:

- The GADN website
- Social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- A monthly newsletter collating gender and development news, job opportunities, events, and publications.
- Weekly updates to members
- Events
- Briefings and publications

GADN Resources

In 2014-15, GADN released one major report; two position papers; seven briefings and a training pack. **Highlights of communications 2014-15:**

- GADN launched a new website with updated features for accessing resources and working groups.
- Our audience on Facebook increased over 500% from 1,472 to 7,784 in 2014-15
- Our most popular ever Facebook post, sharing the 'Untangling Gender Mainstreaming' briefing paper, was shared by over 60 people and reached an audience of 10,000.
- Our monthly newsletter subscription rose to over 2000 and we maintained a consistent open and click through rates which are above average.

4. Working Groups April 2012 – March 2013

As is detailed above, GADN working groups have supported members throughout 2014-15 with meetings, information sharing and events. Groups which have an advocacy focus have also undertaken joint lobbying activities.

Our working groups this year have been:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Post-2015
- Humanitarian
- Girls Education
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Gender and Disability
- Political participation and leadership
- Women's Economic Justice
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (email list)

5. GADN Secretariat and Trustees

Board of Trustees:

Rachel Carter - (Chair) (resigned October 2014)
Kanwal Ahluwalia (co-Chair appointed October 2014)
Daphne Jayasinghe (co-Chair appointed October 2014)
Samantha French
Catherine Klirodotakou
Anne Quesney
Hawah Bunduka
Antonella Mancini
Beverly Duckworth

The Board of Trustees met on the following dates:

April 28th 2014
July 14th 2014
October 20th 2014
February 12th 2015 (Strategy Day)

Advisory Group

Caroline Green, Oxfam
Lee Webster, Womankind Worldwide
Daphne Jayasinghe, ActionAid UK
Rachael Stokes, VSO
Sarah Cornish, Save the Children

Secretariat

Jessica Woodroffe – Director
Francesca Rhodes – Coordinator

We also benefitted from the support from volunteers throughout the year: Mayeesha Jamil and Rebecca Kelley.

If you would like any further information about GADN please contact:

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Gender and Development Network

c/o ActionAid

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London

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Annex 1

GADN member organisations 2014-15

28 too many

Acid Survivors Trust International

ActionAid UK

ADD

African Initiatives

Amnesty International

BRIDGE

British Council

CAFOD

CARE International UK

CAWN

Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

ChildHope

Christian Aid

Concern Worldwide

Development Planning Unit

Every Child

FORWARD

Girl Hub

HelpAge International

IRC

Islamic Relief Worldwide

IPPF

Leonard Cheshire

Marie Stopes

Minority Rights Group International

Microloan Foundation

Mother's Union Worldwide

NFWI

ODI

One Woman a Year International (OWYI)

Orchid Project

Oxfam

PADEAP

Plan

Progressio

Saferworld

Save the Children

SDDirect

Self Help Africa

Sense International

Stonewall

Tearfund
The Brooke
The GREAT Initiative
Traidcraft Exchange
Trocaire
United Nations Association -UK
UN Women UK
VSO
Water Aid
WILPF
WISE
Womankind Worldwide
Women for Women International
World Vision
WWF