



## *IFUW Update – 19 September 2013*



### **IFUW news**

#### **Prospect of gladiatorial fight puts women off push for top**

The International Federation of University Women's (IFUW) Colloquia Project, exploring the paucity of female leaders in academia, is cited in the Times Higher Education Supplement. Women are not applying for top positions at universities because they do not want to be dragged into "gladiatorial" leadership battles.

Speaking at a colloquium organised by IFUW under its International Colloquia Project, member Euginia George-Genyi, a lecturer in political sciences at Benue State University, in Makurdi, Nigeria, said that many female academics did not seek leadership posts because they were intimidated by the "combative and often violent" nature of running for top office. Others were put off by deep-rooted cultural beliefs that women who pursued leadership roles were unfeminine, Dr George-Genyi told an audience of female academics at her own university.

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/prospect-of-gladiatorial-fight-puts-women-off-push-for-top/2006612.article>

<http://www.ifuw.org/what/activities/colloquia/>

#### **Afghan Women join Human Rights Watch in exposing tragedies of child marriage**

The [Afghan Women's Writing Project](#) is participating in a worldwide campaign this month to end early marriage in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries where girls are forced by their parents to marry when they are as young as ten years old. AWWP's writing on child marriage is being shared with [Breakthrough TV's](#) campaign, "Nation Against Early Marriage."

The new series, posted this week on the [AWWP blog](#), gives rare insights into the experiences and thoughts of AWWP writers in Afghanistan. They speak from first-hand knowledge about the effects of this practice on the lives of girls, their families, and Afghan society as a whole.

Human Rights Watch has produced a 15-page briefing paper titled "[Afghanistan: Ending Child Marriage and Domestic Violence](#)," which highlights the health and economic consequences of marriage under age 18 and violence against women and girls in Afghanistan.

HWR cites a 2010 mortality survey by the Ministry of Public Health that found:

- **53 percent of women in the 25-49 age group were married by the age of 18**
- **12 percent of Afghan girls aged 15-19 became pregnant or gave birth**
- **47 percent of deaths of women aged 20 to 24 were related to pregnancy. The survey said one Afghan woman died every two hours because of pregnancy.**

The group reported that an estimated 2,000 Afghan women and girls attempt suicide by setting themselves on fire each year, which is linked to domestic violence and early or forced marriages.

### **VGIF celebrates Its collaboration with IFUW in Istanbul**

For the fifteenth time, the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund attended IFUW's triennial conference. VGIF has funded up to 15 travel grants for IFUW members attending the parallel training programme, "Capacity Building to take leadership roles in the local and wider community". VGIF was founded by IFUW members in 1969. Since 1971, it has funded training programmes at each IFUW triennial conference and it has funded 65 grants to IFUW national affiliates.

### **IFUW brochure available online**

The **IFUW brochure** is now rebranded and can be downloaded directly from the members only tool box page for printing should any NFA wish at: [http://ifuw.org/members\\_new/members-toolbox-2/](http://ifuw.org/members_new/members-toolbox-2/) - or by clicking here, IFUW brochure: [print](#) | [web](#). Please let us know if and when you use it. Thank you.

### **Press release for NFAs International Day of the Girl Child**

International Day of the Girl Child will be on October 11. In light of this occasion IFUW has prepared a press release to be circulated amongst your respective governments. Attached to this email you will find the press release template for your use. Please feel free to adapt it to suit your needs, and country situation. All you have to do is adapt the parts where there are brackets, dropping in your own information and context.

[http://www.ifuw.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013\\_10\\_11\\_press\\_release Intl Day Girl Child NFAs.pdf](http://www.ifuw.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013_10_11_press_release Intl Day Girl Child NFAs.pdf)

**Happy Birthday** -The Geneva Association of University (AGFDU), which was the first to be established in Switzerland in 1923, will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary in November 2013. We wish them a happy birthday and many happy returns.

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## Advocacy

The theme for the next **IFUW Day** on June 1st 2014 will be on: "Education for women and children in prison and detention.

### **Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

A new report has been launched by the Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda co-led by UNICEF and UNESCO, with support from the Governments of Canada, Germany and Senegal and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

#### **[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT:](#)**

**[Making Education a Priority in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)**  
*[Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)*



The message is clear: Quality education and lifelong learning are key to sustainable development. The report offers a summary of the main themes and messages that have emerged from the wide-ranging contributions to the consultation featuring voices of people from around the world.

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### **Education for all (EFA)**

The National EFA 2015 Reviews have been launched through invitation letters addressed to all Ministers of Education. The letters suggest that civil society organizations should participate in the national reviews. You may now wish to approach your governments in order to seek involvement in the process. We would strongly encourage you to proactively approach the concerned government departments in your respective countries if you wish to be involved in this process.

Guidelines:

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Santiago/pdf/guidelinesnational\\_efa2015reviewsenglish19062013.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Santiago/pdf/guidelinesnational_efa2015reviewsenglish19062013.pdf)

Concept:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Dakar/pdf/PresentationofConceptNoteon2000-2015NationalEFAReviewFramework.pdf>

**Cheaper sanitary pads to boost school attendance**

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)\* has passed a resolution urging partner states to waive taxes on sanitary pads in the region to increase their availability and affordability for young girls. The move is expected to keep girls in school and to ensure their well-being, enhanced dignity and respect of rights. Rwanda's representative to the bloc parliament, Dr Odette Nyiramilimo, said that girls from poor families often have no access to sanitary products, contributing to gender disparities in schools.

The resolution urged governments and the private sector to consider making school sanitation facilities more user-friendly and to ensure such cubicles have locks. It also calls on partner states to introduce reproductive health curriculum in schools and to make sanitary pads and painkillers available in learning centres.

Tanzania and Kenya have abolished tax on sanitary pads. At least 20 per cent of schoolgirls in Rwanda, particularly in rural areas, miss school, up to 50 days per year, because sanitary pads are expensive, according to World Bank statistics.

\* EALA members states are Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi

## Syrian's need for schools

A [new report](#) commissioned by [A World at School](#) and authored by global education expert Kevin Watkins (Executive Director of the [Overseas Development Institute](#)) has calculated that since 2011, almost two million Syrian children have been forced from school. By the end of the year, half a million refugee children will be in Lebanon alone.

The office of Gordon & Sarah Brown are **backing a practical plan which - if properly funded - could put hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children into school in a matter of weeks and months.** Simple solutions like running schools on double shifts and employing refugee teachers could make a huge difference.

Education must be an integral part of the humanitarian response: **schooling must be recognised an essential part of a child's life in the decade spent in a refugee camp which so often follows the start of a conflict.**

Please show your support for the plan for the emerging movement, Education without Borders in Syria. Below are three easy things you can do right now.

- 1) **Download and share** Kevin's report, which you can find [here](#).
  - 2) **Sign the petition** to call on the international community to support the plan to provide immediate education for Syrian children. We will deliver it to world leaders on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the United Nations General Assembly. [You can sign here](#).
  - 3) **Tweet for good** – every time the tweet below is shared, [\\$1 will go towards humanitarian aid: #theworldneedsmore #education for the #ChildrenOfSyria - together we can help #Syria not lose a generation to war <http://bit.ly/1ayYlQm>](#)
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## World Health Organization calls for a "life course approach" to women's health

In recent years public attention on women's health has focused on maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health. Yet these issues do not embrace all the health problems that adult women face because many women's health problems have roots in early life, e.g. lack of nutrition and exercise as well as an excess of alcohol and tobacco. By 2015 more than two thirds of all years of life lost by women will be caused by conditions other than maternal mortality and universal access to reproductive health.

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/91/9/13-128439/en/index.html>

## Global gender statistics programme

The global gender statistics programme of the United Nations Statistics Division has produced the Gender Statistics Manual for the development of statistics to address gender-based policy issues.

Gender statistics:

- *promote understanding of the actual situation of women and men in society*
- *are crucial in advancing data-based gender analysis and research*
- *monitor progress toward gender equality and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental rights by women and girls*
- *provide an evidence base for developing and monitoring policies and programmes oriented toward increased investments in human capital and labour force*
- *have a crucial role in gender mainstreaming in development and poverty reduction policies*
- *have an important role in developing and monitoring policies on reduction of violence against women*

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/>

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## Fellowships and call for papers

### Call for papers - Towards a Global History of the Girl

There is a call for papers at a session on the 'History of the Girl' at the conference of the International Committee of Historical Sciences in Jinan, China in 2015. The session is sponsored by the International Federation for Research in Women's History and aims to bring together scholars from all over the world with an interest in the history of the girl.

In recent years, there has been a steady accumulation of publications on the history of the girl. Historians of women have begun to utilise age as a category of analysis and to recognise that the history of girls is distinct from that of women. Similarly, historians of youth have identified the different experiences of and divergent attitudes to male and female youth.

The aim of this session is to bring together scholars working in the field and to identify common themes and differences in the history of the girl across the world. In order to establish some cohesion for the discussion the focus will be on girls aged from early adolescence to the early 20s. Paper proposals are welcome on all periods of time as well as from as wide a geographical span as possible. We would like to ensure that the final selection of papers fulfils the aim of the meeting to explore a global history of girls.

For more information [click here](#).

Paper proposals should be sent to:

Professor Mary O'Dowd at: [m.odowd@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.odowd@qub.ac.uk) and to Professeur Robert Frank at: [frank@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:frank@univ-paris1.fr)

**Deadline for Submission of Proposals: 30 November 2013.**

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## Other Information and events

WWSF invites you to consult and use the [2013 Prevention Kit](#), their annual Campaign and Call to Action "19 Days of Activism for prevention of abuse and violence against children and youth 1-19 November". For more information visit <http://19days.woman.ch/index.php/en/>

- [23 September: Forum of NGOs 'Which educational goals for tomorrow's citizens of the world: Is quality enough?', UNESCO](#)
- [26 September-11 October: meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental partners \(NGP\), UNESCO](#)
- [3-4 October: High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development](#)
- [5 October : World Teachers' Day: A call for teachers, UNESCO](#)
- [21 October - 1 November: Universal Periodic Review Session 17](#)



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## Celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary? Just want to say Thank you or I Love You?

A donation to IFUW is a wonderful acknowledgement and helps fund our programmes such as Fellowships, Hegg Hoffet, and BPRID

[Gift certificate](#), [Fellowships](#), [Hegg Hoffet](#), [BRPID](#)

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