
GENDER WIRE

7th Edition (Jan-Mar, 2017)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **World Economic Forum (Davos, Switzerland – 16-18 January):** Accompanying the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, Ms Gülser Corat, Director of the Division for Gender Equality (Dir/ODG/GE) attended several events and meetings during the World Economic Forum, including: (1) Luncheon hosted by Tupperware on “Women’s Economic Empowerment”; (2) Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development session on “[Connect the Unconnected](#)”; (3) [Debate](#) organized by Procter & Gamble on securing the future of young women through education and skill development within the context of the current refugee crisis.
- **Korea Future Forum (London, UK – 4 February):** Dir/ODG/GE gave a keynote address at the [Korea Future Forum 2017](#), a student-run forum at the London School of Economics (LSE) that discusses the economic and political issues regarding Korea. The keynote address entitled “Glass Ceilings and Glass Walls in East Asia: Are We Closing the Gender Gap?” was followed by four other sessions on Korea.
- **International Day for Women and Girls in Science (UNESCO HQ – 9 February):** For the second anniversary of this International Day, the Natural Science sector of UNESCO organized a [series of events](#), including a Round Table entitled “Gender Equality in Science: Myth, Reality and Future Perspectives”; a workshop for young women aiming to encourage them to consider careers in STEAM; and an exhibition created by Marie-Hélène le Ny featuring women pursuing scientific careers to enable new role models to emerge.
- **Commission on the Status of Women 2017 (UN HQ – 13-24 March):** During the 61st session of the CSW, UNESCO organized two side-events. [The first one](#), organized in partnership with the Government of Senegal, aimed at highlighting best practices from UNESCO’s [YouthMobile initiative](#) in preparing young women in Africa for the changing world of work. [The second one](#), organized in partnership with [WomEng](#), was a round table on the “Empowerment of Women in Engineering in the Workplace” and was the occasion of the launch of the [Million Girls in STEM Campaign](#).



- **Round Table entitled “Women and Legislative Reform: Case Studies from the Field” (New York, US – 10 March):** Penn Law, in collaboration with UNESCO, UN Women, The UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund, and IDLO organized a roundtable to analyse the transformation of laws on the books to laws in practice through the prism of representative case studies. UNESCO was represented by Dir/ODG/GE who delivered a keynote speech on Gender Discrimination and Education Laws.
- **Expert Group Meeting on Gender and Climate Change (The Hague, Netherlands 27-28 March):** Dir/ODG/GE participated in the meeting to develop a Gender Action Plan for the UNFCCC and to follow-up on the idea of a UN Resolution linking gender equality and the environment, a recommendation made by the Director-General of UNESCO and adopted at the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for Environment meeting in Marrakesh in December 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS of IWD 2017

See [here](#) UNESCO’s IWD page and [here](#) the detailed story of the day.

- **2017 edition of the exhibition for International Women’s Day:** Organized by the Division for Gender Equality of UNESCO, in collaboration with the Permanent Delegations, [this year’s exhibition](#) focused on the creativity of young women in shaping our future.



- **Panel Discussion entitled “[The Courage to Create: Gender Equality and the Arts](#)”:** Organized in partnership with the French National Committee of UN Women, the panel gathered artists, musicians, filmmakers, cultural entrepreneurs and experts to address the challenges facing women artists, as well as to harness creativity to overcome gender stereotypes and achieve gender equality.



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- **[Concert](#)** of young French singer-songwriter Louane and self-described feminist music band called “Her”.
- First-of-its-kind two-day meeting with ten [UNESCO Chairs](#) in the field of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.
- Launch of the [2017 Women Make the News Campaign](#), which aims to improve the representation of women both in newsrooms and in media reporting. This year, the campaign presents the [Gender Equality Checkup](#).

- CAMPUS UNESCO event entitled "[Women – agents of change](#)", featuring four speakers, including Damiano Giampaoli, Programme Specialist, representing ODG/GE, to share their passion and engagement to Gender Equality with youth from High Schools in and around Paris.
- [Online conference](#), organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, to answer questions and encourage young women to join careers in marine sciences.
- Launch of the [UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education](#) 2017.
- Launch of the [L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards](#) 2017.

UNESCO's Gender Equality Champions

In recognition of her continuous support and commitment to Gender Equality, the Division has chosen **Anne Lizet**, Intranet Assistant, to be our Gender Equality Champion for this Edition of the Gender Wire. We asked Anne a few questions on some of her daily tasks that contribute towards promoting Gender Equality:

Could you tell us a bit more about your role at UNESCO?

One of my daily tasks is to coordinate our internal digital communications' platform, Unescommunity (Intranet). My role requires me to keep abreast of all UNESCO programmes and activities and to inform all of our colleagues at UNESCO about them.

Given your particular interest in Gender Equality, could you tell us about what you think about it?

I personally consider this Global Priority particularly important. It is an issue on which we should engage not only within the Organisation, but also in our daily lives. Inequality between Women and Men should be an issue of the past. Unfortunately, it is an issue that persists in our societies today.

We very much appreciate your commitment towards promoting Gender Equality. Could you tell us about what you do in order to help with the transmission of our message?

It goes without saying that we must shed light on Gender Equality across our internal communications platforms. It is not always easy for the Division for Gender Equality to spread their message within the Organisation, and to ensure that Gender Equality values are upheld across programmes and in our daily lives. Regular messages on Unescommunity are helpful in passing on the message.

In the news!

Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide

On 15 March 2017, the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, chaired by Mats Granryd, Director General of the GSMA and Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, launched its final report "[Recommendations for action: bridging the gender gap in Internet and broadband access and use](#)" during the Annual Spring Meeting of the Broadband Commission, held in Hong Kong, SAR of China.

The report identified **four specific action areas** for closing the digital gender gap:

1. Compile detailed evidence: collect, analyze and track sex-disaggregated data to inform policy, particularly at a national and sub-national level, through a greater understanding of the issue.
2. Integrate policy: integrate gender equality targets and key performance indicators into strategies, policies, plans and budgets, involving women and relevant local communities from the onset.
3. Address the barriers women face: confront barriers that impede gender equality online, including affordable access; issues around safety; digital literacy and confidence; and the availability of relevant content, applications and services.
4. Support multi-stakeholder cooperation: develop tools and policies to support national and international efforts, and effective sharing of best practices to address the digital gender gap.

UNESCO Chairs on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In the framework of International Women's Day 2017, the Division for Gender Equality organized a **first-of-its-kind meeting with ten UNESCO Chairs in the field of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**. The aim of the meeting was to discuss their contributions to UNESCO's Gender Equality Action Plan and Major Programmes (Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Information and Communication), as well as to establish future collaboration mechanisms.

The meeting was organized in **four thematic sessions** and a final session for the elaboration of specific policy recommendations:

1. Gender In/Equality at all levels of Education and in Professional Careers
2. Gender Equality in Communication and Cultural Life
3. Gender Equality and Gender Analysis in Science, Technology, Engineering, Innovation and in STEAM Education
4. Women's Equal Participation and Leadership in Political and Economic Life

During the final session, the Chairs worked together to deliver specific policy recommendations and to establish mechanisms of collaboration and consultation. This meeting was also the occasion to reinforce the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender, established in 2010 and coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science and Technology in Latin America. **A final report summarizing the outcomes and recommendations of the meeting will be available soon.**

Let's Mainstream !

The **first Mandatory Gender Equality Training of 2017** took place on February 13 and 14 at UNESCO Headquarters with the participation of 30 staff members, including 20 women (67%) and 10 men (33%). From the 30 participants, twelve were from the Education sector, six from Natural Sciences, two from Communication and Information sector and one from Social and Human Sciences. Staff members from the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) sector, the sector for External Relations and Public Information, the Ethics Office, the Africa Department and the Bureau of Financial Management also attended the training.

Led by Dir/ODG/GE, Saniye Gülser Corat, participants were able to get a refresher on key Gender Equality concepts; on the understanding and application of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM); on gender mainstreaming and work plan analysis; on UNESCO's approach to Priority Gender Equality; and on advocacy tools for Gender Equality. The new Priority Gender Equality training mixes theoretical approach with practical and contextual exercises, allowing interactive and dynamic discussions around Gender Equality.

ODG/GE will continue organizing Mandatory Gender Equality Training sessions for staff members throughout 2017 both in HQ and in the field.

Gender Wire's Selection

Movie– Hidden Figures



From left to right: Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson

Hidden Figures, directed by Theodore Melfi and written by Melfi and Allison Schroeder, is a movie based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly. The film tells the incredible story of a group of Afro-American women whose work was crucial to NASA's Langley Research Centre in the early 1960s – a time when racial segregation was the law of the land, and gender discrimination was still the

norm. Concretely, the movie recounts the triumphs and struggles of three women: Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Johnson, mathematician who calculated flight trajectories for Project Mercury and other missions, Octavia Spencer as Dorothy Vaughan and Janelle Monáe as Mary Jackson.

Series – Madam Secretary

Madam Secretary is an American political drama television series created by Barbara Hall, which premiered in 2014. Already in its 3rd season, the series tells the story of Dr



Téa Leoni as Elizabeth McCord

Elizabeth McCord (Téa Leoni) in her fight to balance her family and her work as the US Secretary of State. McCord drives international diplomacy, battles office politics, and circumvents and ignores protocol as she negotiates worldwide issues. The President values her apolitical leanings, deep knowledge of the Middle East, flair for languages, and ability to not just think outside the box, but to not even acknowledge there is a box. However, these traits are not always appreciated among the rest of the staff members of the white house, which pushes McCord to face all sorts of conflicts, internal and external, which she will resolve with varying degrees of believability.

?!?! Did You Know ?!?!

Every clever thing your computer does comes down to ones and zeroes; but how can programmers write in this binary language? They need a compiler, an application that converts those two numbers into human-like language. **Behind its creation, there was a woman called Grace Hopper.**

Born in 1906, at a time when not many people cared about gender equality, Grace Hopper had the chance to have a father who wanted her daughters to have the same education as his son. In 1934, she



Grace Hopper (seated, second from right) along with other members of the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project, in front of the Harvard Mark I computer at Harvard University, 1944.

earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale and started teaching mathematics at Vassar College even though she had always dreamed of working in the US Navy, –they started accepting women only after America joined WWII and men talent was called away– where she joined in 1944.

By 1951, she had moved to a company called Remington Rand where she tried in vain to persuade her employers to let her develop new programming language entirely in English words. The rejection did not discourage her: she simply wrote it in her spare time. Like-minded programmers, in love with the idea, started sending Grace new chunks of code that she

added to her library. She was, in fact, single-handedly pioneering open-source software and her compiler evolved into one of the first programming languages, COBOL (an acronym for COMmon Business-Oriented Language). More fundamentally, it paved the way for the now-familiar distinction between hardware and software.

Grace had her own views on why colleagues had been initially resistant: not because they cared about making programs run more quickly, but because they enjoyed the prestige of being the only ones who could communicate with the godlike computer. However, she thought anyone should be able to programme – and now, anyone can.