

GENDER WIRE

HIGHLIGHTS

“Feminism isn’t about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength.”

G.D. Anderson



- On 24 November 2015 in New York, the Director-General sealed the partnership on Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education which was announced during the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015. This Joint Document signed by the Director-General, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec representing UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka formalizes this Partnership.

DG Irina Bokova with Dr. Osotimehin and Yannick Glemarec at the signature of the JP, NY, 24 November

- On 9 November 2015, DIR/ODG/GE, Saniye Gülsel Corat took part in the launch of the UN World Water Assessment Programme’s publication on “Sex-disaggregated Indicators for Water Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting”. Ms Corat highlighted the importance of sex-disaggregated data, especially relevant and needed now that gender inequalities and access to water are both defined as stand-alone sustainable development goals.
- On 12 November 2015, DIR/ODG/GE took part in the 7th World Conference Science for Peace, on “Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery” organized by the Umberto Veronesi Foundation in Milan, and gave a presentation during the session on “Forced Labour and Prostitution, Enlistment of Child Soldiers, Domestic Slavery and Early Marriages”, focusing on the critical role played by education in fighting these practices.
- UNESCO, represented by Joanna Heart (ED) joined forces with UNGEI and launched on 25 November a 16 Days of Activism Campaign against school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) and on the effective ways to end them through education.
- ODG/GE played an active role during the Youth Forum at UNESCO, organizing a workshop on gender equality and UNESCO, distributing materials and engaging with participants on the topic.
- In an effort to promote and highlight best practices from external partners, ODG/GE invited the founders of the StrongHER initiative at Alcatel-Lucent to present their work on gender equality and diversity to the UNESCO Gender Focal Point Network on 24 November 2015. StrongHER, originally a grassroots initiative, now gathers over 1200 members in offices throughout the globe and includes programmes such as the StrongHER award and the StrongHER Charter.
- In the framework of the COP21, UNFCCC hosted a Gender Day on 8 December 2015, addressing the relation between climate change and gender inequality. Many of the discussions focused on identifying new ways for climate finance mechanisms to reach women, who were acknowledged as important agents of change, holding significant knowledge related to mitigation, adaptation and reduction of risks in relation to climate change. Participants agreed that women’s empowerment is critical, especially in decision-making processes.



Priority Gender Equality at the UNESCO General Conference 38th session

- A majority of the representatives of Members States reaffirmed their support for Priority Gender Equality and for the roadmap to prevent SRGBV. They expressed satisfaction that the 2030 Agenda includes a stand-alone goal on gender equality. All agreed that advancing education for every girl and boy is sine qua non for sustainable development and that gender equality should thus remain a focus and get a more prominent role in all sectors, going beyond numbers on women's participation. In particular, Member States encouraged SHS to continue their work on the rights of migrant women and urged CI to mainstream gender equality further in all programmes to ensure the inclusion of women and girls in the ongoing digital revolution. Other topics such as the gender dimensions of armed conflicts and of PCPD, women's leadership or the need for gender-sensitive leadership were discussed at length.

UNESCO's Gender Equality Champions

Congratulations to the San Jose SHS team for launching a vast work on gender equality and men's identities!

Starting on 25 November 2015, they organized a three-day conference to promote innovative approaches on masculinities for the promotion of gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event brought together representatives of judicial systems, public institutions, leading scholars, civil society and international organizations and was divided on seven panels: legal system, policies and masculinities; education; work; paternities and new family configurations; violence; violence against women; and media. Ground breaking work and methodologies on masculinities was presented and technical advice was provided to Costa Rican governmental and public institutions, in particular on public policies and legal frameworks. In addition, training was provided to 30 officials of Costa Rica's judiciary system, including judges, and six Honduran officials of the Programme of Family Counseling, who work with men. It was also the occasion for the team to collaborate with the Montevideo Field Office, which proved to be an "excellent and positive experience of Field Office collaboration"

Congratulations to Maki Hayashikawa and her team in ED for their work in finalizing the documents of the Joint Programme

"Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education" signed by the Director-General and the heads of UN-Women and UNFPA on 24 November 2015.

As explained by the Director General, "this partnership is a model that brings together our respective strengths to break the cycle of exclusion and vulnerability, to ensure that girls benefit from a full cycle of quality education, in line with the promise of Sustainable Development Goal 4."

Photo below: SHS team in San Jose Charaf Ahmimed, Programme Specialist, Sofia Quesada Montano, Consultant, and Angélica Barboza, Conference Coordinator.



A new step towards gender equality

In early November, the newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced his cabinet, which was praised for being gender balanced and diverse. He nominated women to several ministries and not only to more 'traditional' ones for women such as social/family affairs, health or youth. Among others, Mr. Trudeau named women as Minister of Justice, Minister of International Trade and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Canada now ranks No. 4 in the world in terms of percentage of women in ministerial positions (compared to No. 20 previously), tied with France and Liechtenstein and becomes one of only five countries in the world to achieve gender parity at the federal level.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Let's mainstream!

The aim of this section is to help colleagues mainstreaming gender equality considerations into their workplans and designing gender-specific ones. Please pay attention even if the workplan highlighted is from another sector, as methods are cross-sectorial.

Today, we focus on **Culture**, Activity n°1664, which aims to **develop and implement a global capacity building strategy to support States Parties of the 2003 Convention** for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to (i) create institutional and professional environments favorable to the sustainable safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and (ii) to promote broad public knowledge and support for the Convention's concepts and objectives.

Why is there a need to integrate gender equality? UNESCO observed that inventorying and safeguarding activities often remain silent about the significance of the different roles that different gender groups play in intangible cultural heritage and thus do not take them into account in strategies for safeguarding. This leads to missed opportunities since women play a major role in preserving and transmitting traditional knowledge and intangible cultural heritage. During the last General Conference, Member States also emphasized the fact that culture is a vehicle for the empowerment of women. In addition, the need to integrate a gender-responsive approach in the global capacity building strategy was pointed out by the 2013 evaluation by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Section.

How is the project addressing this need? To develop a gender-responsive approach, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section has commissioned a paper on both the relationship between Intangible Cultural Heritage and gender equality and on the possibilities of applying gender perspectives in safeguarding. The first part of the text describes the relationships between gender and intangible cultural heritage, while the second part is more practical, proposing possible ways of applying gender equality perspectives in safeguarding. Based on this first consolidation of knowledge on the matter, three things are planned: (i) a brochure summarizing the rationale and (ii) a full fledged unit for use in workshops on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to guide stakeholders in address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men in their safeguarding activities, and (iii) the integration of gender equality related questions in the existing materials. In addition, gender equality will be integrated in training sessions organized for colleagues, new facilitators and network members.

Expected result so far: All activities within the strategy aim at fully mobilizing all stakeholders (government, civil society and communities) in the decision making, administration and practical aspects of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on articulating policies and initiatives that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men.

GEM level: 2, gender responsive.

Gender Wire's movie selection

Suffragette (Sarah Gavron, UK) traces the violent story of women's access to voting rights in the UK. It has been commended for choosing to focus on the story of a working-class suffragette activists, rather than the upper-middle class women who were the movement's celebrities. After the movie's release, the hashtag #FilmHerStory – which was first introduced by Lexi Alexander, Miriam Bale, Catrin Cooper and Shaula Evans around the 2014 Awards – has been widely used on Twitter, along with suggestions for other 'herstorical' biopics and movies.



Gender Equality

Tools

New Gender Equality Marker (GEM) Criteria

Due to the SISTER simplification exercise, the Gender Equality Marker criteria were revised to be aligned with the new reporting categories (especially the replacement of the Result Framework by the Key Deliverables). The marker is still **mandatory** for each programme related workplan, and it is still organized according to a four-point scale: **0** – No (or marginal) contribution; **1** – Gender-sensitive; **2** – Gender-responsive; **3** – Gender-transformative. The following table summarizes the requirements to be met in order for the workplan to qualify for the different GEM scales:

Contribution level: Requirements:	0 – No (or marginal) contribution	1 – Gender-sensitive	2 – Gender-responsive	3 – Gender-transformative
Implementation Strategy includes	A justification why the activity cannot contribute to Priority Gender Equality. <i>For example: technical nature of the activity; absence of any discernible effect on human activity/livelihood and hence on gender relations;</i>	Gender analysis of the context of intervention, with or without sex disaggregated data	Evidence-based gender analysis identifying and acknowledging the existing differences and inequalities	(i) Evidence-based gender analysis identifying and acknowledging the existing differences and inequalities (ii) Underlying causes
Key deliverables include			Policies and initiatives that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men in the subject area of the activity	Policies and initiatives that (i) address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men in the subject area of the activity and (ii) challenge existing and discriminatory policies and practices

Did you know?!?

✚ According to the new UNFPA ‘State of the World Population’ report published in November, **507 women and adolescent girls die everyday** from complications of pregnancy and child-birth in emergency situations and fragile States.

✚ Women and men do not always present the same symptoms when facing the same medical condition. This is the case regarding heart attacks: instead of the hallmark chest pain symptom, women are likely to experience nausea, indigestion and shoulder aches when having a heart attack. Gender also needs to be mainstreamed in medical research!