


GENDER WIRE

6th Edition (Sept-Dec, 2016)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Screening of the documentary film “Why women need to climb mountains – A Journey through the life and work of Dr Gerda Lerner” (UNESCO HQ, 15 September):** The [event](#) was organized by the Permanent Delegation of Austria and the Permanent Delegation of the United States of America, in collaboration with the Division for Gender Equality. The documentary shows the courageous life and work of [Gerda Lerner](#) (1920-2013), a grassroots activist, a feminist author and a pioneer in the field of Women’s History. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the film director, Renata Keller.
- 
- **Eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender (Seoul, Korea - 30 September):** Dir/ODG/GE gave a keynote address at the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender, hosted by the [Korean Women’s Development Institute](#) (KWDI). This year’s Forum was entitled ‘Better Life for Girls: Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future’ and served as an arena to exchange ideas and discuss a way forward for the successful implementation of the South Korean government’s new initiative “Better Life for Girls”.
- **Round Table and exhibition on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child (UNESCO HQ – October):** UNESCO (the Division for Gender Equality and the Global Education Monitoring Team) and the Permanent Delegation of Canada organized a [Round Table](#) entitled “*Education and Gender Equality: The Perfect Partners for Development - Reflections on child, early and forced marriage – effects on school drop-outs*”. The event was also the occasion of the launch of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report Gender Review. The celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child culminated with an [exhibition](#) entitled “*Girls’ Voices: Speaking Out Against Child Marriage*”, with the collaboration of the NGO [Girls, Not Brides](#).
- 
- **Symposium “Technology and Women: Protection and Peril” (Pennsylvania, US – 20-21 October):** Dir/ODG/GE, gave the keynote address at the first [US symposium on “Technology](#)

[and Women: Protection and Peril](#)” organized at the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, [University of Pennsylvania](#). This symposium aimed at creating connectivity across content areas and perspectives, taking an approach that included offender behaviour, effects on victims, criminal justice intervention and ethical issues related to technology and VAW.

- **Second TeachHer Master Class in Central America (San Jose, Costa Rica – 14-18 November):** The week-long [training](#) gathered STEAM teachers from eight countries in the Central America region (Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá), school administrators, government representatives and other stakeholders to enhance and nurture the participation of women and girls in STEAM careers. The training was composed of formal sessions, presentations and group work, coordinated by Dr Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science and Technology in Latin America.



- **COP 22 thematic day on gender equality at the UNESCO Pavillon: Women, Science and Climate Change (Marrakesh, Morocco – 15 November):** The aim was to highlight the vision and action of UNESCO at the global level and those of other institutions at the local level to promote the key role of girls and women in the fight against climate change, through research and community action. Women still lag behind in scientific research while scientific and technological solutions are essential in the struggle for climate and sustainable development. The mobilization of all is necessary. Similarly, women's involvement in communities is crucial because they are severely affected by climate change, particularly in rural areas.

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (UNESCO HQ – 25 November):** ODG/GE set up an Orange Zone at Headquarters and conducted a rich social media campaign, successfully drawing attention to the effects of climate change in exacerbating violence against women and girls: a key theme for [this year's International Day](#) for the Elimination of Violence against Women campaign.



- **[Workshop](#) organised by the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) (Nairobi, Kenya - 24-25 November):** Participants exchanged experiences to enhance institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming in education, in the context of the [UNESCO-HNA Partnership](#) for Girls' and Women's Education's Hainan Funds-In-Trust (HFIT) project.

UNESCO's Gender Equality Champions

UNESCO Office in San Jose: Gender Equality training in the Field

After the Arab Region, the new round of Priority Gender Equality Trainings in the field was rolled out to Central America for the San Jose Office, with the participation of 21 staff members, 17 women and 4 men. The training, provided in both English and Spanish, was the occasion for staff members to refresh key GE concepts, understand UNESCO's approach to the Global Priority and work on gender mainstreaming with practical and contextual exercises. After the feedback received in previous trainings, the Division decided to extend the training from half to one full day, which allowed staff members to deepen their knowledge in concrete areas related to their work. All participants showed great commitment and took advantage of the one-on-one sessions to improve their skills on gender mainstreaming.



UNESCO Field Offices joined the campaign to end violence against women

UNESCO Offices in Apia, Bamako, Bangkok, Beijing, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Harare, Havana, Islamabad, Jakarta, Juba, Kingston, Libreville, Montevideo, Quito, Rabat, Ramallah, San Jose, Santiago, Sarajevo, Venice, Windhoek and Yaoundé, participated in UNESCO's [social media campaign](#) to end violence against women on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on 25 November. Among other activities, UNESCO released a mosaic with UNESCO staff members all over the world dressed in orange and holding the sign *#orangetheworld*, orange being the official UN colour of the day. The campaign disseminated via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram reached over 758,000 people around the world.

ODG/GE would particularly like to congratulate UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa (Sahel) in Dakar for their [brilliant campaign](#) for the "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women" in which they produced a total of 16 radio shows, one radio show broadcasted for each day of the campaign, in partnership with West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR). Each show addressed different themes related to GBV: impunity for perpetrators, vulnerability for displaced girls, safety of women journalists, and many more.



In the news!

200th Session of the Executive Board

The topics of Gender Equality and women's empowerment were often present in the debates during the 200th session of the Executive Board, both within the general policy debate and within specific items related to programmes or to management.

Within the **general policy debate**, the majority of Member States encouraged UNESCO's gender-transformative approach in implementation of SDGs. Member States also highlighted the crosscutting significance of gender equality and requested that 39 C/5 should reflect this spirit when developing gender-specific projects and mainstreaming gender in all programmes and initiatives. Member States also noted that budgetary provisions should be ensured to support Priority Gender Equality.

Within the debate in the **Joint Meeting of FA/PX Commissions**, Member States welcomed the focused approach in the proposal on 2030 agenda and asked for more intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach, inter alia in mainstreaming Gender Equality in all programmes. Following the discussions, an amendment to the draft decision (a new paragraph 5 under item 13.I proposed by the Group of Friends of Priority Gender Equality) was adopted, which reads as follows: *"5. Further underscores the importance of a gender transformative perspective in all Major Programmes including high quality SMART gender equality performance indicators to ensure UNESCO's contribution to the cross cutting significance as well as the stand-alone goal of gender equality in Agenda 2030;"*

Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence

In October 2016, UNESCO joined as a Partner to the [Call to Action](#) on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. The Call to Action, formally launched in 2013 by the United Kingdom and Sweden, aims to fundamentally transform the way GBV is addressed in humanitarian operations via the collective action of numerous partners, each bringing their various strengths and capacities to the table. The goal is to drive change and foster accountability within the humanitarian sphere. The Call to Action brings together an impressive range of stakeholders with a transparent governance structure. It offers a clear and measurable roadmap that can substantially increase accountability, collective action and concrete programmes on gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies.

During the Ceremony for UNESCO to join as a Partner to the Call to Action, the Director-General declared: "[...] I pledge today my determination to bring all of UNESCO's expertise, its UNESCO's networks, to take this forward".

Let's Mainstream: Help Card on Gender Equality

ODG/GE and BSP/MLP released a Help Card on **Gender Mainstreaming in your projects funded by the European Union** (EU). Promoting equality between women and men is a core value of the EU and is enshrined in its legal and political framework. The EU is and remains at the forefront of the protection and fulfilment of girls' and women's rights worldwide and vigorously promotes them in its external relations. To ensure EU funding, integrating gender equality in all proposals is thus crucial, during the whole project cycle, including its monitoring and evaluation.

The [GE Help Card](#) explains:

- ❖ **WHY** is integrating Gender Equality into your project proposals so important
- ❖ **WHAT** should you understand and remember when drafting your project proposal and during the whole project cycle
- ❖ **HOW** to integrate Gender Equality into your project

Gender Wire's Selections

Series – Good Girls Revolt

Good Girls Revolt is a feminist drama series created by Dana Calvo, and based on the book *The Good Girls Revolt*, by Lynn Povich (2012).

Set in the late 1960s, *Good Girls Revolt* tells the story of women researchers inside the weekly magazine "News of the Week", fighting for equal rights. While women did the hard work, networked and carried out the research and documentation, their male counterparts took all the prestige: the articles were published under the men's names only. The women decide to join forces and file a lawsuit against the magazine to demand equal pay and the right to publish articles.

The series is partly based on real facts, and includes Eleanor Holmes Norton (played by Joy Bryant), a driving force behind the landmark sex discrimination suit at Newsweek, on which the series is based.

Book – On Black Sisters’ Street

On Black Sisters’ Street, written by Chika Nina Unigwe in 2009, tells the story of four very different African women: Sisi, Ama, Efe and Joyce, who moved to Europe to try and find a better future. They find themselves in Antwerp’s red-light district, thrown together by bad luck and big dreams into a sisterhood that will change their lives.

On Black Sisters’ Street marks the debut of Chika Unigwe, a brilliant new writer and a standout voice among contemporary African authors.

?!?! Did You Know ?!?!

2016 Retrospective: it wasn’t all bad news for women and gender equality!

- Participation in the Olympic Games **nearly reached parity** in 2016, with the record participation of 46% women, compared to 23% in 1984, 34% in 1996, and 42% in 2012.
- Canada and the US voted to have Viola Desmond and Harriet Tubman in their \$10 bill and \$20 bill, respectively, both being the **first-ever black women to be recognized** on paper currency in each country.
- In 2016, Japan cracked a glass ceiling when **Tokyo elected its first female governor** in a landslide victory. In her campaign, she referenced female historical icons, including Joan of Arc, and pledged to tackle childcare shortages “so that both women and men can shine in Tokyo.”
- Spain gets rid of fascist **named streets to honor Women** instead. A government survey of seven major world cities found that only 27.5% of streets were named after women, but this trend is changing.
- New **gender-sensitive emojis** were developed. First proposed by Google and then by Apple, a new set of female and male professional emojis is now available on our cellphones. Do you have an emoji idea? Now everyone can propose, help close the gender gap by proposing here: <http://unicode.org/emoji/selection.html>
- 2016 saw Gambia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe ban child marriage. In December only, 300 communities across four African countries pledged to abandon child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).