



UNITED NATIONS CSW63 11 MARCH – 22 MARCH 2019

A Summary



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United Nations CSW63: 11 March 2019

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Opening Session

The opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place within the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations Building and officially opened the Commission. It began with speeches by the chairperson, Geraldine Byrne Nason, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and from numerous other important people within the UN framework such as the President of the Economic and Security Council and the Executive Director of UN Women. There was also an address to the General Assembly on behalf of Civil Society made by a young Pakistani Women in a wheelchair and a young woman from the South Sudan who spoke about their experiences and their future dreams for women, as women. General discussion was then opened up to the floor. The following actors were given 10 mins to speak on the Commission and the regions they were representing:

- State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China
- Nigeria on behalf of G7 and China
- Romania on behalf of European Union
- Norway on behalf of UN LGBTI Core Group
- Algeria on behalf of group of Arab states
- Nauru on behalf of Pacific
- Nigeria on behalf of West African states
- Thailand on behalf of south east Asia

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – A Global Perspective

Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission

This event was run by Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission and detailed not only the Australian experience of sexual harassment in the workplace but also global experiences, including those within the United Nations itself. Kelly O'Dwyer, the Australian Minister for Women, first spoke about the Australian experience and how sexual harassment in the workplace effects both the individual and the economy, through reduced productivity, high staff turnover and early retirement. She made the point that we need to look at the issue as more than one of 'being nice to women,' but also from an economic perspective. Terry Duguid, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality in Canada, then spoke about new legislative reform in Canada, which addresses sexual harassment in Federal workplaces. The Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, spoke about the annual sexual harassment in the workplace survey created by the Australian Human Rights Commission and detailed the National Inquiry being completed in relation to workplace sexual harassment. Jan Beagle, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management, Feride Acar, the Chair of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe, and Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations and the Director of the International Labour Organisation, also spoke about their own experiences and knowledge about harassment in the workplace.

- Moderator: Purna Sen, the UN Spokesperson on Addressing Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Discrimination

- Kelly O'Dwyer, Minister for Women, Jobs and Infrastructure
 - o Sexual harassment in workplace
 - o Impact on financial security, health and wellbeing
 - o 4th AUS sexual harassment in workplace survey:
 - 39% (1 in 3) of women surveyed had experienced harassment in last five years
 - 79%perpetrators were male
 - o National Inquiry – recommendations, help employers to reduce prevalence of workplace harassment
 - o Difficult to move on from jobs when perpetrator is one required for reference
 - o Reduced productivity, high staff turnover, absenteeism, early retire
 - Costs economy
 - o Look at issue from more than 'be nice to women' perspective, have to look at it from economic perspective as well
- Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality in Canada
 - o New workplace harassment legislation within Federally regulated industries, including parliament
 - o Reporting to government as to prevalence
 - o Requirement to inquire and investigate any reports
 - o Brings parliamentary employees under protection – previous provisions did not
 - o June 2017 – National Strategy to prevent GBV
- Kate Jenkins, Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner
 - o Told story about migrant worker from Cambodia who was being molested and threatened that she would lose visa if she didn't submit
 - Was not until met union representative that she found out it was unlawful
 - o Sexual harassment is global – not just something that affects actresses and typical employees
 - o Australia's Journey:
 - AUS women's organisations began to place pressure on the legislation on the prohibition of sexual harassment in 1970s
 - Since 1984, consecutive sex discrimination commissioners have placed elimination of sexual harassment as priority
 - Yearly survey into sexual harassment
 - o #MeToo has created resurgence of care about sexual harassment
 - o National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces – researching, reporting, educating
 - Nature and prevalence
 - Drivers and impacts (including economic)
 - Adequacy of legal framework
 - Impact of technology
 - Measures to combat
 - Clear themes are starting to emerge
 - Key drivers: abuse of power and gender inequality, normalisation and tolerance, poor responses and consequences, lack of diversity inn leadership ranks
 - Occurs in every industry, location and level
 - Remote and isolated workplaces create higher risks

- Migrant workers, workers with disability, LGBTI workers and people on casual or insecure work are at a higher risk
 - Mental health impacts are devastating
 - Numerous long-term affects
 - Legal framework relies too much on bravery of individual victims to take on difficulty of legal system
 - Need to remove responsibility from victims to management and government
 - Taking on submissions
 - Findings will have relevance internationally
- Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General for Management
 - Hails from New Zealand
 - Moment of major cultural shift
 - Need to take on workplace culture – underreporting, lack of action
 - Complex system of UN – huge amount of staff from numerous cultures and backgrounds
 - Makes it difficult to combat something so culturally based such as sexual harassment
 - New sexual harassment policy framework for UN system
 - Prevention and support important
 - Speedier processes
 - Wide scope of application – anyone can come with complaint
 - Had to look at retaliation and victimisation
 - Data – previously very ‘spotty’, needed uniform way to collect data
 - Database to prevent perpetrators moving around organisation – ‘Clear Check’
 - Awareness and training
 - Working towards Code for Events and Delegates – what is expected of people when they attend UN event
 - Conducted survey
 - Much like Australian survey, 1/3 had experienced sexual harassment
 - Encouraging though – 70% felt agency had zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment
 - Limited by investigative services i.e. don’t have specialised investigators
- Feride Acar, Chair of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe
 - Istanbul Convention
 - First legally binding instrument in Europe
 - Lists types of violence against women that need to be legally sanctioned
 - Lists actors who need to be involved i.e. police, child protective service
 - Obliges state parties to approach problem of sexual harassment as part of gender inequality
 - Implementation is dependent widely on funding and political will
 - Need to integrate into existing systems
- Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director, International Labour Organisation
 - Economic issue

- Impacts productivity, caregiving etc.
- New standard
- No common understanding between countries previously – need for international instrument to protect workers
 - Relies on experience and puts in place a convention that holds a reporting mechanism
 - Key concepts of gender-based violence and harassment
- Culture of intolerance in relation to sexual harassment
- Impact of pornography

United Nations CSW63: 12 March 2019

Can there be peace and security without women's human rights defenders?

Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, Peru, Tunisia, UK, International Service for Human Rights and Amnesty International

This side event was centred around human rights defenders and their contribution to peace and security. First, the Norwegian Minister for International Development detailed the work Norway has been doing in relation to women, peace and security and also outlined that female human rights defenders are more exposed to attacks and susceptible to gender based violence. This was a sentiment reiterated throughout the presentation. Another important point was made by the UN Permanent Representative from Peru, who stated that the safety of human rights defenders is directly connected to the wellbeing of the communities in which they work. The representatives from Côte d'Ivoire and Colombia spoke in their native languages and a lack of translating devices meant that I missed out on understanding their presentations. Probably the most important part of the event was the presentation by a human rights defender from Chechnya, who tearfully informed us that by being at the United Nations and speaking about her experiences, she would most likely suffer reprisals upon her return home. This was particularly driven home by the fact that the Chechnyan President has stated that human rights defenders are worse than terrorists. A documentary maker was also present, and she told us a story about how whilst filming in Yemen, she and her guides were accosted by a couple of ISIS men. The situation was quickly diffused though as the wife of the guide knew the mother of one of the men and told him in no uncertain terms that she would be hearing about this. It really shows the unique way in which women are able to be peacebuilders. It should be noted though that it became quite heated in the question portion of the event, when a Yemeni man agreed that human rights defenders were worse than terrorists and then started verbally berating the documentary maker. Lots of raised voices, but it was quickly put a stop to, and he ended up giving a practical example about the adversaries that human rights defenders face.

- Minister for International Development, Norway
 - o Risk violence
 - o More exposed to attacks
 - o Need women human rights defenders to properly assess situation
 - o Oppression of human rights fighters is threat to equality and peace and security
 - o Need to support women
 - Free and safe to fight
 - o More can be done
 - o Norway – Women, peace and security National Action Plan
- UN Permanent Representative for Peru
 - o Essential for peacekeeping and peacebuilding
 - o Open to gender-based violence
 - o Need to create safer spaces
 - o Effort for protection needs to be redoubled
 - o Safety of human rights defenders directly connected to wellbeing of community
- Côte d'Ivoire
 - o Resolution 1325: women, peace and security
 - o Needs of women before and after conflict

- Spoken in French
- Chair of Working Group
 - Human rights defenders make essential contributions
 - Acknowledge and report abuses
 - At forefront of shaping social and cultural norms
 - Gender particular threats
 - Constantly left out from peace- and decision-making processes
 - Prevalence of sexual abuse in conflict
 - Persistence of stereotypes and cultural norms persists in post-conflict settings
 - Conflict can sometimes lead to regression in women's rights and gender equality
 - Securing women's involvement in peace processes
 - Creates sustainable peace
- Colombia
 - Spoken in Spanish
- Gistam Sakaeva, Chechnya
 - "Human Rights defenders worse than terrorists" – Chechnyan President
 - HR defenders imprisoned, tortured
 - They raise questions about disappearances and torture
 - Fieldwork is dependent on international community and support
 - Born and live in a country with no rights or democracy
 - Will face threats when returns home
- Documentary maker
 - Yemen
 - Interesting how governments interact with human rights defenders and documentary makers
 - Documentary makers are able to speak truth of what happens, especially governments do not
 - Women use connections to create peace
 - Yemen story
 - Women realise effects of war because they see the social fabrics falling apart
- Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders
 - Next report focusing on women
- Consideration of widows in conflict

Social Protection Systems and Access to Public Services in the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN and Arise Foundation

This incredibly interesting event was run by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to UN and Arise Foundation. Archbishop Bernardito Auza started off by running through the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and reminding us all that no matter what the practical implications are, we need to see survivors as human beings. The second speaker was from the Arise Foundation and he spoke about the challenges that civil society organisations face in their fight against human trafficking, including a lack of resources and people not being aware of the work they do or the help they can get. The next presentation was by Sister Sherly Joseph from the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who spoke about how important education is to enfranchise young women and create community resilience. Other speakers spoke about the further need for increased

healthcare, economic empowerment access to justice in order to even begin to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. For example, in Albania there is a population of 2.8 million people, but only 4 psychiatric hospitals, 614 hospital beds and 1 doctor to every 200,000 people. This suggests that if a victim of trafficking were to have contact with a healthcare professional, they would not receive the appropriate specific care due to lack of resources. A final important point that was made is that countries need to cooperate more to ensure that victims and survivors are acknowledge and properly cared for across all countries.

- Archbishop Bernardito Auza
 - o Promise of the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Targets of the 2030 Agenda
 - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>
 - o Without access to social protections, the likelihood of trafficking and modern slavery is much more likely
 - o Survivors and those that need rehabilitation also need access after the fact
 - o No matter what practical implications are, need to see survivors as human beings
- Luke de Pulford, Arise Foundation
 - o Founded to confront slavery through networks of frontline abolitionist networks by:
 - Providing resources
 - Amplifying frontline voices
 - o Support can help networks effectively do their work
 - o Civil Society Organisations:
 - Crucial to democracy
 - Crucial to functioning social protections
 - Monitor, hold accountable, help to access social protections
 - o SDG 1.3 – most important today
 - o ‘If you can’t access the safety net, you will be more vulnerable to exploitation’
 - o Why people don’t access social protections?
 - Indifference
 - Programs are opaque and inaccessible
 - Presented as “for the poor”
 - Uncertainty about how they work
 - Not knowing about them
 - Issues with eligibility
 - o Civil society helps to enfranchise people and make them aware
 - o Shrinking civil society space – especially in affected countries
 - o Resources not getting through – both financial and capacity building
 - o Unable to meet needs
- Sr. Sherly Joseph, Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
 - o Social worker working with trafficked women in India
 - o 65% female literacy rates in India vs. 80% global average
 - o Girls in India drop out of school early, opportunity to work is seen as more important
 - Leads to many being in child slavery
 - o Lack of education exposes women to exploitation
 - Don’t know any better

- I.e. getting incredibly low wages due to lack of numeracy skills
 - Traffickers prey on uneducated women
 - Impoverished and uneducated more commonly trafficked
 - Lured into cities for 'employment'
 - 'Greener pastures'
 - Education, formal and informal is key to community resilience
 - Education will raise crucial community resilience
 - Being able to resist trafficking
 - Education in rural areas needs to be strengthened
 - Access to justice
 - Inequality and social injustice cannot be neglected
- Dr Ludy Green, Agency on Counter-Trafficking (USAID)
 - Survey – went back to abusers because they were financially trapped
 - Economic dependency
 - Created only US employment agency for victims of domestic violence/human trafficking
 - Networks with employers
 - Served over 8 000 women thus far
 - Human rights abuse that has no boundaries
 - Over 24 million people are trafficked or within forced labour
- Sabjola Bregu
 - Psychologists working with Albanian women and girls in the UK
 - Mental health impacts – PTSD
 - Unwanted pregnancies, STDS, diseases
 - Health services are central to a survivor's recovery
 - Doctors, counsellors etc. need to support survivors
 - Cannot be done when resources are limited, including time
 - i.e. in Albania - 4 psychiatric hospitals, 615 beds, 3 doctors per 200,000 people (population of 2.8 million people)
 - Healthcare professionals have unique access to community, including most vulnerable
 - If properly trained, can be 'eyes and ears' to identify trafficking etc.
 - Community based health services needed in most affected communities
 - Healthcare professionals central to anti-trafficking plans and policies
 - Healthcare professionals need to be trained to be sensitive to and understand the needs of survivors
 - Need adequate investment in mental health services
- Kevin Hyland, Former UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
 - Disproportionately affects women and girls – 72% of those trafficked
 - 'What's in it for me' vs. 'what can I do for you'
 - Gender issue – echoing women as second-class citizens
 - Health, family, development, governance
 - Look at partnerships to cooperate with
 - i.e. when you identify victims, who will look after them afterwards?
 - Need for change in prevention
 - Increased education for healthcare professionals
 - Increased need to utilise education
 - We are all most likely contributors to supply chain
 - i.e. resources (cobalt) to make phone batteries likely mined by young girls in overseas countries

- Idea that this is too difficult needs to be dismissed
 - Need justice now, not in 5 years
 - Need to be voices that demands justice and realigns the moral compass of the world
- Nations need to actively agree to resource procurement free of trafficking
- Tatiana Kotyarenko
 - Relevant SDGs need to be applied by governments
 - Trauma sensitive approaches
 - Faith based organisations are at the forefront of global campaigns and providing aid in affected areas
- Lisa Macleod, Responsible Minister for Women's Issues, Ontario
 - Labour trafficking is an issue
 - Sex trafficking – this could now be the girl next door
 - Social media taking toll on young women – grooming, coercing
 - 'You can sell cocaine once, you can sell a young girl numerous times'
 - Many girls trafficked along major transportation lines
 - Need transportation services to be aware
- Policy – making sure victims are recognised in every country

Access to STEM Education and Infrastructure Careers for Women and Girls in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands

New Zealand and New Zealand Human Rights Commission

This presentation was sponsored by the New Zealand Government and the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and was focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, but mostly in NZ. In NZ, STEM is a huge opportunity to decrease the gender pay gap as most STEM jobs pay more than the average NZ wage. The issue lies in trying to overcome barriers that disable young girls from entering this field. For example, one of the speakers, Alexia Hilbertidou, felt quite isolated as the only female in many of her STEM classes and faced many negative attitudes in relation to her involvement in the field. To overcome this, she started GirlBoss NZ, an organisation of over 10,000 young NZ women, which encourages young girls to get involved in the industry rather than be daunted by it. Another solution that was presented was that we need to overcome gender biases and stereotypes from an early age. For example, being in a career because we enjoy it, rather than just because it's the 'girl' thing to do. Overall, this was a very positive presentation that focused on encouraging women to participate in STEM for the benefit of society and infrastructure.

- STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) is a big opportunity to decrease gender pay gap
 - Tech jobs pay well above average NZ wage
- Alexia Hilbertidou, CEO GirlBoss NZ
 - GirlBoss: close gap in entrepreneurship, STEM
 - Felt isolated in STEM classes at school
 - Created to help women who are 'the only woman' in science classes/lectures etc.
 - Network of 10,500 young NZ women
 - Change Make Her
 - Within 60 schools in NZ and Cook Islands

- Encourages community and girls to participate in STEM
 - Sharing startling statistics encourages rather than scares off
 - Uses activist language
- Dr Sophie Dawson, Associate Director of EY New Zealand
 - Diversity of skills, culture and background
 - Creates better working places
 - STEM is still very male-dominated
 - Holistic approaches
 - i.e. not just building a prison, but also working out how to prevent re-offending
 - Disproportionate gender divide in job applications
 - i.e. 20 male applicants vs 1 female applicant
 - Try to start to encourage women while in university
 - Further programs to encourage promotion of women
 - Flexibility is key factor to keep women within infrastructure sector
 - Amplifying contribution of women
- Renee Graham, Chief Executive, Ministry for Women New Zealand
 - Gender pay gap
 - Getting education, but still taking up lesser paid traditional roles i.e. nurses, hairdressers
 - Freedom of choice of career
 - Knowledge and encouragement of freedom of choice
 - Pathways to improving careers
 - i.e. owning 20 salons, not just 1
 - Curious Minds Program
 - Encourages school kids to take up STEM subjects
- Darryl-Lee Wendelborn, Managing Director of Beca NZ
 - Values diversity
 - Broader minds deliver better solutions
 - Single solution won't work, need a suite of solution
 - Overcoming labels
 - Do things just because you enjoy them, not because it's a 'girl thing'
 - Get in front of it – telling children anyone can do a job before they become too aware of biases
 - Changing ways together
 - Inclusive and flexible environments

Women Monitor the Implementation of the WPS Agenda: Presentation of the UNSCR 1325 Scorecard

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and Cordaid

This event was run by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders in conjunction with Cordaid. It spoke about civil society monitoring of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which is a resolution concerned with women, peace and security. As a result of 1325, 81 countries now have National Action Plans in relation to women, peace and security. We have one within Australia and relevant government departments each have their own implementation plans based off the National Action Plan. This resolution is also supported by Resolution 1889, which provides key indicators for how the implementation of 1325 should be monitored by countries. These key indicators have been

quite contentious amongst member states, particularly the ones concerned with the regulation of small arms, and currently zero member states are using them. This is where civil society has stepped up in the monitoring sphere, as Governments will typically not be open to criticizing themselves, nor do they always ask the most effective questions of themselves. An important thing to keep in mind about 1325 and National Action Plans on women, peace and security is that the funding for these plans is quite difficult, especially in places where they need them most, so implementation is not always easy. This event was also basically a sales pitch for the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders' own scorecard that they created and is being used by civil society in Afghanistan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- 81 WPS National Action Plans
- Civil society monitoring
- Set of indicators for monitoring – Resolution 1889
 - o 56 indicators
 - o Zero member states using
 - o Contentious amongst member states
 - Particularly regulation of small arms
 - Government will not typically criticise themselves, don't always ask the right questions of themselves
- Hard to monitor by civil society
 - o Too many indicators – collected over 3500
 - o GNWP and Unifam (UN Women)
- Indicators that were locally applicable and locally acceptable
- Scorecard used in Burundi, Afghanistan and Congo
 - o Targeted at civil society audiences for their own monitoring within their countries
 - o Local and national levels
 - o 25 indicators
 - Framework for effective monitoring
 - o Should be used as in-depth reflection
- Funding of NAP is difficult in countries where it is most needed

Women's Protection Teams: Building Sustainable Protective Infrastructures in South Sudan

Nonviolent Peaceforce and Graduate Women International

This event began as an introduction to Graduate Women International and their work, particularly in relation to gender-based violence. It then talked about the work of Nonviolent Peaceforce in South Sudan. This NGO fosters and works with 'Women Protection Teams' in South Sudan, to allow women in this region to use their own capacity in order to build peace and non-violently protect themselves and their communities. For example, armed cattle keepers would migrate through communities and commit murder, rape and child abduction. Within one particular community, the Women Protection Team decided to hold a meeting with the cattle farmers, facilitated by Nonviolent Peaceforce and they came to an agreement with the cattle farmers that they would not commit atrocities whilst moving through the communities. Other Women Protection Teams have joined with other women from different ethnic groups to negotiate and find common ground in order to foster peace. Women Protection Teams also patrol risky areas, map insecure areas and design of

protection strategies, provide accompaniment to other women, information share with other women about safe areas and develop local peace initiatives. Another important role that Nonviolent Peaceforce plays in South Sudan is rumour control. Within these regions, a tiny rumour can snowball quickly and turn into violent conflict. This being said, there are also many challenges in working with Women Protection Teams. For example, it is still a massively patriarchal society and the idea of women 'protecting' does not sit well in certain communities.

- Critical moment in time where we must acknowledge that the safety of women and girls is in constant peril
- Gender-based violence: can be indirect or direct
 - o Includes human trafficking
 - o No boundaries
 - o Exists in both private or public spheres
 - o Can be committed by both genders
 - o In many situations, girls are blamed for what has happened to them
 - o Most vulnerable: ethnic groups, unaccompanied women and children, disabled, elderly, refugees
- Nonviolent Peaceforce
 - o 200 people in South Sudan
- Key message: unarmed civilian protection is important and helps communities to protect themselves
- Strengthening local peace structures
 - o Make peace sustainable
- Women protecting women non-violently
 - o Women Protection Teams
 - Regular migration/pastoralist
 - Cattle keepers sometimes come armed, high risk of violence
 - o Group of women came to Nonviolent Peaceforce
 - Wanted peace dialogue to protect community
 - Women were able to agree with cattle keepers that there would be no killings, abductions etc.
- Women have capacity to create own peace strategies
 - o Not telling people what they need to do, but rather facilitating their capacity
- Key pillars:
 - o Context analysis
 - o Community engagement
 - Find out what needs to be done
 - Need to let people know the purpose of the presence in the communities
 - o Needs and capacity recognition
 - What is it that a community can do?
 - o Relationship building
- Training for women
 - o Important that training transcends traditional understanding of how to train people
 - o Conflict mitigation
 - o i.e. more practical training, demonstrations, immersion
- 'Rumour control' – little rumour can snowball into massive violence
- Building trust and confidence between women and authorities

- Activities by Women Protection Teams (WPTs)
 - Prevention:
 - Patrol of risky areas
 - Mapping of insecure areas and design of protection strategies
 - Provide accompaniment to other women
 - Information sharing with other women about safe areas
 - Bridging communities across ethnic lines
 - Develop local peace initiatives
 - Response:
 - Information dissemination of referral mechanisms
 - Refer and accompany other women to access services
 - Advocacy: protection and security meetings
- Women's protection concerns
 - Sexual and gender-based violence outside camps
 - Domestic violence and sexual harassment within the camp
 - Petty crimes
 - Inter-communal fighting

United Nations CSW63: 13 March 2019

Australian Women's Shelters filling essential services gap left by Government policies

Annie North Inc., Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Service, Centre for Non-Violence and Australian Women Against Violence Alliance

This event was an Australian event, which focused on the actions of the Australian Government and state governments when it comes to domestic violence in Australia. Some startling statistics were reported; 1-2 women are dying from domestic violence per week in Australia and the police are called out on average every 2 mins for a domestic violence incident. After reflecting on what was presented, it is incredibly evident that Australian policy leaves some glaring gaps that are being filled by Australian domestic violence organisations and shelters. For example, if a woman migrates to Australia with her husband, she comes with no protections. So, if she is beaten by her husband, she is unable to leave him because as a non-resident she cannot access government social services. This leaves her trapped. If she is able to make contact with a domestic violence service, it takes up to two years (and a lot of money) for her to gain residency and/or prove the violence that was committed against her. In many cases, the husband will deny that he even knows his wife and authorities are reluctant to investigate any further. This can lead to the woman being sent back to her country and facing the ire of her family. Further to this point, in order for a migrant woman to gain residency under Australian domestic violence provisions, they need to have hard evidence that violence occurred, which is hard to obtain. Whilst the women that do connect with domestic violence services eventually gain some self-determination and dignity back, all thanks to the services helping them, it places a massive financial burden on the organisations for 2 years. Another policy gap in Australia is the 'ParentsNext' program. This program places undue burden on women and reinforces stereotypes of women having primary care responsibilities. It is evident that the Australian Government needs to talk to and coordinate with civil society and domestic violence organisations more to ensure that these gaps are filled, and all women are protected within Australia from domestic violence.

- Condoning, controlling men, stereotypes, toxic masculinity – all key drivers of domestic violence
- Annie North Women's Refuge and Domestic Violence Response Service
 - o Women's shelter, crisis response, therapeutic support, case management, advocacy, children's programs
- Centre for Non-Violence
 - o Family violence crisis response, outreach, case management, therapeutic support, men's behaviour change programs, mental health, alcohol and other drugs programs, child safety programs
 - o Integrated support for entire family
 - o Research focus with policy contributions
 - o Training within community
- Australian Women Against Violence Alliance
 - o National Women's Alliance focused on all forms of violence against women
- Australian context:
 - o Welfare state – dwindling
 - o National Plan for Domestic Violence – 12 years

- Clear that there is a need for another 12-year plan and a long-term commitment
- 4th plan will focus on intersectionality and marginalised women
- Some states are dealing with DV better than others
- Increased focus o DV throughout Australia
- Women reporting violence is increasing but frontline services are drastically under resourced
- 1-2 women dying per week
- Police being called out every 2 mins
- Some good programs trying to combat DV in Australia: Our Watch etc.
- Know what structural drivers are and lots of research to show how to fix this
- Australia still has high levels of toxic masculinity, racism
- Going to take long term investment and work to try and change the norms
- <https://youtu.be/fLUVWZvVZXw>
- Still Government policies that contradict work of frontline services
- Increased pressure on women's shelters – women on temporary visas
 - The need to strengthen front-line women's shelter responses as providers of essential services
 - Culturally and linguistically diverse women disproportionality impacted
 - Labour and sexual servitude
 - Early and forced marriage
 - Told by perpetrator that what is happening is legal
 - No income support from Government, as they have no residency status
 - Up to two years wait under cloud of potential deportation
 - Prove relationship and prove domestic violence
 - Usually perpetrator tells authorities that victim married him for 'green card', takes all identity documents
 - Typical policy line taken by government
 - Shelters and community shoulder responsibility until residency is granted
- Drivers:
 - Sexist gender norms
 - Stereotyped gender roles and norms
 - Creates society where women are treated less
 - Individual and relationship inequalities
 - Social and economic isolation
 - Tolerance
- Grassroots women's shelters filling the gaps in social protection systems
 - Policies further entrench inequalities
 - Income support policies
 - State Gov. having to pick up financial slack
 - Shelters have to step into the gap to provide essential services for up to two years
 - Form of trafficking – men bringing wives (through early or forced marriage) to Australia and abusing them
 - No income or welfare support – basic human rights issue
 - Further entrenchment of social and financial inequalities
- Interventions and supports provided: all paid for by Annie North Inc., a lot of fundraising had to occur
 - Safe and secure refuge for four months and then ongoing accommodation in a safe house for 2 years

- Risk and safety assessment and care plan
- Financial support from the refuge and donations
- Medical attention to support to document evidence and report to the police
- Support to gather evidence and support her application for permanent residency and apply for divorce
- Clothes and food, along with financial donations
- English classes, counselling and group work
- Art therapy
- Connection with other women
- Driving lessons
- Outcomes
 - Safety and independence
 - Healthy and happy
 - Social mobility and connection in the community
 - Safe and secure accommodation
 - Increased confidence
 - Employment
 - Recovery and self-worth through knowing rights
- System failures which disproportionately disadvantage women
 - Essential services
 - Income support
 - Community donations and community generosity
 - Labour intensive for women's shelters
 - Hinders empowerment, dignity and hope
- "ParentsNext"
 - <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/parentsnext>
 - Mutual obligation, mandatory participation
 - Disproportionately impacts women, especially Indigenous women
 - Punitive
 - Breaches human rights
 - Entrenches poverty and inequality
 - Misuse of Government power
 - Impacts:
 - Manipulation and control
 - Deserving and compliance monitoring rather than empowering and preventative
 - Social mandate to a higher level of expectation for women in their parenting responsibilities
 - Reinforces stereotypes of women have primary care responsibilities
 - Discriminatory towards single mothers and indigenous peoples
- What is needed:
 - No, to punitive, mandatory and discriminatory income and welfare support policies
 - Yes, to a rights-based approach to social security payments
 - Recognition of human rights obligations
 - Recognition of the value of parenting

Successes and Setbacks in Eradicating Child Marriage Globally: A Comparison of Laws, Policies and Attitudes

Unchained at Last and Zonta International

This event was in relation to child and forced marriages and covered perspectives from Afghanistan, Kenya, India and the USA. In Afghanistan, 1 in 3 girls are married before the age of 18. There are many contributing factors to this such as a lack of law enforcement and the precedence of customary law, and different areas throughout the country have different responses. For example, a response in an urban area would be completely different from a response in a Taliban-controlled area (which would technically be no response). In Kenya, once again traditional backgrounds and cultures contribute to the high prevalence of child marriage and is further reinforced by practices such as female-genital mutilation. India is the most dangerous place in the world for women, and child marriage is perpetuated by the cultural notion that girls are a 'burden,' and parents should attempt to offload them as soon as possible. There are huge age gaps between the girls and the men are they are marrying and although there are laws prohibiting child marriage, parents easily work around and/or ignore these. The most surprising of the bunch was the US, which is the 10th most dangerous place in the world for women. The fact that these forced marriages involve minors, makes it very difficult for girls forced into marriage to access the system and it is very evident that the legislation in all States needs to be re-examined. Some solutions presented were; education, engaging families and men and improved legislation and implementation.

- US is 10th most dangerous place in the world for women, India is the first
- Child marriage occurs around the world every 3 seconds
- How can we improve education/maternal mortality when 13-year old's, who should be in school and are still developing, are getting married?
 - o Education is the most important thing to affected girls
- Domino effect of western countries banning child marriage
- Afghanistan
 - o 1 in 3 girls married before 18
 - o Highest number of child brides
 - o So many contributing factors
 - Lack of law enforcement
 - Laws are there but not followed in communities
 - Customary law and traditions take precedence
 - Judicial systems reinforce
 - There are traditionally trained lawyers which follow the written law, then there are Sharia lawyers that are more focused on traditions and customs
 - o Different areas have different responses
 - City vs. rural vs. Taliban-controlled areas
- Kenya
 - o 3% married before 18, 15% before 13
 - o Traditional background/culture
 - Maasai – 90% married before 18, female genital mutilation supposedly prepares them for marriage
 - o Kenya set up law, but girls were then trafficked as a work around
 - o Contributors: poverty, lack of education (parents won't pay for further education)

- India
 - “Girls are burden”: parents feel they need to get rid of them as soon as possible
 - 27% child marriages – largest in world in terms of numbers because of large population
 - Data sets are based on school dropouts, maternal health
 - Huge age gaps between girls and the men they are marrying
 - 1929 laws with revisions
 - Focused on rape etc.
 - Don’t translate within communities
 - Superficial
 - Child marriage laws
 - Parents start searching for husbands before girls turn 18 so that they can be married as soon as they turn of age
 - Girls not seen as equal
- USA
 - No minimum age for marriage
 - No minimum age for petitioning/visa
 - i.e. can petition for man overseas to come over and get married just so that he can get a visa
 - Between 2001-2010 – 248 000 child marriages
 - Happening across all religions and backgrounds
 - Perpetrators usually parents
 - When young girls attempt to flee, they don’t have access to shelters or divorce because they are still considered minors
 - Typically considered ‘runaways’ and dragged back
 - Attorneys don’t want to work with minor
 - Can’t file in courts in own name as minor
 - Particularly difficult if perpetrator of forced marriage is parent because their name would have to go on court documents
- UN resolutions and Sustainable Development Goals
 - End child marriage by 2030
 - If we don’t accelerate, 1.5 million girls will be child brides by 2030
- Solutions:
 - Education
 - Sustainable infrastructure
 - Power structures within communities
 - Engaging family and men
 - Men important part of solution
 - Holistic education
 - Trauma support systems
 - More women in leadership
 - Improved implementation of laws
 - Improved legislation

Discussion on Female Empowerment

Global Girl Power

I walked into this event late and was unable to discern what it was exactly about. What they were talking about certainly didn't line up with what the program said. What they did talk about though was female empowerment and standing together. An important point was made though about whether one day we will stop talking at CSW and start organising actions. Another thing that was brought to the attention of the audience was that the mobile phones we all use contain certain minerals such as blue cobalt, which are mined by exploited women in the Congo. No particular solution was presented for this issue, other than to pressure governments, but it sure did make me put my phone away out of extreme guilt.

Global Unions Campaign: End Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work

International Trade Union Confederation and Global Unions (including Education International and Public Services International)

This event focused upon the upcoming meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in September, where the labour movement will be presenting a proposal for a convention or recommendation on gender-based violence (GBV) within the workplace. A convention would be preferred, as it is more binding, but to even get this topic put on the ILO agenda was increasingly difficult and ratification will be even harder. The reason behind this proposal is because female workers are more vulnerable to harm and threats in the workforce. For example, 65% of female journalists have suffered online violence and abuse and almost 50% have suffered GBV within the workplace. Another example is in Africa, where teachers are being murdered and assaulted by both students and parents. The public sector can be a starting good place to end GBV, as Governments can set positive and lasting examples within their own departments, to filter out into the broader workforce. Employers are generally very against any type of ILO instrument being created as they do not want to take responsibility if their workers suffer GBV in the workplace.

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) meeting in September
 - o Labour movements attempting to create convention/recommendation on gender-based violence (GBV) in workforces
 - Convention is tool to old Governments to account, i.e. 'you are not following this convention and it isn't a good look'
 - Recommendation is not as 'binding' because it is basically just a suggestion about what a government should do
- Very complicated process to get topic even on agenda at ILO meetings
 - o Ratification will be harder
- Why do we need a GBV convention/recommendation?
 - o High-risk of vulnerability for women in workforce
 - o Domestic workers: typical intersectionality creates higher vulnerability
- 16 Days Campaign
 - o Cross movement – women's rights organisations cooperating with labour movement
- International Federation of Journalists
 - o Believes journalists should have specialised protective category within ILO convention/recommendation

- High levels of harm/threats
 - Especially online – 65% of female journalists have suffered online violence towards them, 22% have suffered physical violence, almost 50% have suffered GBV within workplace
- Face a lot of scrutiny
 - Reports of female journalists being detained at airports, being questioned at length and being fed foods against their religious beliefs
- Public service is key to changing discrimination as Governments can set example within their own departments
 - Public healthcare workers at very high risk i.e. nurses, doctors
 - Main perpetrators are service receivers
- Future employment for women at risk if they make a complaint
- Transport workers at risk
- Teachers at high risk from students and teachers
 - Recent events in Africa
 - Student shooting/murdering teacher
 - Parent physically attacking teacher
- Impact of domestic violence on workers and their work is concerning
- Can combat by building confidence in women
- Employers have from the very beginning said that they do not want an ILO instrument on GBV
 - This is because they do not think that they should be responsible if one of their employees suffers GBV in the workplace

United Nations CSW63: 14 March 2019

The Church's Response to Sexual Violence in the #MeToo Era

IMA World Health and Sojourners

This event was a discussion of Church response to sexual and domestic violence, in the context of the Protestant Church and the Broken Silence survey of Protestant pastors. This survey discovered 81% of pastors knew someone who had experienced domestic or sexual violence but almost half of pastors (46%) who don't address sexual and domestic violence within their communities say it is because it is not an 'issue.' Furthermore only 4 out of 10 pastors said that the #MeToo Movement improved their knowledge and understanding of domestic and sexual violence. The panel discussed that this was a consequence of a lack of teaching about these issues within theological teaching and a lack of resources in the past that allowed for clergy to learn more about domestic and sexual violence and how to deal with it within their communities. More is being done in this area, with religious texts being identified and interpreted within the sphere of domestic and sexual violence and more leadership programs being created for both the clergy and the congregation. For many people, churches are considered a safe space, so it is pertinent that they are well equipped to be this space for people and women of all experiences.

- Note: the views expressed in this event were not from a Catholic perspective
- Broken Silence survey
 - o US Protestant church
- No-one previously told churches how to deal with sexual violence and what to do about it
 - o Some ministers are ill-equipped to deal with it when members of the community come to them about things like sexual and domestic violence
- Partnering with crisis centres in areas close to church, putting up domestic violence signs in church
- Need to encourage ministers to talk with community about domestic and sexual violence
 - o Open dialogue, create resources
- Improvements are happening within clergy
- Why has the Church been so silent?
 - o Not being aware that someone needs a different response
- How do you work alongside the Church to make it a proactive body in this space?
 - o Difficult if not within faith community to work out how to work with faith
- "We Will Speak Out": group dedicated to helping church members connect with these issues and incorporate their awareness with their faith
 - o Identifying texts, re-interpreting them
 - What they are then going to do with this awareness
 - o Working within African nations: i.e. Liberia, Burundi, Zambia
 - o Leadership for change: clerical leaders, community (lay) leaders
 - o Working with community AND congregation
 - i.e. police, creating community hotlines manned by members of congregation
 - o Letting solutions and activities come from the people who are within this space and working for them
 - o Early childhood development program – links between poor early childhood development and violence against women

- Important to work within communities, but also work on national institutional structure and sometimes international structure
- Governments do not seem to be acting, becomes responsibility of the Church
- Sojourners collected over 100 sermons on sexual and domestic violence
 - o Not found within lectionary
- Genesis 34: Story of Dana
- Depends on when and where you were trained
 - o Not something that is consistent throughout theological education
 - o Needs to be continuing though
 - o Can look online
- Clergy's job to have relationships within communities
- For many people, churches are safe places
- Pastoral care
- Lady asked a question about the Catholic Church and whether there is any discussion about Priests being able to marry
 - o Panel hoped Church could become more transparent
 - o Need to start recognising that things like this affect the whole faith community i.e. breaking trust of parishioners

Catholics for Human Rights: Challenging the Holy See at the United Nations International Fellowship of Reconciliation and Women's Ordination Conference

Before I go into detail about this event, it should be noted that Catholic Organisations ran and sponsored this event. It did, and definitely will, come across as inflammatory in some parts but it is important to have knowledge of what all Catholics are saying and feeling, particularly in a time when we need to be united more than ever, despite our differences. Catholics for Human Rights is group of Catholic organisations and networks who came together to urge the UN to revoke the Non-member Permanent Observer Status of the Holy See. The event began by outlining the reasons why the Holy See should no longer have Permanent Observer status at the United Nations. Some of the reasons included were that it does not meet certain requirements and no other religion has that type of access to the United Nations. It was also seen as unfair that one religion is able to so actively affect the lives of billions of people who either do not practice Catholicism or do not practice any religion at all. The event speakers also discussed the notion of the Holy See using undue influence at the United Nations for their own benefit. For example, picking and choosing what treaties they will follow and also manipulating certain documents and discussion for their own motives in relation to women's rights and sexual abuse. They believed the Holy See was the only party within the United Nations who actively tried to derail the purpose of CSW. Overall, the general consensus was that there should be religious parity amongst organisations at the United Nations and the Holy See should 'gracefully' bow out.

A further discussion took place about the patriarchal nature of the Church. It was stated that women do a lot for other women within the Church, but it is typically the male leadership who get credit for the 'progress.' Furthermore, they spoke about how at certain events and dialogues in Vatican City, a minimal number of women are invited to observe, but not to contribute or vote. The point was also made that women's organisations within the Church are not promoted as they should be and were rather a 'mouthpiece' for the male leadership. A specific example used was the WUCWO letter to the United Nations against the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as

it focused on what male leadership was saying about CEDAW, rather than what was particularly good for women, both Catholic and secular.

- Full house – had to sit on floor
- Catholic Organisations ran and sponsored this event
- Plan of Action to revoke the UN non-state permanent observer status and any role of the Holy See within the Commission on the Status of Women
- Decision to allow Holy See at UN not within policy
 - o Does not meet requirement of a certain number of international diplomatic relations
- Has some shared privileges with permanent states
 - o i.e. co-sponsoring resolutions, being involved in debate in General Assembly
- No other religion has this type of status at the UN
- Holy See nor Vatican City holds all the criteria of a permanent state at UN
- ‘Pick and choose’ compliance with UN treaties
- Asked for diplomatic immunity for sex abuse cases in US
- Holy See has manipulated status for own benefit
 - o i.e. sex abuse, war criminals, women’s rights
- Questionable who they’re representing because Catholics already have their own representatives from their country
- Billions who practice other religions and those who don’t practice religion are affected by the influence of the Holy See at the UN
- ‘See Change’ Campaign
 - o Catholics for Choice
 - o Holy See should operate at UN the same way as other religions – through NGOs
- Parity amongst religions that fits in more with UN values
- Catholic Organisations for Renewal
- Much has changed in geo-politics and theology-politics since Holy See entered
- Need to ‘exit gracefully’ and focus on own problems within Church
- All Holy See officials are men
- Discussion of contemporary human rights issues, particularly in relation to women, becomes difficult at the UN because of Holy See stance on things and reluctance to change
- More like a corporation than a state
- Lay people are consistently disgruntled customers as we have no say in many things
 - o Not democratic
 - o Many would welcome chance to vote – democratic ecclesia
- Clergy abuse evidence of implosion of Church
 - o No policy changes at 2019 Summit on Minor Abuse
- Growing number of Catholics don’t want to be identified as such because of certain views of the Church, despite still firmly believing in Catholic values and tenets
- No-one has done more than the Holy See to thwart the efforts of CSW
- Need to start conversation about this
- Current state of the Church will renew conversation around Holy See at UN
- Financial situation of Church will make it difficult to keep up already small diplomatic ties
 - o Uses new finances for other things like looking after poor, supporting Catholic NGOs and their own work at UN

- Non-Catholics should not fear being labelled as bigot, when the impunity of the Holy See at the UN is affecting them
- No channel through which voice of women is heard within Church
 - o i.e. lack of women being allowed to attend Holy See summits and have a say
 - o Men within the Church aren't particularly worried about it
- No open policies for protection of women being abused within Church
 - o Especially harmful in India
 - Minority religion
 - Culture of 'encouraging' silence
 - Lack of sensitivity to women in Church
- Church does not promote a single women's organisation to promote female rights
 - o All organisations are mouth-piece of male leadership
 - o i.e. WUCWO signing letter against CEDAW
- A lot has been done for women through training, support etc.
 - o This has been done by women though and the male leadership takes credit for it
- Male bias in interpretation of scripture influences how women are treated in Church
- "Brainwash Catholics to believe that they teach in the word of God"
- Theologians questioning the whole priesthood
- Church refuses to even discuss women's access to ordination
 - o Women's position within Church is kept subservient and oppressed
- Only state in the world in which women have no vote – even women in Saudi Arabia can now vote
- Lack of women participation in Synods
- Use of words 'gender' and 'sex' scary for the Vatican
 - o 'Gender ideology'
- Restrictive doctrines are only recent, brought by Vatican to Beijing Conference
- Limiting sustainable development goals relating to gender

Leave No One Behind! Migrant Women's Access to Social Protection

United Methodist Women

This event discussed migrant women's access to social protection and how certain instruments are being created and discussed in order to afford migrant women some of these protections. Undocumented migrant women and girls face a higher risk when trying to access social protections because they face the risk of being arrested and/or deported. A gender-responsive dialogue called the Marrakech Women's Rights Manifesto was created which has in effect shaped the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how it addresses women and the gender-specific issues that they face. An absence of public services and social protections is typically the main reason why females migrate in the first place, and when they do migrate, they fill key gaps in labour markets and social protection systems (such as aged care) without having access to these systems for themselves or their children. Migrant women also contribute to the economy that they have departed. For example, in the Philippines, 1/3 houses are dependent on the remittance of overseas family workers. When migrants do not have access to social protections, the whole of a country is impacted as there is increased gender-based violence and increased instances of disease and infection due to lack of healthcare. The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, whilst effective in that it established gender-responsive

policies and looked further than conventional detention, also neglected to ensure basic services or labour rights, regardless of migration status. Implementation and monitoring of the Global Compact will be difficult though because of State pushback, even though there are review processes put into place. Even though generally migrant women aren't contributing to the social protection system, from a human rights perspective, they should be afforded full access to social protections.

- Migration forced for economic, social and political reason
 - o Climate change increasing motivator
- Undocumented migrant women and girls face higher risk
 - o Trying to access services could lead to arrest/deportation
- Marrakech Women's Rights Manifesto
 - o Gender-responsive global dialogue
 1. Participation
 2. Non-Discrimination
 3. End Violence
 4. Safe Pathways
 5. Labour Rights
 6. Rights at International Borders
 7. Equitable Development
- Absence of public services, education and healthcare are reasons women migrate
 - o Usually migrate into precarious labour sectors
- Filling key gaps in labour markets and public services (i.e. aged care) in countries of destination
 - o Yet don't have access to these services themselves
- Economic contributions to families fill gaps left by public provisions
 - o In Philippines, 1/3 of houses dependent on remittance of overseas family workers
- Negative impacts when public services made unavailable
 - o Increased GBV, increased mortality, increased diseases and infections throughout countries
 - o Creates lack of trust in migrant communities when they are given access
 - Worried about detection of undocumented status
 - Treatment can be negatively geared and focused on getting workers back to work
- Some governments have worked towards universal health care, but implementation is lacking
 - o Sometimes can take advantage of vulnerabilities
- Lack of public services reduces ability to detect and deter human trafficking
 - o i.e. healthcare professionals unable to have contact and identify victims of trafficking
- Civil society consultations with Governments and the UN about migrant rights
 - o High momentum at the moment
- Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is not binding but will be a tool for migrant rights organisations because of the content and framework
 - o Political tension and turmoil around migration meant that negotiations took place in very globally polarising time
 - o Areas that civil society assessed were positives
 - Child detention, extending regular pathways for legalisation, emphasising community-based alternatives to detention, increasing

- protections, decent work, labour rights, freedom of association, promoting gender-responsive policies, due-process in return and deportation
 - Negatives
 - Distinction between regular and irregular migrants
 - Governments increasingly focused on distinction
 - Lost language on basic services, full labour rights etc. regardless of migration status
- Continued challenge in protecting irregular migrants
 - **Irregular migration** - Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries.
- Implementation and monitoring of Global Compact will be difficult because of State pushback
 - National sovereignty
- There will be a review process for Compact
 - Review Forum every 4 years
 - Regional Review process every 2 years after Review Forum
- Women's Migration Network
- Global Compact – Section 22 is about social protections
- Intersectionality – women are discriminated on numerous grounds
 - Each dimension brings more gender biases
 - Political context reinforces these biases
 - Very poor for migrant women
- Strengthening policies to protect these people
- Increasing inequalities in global economy
 - Need to advocate for strong distributive policy
 - Distributes gains of the economy more fairly
 - Includes people getting decent work with a sustainable income
 - Social protections are a part of this distribution
 - Basic income security
- Basic income + social services + housing
- 2012 International Labour Organisation Social Protection Flow – Social protection access as human right
- Wherever migrant women are, they should be entitled to social protections
 - Seen as additional burden by governments
- Not within formal economy system
 - Aren't contributing to super, tax etc.
 - Not contributing to system, but from human rights perspective, should still be able to access systems

Pushing Back on Macro-Economic Policies: Public Services for Women's Rights

Public Service International and ActionAid

This event was a discussion on macro-economics and how certain policies disproportionately affect women. Macro-economics is the part of economics that focuses on large-scale and general economic factors such as interest rates and national productivity. One of these policies is the implementation of 'austerity measures.' Austerity measures are policies that aim to reduce government budget deficits through spending cuts, tax

increases, or a combination of both. They can also involve the privatisation of public services and social protections. These measures are often seen as the only common-sense way to move away from economic downturn, but this is not always the case. In fact, these measures disproportionately affect women as cutting social services such as assistance with child care, leads to more unpaid work and loss of productivity in paid work due to time constraints. There are four actors in providing social protections; states, communities, households and the market. When the states and the market back down on social protections, this is where communities and households have to pick up the slack and are faced with undue burdens.

- Macro-economics = the part of economics concerned with large-scale or general economic factors, such as interest rates and national productivity
- First speaker not able to come because of visa issues – very prevalent at CSW, second speaker was unwell
- Ending privatisation of public services and social protections
 - o Should be funded by fair taxes, not IMF loans
- Focusing on macro-economics is crucial
 - o Global governance that pushes to increase influence of wealthy and push down the worker, in particular women
- 150 million per year fall below poverty line because of the money they have to pay out of own pocket for public services such as healthcare
- Worldwide tax system is not ideal, and measures adopted by OECD is not enough to overhaul the system
- If you don't put in place clear measures to counter ongoing global governance of the economy, it will spiral out of control to the detriment of the worker and women
- Because loans are becoming less accessible, men governing global economic system are looking at monopolising worker pension funds
- austerity measures = Austerity is a political-economic term referring to policies that aim to reduce government budget deficits through spending cuts, tax increases, or a combination of both
 - o Austerity measures are used by governments that find it difficult to pay their debts
 - o They also involve the privatisation of public services and social protections
 - o Affect ability to realise human rights, can exacerbate existing gender-specific issues
 - o Common thought/narrative that they are the only common-sense way to move away from economic issue
 - o Often recommended/encouraged by international economic institutions
 - Not true
 - o Affects labour market and typically also leads to cutting back social protections
 - o Austerity does not work
- Women works are disproportionately affected
 - o i.e. cut back of child care services
 - o women have to pick up slack of social services cut with unpaid work/care
 - o women are overrepresented in public sector, job cuts in this sector leads to loss of wages
 - o Loss of benefits such as maternity etc.
- Societies need care and how societies provide that care is a combination of actors
- 4 main actors: states, communities, households and market

- In austerity, public provision is diminished and placed on household
 - o Increase of unpaid care work, which is to the detriment of low-income household who are already time poor
- Male bias social protection system
 - o Based on male employment patterns
 - o Don't take into consideration unpaid care work etc.
- Alternatives being put forward by unions:
 - o Looking further than spending, more into raising revenue
- \$7 trillion US is being held up in tax havens

Social Protection for Women and Girls in Religion

Tabernacle Worship and Prayer Ministries and Africana Women Working Group at the UN

This event was run by African organisations and had a very long program. The dominance of men in religion and how this has led to skewed interpretations of scriptures was discussed, outlining that deliberate and conscious misinterpretations of religious texts is a prevalent way to promote one's own motives. The need for policies that protect women and widows was also emphasised and how important economic enhancement is. An interesting point made though was that the world does not enjoy complete freedom of religion because we know of instances where women and girls have had to endure harm and violence due to their religion or due to their actions contravening certain religions. Overall, this event was a bit tedious. It was a lot of overly obvious statements being made, with not a lot of new perspectives being presented. Had more of an empowerment vibe rather than a let's create some action vibe.

- Dominance of men in religion
 - o Led to skewed interpretations of scriptures
 - o Deliberate and conscious misinterpretation to influence own political and social means
- We know that no religion would tolerate the beating of a woman
 - o People try to justify it through misinterpretation of the text
- Need policies to help protect women
 - o Absence means many women are suffering
 - o Not just happening in Nigeria, but in other places where there is violence, conflict and insurgency
 - o Need help from international organisations such as Amnesty International to be the voice for these women
- Widows are particularly vulnerable
 - o Especially in war torn countries where there is high instance and widows and then subsequent poverty
- Trafficking of girls
- Education is important
 - o Have opportunity but are denied
- Poverty because of denial, because they are women
- Economic enhancement
- We, as human beings, do not enjoy complete freedom of religion throughout the world
 - o We know instances where women have endured abuse in the 'name' of religion/because of their religion

- Social protections necessary to practice freedom of religion do not exist in many places

United Nations CSW63: 15 March 2019

Empowering Women of Faith: Leadership in Society

Journalists and Writers Foundation and North East Islamic Community Center

This event was in relation to how certain religious groups can empower women to rise into leadership roles, despite the challenges they may face. It began by outlining the numerous challenges such as pre-conceived notions about women in religion, lack of support by communities and within families, and the hard to break male dominance of religious systems. Some of these challenges are further exacerbated by everyday religious practices being more difficult. For example, for some Muslim women, it is difficult for them to not only participate in their Mosque, but also to have proper access to it. Sometimes appropriate spaces for women to pray have to be implemented because some incredibly close-minded men will not pray with women or don't believe they belong in certain areas of the Mosque. The discussion then turned to inter-faith work and how it typically turns into a 'Religion 101', rather than anything of substance being discussed or actioned. The women on the panel also found this work to be highly male dominated because it was the male leadership doing all the talking. This is where groups such as the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom started. Women of the Islam and Jewish faith decided that they wanted to have a forum to share and talk to each, in personal settings (their homes) for more connection. This Sisterhood has exponentially grown and there are now teenage chapters throughout the USA. One particular chapter formed when two girls (one Muslim, one Jewish) bonded at a school camp when they couldn't eat the marshmallows because they were made of pork lard. The chapter that these two girls belong to has continued to do amazing unifying work such as finding solutions for refugee girls suffering abuse at schools in their community and organising 'anti-hate days.' The empowerment of these young girls prepares them for leadership roles in their religious communities later in life. Discussion was also had about valuing the skills we gain through motherhood and not doubting our own capacity.

- Gender equality needed in every area of leadership
- Women remain underrepresented in leadership in most major religious groups
- SDG goal #16: peace, justice and strong institutions
- Working for God, working for humanity and looking after yourself – tenets of Islam
- Motherhood is important in Qur'an
 - o Honour given to women and no-one else
- Gender justice in Qur'an: Verses 33-35
- Challenge of women participating in mosque, having access to the mosque
 - o Don't have appropriate spaces for women to pray
 - o Not many women on the Boards of mosques
 - Many don't have support of the community and family
- Nothing will get done without partnership of men in leadership
- Women are judged from what they do to what they wear
 - o i.e. if they wear a headscarf or not
- Inter-faith work not always effective, very male-dominated
 - o Very quickly turned in 'Religion 101', without anything of substance being discussed
- Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom
 - o Inter-faith group between Muslim and Jewish women
 - o Open dialogues throughout country
 - o Women taking care of one another

- Need to help women rise up to leadership roles in religion
 - o Mentoring for teenage girls
 - Teenage Chapters of Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom
- Leadership roles are not restricted to clergy – importance of lay people within churches
 - o Calling not to serve priesthood, but to serve all people
- What is one best practice for women who want leadership roles in religion?
 - o Credibility and knowledge – know your stuff, work hard
 - o Don't doubt own capacity
 - o Value motherhood and understand role of mother – utilise skills gained as mother
- How can men help?

Social Protection and Empowerment: A Showcase from Australia and Rwanda Graduate Women International and Australian Federation of Graduate Women

This event discussed the experiences within Rwanda and Australia of social protection systems. In Rwanda, it seems as though they are actively working to improve social protection services. After the genocide against the Tutsi, women recognised that this came from the fruits of the power of men and therefore needed to work towards peace themselves. There is a strong legal and policy framework in Rwanda and a big focus on achieving a knowledge-based economy and becoming a middle-income country. They have 4 principles of social protection: protective, preventative, promotive and transformative, and these principles shape their social protection systems such as community-based health insurance and nutrition programs. Political empowerment for women is also very important in Rwanda, with a 50/50 gender divide in their Cabinet and a Forum for Women Parliamentarians, which advocates for gender sensitive laws. Within Australia, there is a program being undertaken at Curtin University in Western Australia called The Photovoice Project, where refugee women are given cameras to take pictures of their experiences. This is intended to assist these women with personal development, empowerment, health and wellbeing, knowledge/training and social connections. This program has also encouraged women to suggest recommendations for how their experiences within Australia could be improved, such as employment support and accessible family reunion arrangements. Various Australian social programs were also discussed such as parenting payments and Medicare. As an interesting aside, in the Q&A portion of the event, a Nigerian woman asked if the Australian Government put a cap on the parenting payments and how many children, they will provide a payment for because in Nigeria they have on average 20 children per family (men are able to have many wives). It had to be explained that the average birth-rate per family in Australia is only 1.8, so a cap isn't necessary. I have no doubt in my mind though that if the average birth-rate per family was 20+ children in Australia, there would indeed be a cap. The audience seemed to be quite impressed with the theory of Australian social protection systems.

- Rwanda known for leadership of Paul Kagame
 - o “How does a society hope to transform itself if it shoots itself in the foot by squandering more than half of its capital investment?”
 - Speaking about not utilising 51% of female population
- After the genocide Rwandan women recognised that the Genocide against the Tutsi was the fruits of the power of men

- Worked towards peace
- Strong legal and policy framework in Rwanda
 - Constitution
 - Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence 2008
 - Rights and Protections of the Child 2011
 - Governing Land 2013
- Rwandans believe that there is no time to waste after the genocide against the Tutsi which destroyed everything
- Since 2000, the country has been on a marathon development journey
 - Achieve a knowledge-based economy and be a middle-income country
 - Vision 2050
- Wants to build strong protection system
 - Poverty and inequality
 - Reduce people's vulnerability to economic and social shocks, enhancing capacity to manage risks
 - Improve health and education, affordable healthcare and insurance schemes
 - Promote efficient labour markets
- Rwanda 4 Principles of Social Protection: Protective, Preventative, Promotive and Transformative
 - Integrated Local Development Program
 - Covers 240 of poorest sectors
- Ubudehe: long-standing Rwandan practice and culture of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community
- Financial Services – FARG: supports social welfare of neediest genocide survivors with emphasis on empowerment of women
- National Council of Person with Disabilities: programs and policies to improve lives of those with disabilities
- Community Based Health Insurance: health financing scheme to improve accessibility to health services, membership was 75% at 2012
- Reintegration Fund: Support and reintegration for ex-combatants
- Free 12 years Basic Education Program with a Minimum Package for Graduates
- Girinka program aims to reduce extreme poverty in rural areas by providing each poor family with a cow
 - It began by poorest woman getting a cow, and then passing on its first calf to the next poorest family – continuing cycle
- One computer per child program
- Fortified Blended Foods nutrition program to combat malnutrition
- National Strategy for Transformation
 - Create 1500000 decent and productive jobs for economic development where, at least, 50% should be occupied by women and girls
- Maternity Leave Scheme
- Adolescent Girls Initiative
- Laws regulating labour in Rwanda
 - Prohibits sexual harassment in workplace
 - Provides for equal opportunities and pay for equal work
- Institutional Framework
 - Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
 - Gender Monitoring Office
 - National Women Council – peak body, every village has a council, every district has a council

- Forum for Women Parliamentarians – all political parties, advocates for gender sensitive laws
 - 50/50 Cabinet of women and men in Rwanda
- Still much to do:
 - Culture, tradition and religion
 - Domestic violence attitudes
 - Traditional attitudes towards women, the belief that they are less capable than men
 - Sexual harassment and violence against women
 - Gender pay gap
 - Gender bias in sport and media
 - Unequal sharing of parenting and domestic work
- Using photovoice to explore refugee women’s experiences of settlement in Australia
- “Australia has a highly controlled refugee and humanitarian programme
 - Punitive approach
 - Offshore pathway includes a ‘Women at Risk’ visa
 - Hard for family members to get visas
- Settlement experiences are shaped by intersecting factors
- The Photovoice Project” – Curtin University in Western Australia
 - Explore experiences
 - Recommend actions to support successful settlement
 - Inform the community about women’s rights
 - Giving people cameras to record community strengths, promote dialogue
 - Undertaken throughout the world
 - Community collaboration and partners
 - Ishar Multicultural Women’s Health Centre in WA
 - Benefits:
 - Personal development
 - Empowerment
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Knowledge/training
 - Social connections
- How important women’s support services are, particularly for refugee women
- Barriers of language
 - Australia allows 510 hours of English classes for refugees
 - Very often not enough
- Issues with Australian systems
 - i.e. difficulty of navigating AUS online systems for everything
- Recommendations
 - English programs based on needs
 - Support to enter employment
 - Accessible family reunion arrangements
 - Role of effective settlement and mainstream services
 - Whole of community approach to inclusion and welcoming people beginning a new life in Australia
- Social protection in Australia:
 - Aged pension
 - Parenting payment
 - Medicare – free healthcare (levy paid by those earning certain amount)
 - Free education until Year 12

- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Newstart
- Youth Allowance for young people in care
- Aus-Study

Total Lack of Protection for North Korean Women and Girls

Working Group on North Korean Women, North Korea Freedom Coalition and Jubilee Campaign

This event was by far the heaviest I have attended thus far. It began with 2 defectors from North Korea telling their stories. The first defector, Mrs Kim, was sent to a prison camp with her whole family and spent 28 years there. She worked in a coal mine from the age of 16 (doing 10-14 hours of hard labour a day), lost both her parents and had to care for her siblings in an environment of violence, poverty and food shortages. When she had her first child, she was alone and had to wrap the child in a backpack and crawl down a hill because she couldn't walk, whilst slowly pushing the baby down. She fed her placenta to her family because they had not seen meat in so long. It was found out when she was released in 2001, that the reason she was in the camp was because her grandfather went missing in the war and it was assumed that he defected to South Korea. She eventually escaped to China but was sold to a restaurant, repatriated back to North Korea and sent to another prison camp. Having lost her children and husband, she made a last-ditch effort and fled successfully to South Korea in 2009. The second defector, Ms Park, presented under an alias, wore dark sunglasses and had a face mask on. She spoke about the brutal interrogation techniques against women in North Korea. One story told was about how a young woman was providing for her family through her successful business but was arrested, interrogated and then died within 6 months because of her injuries. She also spoke about the plight of repatriated women, and how you could hear their cries from the street as they were being interrogated. She said forced abortions for repatriated women were also incredibly common. There are no social protections for women and girls living within North Korea and the situation is evidently getting worse despite a lack of transparency from the North Korean Government. It should also be noted that there is an extreme bias towards North Korean defectors within the international community. South Koreans do not have much time for them in the community, even though the South Korean Government affords them many social protections when they defect, and China is complicit in mass repatriation for fleeing North Koreans. Some of the recommendations presented at the event were to listen to defectors more, as they know the truth, and also to pressure North Korea to grant access to humanitarian agencies.

- Former High Court of Australia Justice Michael Kirby is the Chair of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Abuses in North Korea.
 - You can find copies of the Commission's inquiry at this link:
 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/ReportoftheCommissionofInquiryDPRK.aspx>
- Human Rights violations have no place within the world
 - North Korean violations have no parallels
- 2 witnesses/defectors speaking at event
- **Mrs Kim**
 - Whole family sent to political prisoner camp (not given any reason or warning)
 - spent 28 years here

- Worked in coal mine at 16
 - Forced to do 10-14 hours of hard labour a day, worked in coal mine for 14 years
- Father confronted authorities and was taken away and never seen again
- Mother suffering from starvation and fell from cliff when working
- Had to take care of siblings
 - Small portion of food given at coal mine but took it back to feed siblings and Grandmother
- Certain number of people allowed to get married in coal mine
 - Encouraged to have numerous children but so much malnutrition that babies were barely born healthy
 - Used to make paste out of raw corn
 - No diapers so had to make own
 - No clothes for children so they had to stay bare naked
 - No soap
 - Gave birth to 3 children, lost 1
- May 13, 1991 – gave birth to first daughter
 - Started to cry, as did translator
 - Gave birth on hill whilst harvesting oak tree sprouts, was alone
 - Wrapped daughter in backpack and oak tree sprouts
 - No-one around who could help
 - Crawled down mountain, pushing baby in backpack down hill
 - No support or medical service provided for infant baby or new mother
 - Neighbours helped
 - Fed placenta to family because they had not seen meat in such a long time
- Husband died in coal mining accident
- Was considered a criminal and couldn't keep any possessions
- When menstruating, had to use rag, wasn't allowed to wash rag because it would waste water
 - Told to give to livestock because it would be good for them
- 2001 – released from camp
 - Given identification of release to take to police station
 - Will tell you where your relatives live
 - Uncle told her that reason she had to stay in political prison because grandfather was missing during war and supposedly fled to South Korea
 - Two brothers still in North Korea who still don't know reason why they are suffering
- In camp, provided work clothes once a year
- Trafficked and sold to China in 2005
 - Was 43 years old, was told to lie about age
 - When broker took to house, there were two other young ladies and later found out they were sold to Chinese men
 - Only survived because customers wouldn't buy her because they realised, she was lying about age
 - Ended up being sold to Chinese restaurant for cut-price
- Repatriated in 2008, sent to labour camp
 - Lost husband and children
- Managed to escape to China in 2009 and then went to South Korea

- Women and children in political camps don't have any social protections and living in very dire situations
- Thousands and thousands of people are still dying in these camps
 - o Over 3 million people dying of starvation under Kim Jong Un
 - o Situation getting worse
- **Ms. Park**
 - o Presented under alias, wore dark clothes, giant sunglasses, face mask
 - o Family in neighbourhood
 - Eldest daughter provided for family by creating good business relationships
 - Was one day apprehended by police
 - Apparently, she was running business not declared
 - Everyone actually thought that they wanted to use her connections and knowledge
 - Was violently interrogated, once released she died within 6 months as result of her injuries
 - Didn't even return her body
 - Speculation she may have been killed because he knew so many influential people
 - o Widow
 - Lived in apartment building, raising daughter
 - Had goods from China and sold them, was good bookkeeper
 - Strange men would come and go whenever she needed a man's health around the house – lived alone
 - Security officer began to come and go from house
 - Began to lose weight, eyes began clouded – could tell she was on drugs
 - o North Korean security officers are bad people
 - Brutal interrogation
 - Do not care about North Korean people
 - o Defectors to China but later returned
 - If they were repatriated, they would be sent back to place of residence and tortured by security officers
 - Including those who were pregnant
 - Could hear screams of pain from home
 - Ask questions of women about private life – if did not answer, out of embarrassment etc., they were beat further
 - Forced abortion – justification was that it was not right to give birth to child where you didn't know who the father was
 - o Own personal experience
 - Computers not common, many computer illiterate
 - All records handwritten
 - Ms Park worked in this area, saw women being interrogated
 - Asked many personal questions that woman would not want to answer
 - Security officers do it for own sick curiosity
- North Korean women socially powerless
 - o Unsurprising that so many North Korean women turn their backs on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and their families to flee elsewhere

- Huge disconnect between experiences of those women living in Pyongyang and those outside of city
 - o Rich and influential live in city and only flee when lose favour of government
 - Have means to be able to flee relatively easier than others
 - o Rural areas suffering greatly and fleeing because of poverty
- Bias from South Korean people towards North Korean people when they flee
 - o Think they can come to South Korea to live a life with dignity, but the biases disrupt this
 - o Language difference
 - o South Korean Government is generous in providing support to North Korean defectors
 - o Brokers, who assist with defection, take advantage of payments
 - Kind of like a contract, 'when I get you to South Korea safely, you pay me the money that you get given from South Korean Government'
 - This has been partially fixed though as Government now splits the payments so brokers can't get the whole lot
 - o People prefer to hire Koreans or Chinese Koreans rather than North Koreans
 - Mrs Kim had to lie and say she was Chinese Korean to get job
 - o Some peace talks by Kim Jong-Un excite South Koreans, but North Koreans take it as a threat that DPRK will come down to South Korea and take them back
- Recommendation:
 - o Listen to defectors, then you'll know the truth
 - o Grant access to humanitarian agencies
 - o Respect basic human rights
 - o Limit nuclear capacity
- Camp 12 – 80% of women were those repatriated from China
- Slightly around 35 000 North Korean defectors – most in South Korea

What do Australian Rural Women Want?

National Rural Women's Coalition

This event was run by the Australian organisation, National Rural Women's Coalition. I have been to events run by this organisation in the past and went to their CSW preparation session last year. The discussion was focused on the 'What do Australian Rural Women Want?' survey, and there was a huge amount of data presented. For example, 1 in 5 rural Australian women have a disability. The general theme of the statistics suggested that rural women highly value healthcare, telecommunications and infrastructure, but they are not receiving them as they should out in rural areas. In terms of healthcare, it is very worrying that certain services are being centralised making it difficult for rural women to access them. For example, as rural maternity services are diminishing, women are having to plan whole blocks of time to travel to places with maternity services and just hope that the baby comes within the planned timeframe. This is further causing cultural disruption within Indigenous communities, as women are having to leave their local communities for months. This comes at a massive cost to them, and then they sometimes suffer prejudice when they return to their communities because they have been gone for so long. In the long term, caring properly for these children can also affect the employability of rural women. If a child has a specialist appointment 5 hours away, then the women will have to take time off work to take them there. Particular important social services identified by rural women for their

everyday lives include; State emergency services (fire, health etc.), law enforcement, public transport, GPs and water and sewerage facilities. It should also be noted that domestic violence services are also seriously lacking within rural communities. This survey is still live so it should be interesting to see what the breakdowns and results are when it is finished and analysed.

- Powerful network of diverse Australian women who work to improve lives of women and girls who live and work in rural Australia
 - o Australian Women in Agriculture
 - o Women in Seafood Australasia
 - o Australian Local Government Women's Association
 - o Country Women's Association of Australia
 - o National Rural Health Alliance
- 250 000+ member reach – connections that reach out globally
- Programs focusing on leadership and development
- Very reliant on technology in Australia
- High percentage of Australia is remote or very remote
 - o Under classifications of remoteness etc. Government decides what social services it funds
- Diverse range of rural women
 - o i.e. farmers, mechanics, migrants, indigenous women
- What Do Australian Rural Women Want?
 - o National Survey
 - o Results being presented today are live i.e. survey is still ongoing, so data is fresh
- Important to have data to back up argument
- 679 Respondents as at 12 March 2019
- This year focused on social services etc.
- Agriculture and Healthcare are largest sectors for rural Australian women
 - o If we centralise healthcare in Australia, it takes away opportunities for rural women
- Most are married
- Education: Most have bachelor's or Postgraduate Degrees (48%)
 - o Only 9% have not reached Year 12
- Most rural women have on average 2 children
 - o More children with no children than with 3 children
- 77% do not receive pension or family assistance payments
- 89% are born in Australia
- 93% did not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 1 in 5 women in rural Australia have a disability
- Health, telecommunications and infrastructure are three most important public services to rural women
 - o Rural women only seeing doctor at half the rate of metropolitan counterparts
 - Not because they are healthier, it's because of lack of access
 - o Connectivity is huge issue
 - Advocating for provisions for telecommunications access in fair way
 - Have more opportunity when connected
 - o Ageing population relying on public transport
 - Retiring to country and finding out the public transport infrastructure isn't there

- Creating health issues because of hassle and cost of trying to get places like doctors
- 79% of rural women travel when services are not locally available
 - Feeds into infrastructure issue
- Services that would make biggest difference:
 - Mental health services
 - Public transport
 - Lots of responses in relation to health access: GPs, specialists, local hospitals
 - Consistent workforce
 - Maternal services
- Caring for children properly can affect employability
 - i.e. having to drive 5 hours to attend a specialist appt will disrupt work, leave
- Indigenous women having to leave their home country for months to prepare, have babies
 - Creating major cultural disruption
 - Are not treated well when they return
- Rural women not very satisfied with access to healthcare, universities, public transport, telecommunications
 - Telecommunications and education intrinsically linked in rural areas – need access to telecommunications to access education
- Access could be improved through public transport, better roads, community health services
- Need more public services and social assistances, and they need to be better
- State emergency services (fire, health etc.), law enforcement, public transport, GPs, water and sewerage facilities, infrastructure are most important to everyday life
- Most important for women's empowerment: employment, childcare, education, telecommunications, access, law enforcement
- Rural Australia is very resilient, community-oriented
- Carnegie Commission Charter for Rural Communities:
 - Identifying, utilising and optimising assets
 - Achieving fairness for all
 - Empowering local governance
 - Increasing resources for community benefit
 - Enjoying locally relevant services
 - Enriching social capital and well-being
 - Valuing local distinctiveness
 - Developing reliable infrastructure
 - Enhancing environmental capacity
 - Supporting dynamic local economy
 - Which should we give priority to?
 - How do we ensure gender is central to this work?
- Building inclusive rural communities
 - Rural Australians generally have higher levels of social cohesiveness
 - Feelings of safety in their community
 - Higher rates of participation in volunteer work
 - Assumed higher levels of social capital but possibly imbalance of bonded/bridging/linking social capital

United Nations CSW: 18 March 2019

Women as Agents of Sustainable Peace and Progress: From Revolution to Governance

Armenian International Women's Association

This event was on the Armenian 'Velvet Revolution' in 2018. I didn't know that this even happened, so it was highly interesting. In 2018, the Armenian people underwent a revolution based on civil disobedience, which was largely non-violent, and called for a more democratic political regime. Two of the major reasons that this campaign and revolution were successfully non-violent was because it was conducted by civil society and there was an unprecedented amount of female participation. Armenia is situated within a region that has it popularized by authoritarian states (i.e. Russia), so the use of grassroots and civil society organisations to organise was important, because it meant that foreign influence and interference could be resisted. Furthermore, this civil society organisations were able to bring certain issues to the forefront, such as domestic violence, that are taboo within Armenian and are even ignored by the female politicians. Whilst after this Revolution, female participation in Armenia has improved (32 out of 131 Parliamentarians are women), there is still a long way to go. For example, even though women were the do'ers in the civil society organisations moving the revolution, after the revolution they are still not being included fully in decision-making processes. Furthermore, whilst legislative frameworks for gender equality are being put into place, these have no teeth, and need actual solid legislation to come from them to become effective. An important thing to note about female participation in politics within Armenia, is that traditionally politicians are seen as morally corrupt so there is the stigma that it is not an appropriate job for women. It is evident that perhaps the biggest hurdle for Armenian women to overcome is hundreds of years of tradition.

- Armenian Revolution in 2018
 - o 'Velvet revolution'
 - o Important for global world order
 - o Political transition
 - o Gender is central
 - o Different from Arab Springs
 - o Required high level of sophistication from Armenian people
- Lots of attributes shared with Latin American transitions in 1970s
 - o Helped along by civil society
- Civil disobedience campaign
 - o Women can make or break political campaigns
 - o Gender equality is a threat
- Grassroots, bottom up, non-violent
 - o Diverse participation, higher numbers
 - o Worked through flawed system
- Democratic revolution within authoritarian neighbourhood (i.e. Russia)
- Because it was grassroots, international involvement/intervention was resisted
- Demonstrated the West tends to be confused as to how to approach authoritarian systems that hold elections
 - o Oscillate between intervention to ignoring it
- Armenia was always classified as a 'stable, authoritarian system'

- Armenia comes from fractured region – ongoing, unresolved conflict
 - o Velvet revolution changed fabric in south caucuses
 - Stronger consolidation of democracy, more opportunities for non-violent solutions for resolving conflict
 - Increases pressure on authoritarian states to not resort to coercion and military interventions
- Armenia needs to advertise non-violence and using diplomatic structures as important ways to resolve conflict
- Gender equality is a direct method to reduce use of violence to end conflict
- Women have been at the forefront of movements
- Over \$100 million has gone into NGOs in Armenia
 - o Developing and strengthening
 - o Focused on organisational development
 - o Create a platform and solve everyday issues
- Men may have been leaders, but women were the ‘do’ers’
- Why is it that women who have born the change-making sector, now not, after the revolution, making the decisions for change?
 - o Still not being promoted to leadership
- Women frequently left out of discussions – civil society organisations give women this space to be included in discussions
 - o New perspectives
- Civil society organisations were able to bring about more controversial, taboo issues of Armenia to the forefront and start conversations
 - o i.e. why it isn’t okay for women to be beaten at home
 - Completely taboo subject in Armenia, never spoken about
 - Even female politicians shun discussions
- Women participation is improving in political structures in Armenia
 - o 32 out of 131 parliamentary members are women
 - o Still not seeing the types of solutions though that could come to life if there were more female representation
- Administration has the chance to put to the public difficult, trendsetting and tradition busting items because they enjoy a high approval rating within country that an administration hasn’t had since 1984
 - o Not happening though
- Rights-based approach still not happening
- Shouldn’t let the patriarchal values overtake again
 - o Shouldn’t be scared of young, different people coming to ‘take power’
- Frameworks for legislation are good but no effective
 - o Don’t have teeth
 - o Need to have actual legislation that addresses day to day issues
 - o Cannot happen if there is a legislative committee of 21 men with only 1 female voice within the room
- Velvet Revolution had unprecedented participation of women and this contributed greatly to non-violence
- Important step forward but not at the end of the journey
 - o Still long way to go before equal rights for men and women present in Armenia
 - o Everyone has a lot of work to do
- Need to connect with rural communities
- Women may be driving force, but they need empowerment to continue

- Working towards institutionalising women's participation at all levels
- Idea within Armenian culture that politicians are corrupt, so it's not an appropriate job for women

Addressing FGM in the USA: Safeguarding Survivors and Potential Victims Muslim American Leadership Alliance

This event was incredibly confronting but also very informative. It was in relation to the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM can also be referred to as female genital cutting (FGC). Using the word cutting can be seen as not as horrible as mutilation and takes away from the severe nature of the practice. This being said though, it is a more culturally responsive word and apparently aligns more with the motives of the parents who are not intending to mutilate their daughters, but rather 'protect' them. The general view of the panel was that a survivor should use whatever word they feel comfortable with. There is an urgent need for legislative intervention and community accountability when it comes to FGM/FGC, as within the USA alone, nearly half a million girls are in constant threat of the practice occurring to them. Despite common misconceptions, FGM/FGC occurs across backgrounds, education levels, socio-economic statuses and religions, including Christianity. It is intended by parents to protect their daughter's virginity and virtue and involves the cutting of their genitals in some way (there are many levels of severity, the most severe being the complete removal of the external female sexual organs). Despite the 'protective' motives, this practice leads to many long-term health effects, including continued infection and pain. There is a distinct fear amongst women survivors of FGM/FGC because of the fear of ostracization of themselves and their parents within their communities. A really informative informational brochure can be found at: https://sahiyo.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/sahiyo-brochure_2_whatifgc.pdf. I also recommend going to <https://sahiyo.com/category/stories-and-narratives/> to read some stories and narratives from girls and women having undergone FGM/FCM.

Many laws throughout the world are lacking in how they address the cultural nature of this practice. For example, just recently within the USA, a judge found the federal law prohibiting FGM/FGC to be unconstitutional. Furthermore, some politicians do not want to be involved in the fight against this practice as they do not know how to deal with the cultural and racial sensitivities. Some organisations are trying to address laws specifically in India, as a sort of 'nip it in the bud approach', to stop FGM/FGC before it spreads to other unequipped countries through migration. One of the reasons for which FGM/FGC has remained prevalent within certain African and Asian communities is that there is a real distrust for Western science and its way of thinking. This leads to practices such as 'vacation cuttings,' where families will go on holidays to areas where this practice is acceptable. It also leads to an ethical dilemma for doctors who are approached by those wanting FGM for their children, because it is illegal for them to do it but there is the chance if they refuse that the child will be taken to an unexperienced 'cultural doctor.' An interesting point that was made in this presentation was that there is a trend occurring where men become aware of what is happening or what is going to happen to their daughters and then putting a stop to it because they are horrified. This shows the need for further education within these communities.

I did some further research for the Australian context and an estimated 53,000 women and girls born overseas and now living in Australia have undergone female genital mutilation in

their lifetime, found in data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. This suggests that Australian health services need to adapt to properly care for these girls and women. There is no conclusive data as to whether it is practiced in Australia, but a survey of Australian paediatricians, sixty per cent said that they believed it was practised in Australia. The first Australia FGM case was in 2015, and three people were convicted (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/13/female-genital-mutilation-trial-young-girl-convicted-jury-australia>). The perpetrators were found guilty but then appealed and were let go.

- Urgent need for legislative intervention and community accountability
- In the US alone, nearly half a million girls or women face the threat of FGM
- Despite misconceptions that may suggest this practice comes from one religion, this practice spans across religions, including Christianity
- Need zero tolerance in legislation and community
- Complex issue that needs complex solutions
- Human rights/women's health/gender violence issue
 - o Meant to protect a female's virginity and virtue
- Zero health benefits, only brings further medical issues and mental anguish
- Legislation sometimes isn't enough
 - o Law typically silent on parents who want cultural procedure done
- Minnesota has legislative bill on table that is tough on FGM, including taking children into child protection
 - o Makes it a felony and crime that constitutes 'egregious harm'
 - o Minnesota Senate did not take action on bill though and therefore is still not law
 - Some senators didn't want to seem 'racist' or 'culturally insensitive'
- Have to make sure girl receives comprehensive medical attention after FGM to prevent further medical issues
- If there are younger sisters who have not yet undergone FGM, have to make sure it is prevented
- Read out apology letter from Father who read letter from daughter who underwent FGM
 - o Girl was 5 years old
 - o Believed mother knew best
- Sahiyo – organisation created to advocate for women rights and end the practice of female genital mutilation,
- Varies in physical severity
 - o Less severe: removing of clitoris or clitoral hood
 - o Most severe: removal of all external sexual organs
- Practice goes back over 2000 years
- Ongoing health issues: continued infections etc.
- Women fear speaking about FGM because of ostracization of themselves or their families
 - o Communities feel that it is a cherished, secretive practice that should not be shared with the world
- Happens across all different backgrounds, socio-economics and religions
- More than 2 million women and girls live with the consequences of FGM – UNICEF
- In 1996, it was outlawed in the USA
 - o Continual and growing threat

- 2017 – SAFE Act passed in Senate, increased penalty for FGM
 - o Would've brought more in line with other Western countries
 - o Passed US House unanimously
- Tried to identify quick way to turn support into legislation
 - o Thought could do it through the Violence Against Women Act
 - o Continually re-authorized, new threats included
- Want FGM to be included in next re-authorization of Violence Against Women Act
- Needs community co-operation
 - o Police, support workers, health works
- Fresh sense of urgency due to Michigan Court case
 - o Judge ruled that Federal ban was unconstitutional and banning should lie with the state
 - o Certain FGM groups working with Constitutional law experts to try and appeal the case properly
- People travel across states where it isn't illegal yet to have the procedure done on their daughters
- Knowledge gap between modern Western world and Eastern tradition
- Most Asian and African people and community leaders, have complete mistrust in Western science
- Failure for society, because we were not able to move these regions away from this practice
 - o Another case in point is vaccination
 - Low rates of vaccination in Asia and Africa because of Western medicine mistrust
- FGM is not medical procedure, but ritualistic practice done by unexperienced and unknowing people
- Tough question: If the physicians don't do it, will the person go elsewhere to someone with zero medical experience and be in more danger and suffer more long-term consequences? If they do it, it will be illegal.
 - o Being put in this horrendous ethical position by families frequently
- Need to be sensitive of people's culture and need to earn their trust in order to point them in the right direction
- 'Vacation cutting'
 - o Go to country where it is acceptable on a holiday and getting it done
 - o Specific 'cutting' seasons – migration to these countries
- Dawoodi Bohra Community
 - o Educated, progressive community
 - o FGM very prevalent in community
 - o Several sects (about 5) with several leaders
 - Very revered leaders, what they say goes
 - o Some sects have come out against FGM, some come out for it, some have remained silent
- "Khatna", or "Khafz", is a form of FGC practiced by the Dawoodi Bohra community, a Muslim minority community originating in India with diaspora populations around the world
 - o "Khatna" is typically male circumcision
- Case in Sydney, Australia: mother, cultural cutter and priest
 - o Case appealed and let go
 - o Encouraged to keep working towards better legislation
- Difficult to align educated nature of culture with the prevalence of FGM

- Shows that FGM happens across all backgrounds
- Parents think they are protecting their children by having it done
- Work towards better legislation within India – nip it straight in the bud before it spreads to places such as Australia where the legislation might also not be as strong
- Can't minimise the spiritual and cultural importance to some people, despite how horrific it is
 - Need to create solutions with this balance in mind
- Need to involve Government leaders to improve visibility and legitimacy
- 'Cutting' vs. 'Mutilation'
 - Using the word cutting can be seen as not as horrible as mutilation and therefore takes away from the severe nature of the practice
 - Should be decision of survivors what they call it – what they feel comfortable with
 - When parents do it, they are not intending to mutilate their children so cutting is more in line with the motives behind their actions
 - Using the word cutting, instead of mutilation, is more culturally responsive
 - i.e. if you enter these communities raving about mutilation, they are more likely to shut down and not want to have conversations
 - That being said, many survivors are adamant that it is mutilation and should be called such
- Need to inform and involve men as parents
 - Stories of men becoming informed and stopping wives from allowing FGM to happen to their daughters
- Lack of organisations that give support and connections to women and girls who have undergone FGM
 - If there are organisations, lack of awareness of them amongst survivors

Empowering Girls & Women Facing Violence in Family Settings

American Society of Criminology: Division on Women and Crime, International Sociological Association, Criminologists without Borders and Living Without Abuse (Women's Aid Affiliation)

This event was in relation to family violence and how we can empower women and girls to leave these situations. It began by outlining the common factors behind family violence (i.e. unequal power structures, economic inequality) and reiterating how vital social services are in helping women escape these situations. These social services then have to be backed up by more formal structures such as effective legislation. For example, in Nicaragua, they have just completely overhauled their domestic violence and violence against women legislation, and it looks great on paper, but in practice it is lacking. The Government began watering down provisions immediately after it was implemented and it was suggested that in rural areas, some women don't even know it exists and/or the positive impacts it could have on their lives. The event also explored how important data collecting and research is in ensuring that our solutions and responses are effective. A semi-case study was given of the United Kingdom and how certain austerity measures have led to cuts across legal services meaning that self-representation has increase and some women are being subjected to cross examination by the perpetrators of their abuse. By collecting data on this, statistics are able to be an impetus for change straight from experience, a 'knowledge-to-action' approach. It was further discussed that we should link the safety of women and the safety of children together in order to ensure that holistic approaches are taken. This

includes not blaming women for staying and keeping their children in violent situations, particularly when sometimes leaving the situation can leave them worse off due to lack of resources and services. Other important points made were, that we need to involve survivors more in creating the language around domestic violence and their experiences and also that we need to educate domestic violence workers about vicarious trauma, through which they suffer their own trauma due to the space they work in.

- Seeks to perpetuate gender inequality
 - Unequal power structures
- Low-economic and social status of women can increase the instances of violence that these women may face
- Increasing economic empowerment is important to help women to leave abusive situations
- Need to also make efforts to change the behaviour of violent men
- Sexual harassment in public spaces
 - Education, health sectors
 - Not very well-documented – legal framework is limited and hard to navigate
- Sexual harassment in employment prevents economic empowerment
- Need comprehensive approach
- Long-term support for survivors
- Build capacity of local authorities
 - Ability to collect reliable data
 - More uniform methodologies to be able to compare data across countries more effectively
- Restrictive choices about own safety – victims in rural areas
 - Lack of knowledge, lack of access, limited access to social services in particular
- Believe reporting to authorities will make them less safe
 - Authorities tend to favour perpetrator
 - Can lead to more violence
- Nicaragua – improved legislation
 - Looks great on paper
 - Immediately after, the Government began watering down impact of law
 - i.e. introduction of mediation
 - In rural areas, it was not clear whether women even knew the impact of the new law
- Funding is always an issue – civil society still perseveres
- Needs for evaluation in smaller pockets of populations
- Importance of data and research
- Domestic abuse costs 66 billion pounds of social and economic costs across England and Wales alone
- Looms large in family justice cases
 - Many divorces comes from domestic abuse
 - Commonly feature in child contact cases
 - Thousands of children living in domestic violence households and many taken into state protection
 - Can address the effects of domestic abuse, but can also compound them
 - Women victims can lose their homes
 - Can lose care of their children
 - Can lose financial support

- Some women feel they have to live in unsafe conditions in order to keep care of their children
- Additional challenges:
 - Austerity policies
 - Funding for refuges cut
 - Legal aid cut – meaning that some people have to represent selves and women are being cross-examined by perpetrators
 - Definitions can vary – creates confusions
 - Domestic abuse is common but not all ‘high conflict’ family law cases involve domestic abuse
 - Domestic abuse allegations may not be proven or acted upon
 - Knowledge is partial and incomplete
- The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory
 - Catalyse improved outcomes for children and families by making better use of data and research
 - ‘Knowledge-to-Action’
 - Collaborative approach
 - Particularly between experts and practitioners
 - Children: ‘experts by experience’
 - Major focus on (re)analysing administrative data, and making research more available and impactful
- Recommendations for how civil society organisations should empower through knowledge within this space:
 1. Prominence: work to improve coverage, quality and use of data collected
 2. Effectiveness: build approaches to practice based on good evidence
 3. Participation: look for ways to involve the voices and contributions of victims
- Data issues may be dry, but they are essential to co-ordinate appropriate solutions and monitor progress
- Growing body of evidence on co-concurrence of violence against women and children
 - Overlapping risk factors and dynamics
 - Despite evidence, violence against partners and violence against children are separated in training, research, policy, practice and activism
 - Need to think about interdisciplinary, culturally relevant, trauma-informed services that are guided by survivors of gender violence
 - Awareness is first step
 - Need to link safety of children to the safety of their mother
 - Blaming the mother for staying in situation is counterproductive – if a woman does not have adequate support, resources, or access to services, leaving will make it worse
 - Need community help
 - Improved practice requires:
 - Examination of attitudes and commitment to change
 - Cross-training and capacity-building to effectively intervene and not re-victimise
 - Policies that address safety, health, well-being of women and children simultaneously
 - Dual assessment that are family-centred, trauma-informed and reduce further risks and additional trauma
- Complex trauma in family settings requires a multidisciplinary approach

- Trained professionals:
 - Public health, criminal justice, social services, mental health, advocacy etc.
- Survivor self-determination
- Core services:
 - Coordinated investigations
 - Dual safety and service needs assessments
 - Collaborative decision-making and coordinated intervention
- Growing number of intervention models
- System reform and program innovations in US and globally
- Impact of work-related trauma exposure for practitioners and quality of care
 - Raise awareness of vicarious trauma as inevitable and potential negative consequences
 - Vicarious trauma is where workers in the field suffer from trauma as a result of the space, they are working within
 - Need individual and provider-based strategies for self-care
- Recommendations for improved practices and policies consistent with UN goals
 - Collaborative relationships
 - Develop cross-disciplinary training and polities
 - Prioritise and build capacity
 - Ensure self-determination and access to services
 - Promote awareness of vicarious trauma
- How do we empower women and girls in situations such as this?
- Finding pictures of empowered women on internet is hard
- Criticism makes women wary of standing up for their rights
 - It's about being courageous
- UK study/program
- Aims:
 - Enhance methods for engaging girls and women to talk about the violence they experience
 - In words of their own choosing
 - Specifically, and carefully define what violence is and what it feels like
- Objectives:
 - Empower and support girls and women to hear their own voices
 - Believe their own experiences
 - Find their own words for naming that experience
- Background:
 - Domestic violence has been central to women's movement
 - Addressed in global legislatures and within the UN
 - Nonetheless, around the globe violence in the home remains a common experience and research showed that it is multi-causal and multi-factorial
 - Most social protection systems, statistics and services focus on specific forms of violence and can be quite linear
 - Monitoring attitudes against women and girls that lead to them being blamed for violence against them
- The study:
 - Five focus groups of 2 to 15 participants
 - Four focus groups with women experiencing violence in the family
 - One with key stakeholders: police, social services, DV organisations, health and early intervention teams

- All 5 groups asked to describe in detail their experiences
- The power of voice, authenticity of words
- Policy should not place responsibility or blame on person subjected to violence
 - Shouldn't be required to deal with or solve behaviour of perpetrator
- Girls and women should be directly involved in construction of terms used to describe and define violent behaviours
- New innovative ways to discuss, record and address violence in the community

Stories of Faith: Social Protection, Stigma and Safe Havens

Islamic Relief, Side by Side: Faith Movement for Gender Justice, Anglican Communion, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and UNFPA

This event was focused on faith-based actors and how they can improve the lives of women. Faith actors play a significant role in challenging gender barriers, particularly when 85% of the world identifies with some sort of faith. As faith actors fill vital gaps left by governments, it's important for governments to engage with these actors. That being said though, we have to be wary of how we use stories to open the hearts of governments. A balance needs to be struck between stories for the heart and data for the mind, but in a way in which the stories are not commodified and we lose sight of why the stories mattered in the first place. Islamic Relief has been working with faith and community leaders to help them become more engendered in their practice, in order to become agents of change. This methodology has involved challenging certain patriarchal values and re-educating, helping the leaders to acquire knowledge about issues facing women and how to deal with them and also giving them skills to pass this message onto other faith leaders. It was stated that we need to re-define what constitutes a faith-based leader because these definitions typically leave out women. It was also discussed how we need an expanded definition of peace, going beyond conflict, because the number of people who die from lack of water or proper sanitation far surpasses those who die in war. A case study was presented from India, where proper sanitation is being advocated for within schools. The point was made that it is all well and good to talk about giving girls a proper education, but without proper toilets, you lose about 25% of girls within a school once they start menstruating. This sanitation issue and the solutions people are working towards have also helped to relieve some stigma within the caste system, as the lower castes are the ones designated with dealing with the fallout from lack of sanitation.

- Faith actors have significant role in challenging gender roles
 - Working towards human dignity
- Important that governments engage faith actors
 - Important for engagement for all
- Faith actors often at the forefront of social services
 - Often first to react
- Faith institutions often fill the gaps left by governments
- Usually more reflectiveness in faith-based communities
- Trying to get UN and UN colleagues to understand why faith-based communities' matter
 - Show why they can be integral parts of the solution
- Secular society is good at taking down statistics and data; not so good at telling stories, putting human faces to the data
 - Actually, have to tell stories because that is what grabs attention

- How faith matters in individual lives needs to be told through stories AND data and statistics
- When you share hard evidence with stories, it strikes a chord
 - What do we do once we've struck a chord? Both the mind and the heart is open
- Wonder whether we have told the story too well
 - Taking religion as way to capitalise on people's vulnerability
 - Commodification of religion
- Forgotten to remember that behind every religion is a community with diverse people
- Two sides to the religious coin: one side is sensitive and caring, other side can be more focused on public perception and outreach, losing some of the humanity
- Sometimes by the time we get the story, you've completely lost the person whose story it was
 - It made the religious organisation be known, but how has the commodification of the story affected the story-teller?
- How can religion restore dignity to women?
- Integrated protection
 - Working with faith leaders and communities
 - How gender and religion interact is shaped largely by what the scriptures say and how they are interpreted
- Faith leaders have very strong and influential roles to play
 - 85% of globe identify with a religion
- Islamic Relief worked with faith and community leaders to help them become 'engendered', in order to become agents of change
 - Need to change themselves and unlearn certain things
 - Used behaviour change methodology, focuses on heart, head and hands
 - What does faith say about positive masculinity?
 - Challenge certain patriarchal values
 - Find role models within the faith
 - Acquisition on technical knowledge – gender-based violence and how to deal with it
 - Passing on message to other faith leaders
- Need to re-define what constitutes a faith-based leader because they typically leave out women
- Muslim women hesitant to take on secular feminism because their feminism is shaped by their scriptures
- Building bridges within communities focused on human dignity
- Faith came into Africa through social protection
- Some people complain of other religions persecuting them, they forget that they persecute within their own religion
 - i.e. critiquing how someone practices their religion
- Religion has the ability to keep women in violent situations
 - 'women should stand by their husbands'
 - 'it is his right to control his wife'
- Need an expanded definition of peace
 - Extend passed just ending violence
 - Number of people suffering and dying each year due to lack of water and sanitation surpasses the numbers dying in conflict
- Menstruation spoken negatively about in India
 - Dilemma with this is that this heightens the social taboos

- You can build fantastic schools, but if you're not building proper toilets, you lose about 25% of girls once they start menstruating
 - o Taught to stay home and take care of 'monthly problem' and become clean again
 - o Not long before 4-5 days out of school a month means that you need to drop out
- Getting religious leaders to shift focus from just temples to also toilets
- Work with sanitation and hygiene has helped with caste system issue
 - o Lowest caste are the ones who deal with defecation, thought that because of this, they should be pushed away
 - o Proper sanitation releases this stigma
- Teaching women to build toilets

United Nations CSW: 19 March 2019

What Cultural Change is Needed to Consign Sexual Harassment to the Dustbin of History?

UN Women

This event was organised by UN Women and it had numerous panel speakers which discussed how we can consign sexual harassment to the 'dustbin of history.' The first speaker, Kerry Gibson, spoke about how the public and private sector can begin to attack sexual harassment within the workplace. She spoke about how the #MeToo movement put HR departments around the world into a panic, as they were now threatened with issues that they could no longer avoid. She said we need to create a system where victims and whistle-blowers are protected and supported and how we need to make sure consequences are extended to those who fail to protect. The next speaker was Kate Jenkins, the Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner. Kate spoke about the current Australian National Inquiry into workplace sexual harassment and how in order to create effective solutions, we need to first understand the breadth and scale of the problem. She also spoke about the need for employers and the community to embrace change and the inherent need to engage with men on this issue. Subsequent speakers throughout the event talked about the added challenges and fears youth face when reporting sexual harassment, the upheaval of the current UN system to create better policies, and how we need better data in order to improve implementation. At this event, a Kenyan politician also spoke about the types of harassment she has faced inside and outside of Parliament. Apparently, Kenya has created new laws to prevent sexual harassment but in practice, nothing has changed.

- Attendees:
 - o *Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*: Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director
 - o *Jan Beagle*: Under-Secretary for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and Chair of the CED Task Force Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organisations of the UN System
 - o *Kate Jenkins*: Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
 - o *Dimitri Tskitishvili*: Deputy Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia
 - o *Upsana Chauhan*: Representative from the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and Man Up Campaign
 - o *Kerry Gibson*: President, EcoCentury Technologies
 - o *Antonia Kirkland*: Global Lead, Legal Equality and Access to Justice, Equality Now
 - o *Representative from the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations*: Found member of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Sexual Harassment
- Many reviewing policies, training etc. to make sure that they are effective in relation to sexual harassment
 - o Including improved reporting conditions that will not have detriment to women
- Have we come to see sexual harassment as an inevitability of life?
- Acknowledge that anyone can be a victim of sexual harassment, data shows again and again that women are typically the victims

- Need to tackle cultural underpinnings
- SDG 5.2 – commits to the elimination of all violence by 2030
- #MeToo put all HR departments around the world into a panic
 - o Hoping to dodge in-house litigation that they could no longer avoid
- Without recognising the problem, no hope for solution
- Further harassment used to discredit victims
- Correct a system that fails to support whistle-blowers and those alike
 - o Bigger cost to abandoning them
- Dire consequences must be extended to those who fail to act to protect
- Leaderships must be hands-on and unbiased throughout whole investigation process
- Victims must have trust in those who are supporting them
- In the US, female soldier is more likely to be raped than killed
 - o Committed to eliminating this statistic
- ‘Operation Honour’ – Canadian Armed Forces
- Ignited conversations around Australia
- First step is understanding the breadth and scale of the problem
- Australian Human Rights Commission has done surveys that have all show that sexual harassment is a scourge within Australian workplaces
- Australian National Inquiry
 - o Prevalence
 - o Drivers
 - o Inadequacy of current legislative frameworks
 - o Effects of technology
 - o Recommendations
- Less than 1 in 5 report their sexual harassment in Australia, less than half of those who do report feel change occurred
- Over 100 consultations throughout Australia
- Need multiple initiatives
- Need employers and community to embrace change
- Need to prevent but also create better systems to listen to victims
- Need to engage men so that they too take the responsibility
 - o This is not just women’s work
- Young people face challenge of no-one believing them because they are so young
- Victims have to be in witness box reliving their trauma
 - o New kind of trauma
- Need to change the culture of normalisation of victim blaming
 - o ‘men will be men’
- UN needs own system of accountability
- Never been a time before when we have been so dedicated and co-ordinated to working on this issue
 - o Particularly in the UN
- No sector/area is immune to sexual harassment
- Important that we say that this is not normal
 - o It is not normal that this is normal
- UN: strategy against sexual harassment
- Victim-centred approach is finally sinking in
- Important that there is policy that is simple and comprehensive enough so that the victim knows what they should do and how they will be protected
- Need credible institutions to report to
- Important that people within these institutions do not become the judges themselves

- Important to create a culture where everyone takes responsibility
- How do we stop perpetrators from just being moved around an organisation?
- Need to capitalise on major cultural shift that is occurring
- UN Task Force on Sexual Harassment
 - Tone from the top – zero tolerance from the top
 - Make it clear that it is not women’s work
 - Concrete actions focused on prevention
 - Need better data for better evidence-based policy
 - Screening data base so perpetrators will not be able to work around system
 - Model Code of Conduct for UN Events
 - Had some previous bad behaviour at UN Events
 - Everyone needs to know what the standards are
 - Mandatory training
 - Response must be victim-centred
 - Want to use real people on hotlines
 - Faster investigations
 - Improve specialised capacity
 - Standards of proof
 - Strengthen whistle-blower policies
- Using both qualitative and quantitative data
- Need to look at efforts in an integrated way: gender parity, whistle-blowers, mental health
- Cannot be just dealt with in the HR departments
 - Everyone needs to be involved
- Need to make alliances with like-minded men
- Kenya – new Act in relation to sexual harassment
 - Has not been matched with action i.e. new policies, training/improved justice
- Only 2/3 of countries have laws which make sexual harassment a crime
- Lack of implementation of existing law is also a major issue
- Should never be immunity for perpetrators
- Perpetrators being allowed to resign and keep their pension instead of being terminated
- Perpetrators given promotions or moved around organisation as a ‘solution’
- ‘Justice delayed is justice denied’

Why Slavery? Film Screening

The Why

The first film of this event was called ‘Benefits of a Toilet’ and it was narrated by Dame Helen Mirren. This film was incredibly short but effective and presented statistics about sanitation throughout the world. Fewer than one in three persons have access to a toilet, with more people having access to a mobile phone. Access to a school toilet can increase female enrolment by 11% and in some countries, it is unacceptable for women to relieve themselves through the day so have to wait until night-time and walk distances to find appropriate sanitation, putting themselves at further risk. It is estimated that 3.5 million people die per year due to a lack of proper sanitation.

The second film of this event was called 'Maid in Hell' by Søren Klovberg and it gave a glimpse into the common-place reality of harassment, abuse, rape and 18-hour work days which migrant domestic workers face. It is hard to explain the profound effect this film had on me. It showed me a whole new slave trade that I had no idea about but is something that everyone should know about. Hundreds of girls are migrating to the Middle East from all over the world (i.e. Tanzania, Kenya, Philippines) to become domestic maids, and who are then becoming trapped. Their passports are taken off them, they have no outside communication with the world and are beaten, sexually assaulted and forced to work 18+ hours a day, with in many cases no salary. One particular story told within the film, was that of Mary, who went to the Middle East to provide for her family. When she returned, she had suffered burns all over her body and eventually died, leaving behind a husband and numerous children. She, nor her family, never got her salary and everyone from her employer to her recruiters all have avoided responsibility.

It is very common for these women to leave their home countries and families with the intention of returning home healthy and with money. This is not the case. In 2016, 110 domestic workers were sent back to their countries dead, an average of 2 per week. 67% of domestic worker deaths in Lebanon are from suicides or from women falling from buildings attempting to escape. The recruiting and employment agencies that import these girls in the Middle East talk about these women as if they were a line of cars ("Ghanaians are Class 1... Bangladeshi are Class 4") and see this as nothing more than a capitalist venture. Their arrogance about and lack of wanting to take responsibility for, what they were doing was despicable. Countries have attempted to ban the export of domestic workers, but places such as Kenya have now favoured their own economic empowerment over that of the women and have created specialised domestic worker agreements with countries such as Saudi Arabia.

I feel like I'm not communicating or can't communicate properly the horrific injustice that was portrayed within this film. It left me feeling hopeless and wondering where you even start to combat what should be a global issue. This is a slave trade and it has no place in 2019. I can't find a link to the full film, but here is a short version of it:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=tfNvFsHbDGg

- Fewer than one in three persons have access to toilet
 - o More people have access to mobile phones
- Access to school toilets increases girl's enrolment up to 11%
- In some countries, unacceptable for women to relieve themselves through day
 - o Sometimes have to travel far in the dark putting themselves at risk
- 3.5 million people a year die from lack of sanitation – equivalent of Sydney population

- Catalogues of girls to work as domestic maids
- Girls migrating to Middle East to work from all over the world (i.e. Tanzania, Philippines)
 - o Work for years without pay
 - o Not allowed to go home
 - o Beaten
 - o Sexually abused/raped
 - o 'Inhuman'
- People buying the maids told to take and hide girls' passports so they can't escape

- Trapped
 - o No passport, no means of communication
- 2.8 million in Middle East working as domestic maids
 - o Domestic maids are major import to Middle East
- Videos of trapped girls begging for help
- Nails hammered into bodies by employers
- Kenya banned live exports of domestic workers
 - o Not all that effective
- 'Recruiting agents'
 - o Will not stop business because 'helping myself and helping other people'
 - o 'No human rights in the Middle East'
 - o Basically, sell the girls to employers – 'she's not like the girls'
 - o Purchasers told they don't have to pay them for the first two months
 - o Incredibly capitalism fuelled business
 - o Earn commissions for supplying girls from certain countries
- Girls are travelling illegally
 - o Recruiters paying immigration under the table
- Despite countries banning the trade, agencies still import around 200 a year
- \$1000 USD per maid
- Sometimes going to Middle East is only option for money
 - o Should only be last option
- Kenyan women constantly flown back to Kenya from Middle East dead, having been raped, sexually assaulted
- More 10 000 maids escape from Saudi Arabia a year
- Told going to work in good conditions, with salary
 - o Worked almost 18 hours a day – some work 6:30AM to 11PM, non-stop
 - o Not paid salary
- No law in Middle East
- Kenya banned women working in Middle East in 2012
 - o To preserve economic interests, Kenya is working with Saudi Arabia to lift ban
 - o Made agreement on domestic workers – December 2017 lifted ban
 - o Agreements also made with other countries (i.e. Jordan)
 - o Kenya Government making money out of it
- Target poor families
 - o No requirements, only need passport
- One lady, went to Saudi Arabia for 4 years, was dumped at a hospital, when returned, could not speak and still cannot speak
 - o Used wire to hurt her, hot iron
- Women compromise half of remittance senders
- Another girl - Mary
 - o 100% burns on her arms, basically completely burnt on the rest of her body
 - o While she was burning, employer kicked her
 - o Didn't get passport back or salary
 - Doesn't believe she even received it
 - o Recruiter: 'if I could have stopped it I would've, but it is what God wants'
 - Didn't notify family in Kenya
 - Said she had life and health insurance in Jordan, but she died in Kenya – insurance covered some medical bills
 - 'Only a mediator' – believes he has no responsibility

- Employer told family on the day before she returned that Mary was in good health and wouldn't need ambulance
- She ended up dying in Kenyan hospital, leaving husband and children behind
- Kenyan Senator, Emma Mbura, attempted to get owed salary from Kenyan recruiter but they dodged and said they weren't responsible
- Jordan District Attorney closed case as 'fate and destiny'
- Leave Kenya to provide for people and come back handicapped – turn up in airports in wheelchairs
- Husbands think wives will return healthy and with lots of money
- Men in meetings about importing to different Middle Eastern countries, talking about the women and maids like they are a line of car
 - 'Ghanaians are Class 1... Bangladeshi are Class 4'
- SLAVE TRADE
- Agencies take salary and hold it for them, or they have to send it back to their families
 - According to the agency
 - That's if they even get paid
 - They probably keep the salary for themselves
- All given medicals when arrive
 - Sick and pregnant girls sent back
- Domestic workers agencies working with recruiting agencies
- 67% of domestic worker deaths in Lebanon are from suicide or falling from building
- 110 dead domestic workers sent back to their countries in 2016 – Average of 2 per week

The Safety of Women and Girls in Educational Settings

American Society of Criminology: Division on Women and Crime, International Sociological Society, Criminologists without Borders and World Society of Victimology

This event was about the safety of women and girls in educational settings. This is a huge issue as education is vital to ensuring gender equality and global development, and without all girls having safe access to education, the gap will only widen. Two main examples were discussed. The first was in relation to the Greek education system and recent challenges it has faced. In order to overcome these challenges civil society has introduced programs in conjunction with social services to increase trust in law enforcement and to provide young girls with health information to keep them in school. The other example was much broader and focused on college and university campus sexual harassment and assaults. One of the presenters on this topic was herself a survivor but was forced to go on medical leave at her school because her perpetrator was put in her dorm by her college administration. She is basically missing out on her education and being punished because of the inability of her school to deal with this appropriately. With situations such as this occurring, it is evident to see why so many girls and women drop out of school after they have suffered some sort of sexual violence. UN Women has created 4 principles and 10 essentials that should be used to combat campus violence and they include things such as accountability for perpetrators and having protocols as to how to implement policy.

If you want to read more and become informed about the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault in Australian universities, I highly recommend reading the Australian Human Rights Commission 'Changing the Course' Report (2017):

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/publications/change-course-national-report-sexual-assault-and-sexual>.

If you don't have time though, some key statistics are:

- 51% of students were sexually harassed on at least one occasion in 2016.
- Women were almost twice as likely as men to have been sexually harassed in a university setting in 2016.

I myself have done a bit of research in this area, and before this report came out and universities nationwide started to rethink their policies, some universities were 'punishing' perpetrators of sexual assault with a small monetary fine and some community service. Most certainly an instance of the punishment not fitting the crime. 'The Hunting Ground' on Netflix is also a really good documentary to watch if you want to know more about this issue in the US college context.

- Gender inequality is huge barrier to global development
- Education and lack of attainment is linked to violence against women
 - o i.e. college sexual assault and harassment
- Education is vital for safety
- Girls can experience violence on their way to or from school
- School environments often reflect communities around them
 - o If we change attitudes in communities, we can do the same in schools
- Gender-sensitivity training for teachers
- Need to change institutional responses to violence against women in educational settings
- Need to reduce acceptability
- Need to protect Title IX in US– important protections in relation to gender-based violence
- In 2011, Greece had high literacy levels but new challenges for girls
 - o Financial crisis – decrease in funding
 - o Migrant crisis
 - Illiteracy – need to learn Greek
 - Gender gap
 - Short stays in Greek school system – Greece not final destination, waiting for asylum to be processed
 - Trying to overcome parental biases about educating girls
 - Uncoordinated efforts of education in refugee camps
 - Disjointed volunteers
 - o Increased truancy
 - o Gender specific challenges
 - Increased underage pregnancy
 - Increased sexually transmitted diseases
 - Increase of technology has led to peer aggression amongst girls
 - o Loss of trust in law enforcement
 - Underreporting of crimes
- Should take community-based approach
- 'Via-Stop'
 - o Take community agencies into schools to talk to children (i.e. healthcare professionals, police)
 - o Helped increase trust in police
 - o Educating girls about healthcare

- Have seen increase in communication and sharing of information
- A rapid and to the point resolution of bullying and domestic violence
- Increase in reporting
- Decrease in negative perceptions in relation to police
- 20% of Greek schoolkids carry knives to school to protect themselves
- 1 in 5 college girls are sexually assaulted in college
 - Title IX forces colleges to investigate these assaults
 - Rarely enforced
- Many college students are forced to drop out because they are placed in unsafe situations
 - The speaker, was sexually assaulted on her college campus
 - Goes to Colombia, but is currently on a year of medical leave because her college put her perpetrator in the same dorm as her
 - So, she could be kept in that situation, or take leave
 - She's basically the one being punished and losing out on her education
- White and straight students report their assaults far more than coloured or gay students
- White students are also more likely to get their cases investigated better and get better results than others
- Depending on where a woman lives, it can be difficult to get appropriate healthcare needed in the result of sexual violence
- Pervasive across colleges and universities around the globe
- How do we translate community work into global work?
- 10 Essentials for Addressing Campus Violence (UN Women):
 - Institutional Environment
 1. Assess the situation
 2. A policy of zero tolerance
 3. A dedicated university co-ordinator
 4. Protocols outlining detailed steps and procedures for policy implementation
 5. Interim supportive measures
 6. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
 7. A dedicated budget
 - Service
 8. Provision of services and support for survivors
 - Prevention
 9. Awareness raising campaigns and programmes on ending violence against women and bystander programmes
 10. Interventions that promote respectful relationships
- Four principles (UN Women):
 1. Comprehensive approach
 2. Survivor-centred approach
 3. Human rights-based approach
 4. Accountability for perpetrators

Sparking a Global Movement: Women in Tech Shaping our Future

AnitaB.org

This event was run by the Anita B Organisation, which is dedicated to empowering women within technology and has a goal of 50/50 gender representation in all tech roles. The organisation acknowledged that they won't reach this goal by next year but are hopeful to reach it by 2025. This first topic discussed was how tech can empower and reach out to Native Americans through workshops and labs. This education can assist them in getting a job. Another important part of this is engaging people in what their interests are and then applying it within the tech world so that they feel like they have some 'skin in the game.' Open Source projects were discussed next. These projects are networks of women working together to create tech that is problem-solving and collaborative. An example of one of these projects was a safety app for girls, where the user of the app is able to send out an alert to all their friends if they're in a situation where they feel unsafe. It was also emphasised how important it is to have awards dedicated to women in tech in order for them to get the coverage and recognition that they need and deserve. This is especially important as the majority of awards are apparently given to white men. Technology is also super important for empowering and assisting displaced populations and refugees.

- Need to address persistent underrepresentation in tech
 - o Changes are happening over time
 - o A lot of work needed across entry level to executive roles
 - o Striving for 50/50 technology roles by 2020 (aware this won't be reached)
 - Mission now to get there in 2025
- Unequal access to employment opportunities for Native communities and the lack of emphasis on technology jobs
- Compare the number of remote technology jobs with the unemployment numbers on reservations
 - o By teaching community members key skills through targeted workshops/labs/'hackathons', this can create opportunity
 - o Want to know if they do something, what will they get out of it? i.e. a job
- Partnerships are critical to education, capacity building and networking
- Tech literacy as a path to technological engagement with Native Communities
- Creating tech related workshops and labs that acknowledge the community first and foremost
 - o Instead of just 'aimed at', focus on serving
- Getting partners to engage in and develop an understanding of the community with local community members
- Getting what people are interested in and applying this within the tech world
 - o Making people invested in it
 - o i.e. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and the gaps in data
 - Creating tech to fix this
- Women have always been contributing to technology
- Anita B 'Systems'
- Pathways: conferences, codeathons, open source projects
- Awards Programs
- Impact through Open Source
 - o Collaborate on solutions
- Importance of awards that recognise women in tech
- Need to consider refugees and how tech can help and empower them

United Nations CSW63: 20 March 2019

Gender Equality and Gender Ideology: Protecting Women and Girls

Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN and Heritage Foundation

This panel event examined how gender ideology is impacting the gains of women and girls towards gender equality and examined whether various current approaches advance or unintentionally undermine the dignity of women and girls in general and whether they help or inadvertently harm individual women, girls and others in particular.

The panellists approached the subject from the perspective of endocrinology, psychology, philosophy, law, politics and culture. The panel made the point that when CSW first started, there was a clear idea about what a woman was, but this consensus has eroded. It was also acknowledged that people going through gender dysmorphia suffer great pain, that should not be diminished.

- When CSW first started, there was a clear idea about what a woman was
 - o Consensus being eroded
 - o Gender identity rather than biology
- Undermines basis of family
- 'Ideological aggression' against girls and women
- People going through gender issues suffer massively and feel pain
- Panellists believed it was the mutilation of healthy bodies
- Implications for human rights law and definitions
- Implications in sport
- Believes Western states 'steamrolling' other states

Why Slavery? Film Screening

The Why

The first film of this event was called 'It Started with A Duck,' narrated by Helen Mirren, and it highlighted how something as simple as a duck can advance women's economic empowerment. It was about how due to climate change, there is extreme flooding within Bangladesh, which causes hardship for farmers. In order to overcome this, one woman invested in ducks. The ducks were able to survive in the wet and dry times and provided food and income for the woman's family. Having ducks won't stop the flooding but it is an adaption to a new climate situation, which provides families with climate resistant incomes

The second film of this event was called 'A Woman Captured,' by Bernadett Tuza-Ritter and it portrayed the psychology behind enslavement in Hungary. It followed the story of Marish who was forced to sign loans and then enslaved under debt by a woman named Eta. Eta kept all the money from the signed 'loans', forced Marish to work 12-hour days in a factory and took all her salary. Marish was regularly beaten, verbally abused and had very little autonomy. Eta did not work but instead relied upon the income from her 3 'servants' going out and working. She also had a daughter who worked for Eta but had escaped and was now under state protection. The filmmaker played an integral role in Marish's story, in that she gained her trust and then supported her throughout her eventual escape. This escape took place when Marish had endured one beating too many and decided that one day after when, after she had received her salary, she would keep on walking. She left with 150

euros, the clothes on her back and very few supplies. She eventually found accommodation in a safe house and found employment. Eta and her family continued to search for her though and even social programmes such as the National Crisis Hotline in Hungary refused help her because they didn't consider what she had suffered to be 'domestic violence.' In the end, Marish reunited with her daughter, who she now lives with, along with her grandson, and she works 8 hours a day as cleaner in the Hungarian Parliament. In one of the final and most moving parts of the film, we were informed that Marish was her slave name. Edith was her real name.

- Flooding in Bangladesh
 - o Life difficult for farmers
- Changed to having ducks because of all the water – more food, more income
 - o Adapting to new climate situation
 - o Won't stop flooding but provides families with climate resistant incomes
- Marish, enslaved by woman named Eta
- Verbally abused and degraded
- Forced Marish to sign three loans, Eta kept the money though and now Marish will be in her debt for most probably the rest of her life
 - o Police don't care why she took loans, all they care about is that her name is signed on them
- Hungary
- Eta doesn't work, keeps three servants who all bring in money
 - o Didn't allow filmmaker to film Marish without permission
 - o Eta forces Marish to work 12-hour days in factory
- Has been enslaved for 11 years
- Marish has daughter who escaped from Eta but cannot visit her because Eta makes her work 7 days a week
 - o Taken into state custody
- Eta's children break things and then conspire the blame it on Marish
 - o Eta doesn't believe Marish
- Marish conspiring with filmmaker re: escape
 - o Telling her not to tell Eta that she's talking to her, just say that she's answering questions
- Hard to get away because she needs to hide so they don't find her
- Only reason Eta lets filmmaker shoot is because she is getting money from it
- Marish: "If you manage to screen it just once, maybe people will realise how you shouldn't treat other people"
- Filmmaker called police and they said they couldn't do anything about it
- Marish really appreciating the support of the filmmaker
- Manages to escape with 150 euros and clothes on her back
- National Crisis Hotline couldn't help because they didn't consider Marish to be victim of domestic violence because it wasn't family who were abusing her
- Marish was her servant name, Edith is her real name
- Edith got a job, is wearing make-up, can visit her daughter
 - o Works 8 hours a day in Parliament in Hungary
 - o Lives in apartment with daughter and grandson
 - o Dreams of owning cleaning company
- Eta continued to search for her, called daughter and lied about Edith to her daughter
- 22 000 subjected to modern slavery in Hungary

Exploring the Journey of Women, Peace and Security: Lessons and Opportunities from the Global South

South Africa, Namibia, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN and UN Women

This event focused on Security Council Resolution 1325, in relation to Women, Peace and Security. The discussion was organised by South Africa and included perspectives from the African Region, as well as from Norway. Resolution 1325 was a global recognition that women are affected by conflict in a specific way, whether it be through gender-based violence, displacement or disempowerment. The panel highlighted the need to involve women more in peace-making processes as data has shown that when women are involved, peace is more sustainable and durable. Further to this point, when female peacekeepers are deployed, they tend to take a more community need approach and address specific issues that women face, making them more effective. This being said though, in certain areas, progress is not being made. Threats to female human rights defenders are not decreasing, sexual violence is increasing, the majority of peacekeepers killed are women (mostly by state actors), women still be left out of peace negotiating processes and there are not enough funds to train women in large numbers and to accelerate this training. Furthermore, when women are not involved in reparation processes, issues facing women affected by conflict slip through the cracks.

UN Women suggested 6 areas that need attention; strengthening protection of women's human rights defenders, addressing the financing of the women, peace and security agenda, needing to be systematic in increasing number of women in service, needing to make sure women have access to decision-making bodies, peace-keeping operations need to have gender-responsive planning mechanisms and we must promote gender equality and women's participation in all peace-making processes. Two further things discussed within this event to improve the implementation of the agenda were the creation of networks of women mediators to make it easy for peace-making processes to find women to participate and also the expansion of Resolution 1325 to involve women and girls whose countries are not in times of conflict, but whose peace and security is still threatened (i.e. climate change, trafficking).

- Women being scared about safety and security everyday
- Security risks getting to and from work
- Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security Agenda
 - o Gender responsive approach to all matters of women, peace and security
 - o 20th anniversary in 2020
- South African peace-building model strongly informed by experiences towards democracy
 - o Will use place in Security Council to prioritise women in peace and security
- Implementation of 1325 directly linked to global security
- When women are involved, data shows that there is more chance of sustainable and durable peace
- Women being involved in peace-building processes is undervalued and under-resourced
- South Africa believes there should be a larger number of female peace-keepers deployed
- Capacity building important
 - o Programs

- Focus on South African student leaders
- Recognition that women are affected by conflict in a specific way
 - Recognises that women are not just victims of war, but also peace-makers, strategists etc.
- Peace has to be sustained or it can easily slip away
- Need peacekeepers to respond to needs of communities
- Whenever you deploy women, you are enhancing the quality of the mission – Dr Phumzile
- In peace missions where there are women, communities' benefit
 - Go above and beyond – enhanced childcare, access to justice, want to genuinely help women and facilitate needs of communities
 - Countries reach out saying they are thankful for missions with high representation of women because they are more effective in communities
- Involving grassroots organisations in peacekeeping is effective – cost effective, time effective, quality improved
- Countries in the South are contributing but also collaborating very well with the North and also within other Southern actors
- Still lots of problems: threats are not decreasing, sexual violence is increasing, majority of peacekeepers killed are women (mostly by state actors), women still be left out of peace negotiating processes, not enough funds to train women in large numbers and to accelerate this training
- 6 areas that need attention: strengthen protection of women's human rights defenders, address financing of WPS Agenda so we can address and support women's role and participation and effectiveness of resolution, need to be systematic in increasing number of women in service (security forces), need to make sure women have access to decision-making bodies, peace-keeping operations need to have gender-responsive planning mechanisms, must promote gender equality and women's participation in all peace-making processes
- When reparations are being discussed women and their needs fall between the cracks, especially when there aren't women within the room to bring attention to it
- Rise of terrorism creates a threat to international security
 - Must be rejected in strongest possible words
- Important to know that these terrorist organisations recruit worldwide
- Geo-political conflict continues to displace women who are trying to protect their families
 - South Africa has influx of economic refugees
- Destabilisation and displacement – all have gender-specific consequences
- Women cannot always be victims, need to be able to be involved in peace processes
 - Women have different methods and thinking for negotiating
- Negotiating in good faith is key – women understand this
- South African work in WPS and creation of women mediators, inspired Nordic model of women mediators
 - Global networks – politicians, diplomats etc.
 - Extensive knowledge in WPS and make it impossible for people to say it's difficult to find knowledgeable women in this field
- Contact group
- Many obstacles that stand in the way of women being properly involved in peace-making
 - Education, violence

- We must do more than encourage women to participate, we must remove the barriers that prevent them from participating
- Namibia was President of Security Council when Resolution 1325 was adopted
- Continue to follow and get guidance from Resolution
- Namibia: Why should the resolution on apply in conflict situations?
 - o Should be expanded to pre and post conflict situations and every day within our lives
- Peace and security in countries that are not in conflict situations but where the peace and security of women and girls are under threat
 - o i.e. climate change, trafficking
- Need to make sure that women are empowered to protect themselves and their families
- Need legislation to align with Agenda

United Nations CSW63: 21 March 2019

Innovative Exemplars in Global Nursing Practice, Education, Consultation and Partnership

International Council of Nurses and Nightingale Initiative for Global Health

This event focused upon the work of nurses throughout the world and the research they do. We were introduced to the Alight Program, which aims to enhance community projects by encouraging global programs to extend their good intentions and go a step further by asking communities what they actually need healthcare wise. For example, a global organisation going into Grenada to give blood pressure checks to the community, with very good intentions, but the people in Grenada don't really need that. The Alight Program provides training to support this and also have a service project database, where they go to service agencies within global communities who need support and ask them what exact support they need. These answers are then put into a database which organisations are able to access and then provided the needed service. An emphasis was also placed how well-placed nurses and midwives are to be advocates for the appropriate healthcare of women and girls. This means that they should be more appreciated for their knowledge and given more opportunities in relation to research. Another important discussion was had about the correct portrayal of nurses within the media. We need to increase public understanding of the central, front-line role nurses play in modern health care and promote more accurate, balanced and frequent media portrayals of nurses by increasing the media's use of nurses as expert sources. Far too often, nurses are portrayed in the media as 'assistants' or 'sexual objects' ready to fall in love with the doctor, rather than frontline healthcare workers who are often more experienced and people-centric than doctors.

- Debra Anderson, Head of Nursing at Griffith University in Queensland, was a presenter
- Youth nurses are not often able to participate in discussions such as this because their working hours prevent it
- 'Alight Program' – Alliance for Leaders in Global Humanitarian Training
 - Move beyond good intentions by supporting creation of ethical, evidence-based partnerships and practice
 - Came from doing community projects that weren't partnership based – just coming in with good intentions but not really giving what the community needs because partnerships weren't created
 - Training and certification
 - People who are running global programs with good intentions
 - For the most part, program leaders are not certified
 - Components built on a foundation of research
 - Online and onsite
 - Available to program leaders, participants (students, volunteers), onsite community partners
 - Uses SDGs as frameworks
 - International programs
 - Strengthened through linkages with interprofessional and international partners
 - International clinical experiences
 - Credit toward majors

- Continuing education
 - Grenada, Guatemala, Ireland and US
 - Emerging partners: Cambodia and Nigeria
 - Collaboration with community agencies, universities etc.
- Service Project Database
 - Tool for community-driven service projects
 - Power dynamics of global-service partnerships
 - Go to agencies and asked what projects they would like to partner with
 - What they need
 - Sustainability in partnerships
 - Gap between people coming and doing projects and actually sitting down asking people what they need
- Within nursing colleges:
 - Change in skills laboratory concept
 - Redefining and re-emphasizing essential skills in pre-licensure education
 - Shift to non-acute settings for clinical placement
 - Addressing social determinants
 - Campus assessment
 - Guided pathways
 - Career academic pathways
 - Ensuring that guided and career academic pathways lead to mission and goals of colleges
- Nurses and midwives can provide leadership to advocate health care outcomes for women and girls through education and research
 - Positioned well as key actors
 - Important that we consider the need for tailored and targeted evidence-based research
 - 'Women's Wellness Research Program'
 - International and multidisciplinary
 - Need to build up new generation of nursing researchers
- InterLACE – global health studies combined
 - Collecting data across life spans
 - Able to see linkages to chronic disease and reproductive health
 - Datasets: Socio-demographic and modifiable lifestyle factors, female reproductive characteristics, chronic disease outcomes
- Nurse led: Women's Wellness after Cancer Programs
 - Australian programs
- Younger program
 - Aims to promote wellness amongst those in university with PMS
- In China, there is a nurse led post abortion support intervention
 - Result of forced abortions stemming from one child policy
- In Nepal, nurse led intervention for victims of domestic violence
- Nurses should be translating and commercialising their programs and research, so they are able to be used globally
- International Council of Nurses
 - Federation of 130 National Nursing association
 - 20 million nurses worldwide
 - First NGO recognised by WHO
 - Championing the contribution of nurses worldwide

- International Nurses Day – May 12 (Florence Nightingale’s birthday)
- Global health challenges
 - Achieving health outcomes that matter
 - Migrant health
 - Diseases we know and the ones we don’t – epidemics/pandemics
 - Products of lifestyle and environment
 - Effects of violence on healthcare
- Nurses have significant impact on the empowerment of women
 - Holistic and people-centred
- Major health inequalities in marginalized health
 - Maori – females had a registration rate of cervical cancer, twice that of non-Maori counterparts
- ‘The Truth about Nursing’
 - Increase public understanding of the central, front-line role nurses play in modern health care
 - Promote more accurate, balanced and frequent media portrayals of nurses and increase the media’s use of nurses as expert sources
 - Foster growth in the size and diversity of the nursing profession
 - Nurses tend to expect or even accept violence as part of their job
 - 90% of Australian emergency department staff have suffered violence in last 12 months
- Epidemic control:
 - ICAP - Global Nurse Capacity Building Project
 - Resilient and Response Health System Project
 - Online learning
- Need closer connection in planning and service delivery between educators and practices
 - Those on the ground aren’t influencing policy and those influencing policy don’t know what’s happening on the ground
- Need innovative models of education and lifelong learning in Africa
 - Simulation-based training
 - Competency based assessments and curricula
- Rights-based community healthcare models
- CLAN – Australian NGO
 - Seeks to identify communities where children are living with non-communicable disease and need support
 - Building communities
 - Works in partnership with local and national health organisations around the globe
- Community care groups give parents resources to help with the care of their child with a non-communicable disease
- Using technology to inform and empower women in their own healthcare
 - Fill in gaps in health literacy
- Women need to start saying ‘nothing for us, without us’ in relation to their healthcare
- Nurses and how they can assist in the fight against human trafficking

Does the online space allow women in media to challenge stereotyping and misrepresentation?

Global Forum for Media Development

This event discussed women in the media and how the evolution of the media has had both negative and positive effects on women. On the negative side of things, people are now given more access to female journalists, due to the rise of the online. This has led to increased gender-based threats and violence online and female journalists having to censor themselves because it becomes very personal. Furthermore, the media continually portrays women as victims, partly as a result of the majority of decision-makers in media being men. We need to target these men with action plans and integrate them into the solutions. This being said though; the advent of new media has given women more spaces to tell their stories and empower others in a freer way.

- Gender and the media is a different space
 - o Media is incredibly mixed – celebrity holiday photos mixed with politics
 - Converged environment
- Different actors
 - o i.e. audiences that are now also producers
- Women make only 24% of what the rest of the news media makes
- Women usually play traditional, limited roles within media
- Online world has opened more possibility for women
 - o Data that shows gender gap in high income countries is decreasing
- Open space and more new media can lead to more opportunities for women
- Online violence has multiple faces
 - o Stalking, privacy violations
- Women are more exposed in online environment and it is on the sole basis that they are women
- Attacks on one female journalist, has a ripple effect on other female journalists
 - o Perpetrators wanting to silence the voices of women who are challenging the status quo
- Online violence is not new, but it is now extended on the basis of gender and discrimination
- Online and offline gender violence loop in together
- Self and induced censorship: female journalists closing social media accounts, asking to not work on such controversial topics, so that the debate about what they are writing doesn't become personal
 - o Not conducive to them efficiently doing their job
- Women journalists beginning to start groups for support in this area
- Integrating men in finding a solution or at the very least, not being part of the problem
- Media needs to stop picturing women as victims
 - o Need women to tell their own stories to overcome this and empower others
- Women journalists need to be able to be leaders in media institutions
 - o Training, support
- Women have to make much more effort for people to take them more seriously within this space
- Don't need to be an island though – need to collaborate with men who are making decisions
 - o Need to target men with action plans

- Distrust with traditional media at the moment
 - o Worried that engagement with traditional media will lead to abuse
 - o Need to build up this trust again
- Society needs a public space to come together to talk about public issues without fear
- Most people making Wikipedia content, are men
 - o Trying to improve these statistics but so far have gained 1%

Understanding the US FGM Landscape: Prevention, Protection and Care

The US End FGM/C Network and Equality Now

This event was very similar to the previous event I attended on female genital mutilation/cutting, in terms of the facts and statistics that were presented. It gave further interesting perspectives though. For example, the point was made that sometimes FGM/C is called 'female circumcision' and equivalences are made with male circumcision to make it seem okay. These equivalences are completely false though; there are no medical benefits to FGM/C. It also spoke about how the major religions practice FGM/C, but FGM/C is not written in any of the scriptures. This is because within the patriarchal nature of religion, false interpretations of scripture are highly skewed against women and this can be a driver of FGM/C. It was noted that laws will not solve this problem, but we need a formative framework supporting its illegality, and a way to normalise discourse around this issue. Myth also plays a massive role in the prevalence of FGM/C, so it is incredibly important to be having conversations within these communities to bust these myths. Many actors who are integral in stopping FGM/C, law enforcement and school nurses, aren't properly equipped with the knowledge to handle FGM/C cases appropriately so training programs are essential.

- Partial or total removal of female external genitalia
 - o No health benefits
 - o Has lasting health consequences – physically and psychologically
- At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM/C
 - o 68 million girls may be cut by 2030
 - o Estimated over 500 000 women and girls are at risk or have undergone FGM/C in the US
 - o 53 000 women and girls living in Australia have undergone FGM/C
 - No data re: how many had this done in Australia
 - Many come to Australia as refugees
- Typically characterised as a faraway problem happening in rural villages in India etc.
 - o Now finding out this isn't the case and it is everywhere
 - o It is a cultural practice, not necessarily a religious practice
- Education part of the toolbox but not the complete solution
 - o Need to look at culture around it – why this is happening
- History: happened in Western Countries - Europe and American - to treat 'hysteria'
- Has no medical purpose, it only causes harm
- Male and female circumcision are very different, and it is a false equivalence
 - o Male circumcision has medical benefits, female 'circumcision' (FGM/C) does not
 - o Some countries have created loopholes

- i.e. Egypt has banned FGM, except in cases of 'medicalisation' (even though there is no medical value to FGM)
- No major religion has FGM within scriptures
 - Some leaders peddle patriarchy
 - False interpretations can be a driver of FGM
- Child protection issue
- Laws aren't going to solve this but sets important normative framework
- Voices speaking against FGM are sometimes politicised as having anti-Islam agenda as a way to avoid the conversation
- Need to try to normalise discourse around this
- HER Initiative
 - Honour, Educate, Respect
- Improving clinical relationships within communities for appropriate care
 - Education amongst normal and clinical provider communities
- Need to bust certain myths around FGM/C
 - MYTHS: preserves virginity, makes you more equipped for marriage, males prefer though who have undergone FGM/C
- Need to increase the education of doctors so they can care for women properly
- Programs to protect children at risk
 - Engaging law enforcement, teachers, school nurses
 - Law enforcement typically don't know how to handle FGM/C situations or communicate appropriately with victims
 - Training these agencies and actors to be equipped when FGM/C arises

United Nations CSW63: 22 March 2019

Recreating a Healthier Environment for Empowering Women and Girls

Jieh Huey Social Welfare and Charity Foundation

This event was about creating healthier spaces for women and girls globally. The first speaker spoke about Taiwan and how it's population has the fastest aging speed in the world and there is a decline amongst rural communities, in terms of opportunities and employment. In order to overcome these issues, organisations within Taiwan are now combining the two issues and training rural women and girls to be professional caregivers for the aging population within their communities. This means that they get employment, which empowers them and provides stability for their families, and the elderly population is cared for. The next speaker was from Mobile Surgery International, an organisation that takes a mobile surgery to developing countries and provides simple surgeries to the population for neglected medical conditions that can be easily solved. Some of these neglected medical conditions are cataracts, cleft lip and palette, club foot, obstructed labour and hernias. The speaker made the point that leaving these conditions untreated can be a greater burden to society than providing simple surgical care. A discussion was also had about the important of religion and spirituality in promoting better and healthier communities. For example, religions and their social programs contribute \$1.2 trillion USD to US economy each year, more than the top ten US tech companies combined.

- Taiwan has highest aging speed in the world
- Rural/urban disparity
- Decline of rural communities
 - o No jobs, no income = poverty
- Youth cannot find jobs in the city
- Women given job as caregiver within community for empowerment
- Need to recruit and train rural women and youth to care for elderly
 - o Capacity building
 - o Important to help aging society and rural community in decline
- Taiwan employs approximately 230 000 migrants in care roles within Taiwan
- Mobile Surgery International: provides surgical care in developing countries (currently Mexico)
- Neglected medical conditions that can be easily solved with simple surgical care:
 - o Cataracts: children are increasingly getting them, high instances in Mexico
 - o Cleft lip and palette: genetic, occurs in womb, exacerbated by external factors (lack of folic acid, lack of proper nutrition, indoor air pollution etc.), left untreated you are twice as likely to die by age of 1, failure to thrive (less nutrients, open to bacteria, difficult to get proper education)
 - o Club foot: 1 in 1000 births in developing world have club feet, no reason child should have club feet because surgical care is simple but not accessible in developing world
 - o Obstructed labour: can lead to fistula
 - o Hernias
 - o Untreated injuries
- Burden on society is much greater when these conditions are ignored, rather than just giving appropriate surgical care
- Spirituality linked to social welfare
- Religion plays role in better communities

- Religions and their social programs contribute \$1.2 trillion USD to US economy each year
 - o More than top 10 tech companies combined, including Apple

No More Fear! Ending Trauma!

El Cantare Foundation

This event was basically an overview of post-traumatic stress disorders and other trauma-inspired medical conditions. According to the presentation, 3.6% of the world has suffered some form of PTSD and women are twice as likely as men to have PTSD. Despite its pervasiveness though, most of the knowledge regarding PTSD comes from high-income countries, meaning there is a knowledge gap for developing countries and people within these countries suffering from PTSD. It was discussed how if you define emotional trauma as a 'mental scar', that will negatively affect your subconscious for life. Words from someone you trust has an impact on you and these words will enter your subconscious. As people trust doctors, what they say can have a serious effect and therefore their choice of words matter. An interesting concept was suggested surrounding verbal abuse under the guise of medical treatment. This is where doctors use poor choices of words such as 'this is life-threatening,' or words along these lines, and these words traumatise a patient. This presentation was from a spiritual Japanese perspective, so it was tinged with themes of karma and the afterlife and how trauma can affect these things.

- Post-traumatic stress disorder: mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event
- 3.6% of world has suffered from PTSD
- Women are twice as likely as men to have PTSD
- Most knowledge regarding PTSD comes from high-income countries
 - o Knowledge gap for developing countries
- Everyone has right to become happier
- If you define emotional trauma as a mental scar that negatively affects your subconscious for life
 - o Words from someone you trust has impact on you and these words are put in your subconscious mind
 - o People trust doctors, so what they say, and their choice of words matters
- Verbal abuse under guise of medical treatment
- Trauma can follow you into your next life