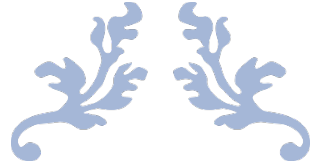


UNITED NATIONS CSW62
12 MARCH – 23 MARCH
2018

Parts One & Two



Catholic Women's League of Australia



UNITED NATIONS CSW62 12 MARCH – 23 MARCH 2018

Part One: A Summary



MADELEINE BANISTER
NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
Catholic Women's League of Australia

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United Nations CSW62: 12 March 2018

Advancing the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Rural Adolescent Girls

Women Deliver

This panel focused on the sexual and reproductive health of rural adolescent girls and how this can be advanced as they are from places where there is little access and education about these topics, and this can be detrimental to not only their health, but how empowered they feel within their communities. Particular emphasis was placed on menstrual hygiene in places such as Nepal, where access to education in relation to this and ancient traditions has created further inequality. There was also a strong running theme throughout the panel discussion in relation to ensuring rural adolescent girls are involved in the processes to improve their health.

- Hashtag: #SRHR4GIRLS
- Panellists: Aditi Sharma, Nicole Cheetham, Kalpana Vissa, Kiki Cochine
- Rural girls face unique challenges
- Nepal:
 - o Extent of patriarchy large and women treated as second class citizens
 - o ‘Chhaupadi’ – custom of women being banished to animal sheds when menstruating
 - Now criminalised
 - o Child marriage rife, even though illegal
 - Linked to early child marriage and gender-based violence
 - o Emphasis on menstrual hygiene and educating both genders
 - Chhaupadi has now diminished
 - o Need to start from the beginning and acknowledge that health issues such as this can affect numerous facets of society
 - o Menstrual Hygiene program has reached approx. 2000 girls since 2017
 - o Have trained 300 girls who have then gone away and been able to train other females in their communities
- Burkina Faso:
 - o Community projects using holistic approaches that involve the community
 - o Teachers approached Advocates for Youth requesting training for school-based sexual education
 - Lesson plans were created that involved the community (keeping in mind their own values and culture), the teachers and curriculum advisers
 - o Out-of-school component that involved youth clubs
 - o Obstacles were found as sometimes the young women were fearful of shame and judgment, which was detrimental to their health
 - o Worked with parents to better be able to communicate with their daughters and have more of an open and trusting dialogue
 - This included making home visits
 - o Shifting perspectives on gender and ensuring youth leadership is encouraged
 - o Reach approx. 3000 adolescents a year
- Pathfinder International:
 - o Works in 20 different countries – focus on adolescents and youth
 - o Advocacy is important, especially when it comes to creating policy
 - o Empowering young women about their future
 - o Challenge gender norms in certain areas
 - i.e. child marriage
 - o Strengthen health services and fill in missing gaps within communities
 - o Adapting programs to suit different communities – ‘not one size fits all’
 - Need to respond to the cultural context
- Disabilities:

- Additional challenges
- Particularly challenging for rural women as they are more isolated with less access to health services and difficult to maintain hygiene etc.
- Real need to focus on these challenges
- Gender-based violence:
 - Ensuring that education takes into account the traumas some people may have experienced
 - Ability to refer to appropriate services
 - Educating boys on issues such as consent
- Youth involvement:
 - Important from outset
 - Engaging those who are affected from the outset
 - Empowerment and peer influence are vital
- Obstacles:
 - Hard to advocate and lobby important stakeholders when it doesn't affect their country personally
 - Has to be an ability to work within the current policy environment in order to achieve best possible results
 - Funding
 - Transportation costs being a barrier to accessing some health services

Can we achieve Gender Equality in a context of Criminalisation?

Amnesty International

This panel focused upon a discussion of how criminalisation can be used to combat gender inequalities and also how it can exacerbate the inequality. For example, by criminalising violence against women, the perpetrator is held to account and it could be seen as a preventative measure. That being said though, the panel discussed the argument that whilst this may attempt to fix the gender power balance, it also has a tendency to ignore the actual issues at hand i.e. the structural inequalities that create victims in the first place. It was also discussed how certain types of criminalisation can disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable members of society, creating further inequality.

- Consider why feminists look to criminal law to try and enforce gender equality
- RESEARCH (NGO):
 - Interconnections with different organisations are vital
 - Shortcomings in certain policy areas of the criminal law
 - Whether the passing of certain laws have actually made a difference
 - Criminal law has the tendency to punish the perpetrator but doesn't address the actual issues at hand
 - i.e. the structural inequalities that create the victims in the first place
 - Needs to be access to information to ensure proper justice and prevention
 - Question as to whether criminal justice is as available in rural areas as it is in more urban areas
- Amnesty International:
 - There is a tendency to be overly critical of police states, whilst also relying on it to fix inequalities
 - Criminalisation of sexual and reproductive health
 - Who is impacted?
 - Disproportionally affecting the vulnerable (disabled, race etc.)
 - Within rural communities, criminalisation tends to be used as a quick band aid approach
- American Academic:
 - Consider the power of the state
 - Something we call on but can be sceptical about
 - Important to remember intersectionality

- Criminal law leaves out fixing the inequality that allows and causes violence against women and instead focuses on immediately punishing the perpetrator
- Have not thus far, been able to determine the effectiveness of criminalisation
- Question time notes:
 - Empathy, solidarity and accountability
 - Need to develop training to make resources more effective
 - Need to begin not relying on criminal law so much to fix behaviours that stem from historical inequality
 - More communication needed in terms of allocation of funding
 - All sectors need to come together to reflect and react

United Nations Ministerial Round Table: “Good practices in the empowerment of rural women and girls, including through prevention of gender-based violence and through access to justice, social services and health care”

Numerous Countries

This Ministerial Round Table event was held within Conference Room 1 of the United Nations Headquarters. It involved numerous countries reporting to the UN about their recent activity and reform in relation to the prevention of gender-based violence and access to justice, social services and health care.

- Albania:
 - Gender inequality has been accepted and tolerated
 - Economic reform
 - More reporting of domestic violence
 - Healthcare system reforms
- Turkey:
 - More encouragement to report violence
 - Improved supports/services
 - Centres, education
 - Strategy Paper 2018-2023
- Burkina Faso:
 - Legal instruments: special laws created
 - Land rights and access to land has been issue
 - Translating laws into numerous languages to create better access to justice
 - Awareness campaigns
 - Centres for integrated services
 - Financial resources for access to justice
 - Free medical services for pregnant women and children under 5
- Denmark:
 - Important to engage men and boys
 - Prevent, protect and prosecute
 - Need to discuss changing entrenched attitudes
 - i.e. negative masculinity, breaking the cycle
 - Rural women suffer from isolation and lack of access
 - Women not receiving fair trials due to gender stereotypes
- Finland:
 - Focus on national, regional and global levels
 - Intersectionality important
 - 1 in 5 Finish women have suffered some type of family violence
 - MAROCK: multiagency risk assessment
 - Effective in 80% of cases
 - Created ability to create more services
 - Working with perpetrators
 - Awareness and education in early childhood

- Morocco:
 - Economic violence
 - Women working in situations where their income is linked to the family i.e. working on family farms
 - Improved maternity services
 - Assisting rural women completing their education
- Liechtenstein:
 - Equality Act enshrined in Constitution
 - In reality, not as effective
 - Campaign where 'Violence Go Away' is printed on all bags that bread comes in
- Ireland:
 - Community and Rural Affairs is playing a massive role
 - National Women and Girls Strategy
 - Supporting entrepreneurs and mentoring
 - On the way to ratifying Istanbul Convention
 - Further Government Legislation in pipeline
 - Emphasis on involving men and boys
- Brazil:
 - Developing public policy
 - Initiative which joins government, private and civil sectors
 - Maria DePena law
 - Sociological and mental law
 - 24/7 Hotline
 - Free and confidential
 - Directs to services
 - Some women hard to reach in some territories i.e. The Amazon
- Sri Lanka:
 - National Action Plan
 - Appointing women to higher positions
 - Involving private sector
 - Creation of Women and Children Bureaus in police stations
 - Educating child care centres
- Palestine:
 - Occupation is causing issues and obstacles
 - Difficult to empower women in occupied areas
 - Participation and development integral
 - Persevering
 - Development Program 2017-2022
- Germany:
 - Assured access to health system for victims
 - Attempting to overcome gaps
 - Improved legislation
 - Ratified Istanbul Convention
 - 24/7 Hotline
 - 18 languages
 - Connects to services
 - Under-reporting is issue
 - Working with development agencies globally
- Uganda:
 - Extensive legislation
 - Focus on sign language training for services
 - Working with traditional leaders
 - Specialised police help desks with female officers
 - 24/7 Hotline

- Economic improvement = empowerment
- Argentina:
 - 2017-2019 comprehensive strategy
 - National Framework
 - Intervention strategies
 - Interagency co-operation
 - Intercultural approach
 - Improved community access to justice
 - 24/7 Hotline
- Zambia:
 - Multi-sectorial approach
 - Working with agriculture industry
 - Social Cash Transfer
 - Strengthening households
 - Improving access to finance
 - Mobile banking
 - User-friendly courts
 - 5 classes of safety
- Mexico:
 - Political participation is key
 - Highly vulnerable to political violence
 - Gender parity and political empowerment
 - Right to vote etc.
 - Verge of adopting law that will ensure access to justice
- Slovenia:
 - Established new equality body
 - Regular government funding
 - Gynaecological services
 - Reducing health inequalities in rural areas
 - Attempt to increase social inclusion
- Spain:
 - One organic law created in 2014
 - National Strategy
 - 24/7 Hotline
 - Services working with local entities
 - Electronic reporting system
 - Training pharmacies/care centres to spot signs of mistreatment
 - New study commissioned in gender-based violence

United Nations CSW62: 13 March 2018

'They Say I Ruin Families': Women's Human Rights Defenders' Experience of Backlash **Australian Women Against Violence Alliance**

This panel discussion involved three women who are involved with the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance discussing the impacts on domestic violence workers who work in regional and rural communities and the backlash they face. The information and statistics communicated in this event were quite jarring as they described an environment where those who are trying to help other women are often left isolated and scared to engage in their local communities. This is due to the backlash faced by not only the perpetrators of family violence but communities as a whole. This backlash stems from numerous sources such as a lack of education in relation to family violence in rural communities and also the strong sense of community, which is a positive thing but also tends to mean community issues can be swept under the rug due to familiarity and not fully knowing what is going on behind closed doors. The challenges of providing support in rural areas, such as in the creation of shelters, was also a talking point. Finally discussed in this panel was in relation to rural women in the media and the type of abuse and harassment they can face within small communities. It was a nice experience to be able to attend an event organised by an Australia cohort and hear some familiar accents.

- Panel: Julie Oberlin, Margaret Augerinos, Nicole Ferrie, Frances Crimmins (Chair)
- Industry taskforce based on recommendations by Victorian Government (Royal Commission)
- Victoria: not enough specialist family violence support
- Abuse directed towards family violence workers in regional and rural areas
 - o Running into perpetrators in public
 - o Verbal abuse in public areas
- Important because there are low resources in rural areas – 'I am it'
 - o Only point of assistance for women and children escaping family violence
- Poor understanding in rural areas
 - o Sense of isolation for family violence specialists in rural areas
- Blamed for consequences of family violence
- 'I often know who perpetrators are when others don't'
 - o Conflict of interest and confidentiality issues
 - o Separates socially from community
- 'The partners of the women I am supporting know where I am and where I live'
 - o Emergency services are far away – 'If something happens to me, emergency services are not always close by'
 - o Prevalence of firearms higher in rural areas
- 'I am highly visible in communities that don't support what I do'
 - o Little support for the workers of family violence within the community
 - o Tend to sympathise with perpetrators as they are familiar with them
- 'I avoid telling people what my job is'
 - o Uncomfortable to tell people what their job is
 - o Can face abuse and isolation
 - o Makes it difficult to connect with personal and workplace connections
- Women family violence caseworkers in rural and regional settings are experiencing backlash which makes them isolated and vulnerable
- Can't create solutions that suggest family violence workers are bad and intervention isn't vital
 - o How do we value and celebrate family violence workers?
- Bendigo Advertiser
 - o Recognises the important role of the media in helping the community to better understand the impacts of gender stereotyping and family violence
 - o Reporting on important social issues/human rights
- Equal gender representation in media needs to improve
 - o Higher prevalence of male authors

- Females typically asked in media about stereotypically female roles i.e. child rearing etc., Males asked about things like foreign affairs and finance
- #metoo created higher backlash against women in the media
- 41% of female journalists in Australia have experienced bullying and harassment
 - One in three are not confident enough to speak up
 - 'Mates over Merit' was a frequently expressed sentiment
 - Gender pay gap
- Type of abuse can be quite personal
- Difficult to shelter women in rural and regional areas
 - Hard to hide
 - Some women, particularly Indigenous women, have created own safe houses (rare)
- Alice Springs Shelter has 2 fully enclosed cages over shelters
 - So, if the perpetrator gets through the first cage, the police will hopefully be there in time
- Tennant Springs Shelter has two fences, one to prevent Molotov cocktails and one to prevent cars driving into shelter
- Training journalists to not 'door knock' and ask others about perpetrators of domestic violence are like in community; not everyone knows what is going on behind closed doors
- Gender inequality a cause of family violence
 - People's interest in family violence tends to wane when conversation turns to gender inequality
 - Backlash re: violence against men, women 'making stuff up'
 - Need constant factual resource base to shift people's attitudes
- AWAVA, Our Watch
- Legislation to make online misogyny and harassment a hate crime?
 - Australia has these laws generally (online harassment) but there is a reluctance by police and legal system to follow up
- Increase in prevention means increase in services needed
 - Need to increase services until the prevention starts to work and it can balance out
- Restored: Ending Domestic Violence – A pack for churches (online)
 - UK program

Women Halting War on North Korea: The Promise for All of RES 1325 and Feminist Foreign Policy

United Methodist Women

This panel focused on the UN Resolution 1325 and how this has impacted involving women within foreign policy, particularly in the context of conflict within the Korean Peninsula. The major emphasis within this event was that women need to be involved in helping to shape foreign policy as this could improve diplomacy and increase chances of peace within this area. It's found that when women are involved in diplomacy and creating peace treaties, the peace treaties tend to be more effective and lasting. 2 interesting points were made. Firstly that if we spend billions on war and pennies on peace, then we will get what we paid for. Secondly, that governments, such as Japan, should place less focus on policy in relation to things such as natural disasters and more emphasis on policy in relation to war because war can be prevented by policy, whereas natural disasters cannot. The overall tone of this discussion to increase female participation in diplomacy and foreign policy, as a way to improve the peace-making process, is vital in a time when conflict in the Korean Peninsula is rising and it may affect men and women globally should it go too far.

- Resolution 1325: put into international law the right of women to participate in matters of peace and security
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:
 - Pushed for the adoption of 1325: lobbying at UN
 - First resolution that included gender as a concept
 - Japanese National Action Plan
 - Women's participation in Japan very low

- This lack of participation is problematic but symbolic issue
 - Could have addressed issue of longstanding issue in Korean Peninsula and participation of women but didn't
 - Instead introduced reconstruction from disaster; but have to keep in mind that war and natural disaster are different
 - War can be prevented, and policy can be created to prevent, cannot do the same for natural disasters
- Calling for more attention to Korean Peninsula issue
 - Need to continue to develop approach to matching with changing political scene (i.e. Trump keeps firing people)
 - Haven't seen much women's participation in relation to this issue
- Encourages feminist peace movement to be more involved and supportive
- Korean Women's Association United:
 - Gender equality, democracy, peace in Korean Peninsula, human rights, violence and women
 - South Korea National Action Plan
 - Women who once were affected by violence are now participating and working towards peace
 - South Korean Government has strong political will to implement National Action Plan
 - 6 meetings meant to be held between civil society and government; only 2 were held
 - Try and improve more participation of women in South Korea
- Nobel Women's Initiative:
 - Works with peace movements: Women Cross DMZ
 - Agenda to stop nuclear war and find peace on Korean Peninsula
 - Making sure women are involved in talks and negotiations in relation to Korean peace
 - Canada National Action Plan
 - High focus on diplomacy
 - If we continue to spend billions on war and pennies on peace, then we get what we pay for
 - Higher financial commitment to peace program
- Korean Sharing Movement:
 - Humanitarian and development assistance to North Korea
 - Vancouver Women's Peace Forum
 - For South Korea, providing assistance to North can be different
 - Important to meet each other in order to create bridges and heal
 - Unique relationship
 - Lack of gender perspective in programs has been an issue
 - Too busy handling precarious environments
 - Will work towards more participation
- Senator Mary Lou from Canada:
 - Canada has high female political participation
 - Justin Trudeau policies in relation to appointments
 - Nuclear Ban Treaty: Canada is not a signatory
 - Preventing nuclear war is important
 - Don't wait to be invited to efforts to sustain peace and prevent war
 - Finding common ground amongst female leaders and pushing each other forward
 - Gap between resources we have and the power we have
- Women Cross DMZ
 - Mobilising for peace along Korean Peninsula
 - Feminist foreign policy: diplomacy, peace
 - Involving more women at the table
 - Not built on more militarisation
 - Women are effective in creating effective peace agreements
 - Predicted that within opening days of potential warfare between North Korea and US, 300,000 people would be killed; 25 million impacted if nuclear weapons involved

- May 24: International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament
 - Crossing DMZ again
- 2020 Peace Treaty Coalition
 - Women led/focused
- Faith-based NGO's have been highly involved

Preventing Human Trafficking among Rural Women and Girls: Integrating Inherent Indignity into a Human Rights Model

Holy See, Mercy International Association, Mercy Global Action, Arise Foundation, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Society of the Sacred Heart, UNANIMA, women@thewell

This panel discussion was conducted by the Holy See and numerous other religious organisations and focused upon preventing human trafficking. It was affirmed that those that are trafficked and enslaved are disproportionately found within poor, rural areas as the females within these areas typically lack access to education and health and are therefore more susceptible to promises of a better life. Mely Lenario, a Filipino survivor of sex slavery, told her story to the event, speaking about how she is now a survivor advocate, and got a standing ovation which was very moving. The other speakers at the event spoke about the supply/demand aspect of human trafficking, how first-hand voices need to be heard and how smaller NGOs need to be funded better as they are typically the ones on the ground with the most knowledge, the inherent dignity that should be realised in all humans and prevention methods. Throughout the event, it was also said that Pope Francis praises the religious organisations, some of who were present at the event, for the work that they do (often silently) in this area but that he also stressed that religious women cannot take on this burden alone as it has become such a global issue.

- Pope Francis elected 5 years ago on this day (13 March 2018)
- Those trafficked and enslaved disproportionality found in rural areas
- Mostly females as they lack access to education, health and usually isolated
 - More susceptible
 - Promised ways to improve their lives
- Domestic trafficking usually involves girls from poorer villages being moved to richer areas of the country
- Pope Francis praised organisations present today for work, often silently, in these areas
 - Courage and perseverance
 - Stressed that religious women cannot do it alone
 - At a point where it should be a global effort (world mobilisation)
- No-one should remain content to stay on the sidelines
- Mely Lenario:
 - Survivor of trafficking from the Philippines
 - Now providing support to other trafficked women
 - Survivor advocate, outreach worker
 - Story:
 - 8 years old witnessed stepfather abusing sister (rape)
 - When he found out she knew, he held knife to her throat
 - Mother, family and neighbours ignored Mely and the abuse
 - Mother forced sister to have abortion
 - Mother placed Mely in orphanage
 - 8-15 years old: grew to understand that mother had chosen stepfather over children
 - Lady approached Mely and friends wondering if they wanted to get education for free; took opportunity to improve life
 - Taken to Cebu where promised work and study; told to say that they were all cousins
 - Told that she was to become a prostitution
 - Given nice clothes, heels and make-up
 - Drugs bought through whole in wall in brothel

- Didn't get customers as would cry when anyone tried to touch her
 - Was threatened by madam that she wouldn't have money to take drugs that they were forced to take and/or wouldn't get an food
 - Took drugs not because she liked it but to stay awake all not and to not show shame in front of customers
 - Father Hines (Society of the Divine Word) who ran outreach program tried to help her, but she was struggled with trust someone wanting to help her
 - Learnt how to trust the Father
 - One night, decided that she did deserve a new life
 - Was moved into recovery centre for 5 years
 - Began to study again; became nurse's aide
 - Had to learn how to forgive and not hold onto anger
 - Struggles with people showing love and affection
 - Standing ovation
- Sr. Annie Jesus Mary Louis FMM:
 - Executive Director Jeevan Jharna Vikas Sanstha
 - Rural origins of the sex trade supply chain
 - Sex trade is big business; some principles as any commercial business (supply and demand)
 - "If many young girls who are victims of trafficking end up on the streets of our cities it's because many men here... want their services and are prepared to pay for their own pleasure... the true solution is the conversion of hearts, cutting off the demand and drying up the market." – Pope Francis
 - Supply chain: coming from people with very little money, lack of education, access to services sparse
 - Promising of jobs to send money back to family
 - End up being sold into slavery (over worked, physical and sexual abuse)
 - Think money is being sent back to family but is kept by 'agency'
 - Can be sold numerous times
 - Story of Myra:
 - Got job with agency thinking would be sent to family (it wasn't)
 - Sold on twice into domestic slavery
 - Raped numerous times; one instance of gang rape for 3 days straight
 - Fell pregnant and told to get an abortion by agency
 - Free choice is an illusion
 - Need to stop pretending there isn't a clear supply chain of girls within poor rural communities (such as in India)
 - Labour exploitation
 - Need to support rural areas in order to prevent trafficking
 - Prevention
 - Opportunities, care
- Sr. Lynda Dearlove
 - The Arise Foundation; Women@thewell
 - Hearing rural voices in the fight against trafficking
 - Rural communities are easy prey for traffickers
 - Parents belief that the 'traffickers' will give their children better opportunities
 - Many already working in rural areas to intervene in trafficking
 - Individuals like this are what will empower rural girls and women
 - International community does not handle trafficking well
 - Funding system favours big western based NGOs
 - Smaller NGOs lack the infrastructure even though they may be more literate in the area
 - Layer between those giving and those actually doing the work
 - Global community needs to listen more to the voices that may not speak the narrative that they want

- Hear that smaller NGOs feel isolated re: funding etc.
- Sr. Sheila Smith
 - Co-founder PACT-Ottawa (Persons Against the Crime of Trafficking in Humans), Society of the Sacred Heart
 - The mutual relationship between human rights and human dignity in the context of rural trafficking
 - Education to transform hearts, minds and actions
 - Inherent dignity:
 - Foundation to human rights
 - First through human relationships that we know it should be protected and experienced
 - 3 meanings:
 1. Religious: every human being is valued as they are made in the likeness of God, transcendental, Christian perspective does not convince everyone
 2. Philosophical: came out of honour and inequality, human dignity as equal or universal (fall of aristocracies to democracies), Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 3. Experiential: not all valued equally in experience, evident in gender inequality, inherent dignity in practice is a failure and more an inspirational goal
 - Challenges to Inherent Dignity:
 - Religious and Philosophical: ethical challenges
 - A fullness of inherent dignity involves universal equality and respect for the uniqueness of each one. This creates a struggle between equality and respect for difference.
 - Main point: mutuality is a shared experience of inherent dignity and enhances the prevention of trafficking in women and girls living in rural areas
 - Integrating respect into equality for all
- Sr. Angela Reed (Australian)
 - Co-ordinator Mercy Global Action at UN
 - Life-course conditions as one model of trafficking prevention
 - Importance of first-hand accounts of survivors,
 - First-hand accounts can reveal things about trafficking that no amount of research could
 - Ethical imperative to respond to these voices
 - Incumbent on states and society in general to listen and respond
 - Sisters of Mercy given outlets for these women to be heard
 - Writing, speaking to policy makers and at forums
 - Trafficked women don't just come out of a vacuum; there is a system
 - ACRATH: Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans
 - Using criminal justice is inherently short sighted
 - Very narrow perception
 - When global and local forces intersect to take advantage of vulnerabilities
 - Trafficking is demand driven; need to stop supply
 - Isolation
 - Rural girls reported being distant from people and isolating due to their location
 - Environments not being able to meet their individual needs
 - Lack of access to resources, education etc.
 - Leads to more vulnerability
 - Strategies need to be focused on human rights work
 - Prevention:
 - Framework – optimal life course conditions

Women of Faith Speak Out on Engaging Religious Leaders **Episcopal Relief and Development**

This panel was an interfaith discussion on how women of faith have been able to engage religious leaders in important social issues relating to women. Some of these said issues were female genital mutilation and child marriage in Ethiopia and gender-based violence throughout the world. The overriding theme throughout the panel discussion was that as role models for their community, religious leaders are important to engage with as they not only shape community attitudes, but they can provide support for women and children in unsafe situations. The Church and religion should be a safe space for women to be able to turn to, so the training of churches and religious leaders to be able to deal with issues faced by women is important. The interfaith component of this event was incredibly interesting as it gave perspective into how other religions are engaging with their religious leaders and showed a willingness across all faiths to uphold respect and equality for women.

- Panel: Reverend Amy Gopp (Kent United Church of Christ), Duretti Haji (Islamic Relief Ethiopia), Tanja Haque (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), Annette Kiawu (Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief and Development), Mandy Marshall (Restored), Deborah Rosenbloom (Jewish Women International)
- Faith is fundamental for ending gender-based violence
- Duretti Haji:
 - o 2016 Project: combating gender-based violence
 - FGM Type 3: high prevalence
 - Child marriage
 - Female inheritance: if husband dies, brother in law inherits the woman, property etc.
 - Property rights minimal: only males have inheritance rights
 - Lack of access to education: parents feel waste of time because girls marry young
 - Women are not engaged in decision making processes
 - o How to tackle problems through religious point of view
 - o Muslim communities
 - o Provided training to religious leaders
 - o Facilitated community forums with equal gender engagement
 - o Impact of religious leaders is very high
 - Religious people keep away from things that may make them seem sinful (haram act)
 - o Haram acts labelled by religious leaders
 - FGM: harming the body
 - Inheritance
 - Early and forced marriages
 - o By engaging the faith leaders, they are able to convince and change the attitudes of the community
- Tanja Haque:
 - o Catholic
 - o Opportunities to work with the Church
 - o Congo: challenges as to even using the word 'gender'
 - o 'Friendly Bishops': ones who are open to gender equality (allies)
 - Can influence peers
 - o Toolkit
 - Case studies
 - o 'Important for Catholics to work on gender equality because it is part and parcel of our faith... everyone is made in the image of god' – Bishop Martin
 - o Debates within villages and then action plan created to address the issues
 - o Through training of important leaders and stakeholders, Commission really was able to make change

- In some areas, local leaders banned some of the practices
- Catholic Commission of ... and Peace
 - Bullet crosses
- Annette Kiawu:
 - Ending GBV, assisting survivors in accessing services
 - Targeting Faith Leaders of both Muslim and Christian religions
 - Faith leaders carry a lot of respect, role models, large platform
 - Need for them to speak out against GBV
 - Collaborated with numerous councils in Liberia
 - Formed technical working group
 - Religious leaders trained in learning circles; training guide
 - Interpretation of bible verses to promote gender inequality and use as an excuse for certain practices
 - Actually, there are verses that are there to prevent violence against women
 - Self-reflection needed and realised that as faith leaders, they could not turn their backs to GBV
 - Faith leaders are then able to train and influence other faith leaders
 - Faith leaders realising that they can no longer take the back seat as they have so much influence
- Mandy Marshall:
 - 1 in 4 women in the UK suffering abuse in their lifetime
 - DV is not a respecter of anything (age, race, location, religion etc.)
 - Idea that surely DV doesn't happen within congregation within church
 - Church could/should be a safe space
 - Restored: re-train churches to deal with DV
 - Recognise, Respond, Refer, Record
 - Statistics show that there evidently are Christian perpetrators
 - Work with survivors from Christian faith perspectives
 - Changing attitudes to certain verses in Bible
 - First Man Standing program
 - Must face the reality that sometimes Churches have made the DV situation worse, but this can now be fixed
 - Working with churches across denominations
- Deborah Rosenbloom:
 - Faith has been sometimes considered a barrier to family violence
 - i.e. faith leaders would say, 'you're married, go back to your home'
 - Women want to turn to their faith leaders in situations such as this
 - Culturally competent to engage men as allies, to be victim orientated and have numerous access points for faith leaders
 - Use Jewish texts in all aspects
 - That's how to engage and communicate with faith leaders
 - Engage faith leaders in intervention work because they see what is going on in families
 - Clergy taskforce
 - Resources for clergy, created by peers
 - Engage men as allies because they are predominantly the leaders
 - Baltimore: approach from healthy masculinity view
 - Boys to Mensch
 - Communication, empathy, team player
 - Using positive elements of the community to raise the issue
 - Point of universal agreement that DV is bad
- Questions:
 - Resistance from male faith leaders to FGM:
 - Approaching faith leaders

- Some resistance because they didn't want rejection from the community as it was a practice for so long
- People question why the issue hasn't been brought up before (someone behind the scenes manipulating them, trying to change the culture)
- Found grounding within the religious texts
- Need to be aware about re-integrating perpetrators back into faith communities without accountability
- Faith communities typically step up to provide in gaps where government/civil society cannot
- Up to faith communities to work in space where they are available to listen and not judge
 - This is when people will disclose and get health
- Faith is used as an excuse to not act on things, especially by policy-makers
 - Need to have a not in my name rhetoric

Women/Girls and the Media: Power, Storytelling and #MeToo

Pathways to Peace

I attended this event halfway through as I was at an event for the Holy See which ended just as this event started. One panel members discussed how depictions in the media of nurses has led to a shortage in recruitment as negative stereotypes are perpetuated and accurate depictions as to what nurses actually do and experience are sparse. This topic led well into better representations of women, as a group, in the media. This presentation spoke about how as consumers, we have the power to create the culture that we want and this includes supporting better depictions of women within media. An interesting example used here was the #askhermore campaign, where there was a push to ask women on the red carpet more about themselves and their work, rather than just about their dress. One of the speakers that was particularly moving was Rachael Denhollander, one of the victims of sexual abuse by USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. This event also touched on the Global Women's Empowerment Network (GWEN), The SHIFT Network and networking with other women to our advantage, and also Operation Big Sister.

- Entered this event halfway through as was at event for the Holy See
- Nursing depictions in the media:
 - Shortage of 9 million nurses by 2030
 - Called women's work and judged accordingly
 - Fraction of funding, low pay, long hours
 - Images in media don't make it look attractive
 - Affecting recruitment
 - Stereotypes are perpetuated
 - Angels
 - Sexual fantasies
 - Battle axe
 - Grey's Anatomy – nurses don't exist
 - Need an increase in accuracy in depiction
 - www.truthaboutnursing.com
 - Catalina project
- Demanding better representation:
 - Power to create culture = power to define culture
 - Relational, consumer and citizen power
 - #askhermore
 - therepresentationproject.org
- Global Women's Empowerment Network
- Inspiring Women with Soul: Shift Network
 - Networking
- Operation Big Sister

United Nations CSW62: 14 March 2018

Morning Briefing

United Nations

This briefing was held at the United Nations. It is a daily opportunity for members of NGOs to ask questions and make comments to a Commissioner of the United Nations. On this particular day, the Commissioner of Ireland spoke. Questions and comments were made on a myriad of topics such as the Paris Climate Accords, faith-based NGOs and their continued involvement at the UN and how to get funding to grassroots organisations. Discussions were also had as to the ability of rural women within areas of conflict to know how to best create peace in their regions.

Media & ICTs: Tools to Prevent Trafficking of Women and Girls

NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons

This event was very interesting, informative will probably be one of my favourites of CSW62. The women were both passionate and knowledgeable. The main focus of this event was domestic human trafficking within the US, with a particular focus on children, and how attempts are being made to combat how widespread it is through the use of technology. Typically, the traffickers were the ones that were using technology in some of the most heinous ways, but now technology also allows those trying to halt trafficking to not only save women and young girls being trafficked but also create prevention awareness. This technology has made it easier for law enforcement and non-profit organisations to assist in ending human trafficking by providing more avenues of investigation and also through analysis of data. Other interesting points of the discussion were how cryptocurrency has added an extra layer of protection for buyers and how it is a constant battle to stay ahead of how the sellers are using technology to traffick. An interesting fact that came out of the event was that one in seven of the children who were saved reported runaways, by an organisation called the National Centre For Missing and Exploited Children, were trafficked, and a further one in seven were running from social services. Though this number is quite high, it is unsurprising as the children without support and little options are highly vulnerable members of society.

- Domestic trafficking
 - o United States
 - Prostitution/sex trade
- Initially thought that technology was only going to be used by traffickers to perpetuate trafficking
 - o Backpage.com: website where they can sell women and girls
 - o Can use Facebook (selling, recruitment)
 - o Forcing girls to create pornography, uploading to internet and then selling it through PayPal
- This was the case, but it is now also being used to combat the situation
 - o Using Google to find girls being trafficked
- National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children:
 - o Operation of cyber tip line
 - Anyone can make reports
 - Once reports come in, use further technology to look into further
 - i.e. looking up IP address, find where images have been used further
 - Hand onto law enforcements
 - Can provide information to law enforcement globally
 - Use data to develop prevention education programs online
 - This is where the trafficking is taking place (recruitment, selling etc.)
 - Also create resources for teachers, parents etc.
- THORN:
 - o Innovations taken by traffickers
 - o Everyone had good ideas; no-one had the engineering expertise

- Need to focus on what is happening next; keeping ahead of the traffickers and predicting what their next trick will be
 - Building tools to empower the people who are trying to get the children out of trafficking
 - Spotlight: investigation tool
 - Identified 18000 victims in last 12 months; 15000 were minors
 - When building technology, think about whether it could be used for negative reasons
 - Sometimes app developers don't think about this from the beginning and then suddenly their app is filled with stuff like trafficking (i.e. Facebook)
- IBM/Stop the Traffik
 - Link analysis: making links between things
 - Used in criminal investigation (police, FBI, CIA)
 - Created by software technology (IBM in particular)
 - Making links to figure out what happened, how it happened and how we can prevent it from happening again
 - Donating I2 software to non-profits in human trafficking space
 - Analysts notebook
- Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
 - Using all tools previously mentioned everyday
 - Special Victim's Unit: self-contained human trafficking unit within
 - Trying to understand how the traffickers work
 - Work with the victims is most important
 - Have to be trauma informed and victim-centred
 - What would be meaningful for the survivor
 - How to make them feel like they got justice
 - Brooklyn Human Trafficking Taskforce
 - Engaging with numerous sectors in society
 - Dark web
 - Way for people to move anonymously through the web
 - Developed for foreign service officers to communicate sensitive information etc. secret
 - Traffickers are now capitalising on this
 - Cryptocurrency
 - Removes the need for credit card numbers etc.
 - Identity can be traced
 - Certain credit card companies refused to allow their cards to be used on certain sites that perpetuated trafficking
 - Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency is not connected to identity
- Discussion
 - National Centre: receive reports about missing kids (typically runaways)
 - 1 out of seven reported runaways were being trafficked (1 in 7 were running away from social services)
 - More vulnerable when runaways
 - Using phone numbers as way of communicating and tracking/researching (finding out who owns phone, where it is being used)
 - Checking people's social media presence
 - Using photos, check ins to see if they can find where people are
 - Spotlight:
 - NCMEC and law enforcement use
 - Scrapes escort sites etc. and brings all the trafficking ads into one environment and gives birds eye view for law enforcement
 - Finds red flags

- i.e. connecting post IDs and accounts, more information about who is actually in the ad
 - type in phone numbers and find where these numbers pop up trafficking ads
 - Facial recognition
 - Can leave notes for other officers
 - Creates less time spent trying to find needle in a haystack
- Residential care facilities are available for people saved from trafficking
- Factors: lack of choices, racial/gender/income inequality, abuse and neglect
- Buyers: without demand, there wouldn't be a supply
 - Feel safe doing so
 - Buyers go on chat boards and chat; rate the women
 - Have seen in the chats that buyers feel like they can act with impunity because the odds of them being arrested is very low
 - Need to make them think that it is risky
 - Law enforcement posting 'dummy' ads to catch buyers
 - Will have ripple effect through market because buyers talk to each other
 - Evidence found through phones of victims and victims themselves
 - Google banner ads in Seattle
 - Buyers search on Google for buying sex, then click on ad, which redirects to website about harms of buying sex and offers buyers an opportunity to leave the world of buying sex (offering counselling)
- Collaborating with banks as this is where the money is flowing through to buy
- Need to start looking at how to disrupt on a global scale
- Sometimes advanced technology needs to be used (i.e. dark web) but most of the time, it is already there, and it just needs to be repurposed
- Educating girls so they don't fall for the trap
 - When they are approached on mainstream social media because they are 'pretty' and money is offered
 - Potential if they aren't educated on trafficking + are in vulnerable situation that they will take the opportunity
- 'Sextortion' on Facebook
 - Running campaigns to help girls get out of these situations
- Working and collaborating with technological companies to bring them along and work towards preventing trafficking
- US Legislation: companies/organisations coming together to implore support to pass bills in relation to technology and human trafficking
 - FOSTA/SESTA package
 - Passed in the House of Reps: 388 to 25
 - Will eventually end up in Senate (not there yet at time of writing)
 - Gives survivors the legal recourse to seek remedies from websites that posts ads for trafficking
 - Law enforcement opportunity to hold accountable those websites who knowingly facilitate trafficking
 - Risky for social media companies as there is such a large information exchange with lots of freedom as to what this information is
- What people can do:
 - Put learning to use
 - Trafficking is hidden but also in plain sight; acknowledge it and don't convince yourself otherwise if you think something doesn't seem or look right
 - Change how you look at children who look like they are in need
 - Don't pass them off as basically a 'problem' child
 - Spend time learning about the technology being used and how it is being used

- Stop the Traffik: STOP App
 - Global
 - Input what you've seen and where you've seen it
 - Put into data server and can be used to convey to law enforcement but is also analysed to see where prevention campaigns need to be focused etc.
- Call out negative culture
 - i.e. use of negative words associated with sex trade
 - Music, video games
 - Buying and selling sex should not be normalised

Human Trafficking and CEDAW: Meeting Challenges and Utilising Opportunities **United Nations Association of the United States**

This event was focused on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Article 6, which relates to human trafficking. This event highlighted the impact and prevalence of human trafficking, but mainly focused on how this Convention has or has not been implemented in the United States, in particular in the state of Kentucky where the legislature parted from the Federal Government and created a resolution adopting CEDAW. Furthermore, it was discussed about how human trafficking and sexual violence affects refugee women in particular as they are more vulnerable members of society.

- CEDAW: Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
 - First treaty to comprehensively address women's rights within political, cultural, economic, social, and family life
- Article 6: State Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women
- **Focus on Kentucky**
 - Largely a rural state
 - 2015 Kentucky General Assembly CEDAW Resolution 6: Adopted March 7, 2016
 - First US State to pass CEDAW state legislation
 - www.feminist.org/global/cedaw: how UN Treaty because US Law
- Unlike drugs, humans can be sold numerous times
- Human trafficking = modern day slavery
- US Human Trafficking Hotline and Text line
- Traffickers that are being caught aren't getting long enough sentences
- Liza Baldez:
 - Defying Convention: U.S Resistance to the UN Treaty on Women's Rights
 - CEDAW is a part of policy; advocates use it daily
 - United States, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Palau and Tonga have not ratified CEDAW
 - Why hasn't US ratified CEDAW?
 - High bar set for ratifying UN treaties
 - That being said, US has previously ratified 3 human rights treaties
 - More than 100 NGOs have mobilised and gotten Senate to consider (held hearings) CEDAW on numerous occasions (5 times)
 - CEDAW is deeply embedded and stuck in partisan politics
 - CEDAW is consistent with Democratic Party Principles but have framed the debate that ratification will help other women globally, as women within the US don't need it
 - CEDAW doesn't align with Republicans and they have framed it as a mechanism for the UN to dictate US policy
 - Neither party actually understands what the treaties are and what ratification would do
 - Commits to process, not policies
- Jeanette Westbrook:

- Issue of demand
 - Fuels human trafficking and prostitution
 - Human trafficking and prostitution are basically no different
- Prostitution can be considered a type of torture
- Prostitution can be re-packaged as sex work
 - Doesn't change the fact that it is exploitative
- Impose sanctions and punishments on buyers, not the prostituted/exploited persons
- Most common examples of buyers: men of privilege
- The Nordic Model:
 - Instead of arresting women and children who are exploited, we make the buying and selling of women for sex the real criminal entity
 - Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Canada, France and Israel have this model
- Karolina Lukasiewicz:
 - Refugee Women have specific challenges
 - Conflict related GBV, domestic violence
 - Prostitution
 - Child marriages
 - Mental health issues
 - Sex trafficking
 - These challenges come from living in the warzone and trying to obtain the necessities of life
 - Sex trafficking during current crisis in the Middle East
 - Sexual harassment and violence in refugee camps
 - Kidnapping and forced marriages to fighters, women given as reward or sold as domestic slaves
 - Women recruited from warzones or camps, offered opportunities but sold as slaves
 - Women offered to be smuggled but face abuse along the way
 - Sexual abuses during humanitarian operations
 - Trafficking and sexual exploitation of unaccompanied minors is rife
 - Response:
 - Laws being implemented in Europe
 - Victims of sex trafficking have been consistently refused asylum in US
 - Victims fear reporting abuse due to fear of deportation
 - CEDAW Recommendation No. 32

Grace Under Fire: Sexual Harassment and Violence in Rural Australia **The Associated Country Women of the World**

This event/discussion was 3 Australian women who have experience and an interest in sexual harassment and violence in rural Australia. One of the speakers, Dr Skye Saunders, spoke about her study into this which found that out of the thousands of women that she interviewed in relation to this topic, 73% of them had experienced harassment in their workplace. She further went into stories about how the casual misogyny, passed off as banter, that can be found in rural areas is becoming so normalised that it is difficult to identify. This harassment is unsurprisingly especially rife in male-dominated fields such as mining and agriculture. As a way to overcome situations like this, an education approach with three targets was suggested. Firstly, aimed at men and resetting their ideas about what a normal workplace should look like. The second target should be females so that they can improve their capacity to understand the level of safety that they are entitled to and have the strength to ensure they receive this safety. The last target was employers, so that they understand their obligations to their employees. A strong emphasis was also placed on programs to empower young women and primary prevention as a long-term approach to change the negative masculinity culture.

- Panel: Frances Crimmins, Dr Skye Saunders, Hannah Wandell
- Women in rural communities more likely to experience sexual harassment and violence
- Watched documentary: Grace Under Fire

- Estimated 73% of rural women in Australia have experienced harassment in the workplace (Dr Saunders study)
- 'Casual misogyny': harassment construed as witty banter
 - o Result of environment etc.
- Can be difficult to identify whether it's happened to you as it is so normalised
- The most remote women are usually the most important voices that need to be heard
- Male-dominated fields, isolated occupations (i.e. tour guides in remote areas)
- Sexual harassment: behaviour that is unwanted, unwelcome and sexual in nature directed towards you that makes you uncomfortable
- People in agriculture and mining: 93% were experiencing SH daily as a part of their job (Dr Saunders study)
- Primary prevention: public health approach
 - o Preventing the problem from happening in the first place through policy and changing attitudes
 - o Key to ending violence as long-term strategy
 - Policy makers aren't great at long term commitment (elections etc.)
- Targeting children all the way through to university
- Change the Course Report: Human Rights Commission Report
- No research on improvement but anecdotally, we don't seem to be making much progress/improving
- 98% of young Australian women think they are being treated unequally to men (Plan Australia)
- 1/3 think they would be able to better reach their dream job if they were a male (Plan Australia)
- Stereotypes and biases play a strong role in the loss of self-confidence of girls as they get older
- Country 2 Canberra
- Howard and Heidi study: US study; perceptions of boss dependent on whether they are male and female
- Need to try and normalise calling out harassment
- Project Empower
- Australia has a tendency to celebrate a certain type of masculinity
 - o Danger: creates an outsider who isn't this type
- Need to start celebrating the woman as an equal within the workplace
 - o Females as the farmer, not just the farmer's wife
- Break the cultural cycle
- Sexual harassment becomes tool to treat people as the outsider
- Need to be conscious of masculinity that has gone through generations and is tradition
- Target audiences to work with to change attitudes and educate: men, women and employers and senior managers
 - o For each stakeholder, different education
 - Men: resetting parameters for what normal looks like, reaching heads and **hearts**
 - Women: improve capacity to understand level of safety she is entitled and build up her standard so that she doesn't accept anything less than she is entitled to, giving voice to own values
 - Not reporting every instance but instead being able to stand up and voice concerns (asking someone to rephrase something or telling them it made you uncomfortable)
 - Employers and stakeholders: knowing their obligations, educating them in a way that they will want to take steps to complete their obligations to their employee
- Best practice in educating and changing culture for young people:
 - o Primary prevention is key determinant
 - o Acknowledge that there are strong held cultural attitudes
 - o Need to recognise that children are quite competent beings and can reject disrespectful behaviour
 - o Work with whole school approaches (staff, students, parents)
 - o Comprehensive whole of society approach
 - o Respect, Communicate, Choose

- More programs needed that focus on young women and empowerment
 - o Need high level of access for young girls in rural areas
 - Lack of connectivity in rural and remote areas; need innovation to overcome this

Faith Based Leadership for Women and Girls **Presbyterian Church (USA)**

This presentation was run by Reverend Doctor Liz Theoharis (a Presbyterian) and focused on how faith can be used as a way to create change within communities. This involves faiths stepping up and becoming leaders within communities in order to help society's most vulnerable members such as the homeless and those suffering in poverty, much like the work of Jesus himself. It was suggested that to do this we should root ourselves within our communities and use our faith to build up the power of the people and fill in the gaps that broader society (Governments etc.) forget about. The Reverend Doctor also made a particular point that perhaps we need to refocus our efforts upon what the Bible itself is concerned with (i.e. helping the poor, loving thy neighbour, uplifting women) rather than issues that it barely touches upon. When entering this event, I was expecting to be told how to become a leader in my community as a female and step up to help other females and ensure that their rights were being upheld but through a faith-based lens, which is something that I am very interested in. I don't really think I got that from this presentation. As much as it was interesting, dare I say it, the name of this event was a bit misleading.

- Speaker: Reverend Doctor Liz Theoharis
- Using faith as a way to create change in communities
 - o Be leaders in creating this change: 'stepping up'
- Poor People's Campaign
 - o 30 States across US
 - o Presenting moral common agenda
 - o Challenging narrative that pits us against each other, blames poor people and says that there is not enough for everyone
- Using faith to build up the power of people and change the direction of the country
- In USA 70% of poor people are women and children
 - o Average age of homeless person is 9 years old
- Using faith to help the most vulnerable in society and fix society's inequalities
- The bible falls apart without women and helping the poor and needy
- More important things to be focused on
 - o Need to refocus on what the bible is mainly focused on (helping the poor, being a good neighbour etc.) rather than social issues that it barely touches upon
- Need to prioritising creating a better life for ourselves and our children because that is what God wanted
- Leaders in filling the gaps that Government etc. are forgetting about
 - o Homelessness, poverty
- Root ourselves in our communities

United Nations CSW62: 15 March 2018

The Role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in Advancing the Human Rights of Women and Girls

Australian Human Rights Commission

This discussion was held at the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and it focused on the Australian Human Rights Commission and how it works to advance the Human Rights of Women and Girls within Australia. It was talked about how the Sex Discrimination Commissioner (Kate Jenkins) and her Office are working towards three target priorities: education, workplace and sport. Some important surveys are coming through the Sex Discrimination Office, such as the Change the Course survey, which details the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment throughout Australian universities. In terms of Indigenous social justice in Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (June Oscar) made the point that many Indigenous peoples within rural and remote Australia have no knowledge of the rights they are entitled to and therefore do not get the opportunity to appreciate these rights. This is why it is important for those Indigenous people who are aware of these rights to be vocal in assisting and informing the Government to make sure they do the right thing by those in rural and remote areas. An important survey is also being done entitled 'Women's Voices,' where Indigenous women throughout Australia are being interviewed to find out what they want and what they feel they need. A discussion was held after the presentations, where many questions were asked from other countries as to the status of Indigenous people within Australia and how this is being worked on constantly.

- Panellists: Kate Jenkins (Sex Discrimination Commissioner), Ambassador Sharman Stone, June Oscar (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner)
- Kate Jenkins:
 - o 3 priorities
 1. Violence against women: domestic, family, disabled, indigenous, sexual and online
 2. Economic security: superannuation, poverty
 3. Diversity in leadership: get past 'firsts' (i.e. first female prime minister, first female commissioner etc.) as being enough
 - o More focus needs to be on rural and remote areas
 - o Need to look at the benefits and dangers of technology
 - o Intersectionality must be something we always consider, especially in Australia
 - o Education:
 - Change the Course Survey
 - 39 universities engaged the HRC to conduct a survey on sexual harassment and assault in Australian universities
 - This came about through civil society activism
 - Wanted to understand the Australian experience
 - Over 30,000 completed the survey
 - Approx. 1800 submissions: largest of any study done by HRC
 - Found 1.6% had suffered assault at university; approx. 20% had suffered harassment
 - 9 recommendations were made which the universities have taken on board
 - Found higher rate of assault/harassment in residential colleges
 - o Workplaces:
 - Male Champions of Change: Men in business community working towards gender parity in workplaces, especially in positions of authority
 - 4th round of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace survey
 - Especially pertinent this time round in light of sexual harassment allegations made in media and entertainment industries
 - o Sport:
 - Touches basically every home in Australia
 - Important pathway for prevention methods
 - 'Play by the Rules'

- Online program for grassroots sporting organisations to make sport not only safe but inclusive
- June Oscar:
 - Most Indigenous peoples in rural and remote areas do not have the knowledge or appreciation for what rights they are entitled to
 - Using platform to inform and assist the Government in ‘getting it right’
 - Policy making/shaping
 - Long time since voices of Indigenous women heard on such a national and collective scale in political landscape
 - Women’s Voice survey/project
 - Finding out from Indigenous women and girls throughout Australia what is important to them and what they want

Storytelling Strengthens Resilience Against Domestic Violence
National Rural Women’s Coalition of Australia

This presentation was by a group from Australia call the National Rural Women’s Coalition. It involved the telling of a book published by the organisation, Brave Danny, a copy of which was gifted to every attendee at the event. Brave Danny is a book targeted to 4-8-year olds and tells the story of a young boy, living in a family violence situation, and how his expressing of his feelings about the situation empowered not only him, but his mother to leave the situation. After the book was read, the discussion turned to how important the storytelling and sharing of experiences is important for women within Indigenous communities suffering from family violence as they are able to connect through their culture and then adapt solutions within the broader western Australian culture. Throughout the presentation, very startling statistics as to family violence within Australian culture were told. For example, it is currently estimated that one Australian woman is dying per week as a result of family violence and 1 in 6 Australian women have experienced some sort of assault or harassment within their lives. It is also more likely that Australian women will face violence at the hands of someone they know, whereas for Australian men, it is more likely at the hands of a stranger. It was also said that in relation to statistics regarding deaths from family violence, it is important to remember that they do not take into consideration deaths after the fact, such as those from depressive conditions and those from persistent physical injury.

- Brave Danny:
 - Storybook published by NRWC
 - Domestic violence theme told through eyes of young child
 - ‘Sometimes even the smallest voices are the most powerful’
 - Strong messages for not only the target audiences (4-8 yr. olds), but also teachers and parents
 - Use of shadows to show a ‘dark feeling’
 - The need for people (especially young people) to talk about how they feel
- Lisa Shipley:
 - Indigenous perspective
 - Talking about everyday issues (family violence etc.) through cultural context and then translating and adapting together into western context
 - Important for the women to feel connected to each other and the land
- Julie Oberin:
 - AWAVA and Westnet
 - Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in Australia, 2018
 - Men are more likely to experience violence from strangers; Women are more likely to know the person
 - On average, one woman a week is killed from violence
 - Some groups more vulnerable: young, pregnant, indigenous, disabilities, financial hardships, those who witnessed as a child, those separating
 - Greatest burden of disease for women aged 25-44
 - Mental health, anxiety and depressive conditions

- \$22 billion to the community
 - Indigenous women disproportionately affected
 - Good data but more information needed: demographics, economic and educational circumstances etc.
 - Response and prevention: strengthen services, legislation, strengthen changing community attitudes
- In rural and remote areas, when there are natural disasters, family violence rises
- Child protection is an issue when it comes to family violence
 - Children in out-of-home care have worse outcomes in these situations
 - Indigenous women in Tasmania will not report family violence as they will have their children taken away from them
- Needs to be more engagement for children to express their feelings
 - Safe-storytelling: way to express
 - Tendency for parents to be afraid to hear the feelings of their children in these situations
- Hesitation of Indigenous communities to get help from western services (i.e. police etc.) out of fear that it will further negatively affect their family unit
 - Fear of the system
 - Sometimes speaking up/leaving violent situation can ostracise woman from Indigenous community
 - Making changes for safe spaces for indigenous women in family violence situations
 - Needs to start at university education: training people to be more culturally sensitive (i.e. social workers, doctors, psychologists)
 - Difference in the way indigenous and non-indigenous child are handled in health services
 - i.e. if a white child is brought in having fell off their bike, they are patched up no problem but if it was an indigenous child that was brought in having fell off their bike, questions would be asked
- Fatality reviews on deaths via family violence focus on instant deaths and don't count those lives lost through depressive and physical deaths from domestic violence later on
 - Truth in reporting: a lot of Indigenous women's deaths are reported by the coroner as 'misadventure' or attributed to alcohol

International Sporting Events as Driving Forces behind Prostitution and Trafficking **Unizon and MÄN**

This event was a mixture of both a presentation and a discussion, focusing mainly on the increase in prostitution around times of major sporting events internationally and how this is combatted. An example used was the most recent Super Bowl 52 in Minnesota, USA. For this event, a taskforce was created called the Super Bowl Anti-Trafficking Committee, which worked in co-ordination with law enforcement to arrest buyers, and the organisation Breaking Free provided services for women affected by prostitution. Furthermore, in Minnesota, they have 'john schools,' an educational program designed for buyers and intended to inform them of the real nature of prostitution and the effect that their actions have on the community. In terms of working towards future sporting events, in preparation for the 2018 Soccer World Cup in Russia, organisations are working towards education in smaller Russian towns where violence against women is normalised and high rates of poverty breeds people using prostitution for financial advantage. There was also some talk about the efforts in Sweden, where they have a specialised ambassador for trafficking and prostitution, who does vital work in ensuring that prostitution continues to be considered a form of exploitation and violence against women. The main takeaway from this event would have to have been that around times of major sporting events, prostitution and trafficking does rise and programs and education should be implemented to protect not only the women, but also broader society from the wholly negative effects of the exploitation of women.

- Working with 'hooligans': men who are violent are sporting events
 - Can romanticise violence, gender inequality

- Highly masculine environments
- World of sport has large role in preventing violence against women
- 2006, Minister for Justice in Sweden: called for the end of legal brothels in Germany before the Soccer World Cup
- Fear that next World Cup (2018, Russia) will attract not only prostitutes from the poorest parts of Europe, but also men who think it is their right to buy women for sex
- Per-Anders Sunesson:
 - o Swedish Ambassador at Large for Combatting Trafficking and Prostitution
 - o Early 90's Sweden: prostitution not an issue, but wasn't much discussion about gender equality and violence against women
 - Government began inquiry: discussion regarding prostitution started as there was clear connection between prostitution and violence against women
 - o Further inquiry into prostitution:
 - Prostitutes: Almost all of them have been sexually abused in their past, drug abuse etc.
 - Buyers: thought it was their right, 'doing them a favour'
 - o Implemented Swedish (variation on Nordic) Model: buying illegal but not selling
 - o 80% of population are now behind the law; was only 50% when it was introduced
 - o Demand has now been reduced
 - Less organised crime in relation to trafficking
 - o Approx. 400 000 prostitutes in Germany
 - 98% of these girls aren't German (girls from most vulnerable countries)
 - o Worry now lies with pornography
 - o Sweden now going to follow Norway: if a Swedish person goes to other country to buy sex, they can be prosecuted in Sweden
 - o Important for big Swedish companies (H&M, IKEA) to include in code of conduct for employees worldwide that it is not okay to buy sex
- Pascha: brothel in Cologne - proceed with caution in looking into this
- Case in USA:
 - o Super Bowl 52
 - o 83% of prostitutes in America are from America
 - o Super Bowl Anti-Trafficking Committee
 - Plan as to what they were going to do with the women
 - Buyer stings – 96 arrested
 - 56 Law Enforcement agencies were involved
 - o Reactions from Super Bowl:
 - YES
 - Player was arrested, someone from Host Committee arrested, so of course there was going to be backlash
 - o Breaking Free: houses the women who leave prostitution
 - Providing safe space for women during Super Bowl
 - At capacity
 - Services for the women
 - 69% of people seen by this organisation are women of colour
 - o 'John School': purchase someone 18+, they go to an educational program with speakers (stakeholders and victims of prostitution), talk about cost to society
 - o 10 days during and beyond Super Bowl
 - o Increased street outreach
 - Targeted youth
 - o Busiest time to purchase is 5-7am
 - o Drop-in centres
 - Women can come in, do laundry, take a shower
 - o Emergency beds

- Develop a state-wide, multi-jurisdictional strategy for coordinated investigation and prosecution of traffickers and buyers
- Support increased law enforcement, supporting technology, prosecution and harsher penalties for traffickers and buyers
- Expand Internet Crimes against Children investigations to include commercial sexual exploitation of youth
- Develop public education directed to men and boys to decrease demand and recruitment
- Create a training curriculum to all sectors who may observe a trafficking victim, buyer or seller (hospitality, hotel industries)
- Education programs: allowed in Catholic Schools, trying to get legislation to enter public schools
- Minnesota (where Super Bowl 52 held): questioning as to whether they should adopt the Nordic Model
- Addressing prostitution and trafficking in Russia before and during 2018 World Cup:
 - Organisations working together to create plans to prevent
 - Situation in smaller Russian cities (where some World Cup events will be held)
 - Poverty, unemployment, bad infrastructure
 - Men's violence normalised + lack of help/access to services
 - Corruption, local business acting as pimps
 - Very few organisations in Russia that provide direct help and services to prostitutes
 - Prostitution in Russia is criminalised: Women and Pimps
 - Buying is partially criminalised
 - Even though criminalised, there is corruption, so it goes unpunished
 - Hotels tend to welcome prostitution as it brings in money
 - SafeHouse statistics:
 - 80-90% subject to violence
 - 100% use alcohol and drugs
 - Actions:
 - CCW in Russia: training for journalists from the cities the World Cup will take place (how to write about prostitution, what to look for), various actions targeting hotels (includes starting dialogue with hotels to change practices)
 - Needs help from other countries as this is where football fans are coming from
 - Address demand before reaching Russia
- Panel: Mia de Faoite, Terry Forliti, Per-Anders Sunesson, Grégoire Théry (CAP International), Svante Tidholm
 - CAP International: lobby countries for adoption of appropriate legal frameworks, improve access to justice, services etc., French comprehensive model
 - Have to first successfully explain why prostitution isn't good/isn't just two consenting adults
 - Continuum between prostitution and sexual violence
 - Patriarchal conventions taking advantage of constraints
 - Remember that we all agree that trafficking is bad
 - Ask what we want for the next generation
 - Mia de Faoite/Men's Development Network (Ireland): Turn Off the Red-Light Campaign
 - Lobbied for adoption of the Swedish Model
 - White Ribbon Ireland: Support from National Football Association, National Rugby Association, GAA (Gaelic Games)
 - Trying to get Golfing Association involved
 - There is a difference between getting a law and then getting it implemented
 - Funding for awareness (i.e. in relation to the law being changed) becomes an issue
 - Ploughing event is the biggest sporting event in Ireland
 - Awareness measures etc. were put in place
 - Educating through country associations
 - Terry Forliti/Breaking Free: 'John School'

- Pre-test and post test
 - Questions about thoughts about prostitution, own lives
- Effect on the women and how they got to that position, what it does to the community, cost
- Opportunity to ask questions
 - Sometimes they ask if they can help
- Need to start looking more into therapy groups at the School
- Need law enforcement to buy into the idea of the school
 - Costs to go
 - Has to be court-ordered
- Male to male interaction
 - Other men telling men about the effects of their actions
- Svante Tidholm/Men for Gender Equality:
 - Work with projects and activities that engage men
 - Work with them, have conversations
 - Young men: educate about consent
 - Try to change masculinity norms and try and get the men to see how these norms are affecting not only themselves, but women
 - Raises the issue of responsibility
 - Believes that the vibe is that men want to change
 - Good information is lacking, so when they get good information, they respond well
- Pers-Anders Sunesson:
 - Have places in major cities where men can go
 - Without court order (mostly to save marriage)
 - Thinks mandatory ‘john school’ would be helpful
 - Ambassador function is vital as there is strong lobbying in Sweden (and other countries) for a change of how prostitution is perceived
 - ‘safe-guard’ the language that is used
 - Have to be wary about what groups are being funded
 - i.e. sex workers rights groups

Do You Have Faith in SDGs? Faith Sensitive Justice **Lutheran World Federation**

This panel involved members from the Lutheran, Islamic and Anglican faiths and focused upon how faith-based organisations can foster and work towards gender equality using their faith as a source for mechanisms. A particularly interesting part of this presentation was how Islamic Relief use passages from their own religious text and teachings in order to create a Gender Justice Policy within their organisation. For example, they use the saying by the Prophet Muhammed, “The best of you are those who are best to your wives and families,” as a way to promote positive masculinity. There was substantial discussion in relation to finding stories of gender equality within our own religious texts as a way to encourage ourselves and others within our faith to engage with this issue. Another interesting part was how in Central America, the Lutheran World Federation is attempting to re-educate Central American men so that they are more open to gender balance and parity. Overall, the main message of this event was that the engagement of interfaith religions together, and also secular organisations, is vital, as gender equality is a global issue that can only be achieved if we all collaborate together.

- Faith-sensitive gender justice mainstreaming in faith-based organisations
- Finn Church Aid:
 - 3 themes: right to livelihood, right to education, right to peace
 - Worked to build dialogue so more faith actors are included in creating gender equality
 - Network for Traditional and Religious Peace-Makers

- Important to discuss the terms in relation to gender
 - Faith-based groups react to gender differently to secular groups
- Involving multiple faith groups in discussions and helping others
 - More effective
- Lutheran World Federation:
 - Global communion of 145 churches in Lutheran traditions
 - Operates risk reduction, humanitarian work with refugees and internally displaced persons
 - Long-standing commitment on gender justice
 - Employed quota system
 - 40% women, 20% youth
 - Leadership, programs etc.
 - Don't always reach but willingness is always there
 - “Churches Say No to Violence Against Women”
 - Acknowledged that violence happened within the churches and churches could do something about this
 - Faith-based approach to empowerment and gender justice, equal participation
 - Develop language of gender equality to suit faith
 - Gender Justice Policy
 - Involvement of men (leaders, congregation)
 - “No excuse to GBV” – 2017
 - Religion no excuse to GBV
 - Women’s Human Rights Advocacy Training
 - FBO’s get acquainted with Un mechanisms (especially CEDAW) to play their part as key actors in civil society
 - Explore successful strategies to relate to lay and religious leaders, authorities and other civil actors
- Masculinities in Central America Program:
 - Lutheran World Federation
 - Working in Central American communities
 - CA-4 countries:
 - Smallest and most densely populated in Latin America
 - High level of vulnerability: earthquakes, storms
 - Worst indicators of femicide, violence by gangs, trafficking
 - Questionable authorities
 - Multi-year project
 - Rural men, both adult and youth
 - ‘integral approach on masculinities’
 - Analysis and awareness for men and boys in relation to gender equality
 - Questions men’s responsibility in issues such as violence, land ownership and climate change
 - Identifying non-violent, gender sensitive and masculine socialisation alternatives in a changing world
 - Men experiencing personal and collective processes of sensitization in gender and masculinities are more open to gender balance and gender parity
 - There is a multiplying power to this
 - As more men experience this, it will spread further
- Iman Sandra Pertek:
 - Mainstreaming faith-based gender justice
 - Islamic Relief
 - Gender justice policy: shaped by gender equality principles found within religious teachings
 - Belief gender justice = equality + equity
 - Upholding balance
 - Upholding dignity
 - Respecting equality
 - Standing up for justice

- Rights and responsibilities
 - Positive masculinity
 - “The best of you are those who are best to your wives and families” (saying of the Prophet Muhammad)
 - Work within African communities
 - Recognise that faith can drive positive transformation
- Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice:
 - See a world where everyone is valued equally
 - Faith imperative for gender justice
 - Faith-based organisations know that you can only work so far to develop communities until you hit the obstacle of gender inequality
 - Not enough to have legislation or protocols; people have to catch up with these things
 - Faith leaders are in a strong position as they hold influence in numerous sectors
 - Can dismantle stigmas
 - Help communities to let go of negative traditions
 - 45 national and international organisations
 - Coalitions have emerged
- UN Women:
 - Encouraging to see faith-based organisations working towards gender and social justice
 - Especially when these organisations work together
 - Effective and important in helping Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved
 - Vital to work with other organisations that are working towards human rights
- Engagement of interfaith religions together and also secular organisations as gender equality is a global issue
 - Believe only way this can be achieved is if we all collaborate together
- Concern: Don’t find women in deity, so we don’t see deity in women?
 - Question for gender equality in religion

United Nations CSW62: 16 March 2018

Empowering the Rural School Girl Against Human Trafficking **Girls' Power Initiative Nigeria**

This presentation was conducted by the Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) from Nigeria and was centred around the work the group does throughout Nigeria, focusing mainly on rural areas. From the outset, it should be noted that within Nigeria, there are extremely high instances of young girls voluntarily entering trafficking and are often encouraged to do so by their parents. This is because of the extreme poverty within Nigeria and lack of services and want of these girls to have not only a better life (one that they are promised by traffickers). Furthermore, Nigeria is a severely patriarchal society, where even the oldest girls are deemed inferior to their younger brothers and undeserving of the rights owed to them, such as education. This has led to a practice by which when the girls return after realising the better life was a myth, their families reject them as they have not provided money they were expecting, or they are ashamed. In order to overcome this problem, GPI provide family counselling and alternative placement for these rejected girls. Also, within their work, GPI empower young women through weekly 3-hour sessions to attempt to create prevention and awareness amongst the girls as to the realities of trafficking. Another important part of their work is economically empowering and educating households so that they do not feel the need to allow their daughters to go into trafficking. According to GPI, it is a common occurrence that when some households (parents) are educated as to the realities of trafficking, they want to help their daughters to get out. This is just a brief overview of what GPI does, but the work that they do is amazing, inspiring and also vital to stopping trafficking where it begins in Nigeria: in poor, vulnerable households with un-empowered girls.

- Nigerian context
- www.gpinigeria.org
- Reducing vulnerability of children and their household: Girls' Power initiative Nigeria (GPI) Strategies
 - o Psychological support, protection, health, nutrition
- Ending human trafficking: GPI Strategies
 - o Advocacy, collaboration and networking
 - o Training students on trafficking and migration issues
 - o Sensitisation and awareness training
 - o Economic empowerment
 - o Rehabilitation and re-integration
 - o Comprehensive sexuality education
- 1997 Report on Trafficking
 - o Reasons why girls were being trafficked:
 - Shift in culture
 - People went overseas and came back financially empowered
 - Poor infrastructure in states
- Girls attend GPI for 3 hours every Saturday for education to prevent trafficking
 - o Empowerment
 - o Financial strategies
- Most need for work in rural centres
- Implement peer education strategies
 - o Not enough resources to train everyone so give skills to train peers
 - o Work with Ministry of Education
- Difference between illegal migration and trafficking
- Micro-credits to the households of the girls
 - o To pay school fees (girls less vulnerable in school)
 - o Empower parents to provide basic needs
- Family counselling
 - o Some victims are not accepted back home because they haven't bought anything back with them (money)

- Have resources for returning girls from within Western Africa, but not currently from when they return from outside countries such as France
- Monitoring girls who have been rejected but placed elsewhere
- Provide housing for girls who are not accepted back even after counselling
- Other stakeholders in lives of the girls
 - Town Hall meetings showing true problems with trafficking
 - Parents think it is a 'bed of roses' and that children are okay being trafficked
 - Tend to change mind when find out what really happens
- Impact of work:
 - Increase awareness in people in city centres
 - Know trafficking is bad but still want to go because of situation in Nigeria
 - This is why highlighting the difference between migration and trafficking is important
 - NAP TIP: National Agency for the Provision of Trafficking in Persons
- Household economic strengthening:
 - Programs to reduce economic vulnerability of households
 - Financially vulnerable households more likely to allow their girls to be trafficked
 - Empowering households to not rely on 'handouts'
 - Look at family typology
 - Provision, protection, promotion
 - Recover assets and stabilise household consumption
 - Providing food etc.
 - Transferring of money and assets so there is more opportunity
 - Labour scheme
 - Vocational training
 - Development
 - Jobs
 - Training to create home gardens so they eat nutritious food and don't need to buy it
 - Including chickens etc.
 - Vital to put people in a position where they are able to then help others
 - Link up to loans
 - Micro-financing
 - Training to be economically educated as communities
 - Training to make something out of what they are already
 - i.e. learning how to sell crops for profits
 - learning how to manage cash flow, create financial safety nets
 - financial literacy
 - business management
 - Curriculum and monthly meetings on gender norms in households
- Protection services
 - Legal
 - Security
 - Getting birth certificates so children have an identity
- Patriarchal values strong in Nigeria
 - Females born to assist males
- Very difficult for girls to get education and rights within families
 - Especially when there are numerous girls (if the older sister claims a certain right (i.e. education), unlikely other sisters will get that right)
 - Younger brothers are considered elders to older sisters
 - Fosters low self-esteem in girls
- Trafficking a normal thing in Nigeria
 - At least one traffick girl in each family (immediate and extended)
 - Greed, poverty
 - Girls wanting to be trafficked to escape this; think that it will lead to a better life

- Previously didn't know what they would be trafficked for (prostitution) but now do and still want to go
 - This is because the poverty is so bad and pressure from parents because they want money
- Children on the Move:
 - Children who have left home (already at destination or on their way)
 - More vulnerable when they aren't at home

#MeToo – Now What? Women in the media: from outcry to action
Norway, UN Women and The Guardian

This panel discussion focused upon the #metoo movement and how recent events have revealed the scale of gender discrimination and sexual exploitation of women in the media industry. There were three female panellists and one male panellist, all working within the media except for Phumzile Miambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director for UN Women. The opening remarks were given by actress and activist Sienna Miller and the closing remarks given by Ine Erikson Søreide, the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister. A main theme that was throughout this panel discussion was that within the media, women have had to face obstacles, that their male counterparts have not, but the media industry must now work together to ensure that women are given a place at the table. It was also a recurring theme that for this to happen we need to make men that are fighting for the rights of women more visible, in the hopes this will create more awareness and encourage more men. An important point was made during this discussion that, 'the visible need to make the invisible more visible.' In terms of what is the next step for the movement, the panel agreed that it must now be sustained and we cannot allow for newspapers etc. to move onto the next story and that we must start making gender more mainstream, not something that you can take or leave as you please. It should also be noted that Sienna Miller had very fabulous hair.

- Panellists: Phumzile Miambo-Ngcuka (UN Women Executive Director), Pamella Sittoni (Managing Editor of the East African), Fatemah Farag (Founder of Welad el Belad and Director of Women in News in MENA), Matthew Winkler (Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, Bloomberg News)
- Moderator: Polly Toynbee (Columnist, The Guardian)
- Opening Remarks: Sienna Miller (Actor, Activist and Very Stylish Dresser)
- Closing Remarks: Ine Erikson Søreide (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway)
- Recent events have revealed the scale of gender discrimination and sexual exploitation of women in the media industry
- What has #metoo meant to you?
 - Phumzile:
 - Tipping point
 - Work that women have done for many years is coming to a head
 - More visibility
 - Important that the visible make the invisible more visible
 - Impunity has been the order of the day
 - Powerful men have not been accountable for their actions
 - New accountability will lead to prevention
 - Fatemah:
 - Egyptian journalist
 - Always been told that grass was greener on the other side (the West)
 - We can now be a part of the solution
 - Empowers women within the region
 - More open, broader context to broach society's issues
 - Need to include conversations in a systemic way to create structural changes
 - Pamella:
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Did not expect it to be as perverse as it has been on a global scale
 - Didn't think it could happen to 'celebrities'

- Need to take it to Africa more
 - Culturally obstacles to coming out
 - Haven't seen the same type of action in Africa
 - How do we move forward after speaking up
 - Matthew:
 - Every category of every career/sector has been touched
 - New meaning to the concept of zero tolerance
- Particular experiences in Media:
 - Pamela:
 - Lucky to only realise that there was inequality in the newsroom for female journalists later on in career
 - When you get to management levels, you tend to become outnumbered
 - Phumzile:
 - Was working as Minister in portfolios' that were typically 'men's' jobs (mining etc.)
 - Need to realise that even though these are stereotypically men's topics, they are still women's issues
 - Need more men to be visibly fighting for women, especially in visible and authoritative roles
 - Shareholders in the media
 - Women tend to be constantly preaching to the converted
 - Need to be able to hear and see more different #metoo stories from around the world
 - Fatemah:
 - Difficult to be a journalist in Egypt when you believe your job is to bring truth to power
 - Intersection of gender and where the person stands on certain issues can create further issues
 - Females journalists will reach a point until they hit the glass ceiling
 - Cloak of invisibility that men use so women cannot see important decisions being made
 - Women outside the decision-making circles
 - Need to open up opportunities for women where they don't have them
 - Tired of people telling women where they should be and who they should be
 - Matthew:
 - Bloomberg welcomed #metoo
 - Was already well underway in organisation
 - Data shows diversity makes you more competitive
- What's the next step?
 - Phumzile:
 - Sustain the moment and institutionalisation it in our work (policies etc.)
 - Don't allow media to move to next trivial story
 - Stay with the story
 - Fatemah:
 - Cannot lose momentum
 - Need to stop taking gender as a separate topic and mainstream it
 - Has always been seen as an add on
 - Involve more men
 - Pamela:
 - Empowering young women in media to know what they need to look out for
 - Increasing voices at the tables in newsrooms
 - Leadership
 - Matthew:
 - In order for #metoo to be lasting and to establish what best practice is, it is important to have leadership that is diverse
- This movement will be put people on alert

- Reconsider how we interact with each other
- Movement that is about human dignity for everyone; equal opportunity
- How can we engage more men?
- How can we use social media to empower instead of disempowering?
- Issues arise with women who are not supporting other women

CWLA Caucus of CABOM for the Empowerment of Rural Women **WOOMB International**

This event was sponsored by Catholic Women's League Australia and was run by WOOMB International. The focus of the event was the advancement of the Billings Ovulation Method, a way of understanding ovulation and the natural rhythms of the body for family planning, and in particular how it has been implemented in Uganda. WOOMB International, in conjunction with Alliance for Life International, have quite a strong presence in Uganda, with a Billings Life Centre there and someone qualified in the Billings Method, training and communicating with women within Uganda. The method is used as both a way to postpone and achieve pregnancy. As to the effectiveness of the program within Uganda, surveying 92 women, there was found to be 92% continuation rate of the method (the other 8% did not continue mainly due to partners not co-operating) and no-one who tried the method reported that they were unsatisfied. It was also discussed how this method can be considered healthier for women, as ovulation can be an indicator for certain health issues, and how this method has empowered some women.

- 9-10 people in attendance
- CABOM: Caucus for the Advancement of the Billings Ovulation Method
- Natural way of understanding ovulation (natural rhythms of the body); natural fertility
- Survey results of work in Uganda:
 - Alliance for Life International
 - Started work in 2008
 - Pregnancy resource centre: supporting young women
 - Adopt-A-Mum: women in US that will support young girl to help her gain a skill
 - Sexual integrity education in schools: start at approx. 10 yrs. old
 - Teacher training
 - Collected data from 92 women; up to 500 who are using the method in Uganda
 - Quantitative and qualitative
 - Effectiveness of the method?
 - Are they still following the method?
 - Satisfaction rating
 - Survey found the major goal was to postpone pregnancy (61); some wanted to achieve pregnancy (31)
 - Other reasons: previous method wasn't good because of side effect (38) reliable (19)
 - Continuation rate: following after 1 year 79%, following less than one year 13%
 - 92% continuation rate
 - 8% didn't continue because of partner not co-operating (5% was due to family violence (reproductive violence)
 - 35% partner violence in Uganda
 - Achieving goals: 71% achieved pregnancy, 95% were able to postpone pregnancy
 - Benefits to postponing: no adverse side effects, better health, better ability to work, better income (more productive), better communication with partner
 - Because they felt confident pregnancy would be postponed
 - Benefits to achieving: increased happiness in relationship, increased communication, gives hope
 - 89% of those still trying to achieve were hopeful
 - Conclusion: Ugandan families are serious about family planning, high continuation rate, high satisfaction (no-one was not satisfied)

- Even those who abandoned, were satisfied. It was usually their partners who weren't satisfied
- WOOMB: Billings Life Centre in conjunction with Alliance for Life
 - Helped to expand work in Uganda
 - Taught approx. 300 teachers in Uganda
 - Medical Bureau in Uganda has adopted as a method of merit
- Contraceptives widely available in Africa (artificial methods)
 - If not using the methods, it is because her husband doesn't want her to or she has had side effects
- Not lack of access that is the problem; more that the artificial methods didn't work or didn't work as well
 - A lot of the interviewed women didn't have hope that family planning worked for them
- Incorporated into some Catholic Churches
- How can women be healthier?
 - Side effects of artificial contraception
 - Hard for rural women to get help for these side effects
 - Ovulation is a sign of health
 - Artificial contraception suppresses ovulation
 - Ovulation can be vital to picking up other health issues
 - Stress, thyroid problems, pre-diabetic, pituitary disorders, inflammation

Girl Child Marriage and Gender Equality in Nigeria **Jubilee Campaign/Stefanos Foundation**

This presentation and panel discussion was in relation to girl child marriage in Nigeria and how gender equality can be used to combat this. Within Nigeria, there are many drivers behind the prevalence of child marriage including cultural and social pressure, financial challenges, parental desire to prevent sexual relations outside of marriage and parental fear of rape or early pregnancy, as preserving the value of virginity is important in Nigerian culture. Living in a poor household located in a rural area and belonging to a disadvantaged ethnic group significantly increases the risk of child marriage in Nigeria and this is due to not only poor financial circumstances but also due to lack of education and lack of confidence in the girls that they can do anything but get married. Child marriage also has many effects on the girl child, physically, mentally and socially. For example, young girls are prone to developing fistulas during childbirth as their bodies are not ready to be going through this process. Unfortunately, when a girl develops a fistula in a country such as Nigeria, they are thought to be unclean and divorced by their husband, leaving them in a worse place than before they were married. The panel discussed that there are numerous strategies for action that need to be taken in order for a change to occur such as the changing of attitudes towards gender norms, an increase in access to education for girls and also a creation of Government legislation that can be actually implemented within communities.

- Corruption that has led to gross human rights violations and impunity
 - Minority ethnic communities
 - Making the girl child more vulnerable in Northern Nigeria
 - Abductions are rife (by insurgent groups)
- Stefanos Foundation and Jubilee Campaign
- Importance of education
- Not just institutions or parents that push the girls into marriage or that the women don't have enough self-confidence
 - There is a narrative that there aren't enough men for all the women to get married
- One out of every three girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18 and one in nine is married before the age of 15
 - Typically, from rural areas and have no access to wealth or education

- Estimated that in the next 10 years, approximately 14 million child marriages will occur each year in developing countries (UNFPA 2013)
- In Nigeria 76% of women between the ages of 20 and 24 are married before they're 18
- Consent to marriage is lacking; denied the right of choice
 - o 'consent' usually in eyes of custom, culture and religion
 - o Too young to be making informed decisions about their marriage partner or about the implications of marriage itself
 - o Assumption is that once a girl is married, she has become a woman even if she is only 12
- Exemplifies how the world's poorest girls bear the heaviest burden of disadvantage
 - o See it as an escape to poverty
- Violation of human rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
 - o Most communities in Nigeria still support it though
 - o Regarded as a family building strategy, economic arrangement or a way to protect girls from unwelcome sexual advances and teenage pregnancies
- Child marriage is defined by UNICEF as both formal and informal unions in which a girl lives with a partner as if married before the age of 18
 - o Before the girl is physically, physiology or mentally ready
- Living in a poor household located in a rural area and belonging to a disadvantaged ethnic group significantly increases the risk of child marriage
- Nigeria: proportion of women married before 18 stands at 46.8%
 - o Rates higher in rural women (60%)
- UN Women 2017 Report
- Data shows a 9% decline in the prevalence of child marriage since 2003
 - o This progress is uneven though
 - Girls from the poorest areas and rural areas face twice the risk of being married before turning 18 as those girls living in urban areas
- Efforts to end child marriage:
 - o Nigerian law prohibits marriage without parental consent if under 21
 - o 22 out of 36 Nigerian states have domesticated the Child Rights Act
 - Lack of political will; particularly in Northern states where there is a high prevalence
- Drivers: cultural and social pressure, persecution, forced migration, slavery, financial challenges, politics (giving your daughter to a politician to make a political connection) and religion
 - o Underlying drivers: Parental desire to prevent sexual relations outside marriage, male-child preference, fear of rape or early pregnancy, lack of education or employment opportunities, lack of education (strong indicator of susceptibility to child marriage)
 - o Preserving value of virginity is important, especially in Northern Nigeria
- Effects of child marriage:
 - o Psychosocial disadvantage
 - Loss of adolescence, forced sexual relations and denial of freedom and personal development
 - o Poverty: becomes vicious cycle
 - o Access to contraception and reproductive health advice
 - o Without education, they lack knowledge of their rights and then cannot exercise their rights
 - Wait for their husbands to make the decisions, even about their own bodies
 - o Violence
 - o Young childbirth can be dangerous
 - High rates of fistulas among young girls as the reproductive organs are not ready to bear children
 - Girls with this condition are usually ostracised as unclean and often divorced
- Strategies for action:
 - o Changing attitudes
 - Nigerian society must re-examine gender roles
 - o School systems can and should be adapted to be more sensitive to girls needs and more responsive to family concern

- Increasing girls access to education
 - Empowering them with knowledge and skills
- Educating parents and communities
- Government legislation

United Nations CSW62: 19 March 2018

Religious Freedom: The Key to Equality and Rural Women's Empowerment **Worldwide Organisation for Women (WOW)**

This event was a series of presentations, some cut short due to running out of time, focusing upon how religious freedoms can lead to the empowerment of rural women and how rural women can be empowered in general. One presentation spoke of the dangers of restricting certain religious freedoms, arguing that we should encourage religious freedoms instead of focusing on attacking other religions, and gave statistics/examples from around the world. For example, it is estimated that 27% of countries throughout the world restrict religious symbols. It was also found that when social hostilities towards certain religions rise throughout the world, this is when government restrictions on religion tend to rise as well. Again, as in many other presentations throughout CSW62, it was reiterated that social change for women cannot happen without bringing men to the table and communicating with them. Another presentation spoke of respecting, supporting and empowering mothers, as they are the backbone of the family and the family is the most basic unit within society, which is needed for stability. One of the more interesting components of this whole event was the detailed analysis about the 10 steps to creating a garden, as a means to economically empower rural women. This presentation went into what types of plants you will be planting, what conditions they need (shade, sun etc.), where you will be planting them (planters, straight in the ground etc.), what kind of soil you have/need and how to prepare it, learning how to make compost and knowing that you need to have water to water the plants (you have to make sure it's right to the roots).

- Nicholeen Peck: World's Strictest Parents (TV show)
- WOW's 3 Pillars: Family, Sovereignty and Faith
- Girls and women from all over the world lean on their faiths for hope and empowerment
- It has been proven that were women rely on their religion, they are more empowered etc.
- Governments don't know true needs like Pastors and Priests
- Sometimes in the name of religion or customs groups and governments take away the freedoms of people; this is not acceptable
 - o Force religion on people or restrict religions from people
 - o FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)
 - o Child marriages
 - o Abuse of Spouse and Children
- "Before 9/11 when people spoke of religious liberty, they concentrated on governments controlling their people's ability and inability to access and practice religion. But, with 9/11 a new view of liberty was born. The actions of an individual or a group in society could have just as large or even more of an impact on religious liberties than governments do" - Dr Brian Grim
- Dr Brian Grim research
 - o Examples of Government Restrictions:
 - Pakistan: Blasphemy is punishable by imprisonment or death
 - Indonesia: Ahmadiyya Muslims are considered 'radical' because they don't follow same God (can't build appropriate mosques etc.)
 - 27% of countries restrict religious symbols
 - 31% of governments imprison people based on their religious related activities
 - Burma: Buddhist monks imprisoned for supporting human rights and democracy
 - 25% of government restrict conversion from one religion to another
 - India: 5 of their states have anti-conversion
 - o Examples of Social Hostilities:
 - 52% of world's countries have HIGH social hostilities involving religion
- Rising tide of Government restrictions has bad effects on society as a whole
 - o When social hostilities towards religions go up, that is when government restrictions go up
- Countries have a tendency to have a favourite religion
- Religious freedom correlates with well-being in countries (Dr Brian Grim)
 - o Gender empowerment and lower poverty are eventual results of this

- We should encourage religious freedoms instead of focusing on attacking other religions
- Religious freedom accomplishes SDGs (sustainable development goals) no. 5 and 16
- Exploiting vs. nurturing
 - o The powers who continually limit religious freedoms and cause social hostility against religious people are exploiting not only the women and children of the world, but all people
 - o The powers who allow for religious freedom, protect each person's right to believe how they want, and act according to their beliefs are nurturing all people
- Women are the nurturers of the world
- Cannot change the world without men at the table
 - o It is something that must also be family-orientated
- Governments have a tendency to not know what is going on in rural areas
 - o Making decisions for these people
- Communication is key to change; communicating the change you wish to see
 - o Not only to Governments, but also to the men in our lives (around the dinner table etc.)
- Religious organisations are key to getting information from both rural and urban areas and facilitating a kind of exchange of information system
- Challenges are so much worse for rural women, it could be suggested that departments need to be created to focus solely on them
- Worldwide Declaration of Mothers
 - o Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and as such it should be strengthened.
 - o This means nurturing women
- Highlight the role of women and motherhood
 - o Women's identity enhanced when she becomes a mother
 - Improved communication, leadership skills
- Need to support, empower, respect and be more grateful towards mothers
 - o More stable society
- Improving rural families' economic positions
 1. Learn to grow food to improve family economics
 - o Will be healthier: nutritious food, exercise, mentally
 - o Can sell for money
 - o Important to pass along the knowledge
 2. Preserve food
 - o Drying, freezing, chutneys etc.
 3. Store food
 - o For when the crops aren't great
 4. Learn self-reliant skills
 - o Saving money for a rainy day, learning how to sew
- 10 steps to growing a garden: very detailed analysis, went into what types of plants you will be planting, what conditions they need (shade, sun etc.), where you will be planting them (planters, straight in the ground etc.), what kind of soil you have/need and how to prepare it, learning how to make compost, knowing that you need to have water to water the plants (you have to make sure it's right to the roots)
- Need to be wary about digital media use and children: Happiness Campaign
 - o Digital use is factor in decreasing our happiness
 - o Need to create family approach to digital media in a nurturing way

Human Trafficking in America: Risks for Women and Girls in Rural Areas and Faith-Based Prevention

New York Board of Rabbis/UNICEF USA/ Arigatou International

This event was a mixture of both presentations and a panel discussion and focused upon the trafficking of women and girls within rural areas in the United States, and how faith-based organisations have gotten involved in prevention and awareness. An important idea from this event was how faith-based organisations

can become more involved in addressing the supply side of human trafficking through identifying the most vulnerable members of society by going straight to the supply and making them feel less isolated. This idea was offset by the need to also tackle the demand of human trafficking by educating not only buyers as to the effects of their actions, but also boys as how not to exploit the vulnerable. Police, social services etc. can really only do the work of removing those who are trafficked, but they are not able to help with the spiritual direction afterwards and this is where faith-based organisations can step in. One faith-based group, 'Let My People Go,' has facilitated the creation of Justice Ministry Teams within congregations, who learn who is most vulnerable in their communities and who is already working with these people and then creating congregational networks that are able to be more effective by working together and filling in gaps that other organisations cannot. This was an interesting initiative and it would be interesting to see how it works in Australia, in terms of congregations promoting social justice within their own specific communities. A question that was asked to everyone attending the event was that we are learning about helping those less fortunate etc. through our faith, but how are we putting this learning into practice? This is a question that I believe could open many doors to action.

- Moderator: Rabbi Diana Gerson
- Panellists: Vivian Huelgo, Raleigh Sadler, Rabbi Rachael Bregman, Reverend Joan Hoeberichts, Alicia Webber
- Take action:
 - o Raise awareness about human trafficking, no matter where you live, and work towards protecting the most vulnerable members of our society
 - o Bring local multi-sector leadership together in a genuine way to combat human trafficking
 - o Love the vulnerable in your community
 - o Empower those that traffickers target for empowerment; whether that be through shopping habits (free trade etc.) or identifying those vulnerable people
 - o Tackle the demand
 - o Sponsor a fundraiser for an anti-trafficking agency
 - o True change will not happen until we build lasting, powerful relationship with survivors, leaders and our broader community
 - o Create multi-disciplinary/religious teams and truly listen to each other – even when you may not agree
- Human trafficking reported in 50 US states
- Needs of trafficking survivors in domestic rural communities often go unaddressed
 - o Often focus on the big cities, forgetting about rural areas and the unique challenges they face (poverty, isolation)
- Looking outside of just prostitution; have to look at agriculture/hospitality industries as well
 - o Often forgotten places where trafficking can be found
- Identifying victims in rural areas can be a challenge when compared to urban areas where it is more condensed
- Large percentage of counties have chronic and persisting poverty
 - o Exacerbates the potential for trafficking
 - o Lack of services: not only amount of services but the ability to access these services (i.e. distance of victims)
 - Travelling hours to get to service/see victim
 - Access to transport to reach services
- Technology to access services/victims is not as reliable in rural areas
- 'Let My People Go'
 - o Network of congregations across the US fighting human trafficking
- Need to ask ourselves: we are learning about helping those less fortunate etc. through our faith, but how are we putting this learning into practice?
- Traffickers will always target those who are most vulnerable (socially, mentally, economically)
- Faith communities should target vulnerable populations and empower and include them
 - o Every community has a vulnerable population
 - o Respond to vulnerability in a way that transforms community

- Justice Ministry Teams:
 - o Learning who the most vulnerable in community
 - o Finding out who is already working with these people
 - o Can create congregational networks
- Police, social services etc. can do the work of removing those who are trafficked, but they are not able to help with the spiritual direction afterwards
- We have vulnerable people when we allow people to not know each other and isolate them
 - o Need to respect and treat each other better
 - o People are exploited in their moment of vulnerability
- Small communities: don't know how to prosecute it because they don't know how to see it and then find it
 - o Education and awareness needed
- Demand: need to be aware that the buyers are everyday people
 - o Need to not just educate the girls about how not to be vulnerable to trafficking but also need to educate the boys about how not to exploit vulnerable people
- Inter-faith toolkit, UNICEF USA
- Get involved with agencies that are already helping/working with the human trafficking issue
- Law enforcement is a key player in human trafficking
 - o Law enforcement need to be educated about human trafficking and how to handle it
 - o Have conversations with law enforcement that are community specific
- Need to be aware of the companies that are producing our food/clothing
- Engaging families is important in combatting human trafficking
 - o Often girls with unstable family situations are most vulnerable to trafficking
 - o Faith-based organisations have very strong focus on family, so should work towards strengthening the family unit within communities
 - Families should help other families
- Sense of belonging is very important
 - o Belonging to a church, family etc.

Ending Gendercide to Achieve Equality and Empower Rural Indian Females **The Invisible Girl Project**

This presentation was as amazing, as it was shocking. It was run by an NGO called The Invisible Girl Project, who work with partners in India, and it focused upon the rampant gendercide with India, particularly in rural India. It is estimated that within India, there are more than 37 million more men than women and the UN has estimated 50 million girls and women are missing from India's population due to gendercide (The Indian Government estimates this to be more like 63 million). Gendercide is the systemic mass killing of females due to their gender and can take the form of selective abortions (even though it is illegal to find out the gender of your baby in India), female infanticide, severe neglect and abuse and abandonment. In one case, a family killed eleven daughters that were born before realising that they weren't going to have a son and let their 12th daughter live. It was said within the presentation that some of the main causes of gendercide within India are the extreme demands of dowry and the lack of social security, which leads to a reliance on sons by the aging population. Looking at these causes, it shows a culture in which people question what the benefits are in having a daughter. Another cause is the extreme disempowerment of girls and women that is implanted in them since birth. A shocking example of this is the practice of naming girls 'Nakusha,' which means unwanted in India. In one particular village, 280 girls were found to have this name, one of these girls saying that she did not believe girls should be born. This shows a system in which the girls themselves are taught from a young age that their gender is unwanted, and a never-ending cycle begins. In order to overcome this gendercide, Invisible Girl Project believes we must empower the young girls and women through education and finance, eradicate the practice of dowry and improve Indian social security to support the aging population and alleviate its reliance on sons. A point was also made that it would have to be an intergenerational approach that includes educating boys and men that their daughters or potential daughters are not worthless or burdens.

- Gendercide: killing of girls because they want sons
 - o Murdered, aborted
 - o Systematic mass killings of females
 - More women killed through gendercide than all world wars in 20th Century
- 37 million more men in India than girls
- Invisible Girl Project: travelled around villages in India
 - o Saw boys running around, not many girls
 - o In one village, boy outweigh girls eight to one
 - In this village there was a grandmother who was the 'baby killer'
- Asha's Story:
 - o Family killed ELEVEN daughters before her; realised they weren't going to have a son so decided to let her live
 - o Recently had her own daughter and decided to let her live
- Save the girl, educate the girl
- 70% of Indian population is rural
 - o Important to work within these communities
- Gendercide takes many forms
 - o Selective abortion
 - Largest cause of gendercide
 - Tests to discover gender are now illegal
 - People have found ways to avoid the law
 - Bribing ultrasound technician
 - Technicians have codes: pointing to letters, using different coloured pens
 - Women face pressure to find out gender and then abort if it is a girl
 - Feel trapped; no choice
 - UN estimated that 2 000 selective abortions happen daily in India
 - o Female infanticide
 - Women told by husbands and in-laws that they would have to 'murder' their own daughters
 - Pressure and coercion
 - o Severe abuse and neglect and abandonment
 - Don't want to murder daughter so they neglect or abandon them instead
 -
- For every 1000 boys in India, there are only 914 girls
- UN estimated 50 million girls and women missing from India's population due to gendercide
 - o India reports show it is more like 63 million
- Has led to trafficking of brides, sex-trafficking
 - o Due to lack of women to marry etc.
 - o Particularly rural girls
 - o May be married numerous times, to numerous men
- 27% of girls in India marry before the age of 18 (UNICEF)
 - o Highest rate in the world
 - o Heightened maternal mortality rates
- Rape increased 12.4% from 2015 to 2016
- To get to the root of gendercide, you have to understand why it happens/exists
- Disempowerment of girls and women
 - o Occurs before they are born and throughout their whole lives
 - o Disempowerment is implanted as soon as they are born
- 'Nakusha' = unwanted
 - o Common name given to unwanted girls
 - o Government intervened and conducted naming ceremonies
 - In one community found 280 girls with this name
 - Giving a different name can empower and give confidence to these girls

- Are well aware they are unwanted because they are female based on their name and being told by their parents quite openly
- Do not receive education
 - Rural families are already poor and educating a girl who was not wanted is most certainly not a priority
- 'No, girls should not be born': no self-worth
 - Abandoned by the ones they love, are meant to belong to
- Societal norms have converged to create this disdain for and anger towards girls india:
- 1. Practice of dowry
 - Quite demanding: can rob family of lifetime of savings, loans typically taken out
 - New demands typically made throughout marriage; especially if wife does not give birth to sons
 - Illegal in 1961 but still rampant in India
 - Daughter's family pays dowry
 - Dowry violence common
 - 18 000 women die a year as a result of dowry violence (1 woman every 90 mins)
 - Incentive to not have daughters
 - Some villages have outlawed dowry
 - Impossible to defeat until communities come together
 - There would have to be incentives
- 2. Lack of social security
 - Most work done in rural communities is done by men (manual labour)
 - As the fathers age, they depend on and need their sons to continue the labour to bring in household income
 - Mothers become older and want daughter-in-law to do household duties
 - Results in arranged marriages; dowry
 - So, sons are bringing in household income, whereas daughters are taking it away (dowry)
 - Aging population relies on sons
 - Some social security schemes such as pensions have been created in India to combat this reliance on sons by the rural aging population, but we are yet to see if these are effective
 - If families are less constrained financially through use of social services, there will be less reliance on sons and dowries will not negatively affect them as much
- Indian sayings:
 - Daughters:
 - 'Others will be rich because of our daughter'
 - 'raising a daughter is like watering your neighbour's garden
 - 'Invest 5 000 rupees today, save 500 000 rupees tomorrow': advertisement outside abortion clinic
 - Sons:
 - 'A support in old age'
 - 'A walking staff of old parents'
 - Come out of age old customs
- Girls need to be empowered through respect and dignified places for them to
- Need to create more empowered Indian girls and women
 - There must be a decrease in dowry and an increase in access to social security
 - Safety nets for the aging population
 - Education
 - Need to educate boys as well
 - Financial help
 - Ability to exercise agency
 - Outside intervention: needs to be solved by more than just one stakeholder
 - Difficult to challenge such limiting norms and customs alone
- Individual level:
 - Rescue, care, educate, empower

- Counselling for not only mothers, but also fathers
- Financial support: providing micro-finance for women to buy cows and get income from this, then once the micro-finance loan is paid back, that money can be given to another woman to buy cows
- Putting girls into sponsorship programs and educating/empowering them
- Intergenerational change has to occur

#ImamsForShe: Engaging Imams for Sustainable Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women and Girls **Muslims for Progressive Values**

This panel discussion consisted of leaders within the Islamic Community who participate in the #ImamsForShe movement, as well as key stakeholders. It focused upon working with faith leaders within the Islamic community to empower young girls by countering negative uses of Islamic language that are detrimental to women's rights, with positive language that is based on the Qur'an and its teachings. This is because faith-based leaders, institutions and organisations play a vital role in advocating for laws and norms to develop within society, and it was a main point of the presentation that the United Nations needs to not only amplify these voices, but also empower them. One of the major themes of the event was fundamentalism and it was said that fundamentalist groups are now tending to work within rights-based frameworks and then co-opt from within in order to distort certain rights (especially those concerning women) in order to suit their agenda and consolidate their power over religion, tradition and culture. On this point, a particularly interesting idea was presented that opposition to fundamentalism is not to be taken as an anti-religious stance, but rather was a person practicing their freedom of religion. Another significant notion presented during the event was that even though certain religious leaders supporting gender equality may come across as patronising or patriarchal, we must remember that they are supporting us and this is a step forward; we can work on their delivery later.

- In initiative, partnering with faith leaders in Muslim faith to empower women and girls
 - Using Islamic language to encourage human rights
 - Countering negative uses of the language (i.e. groups who commit crimes against the human rights of women in the name of Islam)
- Faith actors are crucial in humanitarian work
 - Well-recognised as partners in SDGs
- There are gaps in UN's relationship with faith actors
- All data shows all rural women and girls are being left behind and excluded
 - Normalisation of the exclusion
- Women and girls face further marginalisation within excluded groups (refugees, migrants, indigenous people)
- Parity gaps are widening
 - Must be doing more intentional approaches, whilst working with faith-based actors
 - UN must amplify these voices
- Faith-based institutions, organisations and leaders play a vital role in advocating for a change in laws and norms
 - UN needs to encourage and empower these stakeholders to be able to do this
 - Faith organisations have strong political pull in some countries
- Need to focus more on intersectionality to reach more groups
 - 'multiple deprivations'
 - Common resistance and solidarity
- Special Rapporteur Report: The Impact of Fundamentalism and Extremism on the enjoyment of Cultural Rights
 - Cultural rights (religion) should not be used to negate human rights
- Fundamentalism:
 - Found in numerous religions
 - Abusing cultural rights of women

- Difficult to contest because they are misusing the religious language
- Important to remember that opposition to fundamentalism is not an anti-religious stance
- Have to work together with multiple strategies through religious and non-religious discourses
- Civil society plays critical role in combatting fundamentalism and extremism
- Ultra conservative actors targeting systems established to protect human rights
 - Use arguments based on extreme interpretations of religion, culture and tradition
 - Focus on state sovereignty to roll back fundamental rights and state impunity
 - Attempts to implement a parallel universe of human rights
 - Using 'freedom of religion' as a way to shut down discourse and debates as to certain rights-based issues
 - Working within human rights framework and then co-opting it from within
- Fundamentalism is about power
 - Linked to global inequalities
- Fundamentalism usually focus heavily on women and women's rights
- Engaging with men:
 - Men Engagement Alliance
 - In Pakistan, have worked with over 320 religious leaders
 - Discussion was had whether the women should be engaging with religious leaders at all
 - When working at grassroots level, have to be careful what language is used
 - i.e. 'gender equality' is language taken from the West that may not be taken as well
 - Need to interpret appropriately through local languages
- Sometimes male religious leaders can unintentionally sound patronising and patriarchal when discussing gender equality/women's rights
 - The fact that they are supporting and talking about it though is a step forward and must be encouraged further
- Equality for women can be found in numerous parts of Qur'an

United Nations CSW62: 20 March 2018

Women's Rights in the Middle East

United Nations Watch

This series of presentations was to be focused on women's rights within the Middle East, but I have made the realisation that none of the countries talked about were actually Middle Eastern countries. That point aside, hearing about these countries and the types of adversities that the women within these countries face. Within Burundi, they are going through a period of conflict as the government is evolving into a full-blown dictatorship/autocracy. At the beginning of the peaceful protests, it was mainly young men who were involved, but as the government and law enforcement began to get more militant, the women began to mobilise with Women Only protests and they soon became a threat to the government. A practice began by which arrested dissenters are taken to 'intelligence centres' and there have been reports of not only death but also gang rape. As a result, most people who dissent now live outside the country and those who are still in the country, live in constant terror.

Another country that was spoken about was Burma and the Rohingya people, who live in closed and repressed communities where it is near impossible for women to stand up to the regime without reprisals. An important point that this speaker made that we need to be aware of is that celebrities and the like who have taken up human rights plights do so without fear of reprisals and without the backlash that the women affected would receive. This is why we must protect the affected women, so they feel empowered to stand up to the injustices against them. An overall takeaway from this event was that we must not normalise injustices but instead normalise being able to stand up to them.

- By empowering women, you empower humanity
 - o "the fight for women's rights is a fight for humanity"
- Burundi:
 - o Decades of ethnic/political conflict; utilising ethnicity to fund conflict
 - o Some degree of democracy
 - President elected, free media, opposition had some ability to dissent
 - o 2015: President decided to run for third term which is violation of Constitution
 - Civilians began to protest peacefully against violation of Constitution and peace agreements
 - Mostly young men
 - No women, educated elite etc. (no-one wanted to leave comfort of their home)
 - Police began to arrest and brutalise protesters; repression of freedom of oppression
 - Speaker began to mobilise women on social media to join in protests
 - Women Only protests
 - Not traditional for women to have a voice
 - Able to get into areas of the city where other protesters could not
 - o Rhetoric that women are not interested in politics
 - Protesting women became a threat
 - o After you are arrested, taken to 'intelligence centres' (aren't real prisons or anything formal)
 - Women arrested have been gang raped by militia in these 'centres'
 - Fate of pretty much anyone who stands up to the regime
 - o 90% of independent journalists are outside of country
 - o Opposition leaders, educated people are outside of country
 - o Repression of any dissent
 - Those inside Burundi live in constant state of terror
 - Criminal dictatorship
 - o Head of State now looking to hold referendum to extend presidential terms and limits
 - Anyone saying they will not support Constitution are basically killed
 - Man killed for saying he would vote no just last weekend

- We must try to normalise dissent to authoritarianism and dictatorships
 - o Resurgence of authoritarianism
 - o Cannot make injustice normal
- Need to work towards global movement for the perspective of numerous countries
- Rohingya People:
 - o Burma: repressive and closed communities
 - o Not easy for women to stand up to regime
 - Speaker was imprisoned in Burma for 7 years
 - o People who are standing up to regime are being heavily targeted
- Should focus on grassroots campaigns and place attention on the areas with most conflict
- Need to be aware that when celebrities (Angelina Jolie etc.) and people like the UN Secretary General stand up for injustices facing rural women, they will not face the type of backlash that the women affected would face
 - o Need to protect these women so they are empowered to stand up to injustice
- Venezuela: Speaker appeared by video link because she was not allowed to leave Venezuela
 - o Sound on video was inaudible

Strengthening Gender Policies for a Toxics-Free Planet for Rural Women **Women Engage for a Common Future**

This event was a series of presentations on case studies in Indonesia and Nigeria and focused on how the prevalence and high-level contact to hazardous chemicals for rural women has had horrific health implications for not only these women, but also their children and future children. Whilst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions aim to prevent the use of many dangerous chemicals, these are the worst of the worst and many chemicals are missed. Some of these chemicals include POPs and UPOPs, which can include pesticides and carcinogenic and are quite common in developing countries. Throughout both Nigeria and Indonesia, chemicals are now being found in human biomarkers and in breastmilk, which has led to high instances of birth defects. In another alarming example, mercury contamination from contaminated fish (in Indonesia) and the dismantling of e-waste (in Nigeria) has led to 42% of Indonesian women having higher mercury levels than is already considered dangerous and some Nigerian women are turning green from the bleaching effect mercury has on the skin. Another scary example is in Nigeria where the mix PCB oils with the cost-effective cooking oil that Nigerian women use in common foods, that transcend class. PCB oils are highly dangerous and once again can lead to birth defects etc. Scientific things such as chemicals and chemical names are quite difficult to understand for the everyday person (myself included; I had no idea what anything was before it was explained to me at this event), but within the event, the notion was put forward that in order to improve the situation in relation to hazardous chemicals, easier language needs to be used so that awareness is improved. It should also be noted, that within the Agreed Conclusions to CSW62, only one line was able to be included in relation to hazardous chemicals and gender, and this was because there is quite a strong 'pesticide lobby' at UN. Apparently pesticides are big business.

- Gender dimensions of hazardous chemicals and waste policies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- 9 million dying every year from pollution
 - o Poisoned by chemicals without their consent
- Balifokus: Indonesian NGO
- Indonesia:
 - o POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants): pesticides etc.
 - Now found in human biomarkers due to constant contact
 - o UPOPs (Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants): opening burning, chemical and consumable products, waste incineration
 - Carcinogenic
 - o Chemicals now found within breastmilk
 - 74% of breastfeeding mothers in Indonesia are not aware that chemicals affect the quality of their breastmilk

- Children are also exposed to chemicals and waste on regular basis
 - Frequently get sick: exposure to pesticides, head lice removal chemicals
- Mercury contamination: causing illness and birth defects
 - Husband goes and mines the ore, brings it home and wife helps to burn it (amalgam)
 - Contaminated fish
 - No fish advisory so there is no knowledge of the safety of fish eating
 - Mercury and certain POPs are fat soluble, so they are just soaked up
 - High counts of mercury in women's hair: 42% have mercury body burden >1ppm (1ppm is the 'normal' level)
 - Those who are suffering from mercury contamination in rural areas, do not access to good health services
- 220 000 deaths a year from pesticide poisoning
 - 99% of these deaths are in developing countries
- Lot of money in the selling of pesticides and that is why it is so hard to regulate them
- Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel: includes pesticides but only the worst of the worst, not the other thousands that are safe at a small level but are still very harmful
 - Especially in developing countries
- Sri Lanka has list of pesticides that they don't want used in their country
- Certain companies are distorting the science to try and show that their pesticides are not harmful
- Why are people being harmed/allowing this to happen to themselves?
 - Lack of protective gear
 - Lack of information of dangers of pesticides
 - If there is, normally given to 'head of the household' (the man) and the woman is left in the dark
 - Lack of language translations on pesticides so there is no idea how harmful they are
 - No way of finding information
- Pesticide Convention needed?
 - Only one line in the CSW62 Agreed Conclusions in relation to harmful chemicals and pesticides
 - Cannot talk about 'organic farming' within UN texts as the pesticide lobby is so strong
- Women's organisations are the ones going around to rural areas and educating not only the women, but also the men about the dangers of pesticides
- Men and women are exposed and react differently to chemicals
- Nigeria:
 - Women Environmental Programme
 - Examples of strategies:
 - Plastic recycling
 - Creation of bio-pesticide
 - Electronic recycling (e-waste)
 - Recycling and destruction of frying oils
 - Not many people understand POPs or are aware of them
 - Ask what gender has to do with chemicals?
 - Scoping studies in 2018: visits to ministries, agencies, waste companies
 - Met with people out in the field: scavengers etc.
 - Key findings:
 - Uncontrolled burning of plastic containing POPs expose people to health risks, especially women and children
 - Highly toxic industrial waste being used for food preparation
 - Informal recycling of e-waste and plastics leads to contamination of air, soil water and pose health risks to public
 - Nigeria has most e-waste in Africa
 - POPs are found in breastmilk, consumer products, food, waterways, meat, air
 - Went to hospitals and found even some doctors did not know of the presence of POPs in breast milk

- Found that it was commonly transported through the animals they were eating
 - Cooking oils mixed with PCB oils
 - Extremely dangerous
 - Sold to rural women: oil burns very slowly and is cost effective
 - Used in foods that are very common in Nigeria and eaten by all classes
 - PCB oils are illegal but still find their way into the country
 - Don't know how to spot what oil has been used etc.: need education
 - Mercury found in e-waste
 - People exposed when trying to recycle it
 - Not many people know this (no protection gear)
 - Agriculture exposure of workers, farmers, and local residents via pesticide applications, pesticide stockpiles
 - Affects soil and food
 - Mercury poisoning is so bad that some women are turning green
 - Birth defects common
- Nigeria still has some good practices
 - Some chemicals are illegal; but still find their way into country
 - Especially in rural areas
 - Action Plan with whole section on gender
 - Minister of Environment for Nigeria is very involved
- Must remember that this is a topic that is not often talked about and can be difficult to understand so we must unpack it for people
 - Use of easy language
- Need to make women/people aware of the dangers of the pesticides that they are using
- To achieve SDGs there must be a strong commitment by governments to address the pollution of environment by chemicals which negatively impacts human health
- Sensitization and public awareness are critical
- Importance of bees

The Anatomy of Technology-Related Violence Against Women

ARTICLE 19

This event was a mixture of presentations and discussions and was focused upon violence against women through the use of technology and the tensions between freedom of expression and censorship and preserving the rights of women. This includes harassing people, abusing people, and psychologically harming people through the use of things like mobile phones and social media. Technology-related violence against women manifests in a different way to physical violence against women as it has different stakeholders, can cross borders, attacks can be amplified to include thousands of people and technology is evolving at such a rapid pace that it is difficult to keep up. It also typically is aimed at a woman and her sexuality (inappropriate slurs, feeds into rape culture etc.) and at hyper visible women such as journalists and politicians. In discussing technology-related violence, the presentation made it clear that we must be aware of the contexts in which we are speaking, as technology is used in different ways in different places, and therefore the solutions need to be localised. An important issue that was addressed was how many countries have legislation in place to attempt to combat this type of violence, but enforcement is either difficult or non-existent. The event also introduced the #SpeakingUp campaign, started by ARTICLE 19, which focuses on building bridges between 3 stakeholders (human rights groups, women communicators and key actors that shape the online environment) in order to combat technology-related violence. The aim of this project is to have the ability to see the scale and severity of technology-related violence against women and be able to show this to tech companies and law enforcement, in order to create movement and responses to the issue.

- Manifests in a different way from physical violence
 - Different stakeholders

- Can be transnational: crosses borders
- Scale is wider: attacks can be amplified
 - For example, retweeting or 'liking' something so other people can see
- Different types of harm can come from this
- Technology is rapidly evolving
 - Including reporting mechanisms and community guidelines on social media
- Solutions need to be localised
 - i.e. being called a certain slur in one place, may not mean the same in another place
 - Can have real life consequences
- Need to be aware of context
 - Tendency to focus on western context
 - Need to understand it operates differently in different spaces
- Mexico:
 - Has legislation to account for technological violence
 - Enforcement problem exists
 - Women are facing intersecting forms of conflict
 - State violence, partner/family violence, identity violence
 - 7 women die per day due to femicide
 - Typology of 13 types of violence faced by women in Mexico
 - Not expensive for biggest tech companies to have offices in Mexico
 - So, women have access to solutions but is not the same as responses in US and UK
 - Cannot be overlooked that the group that is most effected by technology-related violence is young women
 - Cyber-bullying etc.
 - Need to look at the effects and consequences of censorship
 - Biggest factor in combating this violence is accepting and affirming that psychological violence is a concept
 - You don't have to be physically hurt for it be violence against women
- Kenya:
 - Systematic format
 - Doxing, catfishing etc.
 - Women with hyper visible profiles (journalists and politicians) experience this more
 - Sometimes take tribalistic/political approach
 - Some instances come from intimate partners (exposure of private images)
 - Usually frame the violence around a women's sexuality
 - One of the effects is a coalition growing within journalist networks
 - Strengthen each other to combat the violence
 - Shows the entrenchment of patriarchal values and norms
 - Power structures
- Enforcement in countries where legislation exists is incredibly difficult
 - Need to work towards solutions for how we can enforce these laws
- Tensions between freedom of expression and censorship and preserving women's rights against violence that is clearly engendered and harmful to society
- Online harassment can have reprisal elements towards a whole family
 - i.e. female journalists' whole families are targeted; doesn't happen as often for male journalists
 - Exemplifies how engendered these attacks can be
- Need to remember that technology-related violence doesn't always come from anonymous sources (i.e. trolls) but can come from partners or colleagues
- Some women don't have the freedom to safely express themselves on the internet as much as others
 - Fear of reprisals, increase in attacks
- #SpeakingUp Initiative: freedom of expression to counter technology-related violence against women (VAW)
 - Human rights groups

- Freedom of expression
 - Internet freedom
 - Women's rights
 - Women communicators
 - Journalists working in Mexico, Brazil, Kenya and Uganda
 - Key actors that shape the online environment
 - International/regional/national government bodies
 - Technology companies
 - Internet governance bodies
- Need to build bridges in the conversation between stakeholders (abovementioned)
- Anatomy of technology-related VAW
 1. Mapping: see what exactly is happening in the tech-related VAW arena
 2. Code the mapping and frame the issue per area
 3. Populate with resources at each coding point
 - The whole process will be consultative
 - Aim: have a product that is useful for showing the scale and severity of the problem
 - Then tech companies and law enforcement can see what is actually happen
 - See where the gaps are
- The attackers face no consequences for their actions
- Sometimes responding to attacks can lead to more attacks

United Nations CSW62: 21 March 2018

Empowering Rural Women and Girls through the Billings Ovulation Method **WOOMB International**

This event was basically the same as the previous event we went to on the Billings Ovulation Method. The presentation went through the survey done in Uganda on women who use the method and we were told about how the method works. The only difference this time round, was that we heard real life testimonies. The first testimony came from the husband of the Ugandan woman who teaches the method at the Billings Life Centre. He was very positive about the method and said how his wife getting off contraceptives and using this method had improved their family dynamic and they are now stronger because of it. The second lot of testimonies came from women throughout America who addressed the audience via video link about their positive experiences with this method. Intertwined throughout these testimonies, were ones that had been emailed into the organisers. Adding the real-life testimonies really added another layer to the presentation and it was interesting to see how well it worked for so many women.

- Billings Ovulation Method (BOM)
- Research began in Australia in 1953
- Used in more than 100 countries
- Billings Life Centre: Alliance for Life International and WOOMB
- January 2018 Survey
 - o Participants from Kampala and suburbs, Mbarrara and Kisoro in Uganda
 - o Time frame: May 2016 – December 2017
 - o Number of participants: 92
 - o 61 participants wanted to postpone pregnancy; 31 wanted to achieve pregnancy
 - 38 had unwanted side effects of previous methods
 - o Continuation rate:
 - Following BOM after one year: 79%
 - Following for less than one year: 13%
 - Total continuation: 92%
 - Discontinued use of BOM due to partner's non-co-operation: 8%
 - 5% of this group reported incidents of domestic violence
 - Reproductive violence is sub-group of domestic violence
 - o Achieving main goals:
 - 71% of 31 women wanting to achieve pregnancy, achieved pregnancy
 - 95% of 61 women prevented pregnancy
 - o High satisfaction rate: 83%
- Women in Uganda come to Life Centre, church etc. to communicate and work with BOM
 - o Dealing with numerous types of women (educated and non-educated)
 - o All services are free of charge
 - o Easy to use, is accepted by all cultures and as it is free, it fits in with the socio-economic climate in Uganda
- Heard from numerous women who have had success with BOM

Empowering Women Through the Power of Entrepreneurship and Leadership **Word of Life Christian Fellowship/Trinity Girls Network**

This event was completely different to anything I had been to so far. Instead of discussing how to empower other young girls and women, its main theme was empowering the women that were within the room. The first speaker talked about a new organisation in the US called Vote Run Lead, that teaches women how to run for office and win. The main strategy of this organisation is to be non-partisan and trust the women to know themselves and their platform, with a goal in mind to get women into leadership because it has been proven to

be transformative. The second and third speakers spoke about how more women need to become entrepreneurs and leaders, in order to create a cycle of empowerment. Finally, a panel discussion was held with successful women throughout the US and some really interesting points were made such as leaders develop leaders and that if you don't pursue your own dreams, you'll just end up getting paid to pursue someone else's dreams. Even though it was different to all the other events I had been to, this presentation was incredibly interesting.

- Vote Run Lead:
 - o Teaching women how to run for office and win
 - o Non-partisan: trusting women to know themselves and their platform
 - 'Run as you are'
 - o Looking at political and electoral strategies
 - o Not to try and get gender parity, but because women in leadership can be transformative
 - More partisan politics, less egotistical decisions
- Entrepreneurship:
 - o In today's economy, usually need multiple streams of income
 - o Imbalance in whose owning businesses in the USA (Forbes)
 - In relation to not only gender (only 19% of businesses are owned by women even though they make up half the population) but also race (only 17% of businesses are owned by minorities, even though they make up 38% of the population)
 - o Need to encourage girls and women to go into business
 - Have better results in business
 - High prevalence of mentoring groups
 - Important for positive growth in young girls
 - o 'Empower a girl, empower a generation'
- Leadership:
 - o When women have economic freedom, they can change the world
 - o Leaders develop other leaders
 - o Women always questioning whether they have enough education and resources to become leaders
 - Men don't have the same qualms usually
- *If you don't pursue your dreams, you get paid to pursue someone else's*
- Success manifests in lots of different ways

United Nations CSW62: 22 March 2018

Beauty Bites Beast: The Missing Conversation about Ending Violence **El Havev, Jerusalem/Women's Voices Now/ Fifty-Fifty Leadership**

This event was the screening of a film entitled Beauty Bites Beast: The Missing Conversation about Ending Violence. This film flips ideas about female helplessness, as women and other at-risk folks undertake the transformative experience of learning verbal, emotional and physical empowerment-based self-defence. The purpose of the movie is to provide tools to females to be part of the solution while an assault is taking place rather than raising her to expect rescue from someone else. A point that was made within the film was that empowerment self-defence advocates, both women and men, have been systematically excluded from private and public conversations within the United States. It was said that quite often those who suggest that women should learn self-defence, are called 'victim-blamers,' because the perpetrators should be taking responsibility, not the women. The film argued though that this is a misconception and learning self-defence cannot not only be empowering but also a very healing process for victims. An important scene within the film was in Mexico, where a company was allowing women working in their factory to take time off work to attend self-defence classes. As a result, the women felt empowered and confident and were more productive. Another interesting example used was within a village in Kenya where a rumour was spread amongst HIV infected men that raping a woman would 'save' them. To combat this, self-defence training was given to the women and assault numbers drastically lowered, resulting in the new rumour that if you try to assault a woman within this village, she'll kick your butt.

Social Media: An Effective Tool for Empowering Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment **Texas Muslim Women's Foundation**

This presentation was conducted by the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation and focused on social media in the realm of domestic violence and sexual harassment and how it can both help and exasperate situations. Examples of positive uses can include the awareness that social media can bring to sexual harassment and violence, the ability for women to be able to connect with other women who have been through the same thing and intervention techniques, such as support apps, that can empower and educate women. That being said though, many negative aspects can be exposed that only make certain situations worse. Some examples include; the abuser being able to install secret apps on victims' phones allowing them to read emails and text messages and being able to monitor victims' activities and connections on social media, the abuser placing GPS trackers on the victims' cars or using the GPS in their phones to find out where they are and also abusers taking intimate photos with the victim and then posting them online or threatening to do so as a form of control. Some other important ideas that came through at the event were that we need to consider that teenagers in this position face unique challenges due to the prevalence of technology and social media within their lives and also that we must have strategies to connect with numerous intersections and faith communities as we then will have more of a chance to address all facets of the issue and gain strength from collectiveness.

- #MeToo using social media to bring awareness to sexual harassment
 - o Women can become emboldened to connect with others who have experienced the same thing
- Sometimes have to be careful about use of social media and technology in relation to domestic violence and sexual harassment
 - o Ability of abusers to stalk and track
- Creation of computer rooms within violence support centres where victims can access the internet safely and with support
 - o Creation of new email addresses etc. that no-one knows
- Teenagers have unique challenges
 - o Providing special support workers to relate to these girls
 - This is especially since teenagers use social media the most

- Face Facing Abuse within Community Environments: focuses on abuse within faith communities and communities in general, by leaders (particularly Islam)
 - o Have strategies to connect with other faith communities
- Important to look through intersectional perspective
 - o Address all facets of the issue
 - o Gain strength from collectiveness
- Laws that prevent relations between people when support services are being rendered
 - o i.e. doctors, psychologists, religious leaders
 - o may be consensual but the power structures can skew this perception as one person is relying on the other for support
- Goal to stop abuse from happening and also stop the perpetrators from moving quietly onto different communities without repercussions and with the ability to continue their abuse
- #MeToo: can sometimes be used as a method for outing victims who then receive backlash
- Social media can be a tool to oust perpetrators, but this can be turned into more pain for the victims
- Texas Muslim Women's Foundation: aim is to empower, promote and support ALL women and their families through education, outreach, philanthropy and social services
- Preventions tools:
 - o One on one grassroots presentations
 - High interfaith participation from all ages
 - o Awareness campaigns for Mosques and Imams
 - Need to include faith leaders for awareness and influence
 - o Robust social media and website presence
 - o Well established radio and podcast presence
 - o Regular training of law enforcement
 - Increase awareness of culture and language
- Cyber violence represents new strain of gendered violence
- Powerful ways in which tech is growing
- Intervention techniques through tech:
 - o Educate clients on phone/other media tracking by abuser
 - o Include communication technology in the safety plan
 - o Educate clients on court admissible proof of abuse
 - Keeping evidence on another server (iCloud etc.) instead of on phone
 - o Culturally specific resources on tech (websites, translations etc.)
 - o Staff trained to offer trauma informed care (age, status, culture)
- Mobile phone apps created specifically to help and support women who are suffering from violence
- Technology abuse:
 - o Installing secret apps on victims' phones that allow them to read emails and text messages
 - o Placing GPS trackers on the survivors' cars or using the GPS in their phones to find out where they are
 - o Monitoring their activities and connections on social media
 - o Gaining access to online accounts by hacking or by coercing survivors into giving them their passwords
 - o Abusers faking phone calls and tracking victims through their online photos (time and location stamps)
 - o Taking intimate photos and posting them online or threatening to do so

Human Rights-Based Approaches to Systems Strengthening for HIV+ Rural Women **Health Right International**

This event was a series of presentations and then a panel discussion, conducted by Health Right International, and focused on how we can strengthen systems to help and empower HIV+ rural women, through human rights-based approaches. The human rights-based approach shifts focus from purely clinical health approaches and more into practices focusing on non-discrimination, agency for the women and accountability. For example, we can strengthen national accountability by addressing localised legal barriers to equality to access.

Within the US state of Georgia, 1 in 51 people will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime, and more culturally sensitive approaches need to be taken to address not only the stigma but also the imbalance in the population as to who is suffering from HIV and not getting access to proper services. Within the Ukraine, there are more than 312 000 cases of HIV, and 42.5% of these cases are women. In addition to this, 35% of these women have faced violence and there are many obstacles to getting help such as lack of awareness of basic human rights, a lack of information of support services and threats from partners to reveal HIV status. In order to reach rural areas where these obstacles are amplified, mobile team of psychologists have been deployed to cover 54 cities, 45 districts and more than 2 500 villages and shelters and day centres have been created for support. Within rural Tanzania, cervical cancer is a major focus as there is an increased risk for HIV+ women to get cervical cancer, and the risk of death after developing cervical cancer is greater for women who are HIV+. In order to try and combat this, a group called the Pamoja Tunaweza Women's Centre has developed a mobile phone app which helps train and mentor those who are screening for HIV and cervical cancer in order to enhance and improve accurate screening. Other important points from this discussion included the lack of visibility and voice for HIV+ rural women and also how the lack of disclosure, both to oneself and others, needs to be addressed more.

- Response has been largely influenced by male perspectives
- Gender equity critical for comprehensive HIV response
 - o Women who have HIV have many gender specific obstacles associated with HIV
- Shifting focus from clinical health approach to human rights approach
- Understanding human rights intervention as core, not parallel efforts to implement HIV prevention, testing or treatment programmes
- Focus on non-discrimination, agency and accountability for positive health outcomes
- UNFPA training health workers to provide non-judgmental health services to key populations
- Supporting networks of young key populations to advocate for their SRHR
- Informing and empowering through CSE
- Human Rights Standards:
 - o Availability
 - o Accessibility
 - o Acceptability
 - o Quality
- Accountability: strengthening international systems
 - o Treaty bodies
 - CEDAW, CESCR etc.
 - Review state members every 4 years and produce recommendations
 - o Special procedures
 - SR on the Right to Health, Gender Based Violence etc.
 - Carry out country visits, develop thematic reports and produce recommendations
 - o Universal periodic review
- Accountability: strengthening National systems
 - o Addressing legal barriers to equality to access
 - o National Human Rights Institutes
 - Carrying out public inquiries
 - o Civil Society engagement
 - o Judiciary, Law Enforcement etc.
- Rural Women in the US South:
 - o Positive Women's Network: national membership body of women living with HIV in US
 - o 4 work groups: change policy, eliminate stigma, build leadership, mobilize advocates
 - o 1 in 51 in the state of Georgia, will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime
 - o Research for that those in Georgia in rural areas are more likely to be arrested for HIV related crimes
 - o Rural areas causing lack of access to things like transport, medical insurance, child care services, housing instability
 - Women missing out on vital medication due to these reasons

- Culturally relevant care and services needed
- Stigma is negatively affecting the women
- Recommendations:
 - Respect the autonomy of HIV women
 - Eliminate stigma
 - Expansion of health care
 - More culturally aware agencies
- Ukraine, HIV and Violence against women with HIV:
 - More than 312 000 cases of HIV in Ukraine
 - 139 000 people are registered
 - 42.5% are women
 - 26% live in rural areas
 - 35% of women with HIV have experienced violence
 - 70% of these women never turn for help
 - Married women in rural areas are 5 times more likely to experience violence
 - Lack of specialised services in rural areas
 - Some barriers to accessing help:
 - Lack of awareness of human rights
 - Lack of information about support services
 - Not recognizing violent behaviour
 - Threats from partner to reveal HIV status, history of drug use etc.
 - Stigma and discrimination
 - Mobile teams with psychologists created to go around to provide support to rural communities
 - Cover 54 cities, 45 districts and more than 2 500 villages
 - Shelters:
 - Available only in big cities
 - Safe accommodation
 - Case management
 - Rehabilitation
 - Day Service Centres:
 - Operate in big cities
 - Case management, medical support, confidential medical testing
 - Outreach work and awareness
 - Child care services
- Rural Tanzania:
 - Pamoja Tunaweza Women's Centre
 1. Addressing geographic limitations: rural outreach clinics
 2. Affordable healthcare
 3. Addressing knowledge gaps: health promotion and education
 4. Addressing poverty: business training and microfinance
 5. Striving for the future: research program
 - Cervical Cancer:
 - 90% of deaths are in developing countries
 - Increased risk for women with HIV
 - Risk of death after developing cervical cancer is much higher in HIV positive women
 - Smartphone Enhanced VIA:
 - Training for screening of cervical cancer
 - Mobile App allows for real time mentorship for those who are testing for cervical cancer, quality screening, follow up
- Lack of visibility and voice for rural women living with HIV
- Use of social media
 - Barriers occur in relation to lack of access to internet etc.

- Technology can be helpful though in providing support, reminding to take medication
- Disclosure is an issue
 - o Self-disclosure: people not knowing their status; not taking medications
 - Not able to contain virus if they don't know they may be spreading it

Feminist Sociological Research: Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Women and Girls Sociologists for Women in Society

This event was run by Sociologists for Women in Society and focused on 4 female sociologists presenting their current studies, all of which have a gendered focus. The first study was on the use and misuse of human rights discourse in campaigns focused on providing menstrual hygiene management to girls and women within developing countries. A particular point was made that Western campaigns tend to go into these countries with the intention to help these girls and women with their hygiene under the assumption that their traditional practices are unsafe or unhygienic. Therefore, campaigns need to engage more with the girls and women who use these traditional practices. The second study presented was on how female rice workers within Northern Iran are being dispossessed from their land because there is a high commodification and conversion of agricultural lands, particularly in Northern Iran, as this is where the most agriculturally rich lands are found in the country. This will be devastating for these rural women as not only do they live here, but they heavily rely on the land for income. In order to combat this, the Iranian government needs to create more adequate land policies that account for these women and stopping the total destruction of the land they rely on. The third study focused on India and the struggles happening in rural villages in relation to food and water. In relation to water struggles, some villages are trying to fight big companies like Coca-Cola from monopolising their water systems, and other villages are creating strategies like building dams and relying on collective strength. In terms of food, a success story came from Tamil Nadu in India, where collective strength was used to put pressure on the state to provide food and appropriate nutrition to those within the village. One of the key aspects of this was the provision of a late day meal to children within public schools, which encouraged parents to send their children to school. The fourth and final study was in relation to the removal of price supports and less regulation on the prices of staple food items, which has led to less incentives to grow local food. As a result, there has been a mass exodus from rural, agricultural based industries in Mexico, so the women have had to step up to the plate and now have new roles in their communities. In an unfortunate turn of events for the men though, they are arriving in America and finding that they face challenges such as anti-immigration policies and rhetoric and lack of security. This is why it is important to engage grassroots communities in order to educate and create change to farmworker's rights in both Mexico and the US.

- Beyond Dignity: A Case study of the Mis/Use of Human Rights Discourse in Development Campaigns
 - o Menstrual Hygiene Management
 - 133 campaigns within 38 countries in the global South
 - 42% funded by western companies (sometimes forget cultural sensitivities)
 - o Menstrual friendly policies
 - o Needs to be tied to human rights
 - o All women and girls should be able to manage their menstruation with privacy, safety and dignity
 - o Contradictions arise:
 - Some MHM groups suggest for there to be dignity it must be hidden?
 - o The idea of hygiene is pushed in most campaigns
 - Notion of the hygienic body vs. the animalistic body
 - Can be highly racialized
 - Some reporting says that girls are dying through improper menstrual hygiene, but the data doesn't exactly show this
 - o Problem of westerners assuming that traditional practices are dangerous and unhygienic and finding random stories to support this
 - Need to engage with the girls and women who use the practices themselves
- Gendered Narratives of Dispossession: The Experiences of Female Rice Workers in Northern Iran

- High conversion of agricultural lands
- ‘Accumulation by Dispossession’
 - Commodification of land – “the suppression of alternative (indigenous) forms of production and consumption” – more room for free market economy
- Inadequate land use policies and strategies in Iran that lead to the dispossession of the rice workers from the land they work on and gain money from
- Gendering land dispossession
 - Research shows that women, in particular rural women in the global South, are most negatively affected by the free market economy
 - Women have always struggled for right to land
- Testing what land is suitable for agriculture
 - Best in Northern Iran (where the rice workers work)
 - Attempting to keep it reserved for agriculture
- Common farming activities include:
 - Weeding
 - Seeding and germination
 - Growing
- Heavy reliance on land for income
- Food, Water and Social Justice: Women in Rural India
 - State is central to understand how people access and control basic needs such as water, food and care
 - State is a complex set of institutions which may have different responses to resistance at different levels of state institutions
 - Intersections lens is critical to ensure just outcomes through ‘community’ participation in the governance of water and good distribution
 - Case 1: Struggles for water: Context
 - Shortage of water is top among environmental spectres confronting humanity in the 21st century
 - More than a billion people currently live in water scarce regions
 - Almost 3,5 billion could experience water scarcity by 2025
 - Per current consumption patterns, 2.7 billion people would face water shortages by 2025
 - Water crisis and particularly access to and control over water resources spans across the developed and developing world
 - Most affected by the shifts in the control over water resources and privatisation of water supply mechanisms are marginalised and poor
 - Alwar District, Rajasthan (rural based)
 - Goal to consolidate local water resources and;
 - Gain control over water resources by village residents
 - Plachimada, Pallakad District, Kerala (semi-rural based)
 - Goal to close the Coca-Cola water bottling plant for reducing ground water levels and contaminating the water
 - Tarun Bharat Sangh
 - Villagers working with NGO
 - Predominantly men participated; few women attended but did not participate in discussions
 - Strategies:
 - Develop collective strength among village residents to control local water resources
 - Rely on local knowledge to build check dams for collecting water
 - Organise ‘pani sansad’ to discuss water issues and share information about water policy
 - Plachimada struggle

- Informal group – grassroots based launched as Anti-Coca-Cola People’s Struggle Committee
 - Participation was tribal; both men and women
 - Strategies:
 - Target local panchayat and draw global attention to pollution of ground water by Coca-Cola
 - Use legal means
 - Local dharna, blockades, marches and public rallies demanding the shutdown of the plant
 - Build global alliances
- Case 2:Struggles for food, nutrition and care
 - Tamil Nadu, India
 - Considered a success story in terms of delivery of public services
 - Attributed to an involved community that holds state accountable
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):
 - Provides food, nutrition and pre-school education for children
 - Managed entirely by women from the child-care workers to the officers at higher levels
 - Tamil Nadu ICDS, similar to other public services is documented as a success story
 - The operations of the ICDS depend on the local politics of gender, caste and class
- Strengthening claims
 - Not just availability but entitlement to food
 - Long history of collective action in Tamil Nadu
 - State policies strengthen entitlement claims to food
 - Long history of mid-day meals that started in 20s, which was expanded in the 50s which led to more people sending children to school
 - Universal public distribution system
 - Petition Justice Day
- Hindering Women’s Claims
 - Increasing number of private schools results in:
 - Lower middle-class parents taking loans to send children to private schools
 - Caste and class-based segregation based on who can access private schools
 - Transfers care responsibilities back to the family (predominantly women) rather than state
- Conclusion:
 - Role of the state institutions and policies
 - Intersectional analysis to decipher how state policies work
 - Paradox of development
- From Oaxaca to New York: How Two NGOs Respond to the Diverse Needs of Rural Women
 - Puente a la Salud Comunitaria
 - Rural and Migrant Ministry
 - Mexico:
 - Removal of price supports for Mexican farmers
 - Less regulation of staple food prices
 - Less incentive to grow indigenous corn
 - Lead to:
 - Loss of farming jobs
 - Increased migration
 - Changing diets
 - New roles for women
 - Women began organising co-operatives and having new roles in their communities
 - All the men were leaving so the women had to step up
 - In the US:

- People in Central and South America moving to US due to food/work situation
- Divided families
- Workers and vulnerability
 - Racism
 - Sexism
 - Xenophobia
 - Colourism
 - Lack of universal healthcare
 - Anti-immigrant policies
 - Increased restrictions on travel at the border
 - Lack of farmworker labour rights
- Fewer options for work
- Difficulties in reporting abuse
- Restrictions on housing
- Strategies for change: Puente
 - Economic solidarity projects
 - Forming women-owned businesses to sell amaranth products
 - Monetary exchanges that works within the network
 - Healthy families program
 - Educating families about food choices
 - Farming amaranth
 - Creating community networks
- Strategies for change: RMM
 - Justice for Farmworkers campaign
 - Workers' Centres
 - Rural Women's Assembly
- Conclusion:
 - Importance of grassroots strategies for change
 - Farmworker's rights = women's rights = immigrant rights
 - Struggle clearly intersectional

Overcoming Femicide and Promoting Gender Equality in Rural Asia **Women's Rights Without Frontiers**

This event was a two-part presentation. The first part was about the prevalence of femicide in China and India. In one UN study, it has been estimated that up to 200 million girls are missing from the World's population as a result of sex selective and forced abortion. China's One Child Policy has led to coercive abortions on the part of the Government. Adding another layer to this, within China having a son is like social security to a family, as the daughter in law will move in with the son's parent and care for the home. There is a similar situation within India. In both countries, they have the phrase, 'raising a daughter is like watering someone else's garden,' in reference to the fact that daughters will be passed on to her husband's family to look after them. Within India as well, they have dowry which places financial burden on families with daughters when they marry. The organisation who ran the event Women's Rights without Frontiers has been doing work in China in relation to saving the lives of unborn girls, by offering a monthly stipend for a year to women they find who are expecting a girl, with the aim in mind to economically empower them to keep the child. They have had significant success with this project and are planning to expand to India. Another startling practice that was mentioned to be done in both countries is forced sterilisation. The second presentation at this event was a discussion on the link between abortion and breast cancer, especially in South East Asian countries, as this is where the majority of forced abortions happen.

- Links between abortion and breast cancer
- Women may be forced to have abortions by governments in China
- More girls are eliminated in India and China in a year than more girls are born within the US
- UN study: Up to 200 million missing in the world due to sex selective abortion and forced abortion

- China's One Child (now two child) Policy
 - o Government coercive population control
 - o Single parents are not allowed to have children
 - o Women having to go in for 4 pregnancy tests a year
 - If you are pregnant and can't pay the fine, you are forced to have an abortion
 - o Will let first daughter live; next daughter is vulnerable (rural areas)
 - o Having son is equivalent of social security
 - Daughter in law will enter son's family and look after them
- India:
 - o Son is social security like in China
 - 'Raising a daughter is like watering someone else's garden'
 - o Dowry problem
 - Daughters are costing families
 - Cheaper to have abortion now than to have to provide dowry
 - o Son's create social security whereas daughters cost
- In both countries, around 37 million more men than women
- Bride burning:
 - o Stems from husband and his family continually demanding dowry
 - o Also, if the wife refuses to have abortion
 - o 1 an hour in India
- Women's Rights Without Frontiers in China:
 - o Hears about women being pressured into being aborted
 - o Hunts women up and tells them not to abort their baby and offers a monthly stipend in order to economically empower them to keep their babies
 - o Uses the idea that daughter will cost by providing money and also the superstition about luck in China so then the mother can be like, 'look how lucky this baby is, she's already bringing us in money'
 - o Found that most vulnerable is when gender is detected until 4 months old and by that time she has developed a personality, and everyone loves her
 - Related to families recognising girls as a valued member of the family
- Forced sterilisation
 - o China's One Child Policy
 - o Women being persecuted because of their religion (Christianity)
 - o India paying women to get sterilised
 - As they do not have much money, any amount is very enticing
- Link between abortion and breast cancer:
 - o Stronger link in South East Asia
 - Where the most forced abortions are occurring
 - o Meta-analysis of 20 ABC (Abortion/Breast Cancer) studies from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
 - An average increase in breast cancer risk of 150% for women with one or more abortions
 - Based on South Asian data, projected that 2.5 million women will die in Asia due to abortion and breast cancer link
 - o Miscarriage does not increase risk of breast cancer because the main hormones that develop the breasts in pregnancy don't really get off the ground because miscarriages usually happen early in first trimester
 - o Gestating less than 32 weeks deprives a woman of the risk lowering effect of full-term pregnancy

United Nations CSW62: 23 March 2018

Sexual and Reproductive Health: Public Policies in Mexico

Construye Observatorio Regional Para La Mujer De Amrica Latina Y El Caribe AC

This event was a number of presentations by a group of very articulate young people from Mexico and the general South American region. These young people spoke about the current situation in Mexico and South America and their concerns for the future, with a strong focus on the family, family values and women's everyday lives within their region. One important point raised was the struggle for women within Mexico to choose between a professional life and a family life, as they want both but are being taught that building a family is more of an obstacle than vital and there has been a subordination of the family to the economy. The panellists said that within their region, many solutions are created that only solve the consequences of a problem, but don't address the source of the problem, and therefore they would like to see solutions that will work long term and empower women in a real way. They would also like to see policies that promote and protect the family and support young women, so they don't have to choose between professional or family. Within this event the topics of abortion, ideological colonisation and what it means to be a woman in Mexico, were also spoken about. These young people were very optimistic about the future and very family-orientated, raising some really significant ideas, such as that a society that cares for the family, is a society with values and also that high quality families define high quality countries.

- Having to choose between professional and family life
 - o Employers will second guess employing women re: may get pregnant and then they will have to pay benefits
- Paid 60% less than man
- 7 feminicides each day
- 33% of women attend colleges
- Family relationships centre of society
- Many solutions only solve the consequences of the problem; not the sources of the problem
- Micro machismo vs. neo machismo
- No support for the middle class
 - o Not attractive/no incentive to support
 - o 'not going to be in the news'
- Ideological colonisation
 - o Donors (westerners) imposing their values on developing countries
 - Not focusing on priorities of those who live in country (clean water, food etc.)
- 1871: Mexico introduces abortion in penal code
 - o Exception for those who had health issues
- Constitutional issue in relation to abortion:
 - o Enshrines the right to life from conception of birth
- Mexico has signed 60 treaties; most of which support the right to life
- Abortion is not a felony:
 - o penalties can be exempt for certain reasons
- 1.4 million abortions in Mexico in past 10 years; double that of New York City
- If at least 30% of women were involved in directorial roles in business, efficiency would improve greatly
- Girls are being taught that building a family is more of an obstacle to a professional life rather than something that is vital
 - o Subordinating the family to the economy
- Legislators have not asked what the young girls want for their future, have just assumed
 - o Want solutions that will work long term and empower women in real way
 - Not just giving pensions'
 - o Policies that promote and protect family and support young women, so they don't have to choose between family and a professional life
- Society that cares for the family, is a society with values

- Has successfully worked for numerous companies in Mexico
- Need to consider different perspectives
- Women need to feel safe in their homes to feel safe in their country
- High quality families define high quality countries

Making Sense of CSW62: A Special Closing Session

NGO CSW

This event was a kind of summing up of CSW62. There were 4 different speakers from different regions throughout the world giving not only their thoughts on CSW62, but also their ideas for how CSW can improve for the future. Some of these suggested improvements were that there need to be more inclusiveness (in terms of language, access to the US etc.) and the need to restructure to involve more input from civil society. It should also be noted at this time that the majority of the people on the Commission of the Status of Women, those who make the decisions in relation to the final document, are men. This in my mind, and I'm sure in the minds of many, makes absolutely no sense and is quite ridiculous on many levels. In terms of lack of access to the US and CSW62, visa refusals have been a major issue. NGO CSW have had over 50 confirmed reports of people being refused visas into the US to attend CSW62, but it is estimated that there have been over 100. There was also an update on how the final document was progressing at this stage. It seems like there has been considerable talk about things like agreed language, which really shouldn't have to be discussed seeing as how it is already 'agreed,' and also quite a few stalemates.

- Need to focus on inclusiveness
- Need document that we can take back and say this is what we're saying, and this is what we will be doing
- Need to engage in CSW process prior and continually
- Language shifts to girls and women living in rural areas
 - Will allow push for inclusiveness and to be treated as equal citizens
 - Be considered and have equal access
- Don't let a document or report tell you what's happening in reality, go see it for yourself
- The Visa issue: formal knowledge of at least 50 refusals
 - Estimated over 100
- Majority of people on the Commission of the Status of Women are men
- Why are we discussing agreed language?
 - If we don't have to worry about this, then we can actually move onto implementation etc.
- No enforcement or binding components to these instruments
- Need to restructure to involve more input from civil society
- Talk of how the agreed conclusions document is progressing (not well, by the sounds of it)
 - 'limited' financial empowerment

Implementation of Resolution 1325 as a Gateway to Achieving UNPoA in Central Africa: The Case of Cameroon

Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace

This event was run by Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace and it focused upon Resolution 1325, the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms and Lightweight Weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty. Resolution 1325 reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Some major focuses within the presentation was how the trade of small arms can negatively affect women through gender-based violence, as women are threatened, coerced and killed with these weapons, and also how Cameroon is in quite a precarious security situation so the implementation all of three of these treaties together, could stabilise the region. All three of these instruments include the protection of women and children and have the potential to improve their status on implementation. Some important

ways that women have been telling their stories in relation to the violence in Cameroon is through the creation of quilts and cardboard storybooks, both of which have been very healing for the women.

- Protection against gender-based violence
- Responses are increasingly improving to small arms weapons
- Need to require states to take into consideration gender-based violence before completing deals on small arms and transferring them
 - o Small arms can be serious threat to women particularly when used in family violence
- Men and boys suffer most death but need to consider the disproportionate effect on women
 - o Guns used regularly to hurt, threaten and intimidate women
 - o Can be coercive (coerce women into slavery, sex etc.)
 - o Gang-related femicide
- Important that gender-based violence is considered and used in any small arms treaties
- All stakeholders must co-operate to minimise the potential risk that these small arms will end up in the hands of people who will commit gender-based violence
- Include protections in legislation
- Encourage transparency and trust between states
- Need to be aware of red flags
- Some countries have already taken initiative
 - o Trinidad and Tobago: resolution that confirms and adopts link between gender-based violence and small arms treaties
- Central Africa has been 'theatre' of conflicts
- Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms and Lightweight Weapons (SWAL) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) recognise the role of women in the promotion of peace and security
- Situational context:
 - o Host to over 250 000 refugees
 - o Women and girls target of Boko Haram
 - Young girls used as suicide bombers by Boko Haram
 - o In the two Anglophone regions, government forces have become the targets of secessionists' radicals, attacking, maiming, killing and seizing weapons
 - o Overall the situation is precarious
- Place of Women in Kinshasa
 - o Provides legal framework for women
 - Reaffirms Resolution 1325
 - Reaffirms importance of Resolution 1612
- Kinshasa facilitates and encourages the creation of civil society organisations in relation to this issue
 - o Central Africa Network etc.
- Arms Trade Treaty (ATT): puts women, children and civil society at the centre of its implementation
- ATT:
 - o Adopted treaty in 2013 and signed in 2014
 - o Currently in the processes of ratification
 - Implementation is occurring before ratification though
 - o Civil society actively involved
- Aligning Kinshasa, Resolution 1325 and the ATT will greatly improve the peace and security architecture of Cameroon and reposition women in peace building and negotiations
- Cameroon has national action plan for implementation of Resolution 1325
- Need to keep in mind that in countries such as the Congo, it is not just adults using arms, but also youths (child soldiers)
- Women have better tools/influence to attract youths away from military
 - o Can lead to demilitarisation
- Ahadi Promise Quilts:
 - o Democratic Republic of Congo
 - o Organised by grassroots NGO SOS Femmes en Danger in coordination with Advocacy Project

- Initiated as a way to document the experience on women in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo who have endured and continue to endure, extreme violence and violations in the aftermath of the Second Congo War (2013)
 - Important for helping others to understand what is happening
- Women who didn't know how to embroider underwent training
- Survivors of sexual violence in the South Kivu province of the DRC produced 100 embroidered panels to tell their stories
- Therapeutic value of communal sewing
- Collaboration and partnership with US quilting society to piece together
- Exhibited all over the world
- Some of the scenes on the embroidered pieces are quite heavy
 - Bring the issues up close and personal
- Cartoneras
 - Cardboard books
 - Started in Argentina in 2003
 - Who makes them? common people, people from economically depressed communities (cheap to make)
 - Function: to make reading and writing accessible to all citizens, not just the upper class, and to give a voice to the voiceless
 - Examples:
 - Ayotzinapa: disappearance of 43 male students from a Mexican college in 2014
 - Machoman: book against machismo culture by men
 - Para salvarnos del olvido: compilation of stories and poems about the US 1989 invasion of Panama
 - Important to preserve testimony and memory
 - Enables people to tell and document their stories when they don't have access to publishers and technology

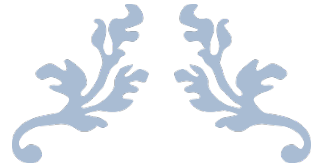
Media Portrayal of Intimate Partner Violence **NGO Committee on Mental Health**

This event was sponsored by the NGO Committee on Mental Health and focused on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). IPV refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm and can include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression. It is often recognised within the context of domestic/family violence. As 1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner, this is a very important issue. A vital point that was raised in this presentation was the effect that IPV can have on children and the mother/child attachment bond. Children rely on their mothers for support and emotional development and if the mother is unable to provide this type of relationship to her child because of the abuse she has suffered and the aftermath, then this child will suffer developmentally and within relationships for the rest of its life. Another focus within this presentation was on the cost of IPV. Though there is no standard to properly determine the cost that IPV has on society, studies have shown that within Australia, we spend \$8.1 Billion AUD on IPV, which is 1.2% of our GDP. In terms of prevention, there are some risk factors between victims and perpetrators that are similar so therefore could be tackled together to create better prevention. For example, victims and perpetrators are most likely to have low education levels so, if we created more access to education and furthermore, educate on healthy relationships, we may create some change. It has been proven that creating long term prevention mechanisms is cheaper in than dealing with the issue straight on constantly. Other prevention strategies can include; disrupting developmental pathways, strengthening economic supports (poverty is a major risk factor) and supporting survivors, both physically and mentally.

- WHO: Intimate Partner Violence refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm
- Many factors that go into how a person views and acts within the world
 - Genetics, socioeconomic status etc.

- Can't define a singular human experience
- Centre for Disease Control (CDC): serious, preventable public health problem
 - Specifically eludes to stalking
- Intimate partner (CDC): emotional connectedness, regular contact, identify as couple, familiarity about each other's life (not all these criteria have to be met)
- Types of IPV Violence (CDC):
 - Physical violence
 - Sexual violence
 - Stalking
 - Psychological aggression
- Often recognised within the context of domestic/family violence
 - Often not covered within legislation
- Many countries have adopted definitions that include elements of WHO definition
 - Perception of IPV varies
 - Feeling of powerlessness, financial dependence
 - Tolerance of violence, varying views of what constitutes abuse, may vary by gender
 - Religious beliefs and interpretation of religious texts
- 1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or non-physical or sexual and/non-sexual violence by a partner (WHO)
- More than 1 in 10 women have experienced forced intercourse or sexual acts
 - Majority of perpetrators are intimate partners
- High income countries have lowest prevalence (WHO)
 - Higher prevalence in rural areas
- Ethnicity is also a factor
- Many work toward the goal of creating a public awareness that holds abusive partners, not survivors, accountable for their actions
- Clinical perspectives can shift focus on the survivor's problems as cause of the abuse
- Mental health system has put survivors at greater jeopardy
 - Couple's counselling with abuser
- Essential to not frame victimisation as an attribute of the victim
- Trauma Theory: symptoms are a psychological survival strategy used to adapt to perceived and/or actual life-threatening conditions
- Rural communities are most vulnerable
 - Social discrimination, poor health status, reduced access to critical resources, increased isolation, heightened power of rejection
 - Re-victimisation is an issue
- Can affect children as they are not able to build a healthy relationship with parents, visibly exposed to violence regularly
 - Medical conditions can arise in adulthood
- In US, 3-9% of pregnant women experience IPV
 - Increased rates of post-partum
 - Poorer pre and postnatal care
- Maternal bond and infant attachment
 - Child needs mother to develop ability to express and regulate emotions, interpret emotions of others, develop attachments
 - If both child and mother are stressed due to IPV, and not performing these developing bonds, this can affect the child's emotions and relationships for the rest of their lives
 - Can lead to behavioural issues
 - 'Adverse Childhood Experiences'
- Battered Wife Syndrome: complex PTSD
- No established standard method to calculate costs of IPV
 - Studies are scarce and non-uniform
 - However, they are significant
 - Impact proportionally more severe on low socioeconomic countries

- Cost of IPV in Australia: \$8.1 Billion AUD
- Every study takes into different factors when determining costs
 - o Australia: services, economic costs, pain and suffering
 - 4.5% prevalence of violence
 - 1.2% GDP spent on IPV
- Total economic impact estimated at \$4.4 trillion or 5.2% of Global GDP spent on IPV
 - o Higher than civil war
- Prevention to stop IPV saves money
 - o Costs less than just merely responding to problem
- Prevention:
 - o Disrupting developmental pathways
 - o Teach healthy relationships
 - o Strengthen economic supports (poverty is major risk factor)
 - o Supporting survivors
- Some risks factors are the same
 - o Examples: educational disparity, marital dissatisfaction, lack of legislation, history of sexual abuse
 - o If we addressed some of these correlating risks, we can improve prevention
- Support and education through life stages is vital
 - o i.e. school-based programs
- Men and boys as allies in prevention
- Create protective environments
 - o Media awareness campaigns
 - o Modify physical and social environments of neighbourhoods
 - Policies to reduce community's alcohol use (major risk factor)
 - o Create climate of non-tolerance
 - Legislation
- 9 countries have no law specifically addressing IPV



UNITED NATIONS CSW62 12 MARCH – 23 MARCH 2018

Part Two: A Summary



SONIA DI MEZZA
RESEARCH OFFICER
Catholic Women's League of Australia

United Nations CSW62: 12 – 23 March 2018
Sonia di Mezza

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United Nations CSW62: 12 March 2018

Celebrating Rural Women in Nigeria: from Zero to Heroines

Women all over the world are hardly recognised or celebrated. Most people in the world started their lives in the countryside in our history. Women would play roles such as mothers, providers to the family and the first point of socialisation for the whole family. Many women have been unrecognised for their efforts. We learn by doing, seeing and listening. By reading the Bible we can learn a lot about the virtuous woman who was a farmer, bought land, a weaver, a businesswoman and supporter to her husband.

Women play critical roles, they help rural livelihoods and overall well-being. They are breadwinners who work hard during the day to put food on the table for her family apart from doing regular domestic chores. There are many initiatives being pursued in Nigeria such as promoting literacy, advocacy and creating awareness of the essence, basics and necessities of life. A lot of the work being done is with children to create awareness, gift scholarships and awards to encourage them. There is a program created in 2012 to care for senior citizens and reach out to them by providing them with monthly stipends. The main goal is poverty alleviation.

Media and Women's Freedom of Religion and Belief

This lecture explored the consequences of what can happen if women are given voice to their religious beliefs. Where women are able to freely express their religious beliefs, they feel empowered and are able to reach their full potential. The media can help women to realise their freedom of expression, and they can achieve this by showing women as having a role and as empowered people and not hampered. Only 24% of news-making dedicates space to women, so we have to ask ourselves, who is making the news, and how women are being portrayed. It is often negative, and the roles are very limited, such as being limited to homemakers.

The term media may include social media, which for many people in the world is their only access to media. The media has the responsibility to ensure that they accurately portray women of religion and show true stories. Social media has a duty, which includes protecting women online. In the media there have been many success and failures. For example, a Christian woman in Sudan was imprisoned for apostasy. She was eventually freed thanks to the media coverage of her story in the US. However, behind every individual who is assisted in such a way there are masses of women who are suffering and unable to express their religious beliefs without persecution, and it is important not to forget those masses. It can also be a struggle to maintain long term interest in a case. For example, Ziar Habibi, was a Christian woman in Pakistan who

was imprisoned for years. It can be very difficult to maintain public interest in the case for a prolonged period of time if nothing much changes on a day to day basis to keep the public's interest.

The media can do a lot of good. They can bring to light issues in a positive light, through storytelling and empathy so that people can get under the skin of persecuted people, the media can bring optimism to a situation. We need to approach the media from a rights-based position. Don't just present statistics, let the viewer into the story. We have a responsibility to use our networks so as to bring other people to the table so that women who wouldn't usually be featured have their voices brought to the public's attention. 'As women, we are not always good at lifting each other up'.

United Nations CSW62: 13 March 2018

Canada's Indigenous and Immigrant Communities Living in Rural Areas, Women and Girls

This organisation, BPW Canada, has 500 members and has been operating since 1930. Its main objective is to develop the business potential of all women via mentorship, skill building, economic empowerment projects and building partnerships.

In Canada, the word rural covers areas with fewer than 1,000 people living in that area. Over six million Canadians live in rural areas. 3 million women live in remote and rural areas; these constitute 20% of the total female population. 2% live on a farm; 14% are involved in non-farm employment. Rural women suffer greater gaps in education and employment; training; health and survival; wage equality and political participation.

Many workers who work on farms have their passports taken away to prevent them from seeking other work opportunities. Every province in Canada has its' own labour shortages so based on specific shortages they will bring in people from other places, mainly semi-skilled such as workers in hotels, the majority of whom are women. People ask why they can't speak English but when a person is working 24 hours a day and classes take place during work hours it is very difficult to find the time/opportunities to learn.

Some Canadian men marry women after passing the genuine marriage test that permits them to live in Canada. If the marriage later on breaks down this is problematic where the husband has undertaken to financially support his wife for three years. She then may be accused by her husband of misrepresentation and fraud for immigration purposes and may be reported to the authorities.

With regards to refugees, Canada is not necessarily generous. We have signed an international agreement and when we take in refugees we must honour that agreement. The number 40,000 a year has remained the same every year. Many of the female refugees are widows and many are stay at home mothers. They have limited skills, language and training. If they move to rural areas, they have limited opportunities. Citizenship rules have language requirements, which they will never meet. If they ever return to their country of origin there is jeopardy at the border if they attempt to return. International students may arrive with family savings and are sent to Canada to get an education and find a way to bring their families with them to Canada. They might have permanent intentions to remain in Canada. If they go to rural areas with limited job opportunities, they might go underground and are exploited by being paid less.

They are unable to return to their countries of origin as they carry with them their entire family savings. Hopefully they will enrol in courses that are in high demand, such as registered nurses.

BPW is advocating for immigrant women who are abused not be deported or subject to other penalties for reporting the abuse. The refugee determination process should not penalise women who have claimed refugee status based on domestic violence, which occurred in their country of origin that refuses to protect them. Scholarships have been created for indigenous women.

Disability, Violence and the Survival of Rural Women Globally

1/6 people experience sexual violence and 67% acquire mental illness. 90% of women with intellectual disabilities in Australia experience sexual violence. Violence is epidemic, it is hidden, there are no global statistics on this. We must ensure that all disabilities are recognised equally in conversations on rights. This project related to an exhibition on women with disabilities experiencing sexual violence, and a film. 20 countries were represented. It is a deeply moving testament to violence in their lives, encompassing FGM, psycho trauma, neglect, lack of access to justice, human trafficking and child sexual abuse.

There is no dedicated centre in Australia for women with disabilities who suffer sexual abuse. Women with disability are considered not to be women and thus are not included in any policy conversations. They lack a sexual identity. They are considered unable to be mothers as society doesn't want this, and this is why forced sterilisation takes place or forced abortions. Many women with disabilities are not recognised as having legal capacity and thus they can't access justice. A lot of the sexual education for women with disability is written from a protection point of view. In rural areas, people are finding difficulties in accessing supports as there are few or no options available. Civil society equates to being inclusive.

Women, Girls and Media Power, Storytelling and #Me Too

Most movies, TV shows etc. are made, produced and financed by white American men. This is giving a distorted view of women and having a profound effect on our souls. It is important to address the issue of gender-based violence and gender inequities in the media. We need more influential role models in our lives in order to thrive. Many producers of films and directors are not women, recruiters are told not to send women applicants. A presentation was given about how nurses are portrayed in the media, and that it seldom properly reflects the realities of the profession but more focuses on stereotyped roles. Social media is dominating our lives. It influences everything we do, how we work, date etc. Who are the gatekeepers of our story and who determines how it gets read and shared?

Women on Faith Speak Out on Engaging Religious Leaders

The different speakers spoke about the different ways they can engage religious leaders in order to effect change. In Ethiopia there is a high prevalence of FGM and children forced to marry at a young age. High level of physical and emotional violence. The right of women to own property is absent. There are many issues. To overcome them Islamic Relief tries to engage with local sheikhs and imams to effect change. They facilitate community conversations where women and men are equally engaged. The impact and influence of the religious leaders in the community is high. They labelled FGM as haram or not allowed by the Koran/Islam. They also clarified that according to Islam women could inherit property.

Tanya Haque, Gender Advisor for the Catholic Overseas Development said that there were many opportunities within the Church to promote gender equalities but there were also many challenge. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, they started a ‘friendly bishop’ mapping exercise to identify which bishops were allies and the gatekeepers in the country, who would then be approached as the influencers of their own peers. They also developed a tool kit for promoting gender equality amongst Catholic organisations. Thus, concepts such as child marriage being a sin were promoted using this alliance in Malawi.

Annette Kiawu, the National Director of the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief and Development said that the target was both Muslim and Christian religious leaders. They were reaching out to them to prevent violence against children. There were religious passages in the Koran that were also against violence. And a Jewish Vice President of Programs, Deborah Rosenbloom from Jewish Women International spoke about engaging Jewish Rabbis by using Jewish texts and by focusing on ‘healthy masculinity’ rather than women’s rights.

United Nations CSW62: 14 March 2018

Grace Under Fire: Sexual Harassment and Violence in Rural Australia

72% of rural women had suffered sexual harassment and violence in the workplace in Australia. We viewed a documentary about this based on research conducted by one of the presenters. It is good to talk to students in year 10 about these issues to educate them before they enter the workforce. Human Rights Commission did an investigation into sexual harassment in universities. There is very little movement in the attitudes of young people in Australia. One in three people don't think exerting control over another is a source of violence. One in four don't think it's a problem to harass someone to have sex. Social media is a medium to perpetrate violence against women. There was a website where young boys would send and be rewarded for sending sexualised images of young women. It was shut down, but another has reopened in its' place. We need to celebrate women as equal in the workplace and start educating people from year ten onwards and younger to change their attitudes about women and girls.

Rural Older Women/Widows: Beyond Poverty and Violence: Programs/Policies

The Group of Friends of Older Persons NY are working on a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. One presenter spoke about the different programs that were made available to older people in Central and Eastern Europe. Another presenter spoke about older women in the media. Rural women are more isolated and poor. We used to think that the children will take care of you in old age, but the birth rate is so low that this is a fantasy.

In India older women are more likely to be killed by their children because they cannot afford to keep her. They give her a loving oil bath, several glasses of coconut water and a poison injection. One woman in Tamil Nadu died that way. Older women sit on the streets begging. The older woman is perceived as bringing bad luck or if she has land there might be some advantage they want to take away from her. In Somalia, when people have to flee conflict older women, sick women, and disabled women are those who get left behind. The same situation is in Iraq. There are older women in prison, you don't hear much about them. Some are there for a long time having been used as mules to carry drugs, or committed white collar crimes, or for killing their husbands/partners to save their own lives. Older women in Ghana have been accused of witchery. If she is alone she can become a witch.

The Pad Project: A Short Documentary Screening and Discussion

Many women in developing countries can't pay for pads and tampons. This is also a problem for homeless women. Some girls stop going to school because the toilets are not separate for girls and boys and they don't feel comfortable, so they find it easier to drop out of school. This documentary showed the important work done by some American high school students to raise funds to buy a machine that makes pads. Women in the villages are taught how to operate the machine and make pads. They then sell the pads to other women in the village for a much smaller price than what other companies are charging and producing a more effective product. This stops girls from dropping out of school and creates incomes for the women working on the project.

Without Abortion It's Not Comprehensive

I attended this presentation to get a clearer understanding of why people who believe in abortion think this way. The presenter focused on the situation in Honduras, where many very young girls as young as 14, were being raped and falling pregnant as a result. The laws do not permit abortion and thus they cannot abort the child. The presenter was passionate about those young girls having the choice to abort the child. However, there was no discussion about what could be done to stop the rapes from taking place in the first place. They were also advocating for Comprehensive Sexual Education in schools that covered the topic of abortion.

United Nations CSW62: 15 March 2018

Me Too Say Survivors – Human Rights Gender and Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking is a form of sexual gender-based violence and women are disproportionately affected. Article 9 of the Palermo Protocol seeks to discourage all forms of demand leading to trafficking. It is demand driven and decreasing the demand is a prerequisite to stopping women and girls from becoming victims. 71% of victims are women and girls. We need to also address gender discrimination, gender poverty, discriminatory labour laws, etc. Due to bias many victims don't report their abuse. Women cannot be punished nor imprisoned. Bias and stigmatisation attach more to people who have been trafficked and impedes identification. Reintegration is important, return to home must be safe. We then heard from survivors such as Autumn Burris who said that prostitution in itself is a violation of human rights and that soft forms of prostitution such as lap dancing, pornography, strip clubs lead to prostitution. Buyers are almost always men. The #MeToo movement has elevated our awareness of sexual harassment globally. Prostitution is part of that and it is Me Too on steroids. Autumn spoke of how she had felt of herself as a worthless human being and thus became victim to the trade. Another survivor, Shandra Woworuntu also spoke of her experiences as did Mickey Meji. Mira Sorvino also spoke about her experiences in outing Harvey Weinstein as a man who engaged in widespread sexual harassment. She said that change must occur in how we teach our young boys to treat girls and women with respect. Only then can real change occur.

Mentorship for Entrepreneurial Opportunity to Enhance Gender Equality

This session was about how women can be mentors to one another and create a mentorship network so that they can realise their dreams and enjoyment of human rights. One speaker was from Nepal and spoke of the mentors in her life who encouraged her to pursue her educational and professional dreams. This can be hard in a place like Nepal where parents fear that their daughters will not get married if they become lawyers, and thus the speaker chose to enter the nursing profession. We can't be successful alone. Mentors can be our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, teachers etc. Some of the barriers they faced in bringing mentorship to entrepreneurial endeavours included: human capital. Parents more willing to invest in a dowry rather than in business opportunities for their daughters. Many barriers related to access to finance and credit, as many women in Nepal are illiterate and thus it is not women friendly. Women do very typical jobs like making pickles. When you are going high up a ladder try and help someone else out too.

A presenter called Rama, also from Nepal spoke. She had polio and developed a disability and today needs a wheelchair. Women with disabilities were ignored. If a

proposal for funding was made they would be asked to do stereotypical female work, such as making pickles. Over time they learned about women's rights. They realised that the most important thing for women with disability is a livelihood. The girls they tried to help were neglected by their families. Now they are helping to support the family.

The Road to End Child Marriage

This was a presentation given by the governments of Malawi and Zambia. In Malawi they launched a campaign to end child marriage. It is important to invest in education and health in order to end this. There are health implications in child marriage. In Malawi over 50% of women aged between 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18. They have reviewed the constitution so that the minimum age a child can marry is 18; promotion of the readmission of girls who dropped out of school back into school; facilitate the development of by law frameworks for community leaders to condemn and nullify child marriages; develop and implement the national strategy for ending child marriages; engage with traditional leaders to stop the practice; give financial support for girls withdrawing from child marriages; and create laws which are championed by traditional leaders.

Sex Workers Speak: Communication Technologies for Our Global Empowerment

This presentation consisted of a panel of sex workers, most were American, one was from Kenya and some were from Thailand. They spoke about the difficulties they experience. Because sex work is criminalised they have criminal convictions, and this makes it impossible to even get the most basic job. They seemed to be angry against advocates for human trafficking because the advocates are against prostitution in any form. The sex workers wanted to give the message that they are normal women, some have an education. They said they wanted to be accepted in society and not have their work criminalised.

United Nations CSW62: 16 March 2018

Billings Ovulation Method

This session was sponsored by CWLA via Jane Munro. This method of natural planning is a way of working out the signs of fertility without have to rely on contraception and is a great tool for helping couples to space the birth of their babies. It is a natural way of understanding the rhythm of your body. The full program would be taught the next Wednesday.

The results of research in Uganda amongst women who had used this method were given during this presentation. The study took place between May 2016 and September 2017. 92 people took part in the study, the average age was 33.5 and the number of children at first contact with the program was 2.75. The previous methods used were: Deepro: 31%; the pill 26%; the implant 16%; the IUD 16%; the condom 15% and beads 3%. 61 women said that they wanted to postpone pregnancy while 31 wanted to achieve. 38% of the women had experienced unwanted side effects of previously used methods; 18% wanted a more reliable method; 31% wanted to achieve pregnancy; 3% wanted to monitor their reproductive health; and 5% wanted to use a natural method. The continuation rate was 79%. For less than one year it was 13%. The reasons given for discontinuation were due to partners' non-cooperation (8%, of these 5% reported partner violence); 35% experienced intimate partner violence. 71% of the women who wanted to achieve pregnancy did so and 95% who wanted to postpone pregnancy were successful.

The advantages of using the billings method were: no side effects; better health; better ability to work; better income and productivity; better communication with their husbands. For those who achieved pregnancy using the method, they experienced increase stability, happiness and productivity within the couple. 89% said that the method gives hope and achieves positive living. It even helped couples achieve the desired gender. The conclusion of the research was that families in Uganda are serious about family planning and there is an urgent need for it. Contraception is cheap and widely available. The billings method has a high satisfaction rate.

The second speaker, Allison, spoke about natural fertility. Rural women can experience side effects from using contraception and then have difficulty accessing health care supports to treat clots, strokes, breast cancer, etc. Ovulation is a sign of health, and we do not need to be medicated to stop ovulation, which is what contraception does. Contraception can cause depression in women. Once a woman becomes sexually active is not the best time to learn the method. It's best to teach it before a girl/woman becomes sexually active. Some reasons why

women might not be ovulating could include stress; thyroid imbalance; blood sugar disorders; pituitary issues and inflammation due to food allergies due to poor diet. On 21 March 2018 another presentation by the same group was given titled Using the Billings Ovulation Methods Leads to Better Health and Greater Productivity by Billings Life Centre – Uganda, jointly operated by WOOMB International Alliance for Life International. This second lecture was similar to the presentation given above.

Impact of Israel Occupation on the Lives of Palestinian Women in Jerusalem

Palestinian women spoke about the current situation. One presenter was from a women's legal aid and counselling centre. They work on trying to improve laws and regulations that are discriminatory in nature against women and there have been many successes. All violations are documented so that they can be brought to the attention of the international audience via the compilation of testimonies into reports and submit them to relevant parties such as special rapporteurs. In Jerusalem there is property destruction, lack of adequate housing. They document house demolition and how it separates family members. Only 17% of building permits are granted to Palestinians. Aggressive stun and tear gas is excessively used. Long last psychological effects on women and children. Approximately 1,360 night raids are conducted on Palestinians each year.

There are only four exit points from the West Bank to East Jerusalem. Palestinians are abused and subjected to humiliating acts by the Israelis at the checkpoints. Women are denied access to the services they need, especially health care. Settler violence goes uncharged and women fear violence to their children by settlers. Anyone with Jerusalem identification cannot live anywhere but in Jerusalem. The West Bank and Gaza are considered to be foreign territory by the Israelis. If found not to have the right residence permits they will revoke their residences. The recommendations given were to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the right of return, and to prosecute the Israeli Occupation at the International Criminal Court for psychological and social crimes committed against women.

United Nations CSW62: 19 March 2018

Combatting Female Violence and Vulnerabilities in Nigeria and South Sudan

The speakers spoke about some of the issues that women in Nigeria and South Sudan. In Nigeria they have had to create laws to protect the widowed woman. There are many customs that prevent widows from inheriting land once her husband dies. If a widow is not showing to wailing for days after her husband's death she is considered to have played a part in his death. To protect widow's rights the Federation of Women's Lawyers was created, to help them gain their rights in court. The Widow Law prohibits unsafe laws for widows. There is also the Child Rights Act, for the protection of children's rights and prohibits children from being married who are younger than 18 years of age. Child marriage is a big issue. Because the children are married off at such a young age and the husband is often many years older there are many child widows. They are working towards a time when the law is adopted in all states.

There are special homes for people with disability. They receive special medical assistance free of charge. In all states in Nigeria indigent people receive legal aid free of charge via the Office of the Public Defender. The government is collaborating with many of these people. It is important that women work in collaboration and partnership with men.

They also spoke about men being the creators of conflict and the hyper-masculinity of society. Women are being abducted, enslaved, raped and thrust into marriage as a result of war. A new organisation was created Dreamlife. This organisation works in South Sudan and takes care of street children. In Sudan polygamy is still practiced as is child marriage. Women have a great role to play in peace and security.

A male doctorate then spoke about his studies. He said that women have power. They have the power to vote and decide who will be in leadership and they should use that power. The moment that a girl is born we need to teach her self-dependence.

Providing Tools for Empowering Female Genital Mutilation Survivors through Information Technologies

A survivor of FGM gives a very moving testimony of her experiences with FGM. This organisation were approaching FGM from a public health issue. From George Washington University. Four types of FGM: cliterectomy; excision; infibulation; and other different forms. Female Genital Mutilation constitutes a human rights violence and child abuse. The average age when it takes place is between 5 and 8 years. It is done to ensure fidelity, for an aesthetic ideal. There are no health benefits. It makes it very hard to give birth and birth providers are not prepared for what they encounter

when they see a woman who has had FGM. It is important to create the correct information via technology. They conducted a research amongst 25 women, from different backgrounds and cultures, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It is taboo to talk about it. Many experience anger, trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. Health care providers need to be educated about this issue and not display shock when they see signs of it. They are in the process of trying to create guidelines about it. 500,000 women in the US have FGM.

Social and Economic Empowerment among Women Living in Marginalised Areas in Iran

A talk by presenters from the Imam Ali's Popular Students' Relief Society (Society of Students against Poverty)

It is an NGO that started in 1999, inspired by cultural traditions and religious rituals. They have many programs to support and assist vulnerable children and women. More than 12,000 volunteers, most of them are students or graduates from various universities and come from different professional backgrounds. They assist addicted children and families; undocumented children; children deprived from education; self-supporting women and child labourers. Long term projects are high quality educational services; psychological and social work; arts and sports activities; hygiene and health; programs to combat malnutrition; theatre and painting classes to help children adapt to their situation and improve psychological health. They assist married teenage women; child brides; advocacy for law reform to stop child marriages. At present in Iran the minimum legal age for marriage is 13 for females and 15 for males. They also assist runaway teenagers.

Where Does Reconciliation Start in Reference to Rural Women?

Before peace there must be reconciliation. They started children's aids projects, where the children come from different cultures and religions so that they can learn from early on that we are human beings no matter what colour or religion we are. We then went through some group exercise where we reflected on times in our lives when we felt conflict and how we reconciled that conflict. Reconciliation is about re-establishing the relationship, it is hope for a broken world. The role of the United Nations is to bring peace to the broken world. We need an integrated mind, body and spirit.

United Nations CSW62: 20 March 2018

Ending Violence against Women and Social Protection in Saudi Arabia

Representatives from the UK government agencies and Saudi Arabian women from civil society organisations spoke about the situation in Saudi Arabia with regards to the rights of women. There have been recent positive developments in this regard. For example, women in Saudi Arabia were recently permitted to drive, and greater social protections have been provided to women who are subjected to violence as well as protecting women undergoing divorce to be able to gain custody of their children. A worker from the King Khalid Foundation spoke about empowering and mobilising partners to help marginalised communities. In the past, discussion about poverty was taboo but the organisation has helped to shed light on this issue into society. They are currently working to have the poverty line published, as it is not known publically. They are making efforts to increase women's participation in the workplace and part of this is by ensuring that women have better access to transportation and childcare. The driving ban has been lifted and steps have been taken to make public transport more affordable. Illiteracy is also a big problem for women living in rural areas. The women are working in raising awareness on this issue and getting women more interested in acquiring an education. Efforts have been made to stop domestic violence and now the legislation has gone through. One law has been created for children's rights and the other for domestic violence. They are further providing support for victims of violence. A call centre was created that operates 24 hours every day and is operated by women. Shelters have been opened all over the country working in partnership with the NGOs. If there is a case of violence they help women to prepare a case to the Ministry of Justice. act quickly as it is dangerous. We have counselling services plus support services for women as not all women know they're available.

Gender Perspectives on Torture: Law and Practice

The government of Denmark wants to raise efforts and awareness of this crucial cause at the council. Launch of the report "Gender Perspectives on Torture: Law and Practice". There are human rights violations for people who transcend gender stereotypes. This publication aims to provide insights regarding adequate protection of girls. Issues that are considered include mandatory virginity testing of girls; reproductive justice; rights of people living with HIV/AIDS; access to abortion and related care; forced and coercive reproductive care. The report is based on two principles: absence of discrimination and the absolute prohibition on torture. Men tend to abandon women in prison and thus the women don't get to see their children regularly.

Sexual Violence, Funding and Technology During Armed Conflict: Next Steps

A presentation from the American Bar Association issued a report. It urged countries to develop and implement measures to measure and track sexual gender based violence; improve coordination regarding SGBV including in areas of armed conflict; recommended that NGO donors work with governments to develop databases of victims, so stakeholders can track and assist.

Vocal Empowerment for Rural Young Women

This presentation was by a couple of American drama teachers that were teaching young women to use their voices in an effective manner to say what they wanted to say and advocate for positive change in society. Their message in essence was: what you say is worthwhile; your voice belongs to you; you have the right to self-authorship. They took the audience through a set of vocal exercise, so that they could understand better how their voices worked and how they could use them more effectively. They showed a video from a south American country where they showed young girls using their voices in public spaces.

No Room in Rural Villages, Cities and Homes for Those with Disabilities? Are Girls and Boys with Down Syndrome Being Left Behind?

Archbishop Bernardito Auza

Article by the Holy See:

On March 20, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN held a side event during the Commission on the Status of Women entitled “No Room in Rural Villages, Cities or Homes for the Disabled? Are Boys and Girls with Down Syndrome Being Left Behind?” in collaboration the Centre for Family and Human Rights, the Pujols Family Foundation, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation, and the newly released film “Summer in the Forest.” The event was held in light of World Down Syndrome Day, which the UN General Assembly in 2011 decreed to be celebrated March 21, or 3-21 in numerals, for its scientific name Trisomy-21.

Archbishop Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See Mission to the UN, said that most boys and girls with down syndrome experience lethal discrimination before they take their first breath through disability-selective abortion after parents receive genetic testing.

“At the United Nations there is much sincere talk and passionate action to fight against any form of discrimination,” Archbishop Auza said, noting the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006 which aims to “promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms

by all persons with disabilities,” including “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments,” and to “promote respect for their inherent dignity.”

But, he added, “Many members of the international community stand on the sidelines as the vast majority of those diagnosed with Trisomy-21 have their lives ended before they’re even born,” he said, “Rather than stop it, some in the international community are abetting it,” pointing to a recent instance in which a member of the UN Human Rights Committee promoted abortion for children with Down Syndrome to “avoid the handicap.”

While raising any child, including a child with Down Syndrome can be challenging, researched published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics by Harvard University Researchers shows that 99 percent of people with Down Syndrome are happy with their lives, 97 percent said that their outlook on life was more positive because of their child, and 94 percent of siblings said they were proud to have a brother or sister with Down Syndrome.

“Down Children and their families are simply among the happiest groups of people alive — and the world is happier because of them,” he said.

Dr. Mary O’Callaghan, Developmental Psychologist at the University of Notre Dame and a mother to a boy with Down Syndrome, said that laws that explicitly allow for abortion on grounds of impairment violate the International Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

“The extent of disability selective abortion worldwide is so vast. Disability selective abortion as a rights violation must be taken seriously,” she said, pointing to the many countries such as Iceland and Denmark whose abortion rate for children with Down Syndrome is virtually 100 percent, with many of these States' providing funding for parents to receive pre-natal screenings.

Deidre Pujols, vice president of the Pujols Family Foundation, wife of Los Angeles Angels player Albert Pujols, and mother of Bella Pujols, her 20-year-old daughter with Down Syndrome, spoke out against the genetic testing that discriminates against children like her daughter, and leads to judging a person’s value based on his or her mental and physical condition.

“Populations of people who are profiled before their first breath,” she said. “Instead of using science to better the health and well-being of individuals with Down Syndrome, some have instead have used science to detect the condition in an unborn child and end his or her life.”

Some panellists testified that a Down Syndrome diagnosis does not deter individuals from pursuing their goals and impacting their communities.

Minnesota-born Mikayla Holmgren, 23, recently made headlines as the first person with the Down Syndrome to compete in a Miss USA Pageant, and won the Spirit of Miss USA Award.

“I did not win the crown, but I won so much more,” she said. “I was able to show the world that people with Down Syndrome have beauty that starts from the inside out.”

Holmgren, who now attends her parents’ alma mater, Bethel University, uses her platform as a “voice for those who cannot speak.”

“There are countries that would like to get rid of people like me. That makes me sad,” she said.

Like any typical fourteen-year-old, Chloe Kondrich enjoys playing sports, watching YouTube videos on her iPad, and attending school dances at her high school. But unlike her peers, she has also won an Emmy Award, appeared in multiple billboards in Times Square, met President Donald Trump, and is the namesake of a Pennsylvania law that requires doctors to provide women whose children receive a Down Syndrome diagnosis in utero with supportive information on how to best care for their child, rather than merely advise them to undergo abortion. Chloe has Down Syndrome, but her extra chromosome has, in many ways, contributed to her extraordinary life.

Her father, Kurt Kondrich, retired from as a police officer to become an advocate for children with Down Syndrome and is currently working, with his wife Margie Kondrich, to pass another Pennsylvania bill that will ban discrimination of children with Down Syndrome through abortion.

“As a police officer, I thought here’s a group of people who I’ll never have to arrest, but I learned they’re being killed systematically,” Kondrich said. “I thought, ‘Not on my watch.’” He was appalled, he said, to see more legal protection for unborn turtle eggs, than unborn children with disabilities.

“Now I like animals, but I don’t think we should criminalize killing animals but legalize killing children,” he said.

Dr. Patricia White Flatley, who specializes in the biomedical research of Down Syndrome and is a mother to a son with the condition, said that scientific research has not only “enabled individuals with Down Syndrome to live longer, fuller lives and to participate more fully in their schools, communities and in the workplace,” but has also led to important findings for the health of the general public.

In addition to the cognitive, speech and learning impairments associated with the disorder, those with Down Syndrome are more likely to have heart abnormalities, autoimmune disorders, and leukaemia than the general public, but less likely to have cardiovascular disease, strokes, and certain tumours like breast cancer. The presence of extra genetic material on the additional 21st chromosome could be the key, and the research, which has now caught the attention and funding of pharmaceutical companies, has led to clinical trials that can yield better health for people with many of the related diseases.

“This is truly a new era for Down Syndrome,” Dr. White said.

Women with Disabilities, Access to Education

The presenters were from different countries discussing women with disabilities access to disabilities. 3% of women with disabilities are illiterate. 1% live in rural areas. Only 1% of women with disabilities/girls have access to schools in the world. Women with disabilities are not seen as capable of holding roles. They are considered to have been punished by God. It is difficult in the Philippines for a woman with a disability to marry, as there is a fear that any children out of the marriage will also have disabilities. We need more data on the situation. There are apparently the equivalent number of people with disabilities in India as there are people in Australia. In India there is a lot of stigma if a girl has a disability, no one bothers to educate them. Stigma with both rural and urban, literate and illiterate. Patriarchal norms are everywhere, including in the disability space. It means control over women's bodies and decisions. It was recommended that disability and gender policies be reviewed; initiate schemes and providing support services for girls with disabilities so that their personal care is totally taken care of. Limited funds are available for educational research.

United Nations CSW62: 21 March 2018

Stronger Together Women Waging Peace

A presentation by the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The women in South Sudan were able to teach the men how to negotiate. The question was what is the bottom line that you can live with or not live with and why? We were locked in a room discussing this from morning until the next day. You could not come out of the room until an agreement had been reached, and that agreement was that they needed the US government to stop the war in Sudan. In 2011 there was peace in Sudan because of the women's efforts.

In Trinidad and Tobago, they were suffering from a large number of ISIS recruits. High numbers of men were dropping out of schools and getting involved in drugs. ISIS then becomes attractive, giving large sums of money, offers of love and care, it's a different kind of gang. The women had to work through the women, the brothers, sisters, wives and girlfriends of gang leaders to get through them. They helped by meeting their basic needs, capacity building, helping to build skills so people could get jobs. This way they were able to change attitudes in the communities. Networks can be a powerful tool to create change and positivity in a community.

United Nations CSW62: 22 March 2018

Advocacy on the Margins: Women with Disabilities Addressing Violence at the Grassroots Level

The presenters were women from Rwanda and Uganda who worked for civil society organisations that helped women with disabilities. Women with Disabilities are the most vulnerable when it comes to gender based violence. They are two times more likely to experience violence during the course of their life. This violence focuses on their home and in the community at large. The abusers in the Rwandan context are mostly the caregivers. The women with disabilities rely on them to survive and don't have high self-esteem and thus don't report the abuse. They lack information on their rights so that they can protect themselves. They struggle to access justice because the police does not take them seriously. The organisations have been organising safe advocacy groups, so that they can have a voice for their rights. But to be included the voice of women with disability must be included at every level from the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes. Data monitoring needs to be disaggregated by gender and disability so that everyone can have a clearer picture of the needs. Women with disability have traditionally stood outside the women's feminist movement and have not had a voice, and this needs to change.

A speaker from Uganda spoke about psychosocial disability and said that this remains one of the biggest challenges. Women with disabilities have God-given talents and can make a contribution to the world. People in Uganda might think that the person with a psycho social disability has a bad spirit in them, they will say that you are a lost cause and not attribute any value to the person. There are limited rights to access reproductive health, denial in access services and the care needed, which is a gross abuse of their human rights. Once it is known that a woman has a disability and is having a child they will attempt to take away the child, claiming that the person with the disability lacks the ability to look after the child. Forced sterilisations occur against the woman's will. Women with disabilities lack proper nutrition and many suffer from physical, psychological and sexual violence. There is a terribly high rate of HIV in Uganda, especially amongst women with disabilities. There is a myth held in many African countries that if a person with HIV has sex with a virgin they will be cured and thus the woman with disability is at great risk.

Exploring Inter-linkages between Unpaid Care Work, Agro-ecology and Violence against Women and Girls

This presentation focused on the situation in Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. Women's work is not recognised. They take on all of the farm work as well as the

work at home as caregivers, which is unpaid care work and thus not recognised. When we talk about care giving we are talking about the time she spends cooking, washing clothes, looking after elderly family members, and going out and feeding animals. Mary spoke about her personal experiences.

They are now conducting research to generate data so that they are able to engage with governments at different levels and respond to the needs and demands. They have established a Women's Farmers' Platform so push the government to revive dormant projects for women and push the members of parliament to support women's rights. Cooperatives from the grassroots levels are being created.

In Pakistan unpaid care work remains an ignored area. Ignoring this effectively doubles the workload of women. If it is recognised this work can be reduced and redistributed. Thus, they are instituting a project of creating time diaries, where information is collected regarding the unpaid care work performed by women and the different tasks put into different categories. This information will then be used to advocate for change with the government.

In Rwanda, they piloted water and community based centre projects and collected evidence on how interventions could help women to save time. Unpaid work has been reduced from seven to five hours. The findings have been compared to the annual budget, so that the gaps could be identified in government spending and better advocacy to create change could take place.

In Ghana officers used to visit the women but there were difficulties getting them to visit families as the women could be accused of having an affair, so they ensured all officers were women. They can then access the help they need without fear. In Bangladesh, women complete nearly 8 hours of unpaid work in Pakistan it is 10 hours. Women in Bangladesh have 1.5 hours less free time than men.

The recommendations were as follows: a model of agriculture that is cantered on women; an integrated approach that connects violence against women and girls with rural women's economic empowerment; to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work at all levels; to promote women's leadership and partnership at all levels; and support the mobilisation and organisation of women's groups. Action Aid then launched its' new report on this issue.

Human Rights Based Approaches to Systems Strengthening for HIV and Rural Women

Traditionally the focus has been on HIV positive men. Women with HIV have important gender specific and reproductive health needs supported by a rights-based approach, access to services, information and confidentiality. When women's rights are curtailed their vulnerability increase. Human rights interventions must be at the core of all interventions. Focus is on non-discrimination, agency and accountability

for positive health outcomes. UNFA is training health workers to provide non-judgemental health services to key populations; supporting networks of young key populations for advocate for their human rights and informing and empowering through CSE. The standards for human rights and HIV/AIDS are availability; accessibility; acceptability; and quality of services.

Positive Women's Network USA is a national membership body of women living with HIV. Its mission is to prepare and involve women living with HIV in all levels of policy and decision making. The board of directors is entirely made of women living with HIV as are the staff. 1 in 5 Georgian residents will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes. Georgia has the worst rates for sexual health. 1 in 2 gay men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime. The teen pregnancy rate in Georgia is higher than the national rate: 95 per 1,000 compared to 84 per 1,000 nationally. The recommendations given were to eliminate stigma especially sexual and reproductive stigma.

A presentation was given about services that were provided in Ukraine to HIV positive women. The recommendations included the importance effective non-discriminatory human rights based HIV prevention, treatment and care practices. Another talk was given from the rural Tanzanian perspective. Their conclusion was that empowering women in Tanzania is crucial to help them to overcome the barriers that they are facing.

Overcoming Femicide and Promoting Gender Equality in Rural Asia

This talk was about the efforts of Reggie Littlejohn to stop the forced abortion of girls in India and China. A documentary was shown. 200 million girls are missing today because they are aborted or abandoned, because they are girls. A baby girl will have a cloth put over her face and suffocated or in China they will force a woman to undergo an abortion because she has exceeded her quota. The one child policy has been abandoned it is now the two child policy. Now China has a rapidly ageing population and not enough people to replace the people who are dying. If you are pregnant illegally you have to pay a huge fine that you can't afford to pay. If you don't pay it, you must have your baby aborted. If the second child is a girl then that child is very vulnerable. Having a son is their equivalent of social security. If you have two girls either they commit sex selective abortion or face poverty in their old age. The family structure has been destroyed. In farming communities' parents have many children and then they are looked after by extended families. If a child can't support all the families and grandparents sometimes the elderly person commits senior suicide. If the eldest child goes to another town, and does not support the parent, there is a disturbing trend of senior suicide.

In India they say, “we don’t like daughters, we like daughter in laws” and “raising a daughter is like watering someone else’s garden”. Dowry is officially illegal in India. Whenever a young woman marries her family must provide whatever is important to the family e.g. if a farmer a cow, if rich a yacht. They do the math and say it is cheaper to do the abortion now than pay the dowry. In India there are problems with bride burning. There is one bride burning an hour in India.

Women’s Rights Without Frontier’s are doing work to stop this. They will find a woman who is pregnant and say to her “if you don’t abort your girl baby we will pay you a stipend of \$20 a month for a year after her birth”. Many women accept this and thus the baby lives. Also save a widow campaign. Some are destitute, and some have disabilities. They go to the door and offer some financial support, which they are grateful to receive.

The second lecture presented research linking abortion with an increased risk of breast cancer. There is a 44% increased risk of a woman having breast cancer if she has an abortion with three or more abortions this risk increases to 89%.

Success Factors in Ending FGM/C

To end female genital mutilation one technique by engaging in alternative rights of practice. It’s a community, tribal approach and provides an alternative to FGM that is embraced by the community. It is also important to engage in advocacy to end FGM. Young girls have a role in changing attitudes in the community. They are training activists, lawyers, human rights activists across Africa to change this practice. Part of the activism is holding governments to account. If you have laws that stop FGM they have to be implemented. Thus, the use of strategic litigation. But the law is not enough. It is important to talk to health workers and let everyone understand what the law says. Translate everything into local languages.

United Nations CSW62: 23 March 2018

Making Sense of CSW62: A Special Closing Session

This was the closing session of the CSW62 and consisted of a panel of women reflecting on the two weeks. One quote read was: “women represent change: they are from a historically unrepresented group.” Reflections were given on the conclusions with people keeping their fingers crossed for a positive outcome. It was noted that while the majority of participants in parallel events were women the majority of people deliberating over the conclusions at the UN were men. It is important to engage in the CSW both at the beginning and continually. There have been big wins in terms of language shifting towards women and girls living in rural areas. By pushing for a language change it is shifting towards recognising women especially women from the African region as equal citizens. It was noted that it is easier to engage with local leaders at the CSW62 than back at home, where everything is tied up in bureaucracy. More than one hundred people who sought to be present at CSW62 were denied visas, and the CSW NGO forum is following up on this.

Every year the language aspect is agreed upon and then every year this same issue is discussed again. It seems like such a waste of time. In the final document there are specific references to health, such as HIV, mental/psycho social health, debate regarding whether women have control over their bodies. There is reference to holistic health, victims of violence, social and legal services. There is vague language such as “limited financial inclusion”: the question was asked, limited to whom? It’s all a big battle of words.

Media Portrayal of Intimate Partner Violence

WHO defines intimate partner violence as any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in a relationship. There are four types of IPV: physical, sexual, stalking, and psychological aggression. One in three women throughout the world will experience physical and or sexual violence by a partner. In 2012, approximately one in 2 homicides of women were completed by an intimate partner. One in 10 women have experienced forced intercourse or sexual acts. The mental health system has put survivors at greater jeopardy, e.g. involvement of abusive partners in treatment, abusive partners using mental health against survivors in legal contexts or putting survivors in domestic violence counselling). Risk factors include low education, pregnancy at a young age, and exposure to child mistreatment. It is important to have men and boys as allies by teaching them to speak up in the face of violence and teach them healthy relationship skills. Couples counselling should occur either before or right after marriage before

IPV has occurred. Ways to stop IPV include: teaching and utilising faith leaders and community leaders; create protective environments; change social and cultural norms; create media awareness campaigns; modify the physical and social environments of neighbourhoods; create policies to reduce a community's alcohol outlet density; create a climate of non-tolerance; create laws and policies about IPV; national legislation to ensure equal rights to political participation, education and work; laws for women to freely enter or leave marriage, to obtain financial credit and to own property; change laws that discriminate against women; specialised police units; restraining orders; multi agency sexual assault response teams; and criminalise abuse and definitions of rape should be introduced.

Removing Barriers for Access to Justice for Deaf Women

Two women from Deaf Women without Violence started up a program to provide information and support for women who are deaf and victims of violence. It was created in April 2016. One woman worked in a domestic violence shelter and was moved when she met a woman who was hearing impaired and admitted there even though she didn't have any violence issues. She tried to contact other organisations for deaf women, but no one wanted to make contact. They finally made contact with the Funda Del Sol foundation. They had to relearn how to communicate with hearing impaired women. They have a different way of communicating. For example, sign language only has three tenses and no conjugations. Hearing people have to stop bombarding people with too much talk. When you enter a room it's good to switch on the light on and off so that they know you have entered and are not startled. The deaf organisation taught them about deaf people and how to communicate with them while they taught them about female gender based violence. It was a productive collaboration.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Public Policies in Mexico

This was a panel of Mexican and Ecuadorian students. They were all supportive of natural fertility. They want to have the choice to be both mothers as well as have professional careers and to be able to balance both. The message was clear, that respect for women did not start with legislation and policies and regulations. It started a lot earlier than that with how young boys are raised to treat women. They should be raised to treat women with respect and love. At the moment, both a man and a woman will come home from work and the man will relax. But the women will continue working, cooking, cleaning up and doing domestic work. There needs to be more support and recognition for what the woman does and to uphold her rights.

