



GWU Update – 24 June 2015



International News Round-Up: June 2015

U.S. first lady unveils a \$200 million UK-U.S. partnership in global education (CNN news, 17 June)

First lady Michelle Obama, on a visit to London on Tuesday, announced a new partnership between the United States and United Kingdom to improve girls' access to education around the world. The two countries are launching "a nearly \$200 million partnership to continue their collective support for adolescent girls' education," according to a news release from Obama's office. Obama met with Prime Minister David Cameron to officially announce the initiative. Special attention and portions of the funds will be devoted "to countries affected by conflict and crisis," with the Democratic Republic of the Congo set to receive \$180 million over five years, benefiting "more than 755,000 girls aged 10 to 18". [Read more.](#)

Investment in Girls' education impacts Child marriage (World Stage, 15 June)

The theme for this year's celebration of the Day of the African Child, "25 Years after the Adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa" is timely. Child marriage is increasing in Nigeria. The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS 4) 2011, shows that there is a 5% increase in the number of girls married before age 15. It was 13% in 2007 and MICS 2011 indicates it is now 18%. UNICEF believes that investments in girls' education and getting more girls' into school delays marriage and impacts the incidence of child marriage. The Girls' Education Project, funded by the UK's Department of International Development (DFID) and implemented by UNICEF, aims to get 1 million more girls into school by 2020, while at the same improving the quality of education. The project is helping to train female teachers through the female teachers' service scheme and deploy them to rural areas, where the predominance of male teachers deters many parents from sending their girls to school. [Read more.](#)

Transforming Girls' Lives Through Education (Forbes, 15 June)

The plight of girls is one of the most pressing global issues in education. Girls are less likely to go to school, more likely to drop out early and more likely to have their life chances diminished through lack of education. Former Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, who has become a notable advocate for increasing access to education for girls since her departure from office, will deliver the keynote speech at the launch of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at Cambridge University. The Centre, a partnership between Cambridge University and international non-profit Camfed, will not only conduct research into the problems girls face in accessing education, but also identify practical solutions. [Read more.](#)

Africa: The Maputo Protocol – Evaluating Women’s Rights (All Africa, 11 June)

The Maputo Protocol, Africa's first women's rights legal framework has the potential to benefit millions of women when governments not only ratify but also ensure its domestication in national laws, with accompanying resources for its implementation. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights was adopted on 11 July 2003 by the African Union (AU). Prior to its adoption, the AU's jurisprudence on women's rights was almost non-existent. The AU Charter contained only one Article specifically referring to women in its 68 Articles. Furthermore, the Article bundled up the rights of women with the rights of other vulnerable groups such as the disabled, children and elderly. Inserting women's rights into the context of an article referring to the family and other vulnerable groups proved problematic and inadequate. The Maputo Protocol stepped in to salvage this tragic situation. The Protocol aims to confront the continual discrimination, abuse and marginalization of women. [Read more.](#)

Breaking the taboo: the Moscow women taking a stand against domestic violence (The Guardian, 10 June)

The current debates over how Russia deals with domestic violence reflect changing attitudes to women, in a country where family values remain conservative. It touches on a perplexing Russian paradox – that while the Russian government has long promoted equality in the work place, attitudes towards women remain patriarchal. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which was considering the issue of domestic violence, [expressed concern](#) in 2010 at the “state party’s repeated emphasis on the role of women as mothers and caregivers”. [Read more.](#)

Young girls in South America are marrying into gangs for protection (Business Insider UK, 5 June)

Rampant gang violence and drug turf wars in parts of Central America are fuelling child marriage as girls seek to marry or couple with gang members and older men as a form of protection, researchers say. Traditionally child marriage has been most prevalent among indigenous communities in rural areas across Central America. But humanitarian groups working in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, say anecdotal evidence gathered in the past five years shows drug-fueled gang violence and organized crime is driving more girls to get married in cities. [Read more.](#)

Harvard Business Review Study Maps STEM Sexism, Shows how It Affects Women of Colour (The Huffington Post, 5 June)

A new research study says sexism in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is alive and well, and that it disproportionately affects women of colour. The "[The 5 Biases Pushing Women Out Of STEM](#)" study - published in the Harvard Business Review -- surveyed 557 female scientists and interviewed 60 of them. As the title suggests, researchers found five biases that alienate women in the industry. According to the study, "women find themselves walking a tightrope between being seen as too feminine to be competent, and too masculine to be likable." One of the study's most significant findings was that for women scientists of colour, their race counts against them. Asian women are the most susceptible to this racial bias. Forty-one percent of Asian women reported playing a stereotypically female role in the office, like the "dutiful daughter" or "office mother," as opposed to just 8 percent of black women. [Read more.](#)



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Graduate Women International

10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/>