



## IFUW Update – 28 January 2015



### International News Round-Up: January 2015

#### **Malawi: Flood Imperils Education in Southern Malawi, Especially for Girls** (All Africa, 27 January)

After a flood of unprecedented proportions hit Southern Malawi, Zimbabwe and Madagascar on January 11th, the estimated death toll stands at 260, with 360,000 displaced. In response, Malawi President Peter Mutharika declared half of the country a disaster zone and put out an emergency appeal to the international community. As organisations mobilise, they must prioritise access to education as part of the emergency response. During times of crisis, education helps children to cope with trauma by providing them with a routine and a sense of normalcy. However, during times of emergency, education receives less than 2 % of humanitarian funding. Read [in full](#).

#### **Egypt FGM trial 'convicts doctor of manslaughter'** (BBC World News, 26 January)

An Egyptian doctor has been convicted of the manslaughter of a girl who died after an illegal female genital mutilation (FGM) procedure was performed. Both the doctor, Raslan Fadl, and the victim's father were cleared of any wrongdoing at their initial trial. Prosecutors appealed against the verdict and on Monday it was overturned. The practice of FGM was banned in Egypt in 2008 but the country still has one of the highest rates of prevalence in the world. The case against Fadl was the first time a prosecution relating to FGM had been brought to trial. Read [in full](#).

#### **What it feels like to be a woman at Davos** (The Guardian, 26 January)

Women made up just 17% of attendees at the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland). Davos is a gathering of great minds and change-makers from across the globe, and its theme this year was "the new global context". The focus takes in everything from fighting terror to addressing the growing income divide. This year just 17% of participants at this invitation-only summit were female; an increase on 15% of female attendees in 2014, but still far too small a number. Meanwhile, on the Fortune 500 list, just 3.4% of corporations have female CEOs. Clearly, there is work to do. Read [in full](#).

## **Modi launches campaign to tackle India's dwindling number of girls** (Reuters India, 22 January)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the blight of India's dwindling number of girls on Thursday, launching a campaign to address the problem the United Nations has said amounts to a national emergency. The "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (Save the Daughter, Teach the Daughter) campaign is aimed at improving India's child sex ratio - the number of girls born for every 1,000 boys - and gender equality through access to education. Read [in full](#).

## **Sheryl Sandberg Joins Global Women Leaders in Tech to Demand Gender Equality** (Huffington Post Women, 20 January)

"No industry or country can reach its full potential until women reach their full potential. This is especially true of science and technology, where women with a surplus of talent still face a deficit of opportunity," says Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer of Facebook and founder of LeanIn.Org, in her [new video](#) as a champion for Global Fund for Women's online multimedia project, IGNITE: Women Fueling Science and Technology. Read [in full](#).

## **Oz, NZ Women Selected For EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women Asia Pacific Program** (Australia Business Review, 18 January)

[Ernst Young](#) is helping gender equality in business through the company's Entrepreneurial Winning Women program, which will see its inaugural year in the Asia-Pacific region in 2015. Four Australians and one New Zealander have been selected for this year's class, which also includes women from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea. The year-long program, which has already been implemented and successful in North America, is designed to assist established women-led businesses with scaling operations to become global market leaders. Read [in full](#).

## **What will shape women's rights over the next 15 years?** (The Guardian, 14 January)

Decisions made in 2015 will help shape the women's rights agenda for the next 15 years. In September 2015, world leaders will endorse a new set of development goals at the UN (the [UN Summit](#) for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda). The proposed [sustainable development goals](#) (SDGs), which will replace the [millennium development goals](#) (MDGs), feature a standalone goal on gender (goal 5), which encourages the world to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Read [in full](#).

## **Women Run 30 Percent of All Businesses, but Only 5 Percent of the Biggest, Study Shows** (The New York Times, 12 January)

Women own or manage more than 30 % of all businesses but only 5 % or less of the biggest enterprises, the [United Nations](#) said in a report published Monday. The report, by the [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO), a United Nations agency based in Geneva, also estimated that without new actions to promote women's equality in management, it would take 100 to 200 years to achieve gender parity in business leadership positions. According to the report, Jamaica has the highest proportion of women who are managers, at 59.3 %, while Yemen has the least, at 2.1 %. The United States is ranked 15th, at 42.7 %, well behind some countries in less developed areas. In Asia, the highest-ranking country is the Philippines, at 47.6 %, meaning it was ranked fourth globally. In Latin America, Colombia is the highest, at 53.1 %, meaning it ranked second globally. Read [in full](#).



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

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