



IFUW Update – 25 February 2015



International News Round-Up: February 2015

Armed groups raid South Sudan school, abduct 89 children, U.N. says (CNN, 22 February)

Armed groups raided a South Sudanese school and seized 89 children who were taking their exams, the United Nations said Saturday. Kidnappers gathered around a community and conducted house-to-house searches, according to the U.N. children's agency - UNICEF. It said the victims included boys over age 12, who were taken away by force. "The recruitment and use of children by armed forces destroys families and communities," said Jonathan Veitch, the UNICEF representative in South Sudan. "Children are exposed to incomprehensible levels of violence, they lose their families and their chance to go to school." Read [in full](#).

Regional Conference Ensures Women With Disabilities Voices Are Heard (Papua New Guinea Today, 22 February)

Women with disabilities in the Pacific regardless of income, location, disability, age or ethnic group must participate fully, freely and safely in political, economic and social life, according to Suzanne Bent, the First Secretary, Gender Equality, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Speaking at the 4th Pacific Regional Conference on Disability, Ms. Bent said the Women's Regional Conference on Disability was relevant because it allow development partners, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to hear the concerns of women with disabilities in the Pacific. Read [in full](#).

This App Makes Sure You Don't Accidentally End the Gender Pay Gap (Fast Company, 18 February)

Because of the gender wage gap, women working full-time earn an average of [78%](#) of what men working full-time make. Based on current trends, projections for when the wage gap will close are now as far away as [2056](#). "[Toothpick](#)" a tongue-in-cheek app that is available for iPhones is the first tip calculator that appropriately takes into account the gender of your server. If your meal was brought to your table by a woman, Toothpick will automatically deduct 22% from your tip. The real goal of the app is to raise awareness about the gender wage gap by pointing out an obvious truth: If you wouldn't tip someone less because of their gender, then people shouldn't earn less because of their gender. Read [in full](#).

Afghanistan: Still a Man's World? (Foreign Policy, 17 February)

On 3 February dozens of Afghan women's rights activists took to the streets of Kabul, marching to the ministry of women's affairs to protest their new president, Ashraf Ghani, and chief executive officer, Abdullah Abdullah, over their broken promises to appoint four women to the new cabinet. When Ghani,

along with Abdullah, nominated their cabinet on 20 January after months of delay, the nominees included three women — nominated as heads of the ministries of higher education, women's affairs, and communications — not the promised four. The three female nominees were subsequently [rejected](#) by the Afghan parliament based on technical reasons, including education and nationality requirements. Read [in full](#).

Turkey rallies over murder of woman who 'resisted rape' (BBC World News, 15 February)

Ms Aslan, a psychology student, was kidnapped on Wednesday on her way home. The driver allegedly tried to rape her. She reportedly fought him off with pepper spray, but was then stabbed to death. She was also hit on the head with an iron pipe. The brutality of the murder caused an outcry across Turkey. Women's rights organisations say violence against women has risen sharply in the last decade. Last year alone, almost 300 women were killed at the hands of men and more than 100 were raped, according to local reports. Read [in full](#).

SABOR: On Valentine's Day, a Chocolatier Shares Craft with the Indigenous Women of Latin America (Latin Post, 14 February)

In Latin America, award-winning Mexican-American Chocolatier Arcelia Gallardo is taking her love and passion for chocolate to another level – proving that it has the power to unify communities, empower women and ultimately change the world. The South Central L.A.-born, Central California-raised chocolatier is bringing a whole new meaning to Valentine's Day by traveling through Latin America (Belize, Venezuela, Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Brazil as well as Puerto Rico) to work with cacao growers and chocolate makers and to teach indigenous women how to make chocolate. Read [in full](#).

Facebook and LinkedIn To Launch Mentoring Programmes For Women In Tech (Huffington Post, 8 February)

Facebook and LinkedIn want to boost dwindling numbers of women studying engineering and computer science with a collaborative initiative announced Friday that they hope will eventually fill thousands of lucrative Silicon Valley jobs long dominated by men. In an exclusive joint interview with The Associated Press, Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and LinkedIn CEO Jeffrey Weiner said they're launching mentoring and support programs at colleges to get more women involved in studying technology in general, but also as future employees for their companies. Read [in full](#).

Africa's Poor Policies Letting Women and Girls Down (Huffington Post – The Blog, 3 February)

Due to weak gender policies, lack of credible evaluation and measurement, implementation and monitoring, vaguely imported programmes and the willingness to act, African governments are letting women and girls down. Africa does not investigate all the tales that is around education, women empowerment, good governance and policies. We go by what external reports say to evaluate how well our women and girls are doing. This is so wrong at all level. The harsh reality is, we cannot talk about the prosperity of women and girls in Africa if we don't change the inappropriate policies that hinder their progress. 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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