



## GWI Update – 29 April 2015



### International News Round-Up: April 2015

#### **U.N. Report: Women May Need ‘Different Treatment’ to Achieve Economic Equality** (TIME, 27 April)

It's just like Sheryl Sandberg said: paid leave and affordable child care would help achieve gender equality on a global level. Equal opportunity is not enough to ensure gender equality, according to a ground-breaking new report from U.N. Women. Instead, governments must commit to social policies that treat women differently in order to help them achieve economic parity with men. “We must go beyond creating equal opportunities to ensure equal outcomes,” the report says. “‘Different treatment’ may be required to achieve real equality in practice.” This report, called [Progress of the World’s Women 2015–2016](#), is one of the first major international reports to acknowledge that legal equality for women does not translate into actual equality, and that governments must make substantial social-policy changes that enable the redistribution of domestic duties in order for women to play a truly equal role in society. [Read more.](#)

#### **Influential Asian women in Wales celebrated in Cardiff** (BBC News, 26 April)

Asian women who have made a significant contribution to Welsh life have been celebrated at an event in Cardiff. About 350 people attended the third Welsh Asian Women Achievement awards ceremony at City Hall on Saturday. In total, 29 Asian women were nominated for recognition in eight categories, with a panel deciding the winners. Categories included business, arts and culture, social and humanitarian and tackling violence against women. [Read more.](#)

#### **Afghanistan: Reforms needed to ensure justice for women victims of violence – United Nations Report** (UNOG, 20 April 2015)

Access to justice for women victims of violence in Afghanistan needs to be strengthened, a new UN report urged on 19 April. The report states that while there is a legal framework in place for such cases, there remain many factors hindering access to justice and redress for such women, in particular the lack of available civil remedies. The [report](#) released by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) identifies the factors that enable or hinder women’s access to justice in cases involving violence. It documents the individual experience of 110 Afghan women victims of violence who sought justice through the judicial system and through non-judicial mechanisms, including mediation, across the country between August 2014 and February 2015. [Read more.](#)

### **78 cents on the dollar: The facts about the gender wage gap** (CNN Money, 15 April 2015)

It takes a woman 469 days to earn what a man would make in a year. Among full-time workers, women earn about 78 cents to a man's dollar, according to the latest data from the [US] Bureau of Labour Statistics. There's a lot of nuance tucked inside that fact. Here's what you should know about gender pay inequality: 1. Men and women tend to work in very different professions. That's the trouble with just using the 78 cents statistic: it doesn't take into account job choice, education, experience, tenure or hours worked. 2. Even after you drill down into specific occupations, the wage gap persists. Take elementary and middle school teachers, for example. Women hold more than 70% of the jobs, yet men still earn more for the same role. Male teachers earn a median of \$1,096 a week, whereas women earn \$956 -- about 87 cents to the man's dollar. [Read more.](#)

### **Nigeria: Amnesty International Report – 2,000 Girls and Women Abducted Since 2014** (All Africa 15 April)

Amnesty International (AI) has released yet another report detailing the gruesome atrocities committed by Boko Haram sect in the North-eastern part of Nigeria. In a report released on Tuesday to mark the one year anniversary of the abduction of the Chibok school girls, AI said at least 2,000 women and girls were abducted by Boko Haram Sect since the start of 2014. The 90-page report said many were forced into sexual slavery and trained to fight. [Read more.](#)

### **Australia a world leader in female representation on banknotes** (News.com.au Australia, 14 April)

Each note of the Australian currency features a woman on one side and a man on the other, apart from the five dollar note, which depicts the monarch on the front (who is, of course, currently a woman) and an image of Parliament House on the back. The legal tender hasn't always been this female-friendly, of course. Before the introduction of polymer notes in the 1990s, the Australian currency was dominated by masculine faces, with the only exceptions being Queen Elizabeth II and Caroline Chisholm. A survey by [BBC News Magazine](#) found that Australia now rates alongside Sweden when it comes to the equal representation of women on its currency, while other western nations including the US, the UK and Canada lag a long way behind. [Read more.](#)

### **Britain ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the world for 'female economic power'** (The Telegraph, 9 April)

Britain has ranked ninth in a [landmark study to determine global female economic power](#). Conducted by the University of Cambridge Judge Business School, the decade-long piece of research is the first to take a world view on the factors limiting and driving women's rise to the top and longevity in boardrooms. The UK performed worse than Ireland, the US, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and Australia (which took the top spot), when it came to the economic influence wielded by women.

### **This Budding Scientist-Entrepreneur Puts The Girls-In-STEM Problem In New Perspective** (The Huffington Post, 4 April)

There's no doubt that women tend to steer clear of careers in science and technology-the [statistics simply don't lie](#). Nor is there any doubt that the persistent gender disparity in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields represents a big problem for US [competitiveness as a nation](#) as well as for individual women. But *why* are women underrepresented in STEM? Some say girls are [deterred by an "implicit bias"](#) that leads us to see science and math as "male" fields. Others point to research showing [gender discrimination against women](#) who apply for STEM jobs. [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](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/>