



GWJ Update – 27 May 2015



International News Round-Up: May 2015

World Education Forum adopts Declaration on the Future of Education (UNESCO, 21 May)

A transformative vision for education over the next 15 years has been adopted at the World Education Forum, *which concluded today in Incheon, Republic of Korea*. The Incheon Declaration was welcomed by the global education community. It encourages countries to provide inclusive, equitable, quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all. The Declaration will underpin the education targets in the Sustainable Development Goals that will be ratified at the United Nations in September. "This Declaration is a huge step forward," stated the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova. "It reflects our determination to ensure that all children and young people gain the knowledge and skills they need to live in dignity, to reach their potential and contribute to their societies as responsible global citizens. It encourages governments to provide learning opportunities through life, so that people can continue to grow and develop. It affirms that education is the key to global peace and sustainable development." [Read more.](#)

The mob killing of Farkhunda was a defining moment for women's rights in Afghanistan (The Telegraph [UK], 20 May)

In March this year, a 27-year-old Afghan woman, Farkhana, was beaten to death in Kabul. Surrounded by hundreds of men, the woman begged for her life. Her pleas were ignored. Video after video showed how the crowd slowly gathered, while police casually strolled around, doing nothing to quell the mounting violence. Twelve convictions have been handed down to civilians, including [four death sentences](#). [Ten police officers have been convicted](#) for their failure in protecting Farkhunda. In March, President Ghani promised to work towards a commitment to woman's rights, a transformation of the legal system, and a pledge to defeat terrorism. All of this has now been put to the test. Punishing the officials involved is key for setting precedent in Afghanistan; key for setting a precedent in the Middle East; and it is key for setting a precedent across the world. [Read more.](#)

Celebrating the Future of Female Leadership with Today's Women Leaders (Huffington Post – The Blog, 19 May)

We've all heard the saying, "you can't be what you can't see." This sentiment reflects the importance that trailblazers, role models and mentors play in our lives. They show us what's possible, they set the bar of achievement and they encourage us, even challenge us, to leap over it. It is vital that girls who aspire to become leaders in our world have access to women who have already attained leadership positions -- it makes the idea of

women leaders real, something they can see with their own eyes and believe is possible to achieve. Above all, it gives them a goal to reach for. [Read more.](#)

Malala Fund: AJK government, UNESCO to work for girls' education (The Express Tribune [Pakistan], 14 May)

The education department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and UNESCO have agreed to promote girls' education in Pakistan under the Malala Education Fund. UNESCO will provide stationary and lunch to primary girls students of the four UCs and boundary walls of vulnerable schools will also be constructed. NGOs will also get support to promote primary education and will be monitored by the education secretariat. [Read more.](#)

US cited for police violence, racism in scathing UN review on human rights (Al Jazeera [America], 11 May)

The United States was slammed over its rights record during the country's second universal periodic review (UPR) on 11 May 2015, at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Member nations criticised the country for police violence and racial discrimination, the Guantánamo Bay Detention Facility and the continued use of the death penalty. Member states also called on the U.S. to end child labour, human trafficking and sexual violence against Native American and Alaska Native women. After that review, the U.S. accepted recommendations to consider ratifying key human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. [Read more.](#)

Kenya: Women MPs Threaten Suit Over Gender Rule (All Africa, 6 May)

Women MPs may move to court to challenge the publication of the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill that seeks to postpone indefinitely the enactment of the two-thirds gender rule. Article 27 of the constitution requires that no gender should have more than two thirds of public positions, either elected or appointed. Numerous female parliamentarians are against the legislative action: "As women leaders, we will not accept or support this Bill. Commitments to achieve gender balance on leadership positions in Kenya are yet to be met and that must change." [Read more.](#)

Women's political participation boosted in rural China (United Nations Radio, 29 April)

Women's political participation is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality in Asia and across the world, according to the UN body dedicated to women's empowerment. Female workers make up more than 70 per cent of the rural labour force in China, yet they only constitute 21 per cent of village committee members. UN Women is working with the All-China Women's Federation on how to support those workers to become part of local decision making processes. Listen to the interview of UN's Women's Country Programme Manager discussing how the agency is reaching women in rural areas. [Read more.](#)

UN envoy Gordon Brown welcomes release of 200 Nigerian girls held captive by Boko Haram (UN News Centre, 29 April)

The United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown, has welcomed the release of 200 girls from captivity by Boko Haram and called for the immediate release of all abducted girls, ahead of his meeting tomorrow with Nigerian President-Elect. "It is time to end the nightmare," said Mr. Brown, who will have talks with the Nigerian President-Elect Muhammadu Buhari tomorrow about the missing girls. Some 276 girls were abducted by Boko Haram from their school in Chibok, located in Nigeria's restive north-eastern Borno state, in April 2014, as the militant group ramped up brutal attacks targeting the country's children. Mr Brown highlighted that: "Today 10 million children don't go to school in Nigeria. We need more secure, better prepared, safe schools to make girls and parents know everything is being done to protect them. By creating safe schools and communities where girls are free of fear we can get every child into school and learning." [Read more.](#)



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