



GWU Update – 30 September 2015



International News Round-Up: September 2015

Tackling gender inequality could add \$12tn to world economy, study finds (The Guardian, 24 September)

The McKinsey Global Institute has measured gender inequality across 95 countries, using 15 different indicators, including not just women's role in the workplace, but everything from the availability of contraception to access to bank accounts. The study found that if each country could make progress towards closing the gender gap at the pace of the best-performing economy in its local region, an extra \$12tn – equivalent to the GDP of Japan, Germany and the UK combined – could be generated each year by 2025. Read more [here](#).

Women are the 'silver bullet' to advancing development aims and ending extreme poverty (Devex, 24 September)

Investing in women leaders is the most efficient way to make change, transforming lives and accelerating peace and prosperity for all. Vital Voices Global Partnership strategy, honed after more than 18 years of working with leaders, ensures that targeted investments in single individuals impact thousands more; those thousands multiply that change throughout their networks and communities. Based on this knowledge, meeting the gender-related targets of the global goals will be the basis of progress for all goals – women are the “silver bullet” to advancing development aims and ending extreme poverty, as U.N. Development Program chief Helen Clark has said. Read more [here](#).

Women Role Models in Morocco (All Africa Women, 16 September)

On September 16, Forbes Middle East unveiled its 2015 annual ranking of the Arab World's Most Powerful Women during an exclusive gala dinner and awards ceremony in Dubai. A compelling sidebar to each of their profiles is that these women are both exemplary professionals and deeply involved in their communities and country. Forbes ranked them according to the impact they have on their profession, as well as their commitment to social development in their countries. Six women from Morocco made the list. Rita Maria Zniber, who has led Diana Holdings since April 2014, has built her reputation as a keen business person who sees her mission as making her company a global player in producing wines and spirits. Read more [here](#).

The Gender Wage Gap in the US (Institute of Women's Policy Research, 15 September)

The Institute of Women's Policy Research (IWPR) updated its Fact Sheet, [Gender Wage Gap: 2014](#), with new data from the U.S. Census Bureau showing that the gender wage ratio improved slightly from 77.6 percent in 2013 to 78.6 percent in 2014, which was not statistically significant. IWPR analysis finds that, if the pace of change in the annual earnings ratio continues at the same rate as it has since 1960, it will take another 45 years, until 2059, for men and women to reach parity. Women of all major racial and ethnic groups earn less than men of the same group. Closing the wage gap is not a zero-sum game – gains for one gender do not require losses for the other.

The CEO helping Saudi Women break a gender barrier (Fortune, 14 September)

Lubna Olayan was once the only woman at a 4,000-employee company; now she's helping hundreds of Saudi women enter the workforce for the first time. It was 18 years before she got her first female colleague. But the fact that OFC now employs some 400 Saudi women—including 56 who bustle alongside Olayan and their male colleagues in the Riyadh head office—shows how far the company and Saudi society have come since then in bringing women greater economic power. Read more about Olayan's success [here](#).

'Neglected' mid-career academic women 'need more recognition' (Times, 10 September)

Mid-career female academics often feel "neglected" by their universities because they frequently receive little recognition, prestige or support for their work, a study suggests. Based on interviews with 30 women who defined themselves as "mid-career" academics, a group of researchers at King's College London say that worries over the "make-or-break" period cause considerable job insecurity, with many women questioning their future in academia. The loss of early career mentors as they move into more senior roles and concerns that they are relatively "high cost" compared with junior staff also contribute to anxieties in the workplace, the report [says](#).

Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal (World Bank, 9 September)

Getting to Equal measures legal and regulatory barriers to women's entrepreneurship and employment in 173 economies. It provides quantitative measures of laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunities in seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, going to court, building credit and protecting women from violence. Legal barriers to the economic advancement of women are widespread, shutting them out of certain jobs, limiting their access to credit, and leaving them unprotected against violence in many economies around the world, says the World Bank Group's Women, Business and the Law 2016 report [here](#).

India-Delhi Police clamp down on harassing women (The Tribune, New Delhi, August 30)

2400 people have been detained and 370+ have been arrested for harassing women on city streets. The high number of report in just 20 days under an initiative launched by Delhi Police, has once again thrown light on the extent of harassment women have to face in the streets of the national capital. The Shishtachar initiative, launched on August 3, is based on the concept of "detain and discipline", said S K Gautam, Joint Commissioner of Police. [Read the article here](#).

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