

The Effects of Globalisation on Girls and Women

The Issue

The declining economic and social conditions of women, when compared to men, is referred to as the feminisation of poverty. Women's contributions, especially in terms of unremunerated work and other types of non-market activity, often remain unmeasured, unrecognised, or undervalued.¹ In 2012 UNCTAD "Doha Mandate" encouraged a move from the finance-driven globalisation, which has been in force for the last few decades, to a development-centred globalisation which would focus on inclusive, sustainable results. Economic policies, particularly those aimed at fostering market integration, tend to impact on men and women differently and unequally, and development strategies should aim to promote gender and other forms of equality.

Barriers to the elimination of the negative effects of globalisation for girls and women

- Unfavourable or insufficient labour legislation resulting in women in vulnerable employment, for example unpaid family workers and own-account workers, being unprotected by the law;
- Marginalisation of women leading to direct or indirect discrimination in both the access to economic opportunity and access to credit and financing from financial institutions;
- International loan conditions such as privatisation and decreased government spending often benefit foreign companies and creditors instead of those in the developing countries;
- Cutbacks in public expenditure mean that women and girls are burdened with work within the home, domestic duties, and/or having to provide increased care for the elderly or the sick at home resulting in them having less time for paid work; and
- Foreign corporations who perpetuate gender inequalities in labour conditions where there is inadequate domestic legislation.

GWI's position

Globalisation could be beneficial for the world's two billion poor, many of whom are girls and women. There is a worldwide failure to recognise women's unpaid labour in the home, the agricultural sector and the informal sector leading to an increase in gender inequality.² Finance-driven globalisation has still not utilised women as a powerful tool to achieve economic sustainability and has deprived them of jobs, property, worker's rights, and social and economic safety nets. Development-centred globalisation will create inclusive growth, reduce poverty and create jobs. Promoting equality and closing the persisting gender gap must be priorities in the [post-2015 development agenda](#).

¹ CORE LABOR STANDARDS HANDBOOK (Manila, Philippines October 2006) P. 30

²<http://www.genderaction.org/images/GA%20Gender%20Guide%20to%20World%20Bank%20and%20IMF%20FINAL.pdf>



Graduate Women
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Policy Position

In order to address the main barriers to the elimination of negative effects of globalisation, GWI urges states to:

1. Recognise that finance-centred globalisation has exacerbated the inequality and insecurity of women and girls;
2. Take immediate action to reduce the feminisation of poverty that has resulted from these policies by focusing on sustainable development;
3. Reject harmful international and national loan conditions, policies, and agreements that are not inclusive or sustainable of women's human rights;
4. Endorse the DOHA Mandate of 2012, outcome of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII) in Doha, Qatar; and
5. Involve civil society, particularly women's organisations, in international consultation processes on globalisation.