



***Families and Family Policies
for Inclusive Societies:
Focus on SDG 16***

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Re-Imagining the World



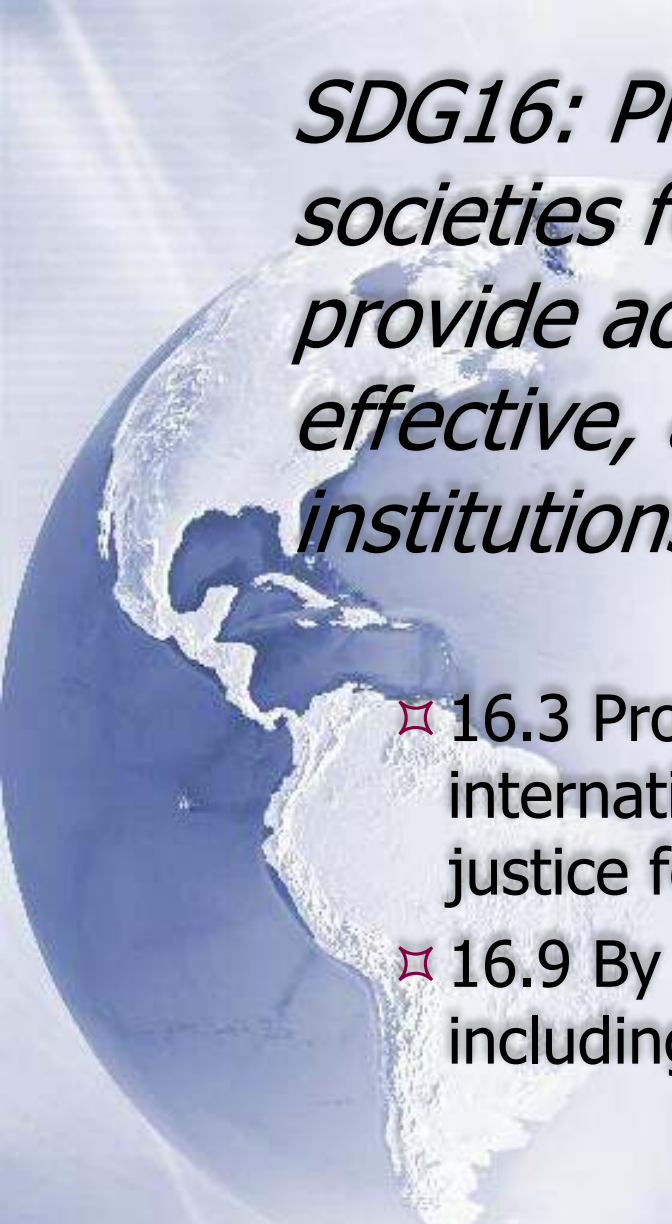
Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- ✧ Adopted September 2015
- ✧ Unique: Every country needs to meet goals
- ✧ Holistic focus on:
 - ✧ Ending poverty
 - ✧ Promoting shared economic prosperity,
 - ✧ Protecting the environment
 - ✧ Social development and people's well-being



✧ The SDGs build on the philosophical foundation of the United Nations:

✧ That all individuals have a right to life's basic necessities including attaining their social rights as well



SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- ✧ 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- ✧ 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

Social Rights are Foundational to Peaceful Inclusive Societies



Challenge to the 2030 Agenda and Specifically SDG 16

- ✧ An important omission is a concrete focus on supporting and strengthening families
- ✧ Success of the SDGs is *dependent* on a family focused approach that takes into consideration the contexts within which decisions about laws, policies, and programmes are made

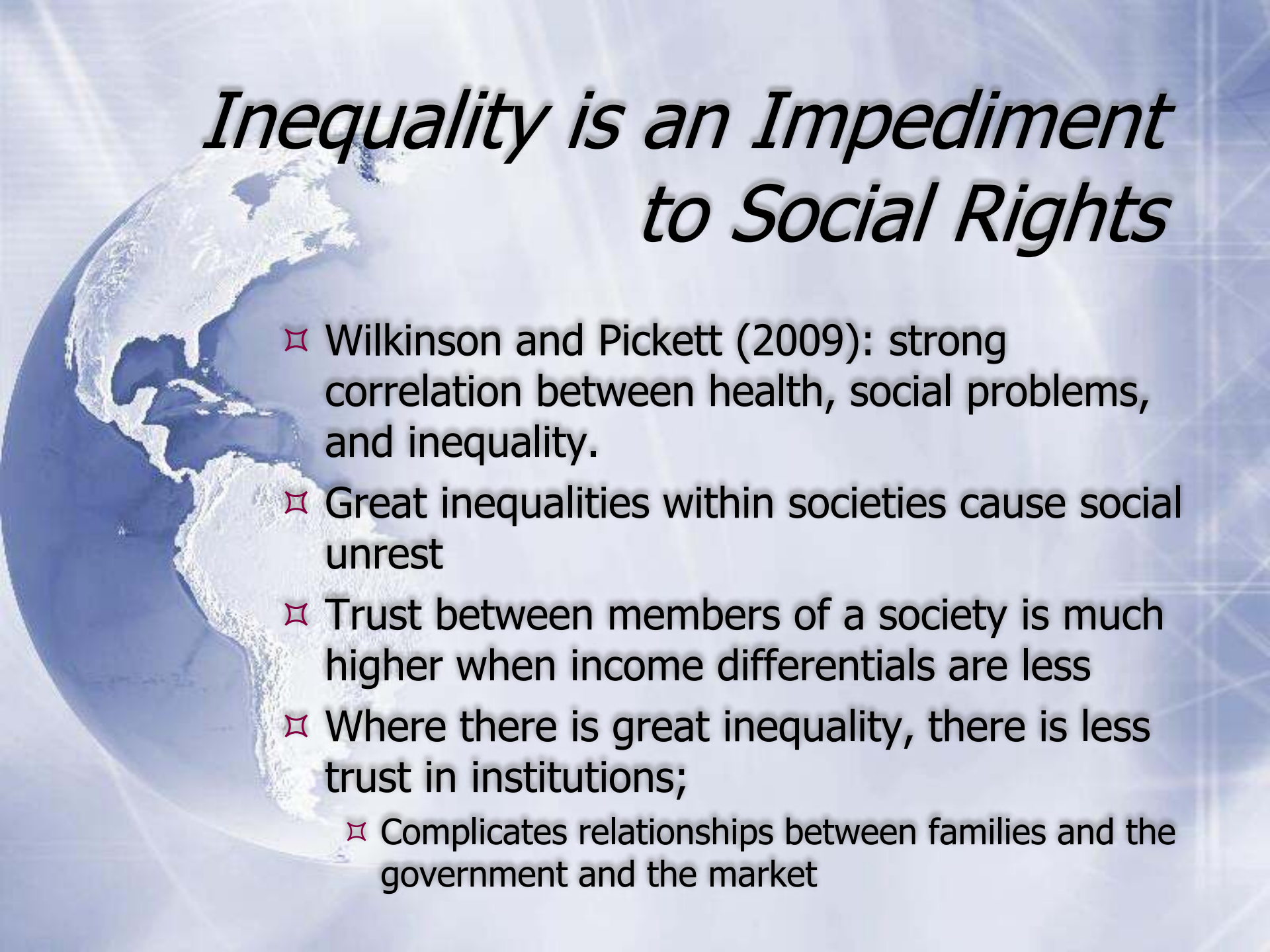
Families Still Matter

1. Provide individuals an initial sense of personal and social identity
2. Families are the unit of basic economic support for their members and for society. They provide shelter, food and clothing for their dependents
3. Families continue to be the most efficient unit for rearing and nurturing children. They promote the well-being, health, education and safety for children and are the primary resource in early life for social status and morals and values
4. Families provide care for those vulnerable individuals that cannot live on their own such as the disabled, the terminally ill, and the frail elderly (Ooms, 1996)



Family Economics are Critical

- ✧ When families are faced with stressful conditions such as extreme poverty, the lack of health insurance, poor childcare and schools or political violence, they are unable to perform their functions in a successful manner
- ✧ A wide-range of studies indicate that the stressors caused by growing up in poverty have long range effects on child and youth development



Inequality is an Impediment to Social Rights

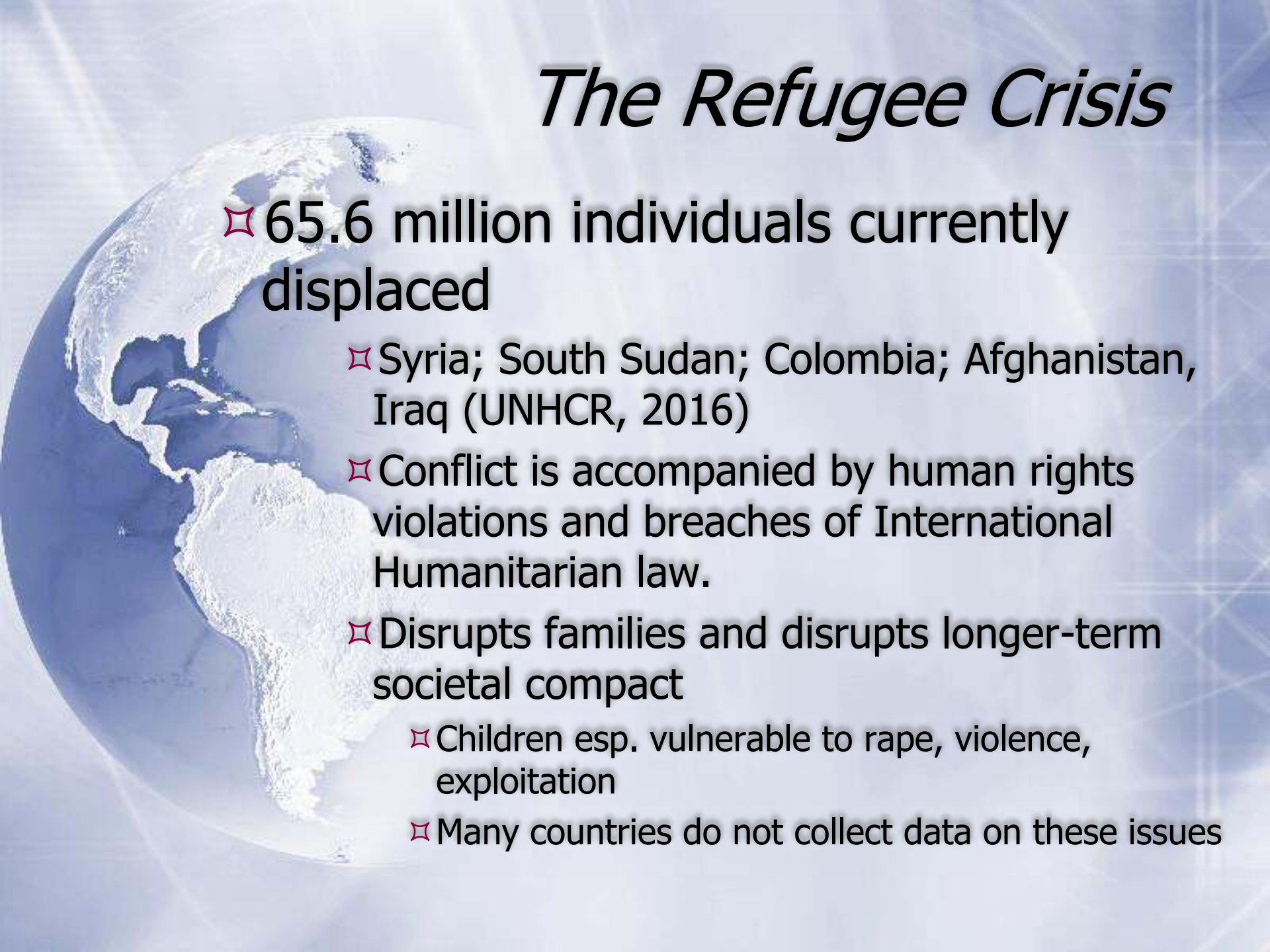
- ✧ Wilkinson and Pickett (2009): strong correlation between health, social problems, and inequality.
- ✧ Great inequalities within societies cause social unrest
- ✧ Trust between members of a society is much higher when income differentials are less
- ✧ Where there is great inequality, there is less trust in institutions;
 - ✧ Complicates relationships between families and the government and the market



Globalization is Impacting Families

- ✧ Markets have become primary force
- ✧ State supports for families are shrinking
- ✧ Importance of family relationships remain and are increasing *including* in the West

The Refugee Crisis



✧ 65.6 million individuals currently displaced

✧ Syria; South Sudan; Colombia; Afghanistan, Iraq (UNHCR, 2016)

✧ Conflict is accompanied by human rights violations and breaches of International Humanitarian law.

✧ Disrupts families and disrupts longer-term societal compact

✧ Children esp. vulnerable to rape, violence, exploitation

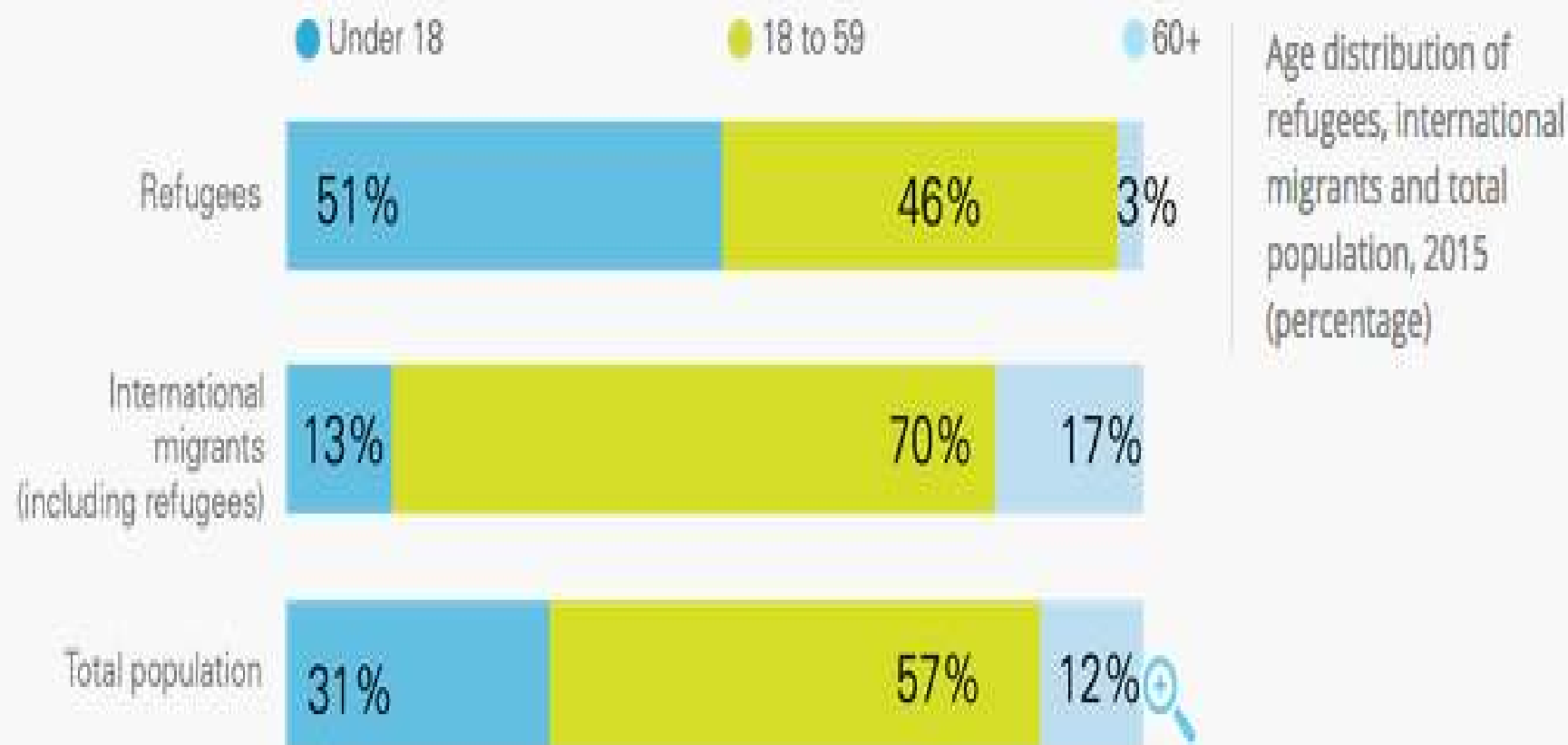
✧ Many countries do not collect data on these issues



Families, Children & Political Violence

- ✧ UNICEF (2018) estimates that currently worldwide, nearly 28 million children have been displaced through force
 - ✧ 17 million children displaced in their countries
 - ✧ 10 million child refugees
 - ✧ 1 million asylum-seeking children
 - ✧ Ex. 170,000 lone child refugees applied for asylum in Europe
- ✧ In 2015, children made up 51 per cent of the world's refugees despite being less than one third of the global population.

The refugee population is much younger than the overall migrant population



Note: Refugees under UNHCR's mandate. An additional 5.2 million Palestinian refugees registered with the UNRWA are not included.



The Growing Youth Population

- ✧ Global population is estimated at about 7.4 billion, out of which 1.8 billion are young people
- ✧ UN report, there are more young people alive today between the ages of 10 and 24 than ever before in the history of human beings (UNFPA, 2014).

2015

Percentage of
10 to 24-year-olds
in population

10% to 19%

20% to 29%

30% or more





Youth Population is both an Asset and a Challenge

- ✧ Educational systems
- ✧ Adequate training opportunities
- ✧ Incorporation into paid labor force
- ✧ Meaningful employment and integration into civic life
- ✧ Every year 120 million reach working age (UNFPA, 2014)



Low-income Contexts & Youth Unemployment Affect Family Life

- ✧ Youth underemployment and unemployment are strongly connected to family life
- ✧ Vulnerable economic conditions = cannot marry, create stable families, can lead to social unrest
- ✧ Life course trajectory is not clear
- ✧ Social media fueling images of inequality
- ✧ Gender issues are rampant especially for poorer girls and women



Promoting Peaceful Societies Through Supporting Families

- ✧ Children who grow up in extreme poverty, without legal identities, or are refugees are less likely to become productive healthy citizens
- ✧ Empirical, longitudinal studies illustrate when families are supported through appropriate policies, societies benefit through having a caring, committed group of citizens



Promoting Peaceful Societies Through Supporting Families

- ✧ Families are the primary unit that promotes peace in society
 - ✧ Secure attachment leads to less hostility

- ✧ Families can create a “sociology of peace” in their family systems:
 - ✧ These models are transformative in national and international contexts

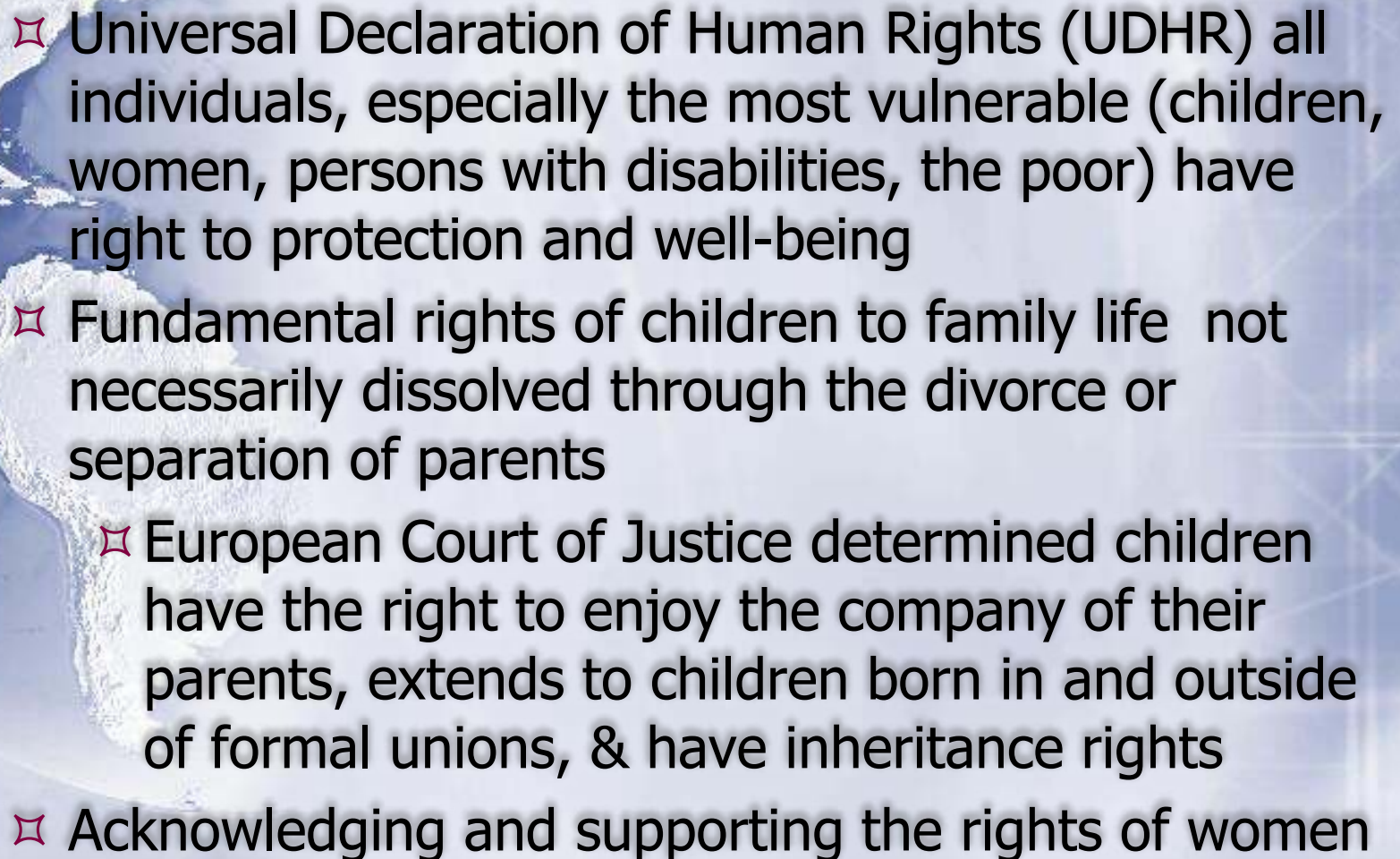
- ✧ Research indicates that when individuals are at peace with themselves, they lead more peaceful lives.



16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

- ✧ Rule of law is foundational to the relationship between individuals, families and states: it is the fundamental social contract between a government and its citizens
- ✧ Complex: inherent tension between legal frameworks that protect individuals and support their wellbeing (a basic function of states) and the intrusion of states into what are understood as personal relationships

Protection under the Law as a Human Right

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- ✧ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) all individuals, especially the most vulnerable (children, women, persons with disabilities, the poor) have right to protection and well-being
 - ✧ Fundamental rights of children to family life not necessarily dissolved through the divorce or separation of parents
 - ✧ European Court of Justice determined children have the right to enjoy the company of their parents, extends to children born in and outside of formal unions, & have inheritance rights
 - ✧ Acknowledging and supporting the rights of women



Legal Frameworks Do Not Always Function for Everyone

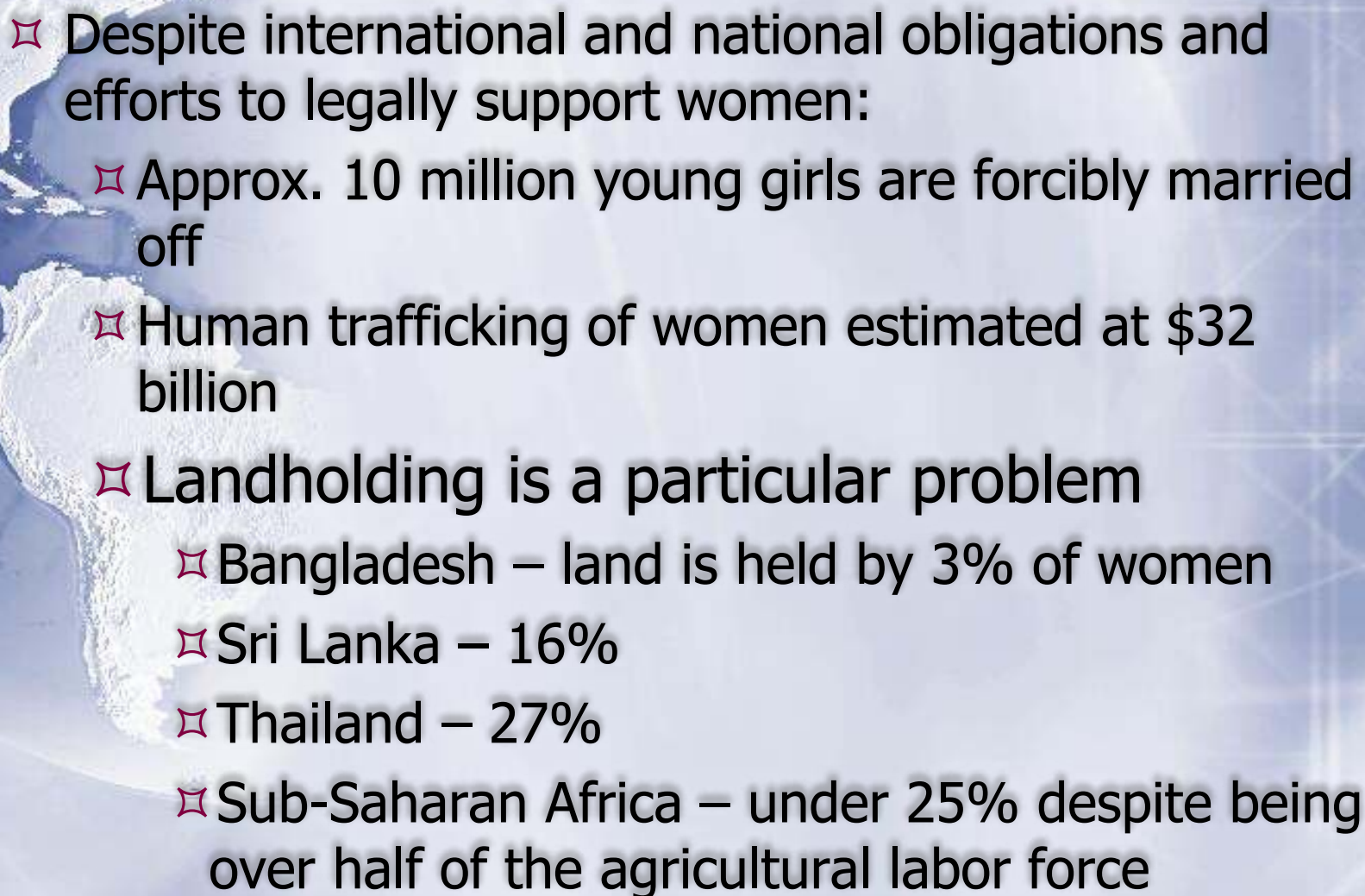
- ✧ Many individuals do not have access to legal procedures (may not have the knowledge)
 - ✧ In Africa 39 countries adopted social policy framework for benefits – but only for those in paid labor force
 - ✧ Excluded workers in the informal sector who accounted for 72 per cent of non-agricultural workers
 - ✧ Korea – childcare leave and wage replacement at 40 percent – men discouraged from taking the benefit due to cultural reasons



Contradictory Bodies of Law

- ✧ Consistent enforcement complex:
 - ✧ Uncoordinated
 - ✧ Insufficient resources
 - ✧ Inadequate monitoring
- ✧ Gender-related discrimination rampant
 - ✧ Legal literacy
 - ✧ Rural and poor women – limited opportunities to interact with administrative bodies
 - ✧ Cultural pressure on women to be “harmonious”
- ✧ Customary law may dominate
 - ✧ Rwanda – women inherit depending on where they are in their family cycle – caretakers, widows, remarried
 - ✧ Sri Lanka – 4 different sets of laws govern inheritance rights
 - ✧ Tanzania & Mozambique – courts uphold women’s rights to land but enforcing the laws as the community level v complex

Women and the Law

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- ❖ Despite international and national obligations and efforts to legally support women:
 - ❖ Approx. 10 million young girls are forcibly married off
 - ❖ Human trafficking of women estimated at \$32 billion
 - ❖ Landholding is a particular problem
 - ❖ Bangladesh – land is held by 3% of women
 - ❖ Sri Lanka – 16%
 - ❖ Thailand – 27%
 - ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa – under 25% despite being over half of the agricultural labor force



Legal Identity is Key

- ✧ 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration – currently no internationally recognized definition
- ✧ 1.1 billion people in the world today lack official identification (ID), including children up to the age of 14 whose birth has never been registered as well as many women in poor rural areas of Africa and Asia (World Bank, 2017).
- ✧ World Bank estimates: 625 million children under the age of 14
- ✧ Legal identity is key to access social protections and resources



Legal Identity is Key

- ❖ Women and vulnerable populations particularly impacted
- ❖ Barriers include lack of freedom of movement, distance, financial cost, illiteracy, lack of awareness; opposition from family members
- ❖ Identification measures make government institutions more accountable and allow for a more precise targeting of vulnerable and at-risk populations



Recommendations



Recommendations For Civil Society & Policy Makers

- ✧ Increase awareness among policy makers on the linkages between family functions and contributions and creating peaceful, inclusive societies
- ✧ Boost states' efforts to enforce the rule of law – specific focus on gender and marginalized populations
- ✧ Emphasize relevant data collection
- ✧ Create national and transnational capacity through the involvement of various stakeholders
- ✧ Prioritise the inclusion, protection and participation of vulnerable populations and families
- ✧ Engage and focus on youth



Recommendations For Civil Society & Policy Makers

- ✧ Encourage the dissemination of information about early childhood development, positive youth development, gender equality and family communication and relationships
 - ✧ Strengthening communication in families
 - ✧ China, Singapore, Taiwan, Canada
- ✧ University programs on family issues
- ✧ Social and digital media expansion
 - ✧ Combatting gender stereo-types



Recommendations For Policy Makers

- ✧ Create centralized family ministries and family services including family hubs with an emphasis on providing
 - ✧ Legal advice
 - ✧ Increasing legal literacy
 - ✧ Simplifying birth registration / instituting late birth registration
 - ✧ UNFPA
 - ✧ Training opportunities
 - ✧ Medical advice and care (including mental health)



Recommendations For Policy Makers

- ✧ Use data to assist women and socially excluded groups gain legal identities:
 - ✧ Example: UNICEF has launched a socio-linguistic map of indigenous communities in order to document where these individuals live, with the goal of providing more accessible services.



Recommendations for Academics


- ✧ Engage in global family-focused research w emphasis on cultural contexts
- ✧ Create interdisciplinary research teams
- ✧ Assist states with relevant quantitative and qualitative data collection focused on families
- ✧ Assist states in creating rights based curricula including with gender focus for both women and men



Peaceful Inclusive Societies Need Strong Families:

- ✧ Families can only thrive in contexts characterized by
 - ✧ The rule of law / attaining legal identities
 - ✧ Economic and social opportunities
 - ✧ Lack of conflict

- ✧ Families need to be able to:
 - ✧ Raise healthy, peaceful children
 - ✧ Have supportive relationships
 - ✧ Support gender equality and opportunities



*It is only through a systemic,
family focused approach that we
can reach the most vulnerable,
individuals and families world-
wide and assist them in realizing
their rights and full potential*



Thank You!