

gender bulletin



UNRWA Gaza © 2013 UNRWA photo by Gauillaume Petermann

monthly updates on gender issues in UNRWA and the region

update of the month

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UNRWA is preparing for International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March. IWD is a worldwide event that celebrates women's social, political, and economical achievements while recognizing the challenges that persist. This year, IWD comes on the heels of unprecedented global movements for women's rights, equality and justice and a rising determination for change.

stories from UNRWA

Using Media As a Tool for Change TV Series and Short Films Addressing Gender-Based Violence

In its on-going efforts to combat gender-based violence (GBV), UNRWA seeks to tap the full potential of different ways to do so. It is working with a range of methods, including short films and TV series which will be broadcasted on the UNRWA TV channel.

By featuring characters and stories people can connect and identify with, series and short films have the capability to make people rethink certain issues and possibly spark a debate and affect change.

As part of the Building Safety Project on GBV in emergencies, UNRWA is working on the development of a TV series. The episodes, which will be broadcasted on UNRWA TV, feed into a broader effort that is part of the Agency's work on GBV prevention. This aims at raising awareness and building knowledge on the root causes of GBV related to gender discrimination and stereotypical notions on the roles of women, men, girls and boys in society.

The series also aim at engaging with communities to bring about change by empowering women and girls, men and boys to take an active part in the prevention of GBV and partner in creating positive coping mechanisms and community protection strategies that will strengthen GBV prevention in the long term. The series will be broadcasted in all fields of

operations. They will serve as a valuable resource for future deployment of GBV prevention messages. In the same vein, the Gaza field office is working on the development of a series of short films addressing the issue of child marriage. Narrated from the perspective of children, the films shed light on common realities and stories of child marriage, focusing on the feelings and experiences of the children and the impact it has on their lives.

Already at the end of 2016, the West Bank field office also produced a series of short films that engage with the issue of child marriage. The short films, called "My Story, Our Voices", highlight the voices of child marriage survivors and their communities as they share their experiences and speak out about the causes and impacts of child marriage in the West Bank.

These compelling personal stories explore the effects that child marriage has on the health, education and life opportunities of women and girls. The short films were screened on several occasions and are also available on Youtube.

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Inspiring Story

Moroccan initiative to promote gender equality through art

Moroccan illustrator Zainak Fasiki hopes to promote gender equality in the region through an initiative dedicated to women who want to develop their skills in the art world. The Jawjab collaborative space in Casablanca will host each month around 20 women who will benefit from a one-day training programme in different artistic disciplines around the theme of gender equality. The programmes started on 21 January 2018 with a video production on the theme of violence against women. [Read more.](#)

Events of Interest

11th Cairo International Women's Film Festival

3–9 March. Cairo, Egypt.

The Cairo International Women's Film Festival (Arabic: مهرجان القاهرة الدولي لسينما المرأة) is an independent initiative dedicated to introducing films directed by women from around the world —not necessarily addressing women's issues—to explore the perspectives of female filmmakers. The festival, initially founded by a group of women who work in the cultural management field, has organised screenings of films in various other countries over the past ten years, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Bolivia, and many more. [Read more.](#)

Self-paced courses, UN Women
UN Women's online training has launched four new self-paced courses in different languages. Self-paced courses allow learners to access content at their pace, and from anywhere at any time. Amongst the new available courses in 2018 are "Understanding Masculinities and Violence Against Women and Girls: An Introduction" and "Introduction to Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)". [Read more.](#)

Regional News

oPt

The Filastiniyat Foundation, a local media association aimed at promoting the active participation of Palestinian women and youth on all decision-making levels in Gaza, encourages debates in Palestinian society through the annual Debate Tournament for Gaza Universities. In an effort to combat intolerance and encourage respect and the ability to form convincing arguments, each youth team has to prepare and present opposing viewpoints on a specific political, social or economic hypothesis suggested by the organizing party. [Read more.](#)

Jordan

The Jordanian National Commission for Women has welcomed a circular by Prime Minister Hani Mulki at the end of January calling on all ministries, official departments and public bodies not to

specify the sex of the candidates to fill available job vacancies, noting that "the candidate selection shall be carried out according to competitive eligibility regardless of gender, except in those cases of compulsory nature". [Read more.](#)

Lebanon

Based on the belief that gender equality will only be achieved if men and boys are also involved, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) runs training sessions led by male peer mentors to encourage men in Lebanon to rethink gender roles. They learn about the damaging impact of marriage and discuss alternatives to child marriages. Over the next three years, the UNFPA will train 200 men to be peer leaders in their communities, and in turn, they will reach more than 18,000 men by inviting them to the sessions. [Read more.](#)

Reports & Resources

Gender-Inclusive Language Guidelines + Gender Lexicon, UN Women
In its effort to promote gender equality, UN Women acknowledges the key role of language in shaping cultural and societal attitudes. The Gender-Inclusive Language Guidelines therefore promote a language that avoids bias toward a particular sex and is less likely to convey gender stereotypes. In addition, UN Women launched a gender lexicon, including some 650 entries and related terminology in English, French and Spanish. [Read more.](#)

Model Law to Tackle Violence Against Women, Kafa
Developed with the input of more than 15 women's rights organizations in the

region, the Lebanese NGO Kafa launched the 'Regional Model Law on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Arab Countries'. It provides best practice wording for legislation on VAWG in line with international conventions on human rights. [Read more.](#)

Report: The State of Gender Justice in the Arab Region, UN ESCWA
This report by UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) maps the current state of gender justice in the Arab region, documenting barriers as well as opportunities. Its primary research aim is to determine how to develop an environment, at the legal, policy, and social levels that is conducive to gender justice. [Read more.](#)

Facts of the Month

25 per cent

of parliamentarians worldwide are women. [Read more.](#)

1 in 5

women have experienced online harassment or abuse, the vast majority happening on social media sites. [Read more.](#)



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UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5 million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, protection and microfinance.

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