



During the 16 days of activism campaign © 2019 UNRWA

monthly updates on gender issues in unrwa and the region

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UNRWA started the preparation to mark International Women's Day (IWD). UNRWA planned activities will celebrate women and girls' social, political, and economical achievements while recognizing the challenges that persist. This year United Nations theme is: "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights" and UNRWA activities will include an inter-generational dialogue on gender roles.

stories from unrwa

GAGE Forum at UNRWA

In the January 2020 Gender Forum UNRWA hosted Dr. Nicola Jones director of GAGE and her team to present their most recent research involving vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Jordan and Gaza. GAGE Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) is a nine-year (2015-2024) mixed methods longitudinal research programme focused on what works to support adolescent girls' and boys' capabilities in the second decade of life and beyond. Gage research focuses on six capability domains: (1) education and learning; (2) health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health; (3) bodily integrity and freedom from violence; (4) psychosocial well-being; (5) voice and agency; and (6) economic empowerment. They recognize that adolescents' capability outcomes are highly dependent on family/household, community, state and global contexts, and that change strategies must work with all actors across each level to create sustainable change.

The session was attended by staff from Education and Protection departments at UNRWA and was deemed insightful by all attendees. More [here](#).

The Women's economic empowerment Conference in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

UNRWA was recently invited to take part in the "The Women's economic empowerment Conference in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" on Thursday 23 Jan 2020. The aim of this conference was to gather various stakeholders including policy makers, government decision makers, private sector, financial sector, civil society and advocates to focus on creating opportunities for women's economic empowerment on a national and subnational level. The conference also focused on addressing the challenges to the environment and conditions that women-led businesses need to thrive, and advance women's participation in national and local value chains.

The government introduced their plan in achieving inclusive economic growth by highlighting the "National Women Economic Empowerment Plan 2019-2024" and the forthcoming National Women's strategy 2020-2025" which emphasises women's entry into the labour market as a key factor in the Kingdom's economic growth. More [here](#).



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inspiring story

A recent study by Northwestern University found that 26 per cent of independent Arab filmmakers are women, while only 8 per cent of the directors of 2018's top 250 films in the US were women. Some female Arab directors have a higher international profile than men working in the region – including Lebanon's **Nadine Labaki**, whose Oscar-nominated and Cannes prize-winning film *Capernaum*. Another first-time Arab female filmmaker, Syrian journalist **Waad Al Khateab**, who co-directed *For Sama*, is now tipped for the Oscars, after the film won four British Independent Film Awards. More [here](#).

events of interest

The International Training Centre located in Turin, Italy is conducting a **Gender and Organizational change workshop**. The workshop discusses how organizations can become gender responsive and transformative. The course analyses success stories and barriers and goes deeper by looking at gender as part of an organizational change management strategy, rather than as a stand-alone item on the agenda. The dates of the workshop are **30 March – 3 April 2020** and will be held at the Turin Centre. More [here](#).

The upcoming **UN Commission on the Status of Women (9 – 20 March) and the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico (7-8 May)** will provide opportunities for partners to come together and further shape the Action Coalition Blueprints. The Action Coalitions will be officially launched during the Generation Equality Forum from **7 to 10 July in Paris**, and further amplified at the UN General Assembly in **September 2020**. More [here](#).

regional news

UAE: Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP) will launch a coding academy for women and girls this year in a joint venture with a non-profit organization, Women in Technology. Ayumi Moore Aoki, Founder and President of Women in Technology, said that coding is the most universal language that exists and is the language of creativity and innovation. "There is a biased idea that women are not good at coding and men are better. Our goal is to educate, equip and empower women and girls with the necessary skills to succeed in the professional fields

of STEM. We will have scholarships from women all over the world to study coding here. It is also the first academy for us worldwide and is expected to open doors later this year." They have opened eight chapters worldwide and the ninth is in Sharjah, also the first in the Middle East. More [here](#).

Jordan: Ambassador **Nahid Sobhan**, the first Bangladeshi woman, to become a top envoy in the Middle East, has vowed to promote gender equality and do more to protect Bangladeshi female workers abroad. She will lead the Bangladeshi mission in Amman, Jordan. More [here](#).

reports & resources

Guidelines to Estimate the Economic Cost of Domestic Violence in the Arab region

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), published guidelines on how to estimate the costs of domestic violence in the Arab region. They discuss the purpose and importance of costing domestic violence, how to translate the research findings into concrete actions, and four case studies which have successfully undertaken or are in the process of undertaking costing studies. More [here](#).

Global Gender Gap Report 2020

The World Economic Forum released its Global Gender Gap report late December 2019. The report benchmarked 153 countries progress towards achieving Gender equality based on four categories - educational attainment, economic participation and opportunity health and survival, as well as political empowerment. The report presents a mixed picture in which the overall quest towards gender parity has improved however greater political representations for women remains the worst-performing dimension globally. More [here](#).

facts of the month

18 countries

allow men to prohibit their wives from working

50 per cent

Women cannot apply for a passport on their own in 50 per cent of the Middle East and North Africa countries



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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 5.6 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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