



Snow and frost on poplar and larch. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of the editor.

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Job Openings with Fund for Innovation and Transformation FIT

<https://fit-fit.ca/webinars-updates/>

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) is designed to support Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South. FIT's goal is to cultivate a working environment in which SMOs are empowered to experiment, fail, adapt and try again.

Three opportunities are available until filled. **Apply now.**

- Program Officer, Capacity Development/Mentoring
- Program Assistant
- Financial Coordinator

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2. Master's in Environmental & Social Change program

<https://esrg.uwinnipeg.ca/>

The Environment & Society Research Group and Canada Research Chair in Human-Environment Interactions at The University of Winnipeg have five opportunities for new graduate students in the Master in Environmental & Social Change program at The University of Winnipeg (MA or MEnv) starting September 2022. **Apply now.**

- Indigenous-led Community Engagement and Assessment for Rural, Northern and Remote Development (2 opportunities)
- A First Nation Community-University Partnership for Capacity Enhancement in Forest Land Governance
- Climate Learning and Adaptation for Northern Development (2 opportunities)

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3. Target Gender Equality Program

<https://globalcompact.ca/target-gender-equality-program/>

<https://unglobalcompact.org/take-action/target-gender-equality>

Target Gender Equality is a year-long accelerator program for participating companies of the UN Global Compact to set and reach ambitious corporate targets for women’s representation and leadership. Global Compact Network Canada is offering Target Gender Equality **from March 2021 to March 2022**. By joining the Target Gender Equality program, participating companies will receive benefits as described in the program brochure.

Through facilitated performance analysis, capacity building workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country-level, companies can deepen the implementation of the Women’s Empowerment Principles and strengthen their contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5.5 which calls for women’s full participation and equal opportunities for leadership, including in economic life, by 2030.

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4. Enabling successful careers in agriculture

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/enabling-successful-careers-in-agriculture-a-chat-with-fcc-senior-leaders-tickets-200559628247>

The next AgChat, coordinated by Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food MAAF, will be chaired by Michael Hoffort (FCC President and CEO) and Sophie Perreault (EVP & FCC Chief Operating Officer) on **Jan 24, 2022**. FCC is Farm Credit Canada, a financial lender that reports to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food through annual reports, corporate plans and quarterly financials.

Join Michael and Sophie as they reflect on their experiences in building their careers – 60 years combined – and enabling career development among their peers at FCC. Together, they will share how FCC has evolved its approach to diversity and inclusion, sharing personal and organizational anecdotes from their time working at the federal Crown corporation. They will also discuss what it means to enable successful careers in the ag industry in a more general sense.

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5. C2022 National CES Conference | Call for Committee Volunteers

<https://evaluationcanada.ca/about-us>

Planning for the Canadian Evaluation Society C2022 conference in **Winnipeg** has begun. Pending health restrictions within the province, the C2022 conference will be held **in person from June 13th to June 15th, 2022**. However, we still require volunteers to commit 8 to 10 hours a month leading up to the conference to help with organizing/reviewing presentations, workshops, a thematic breakfast, marketing, on-site volunteering, and completing an evaluation of the conference itself.

All volunteer requirements may be completed virtually (i.e., you do not have to reside within Winnipeg or Manitoba to help). If you are interested in serving on any committee please contact the conference Co-Chair, Ryan Catte at president_cesmb@evaluationcanada.ca

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6. Global Skills Opportunity pilot program

<https://globalskillsopportunity.ca/global-skills-opportunity-101/>

The program aims to empower post-secondary institutions to increase the participation of young Canadians—especially underrepresented students—in international learning opportunities both at home and abroad.

Global Skills Opportunity is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, administered jointly by Colleges and Institutes Canada and Universities Canada. Projects are implemented by participating colleges and universities across the country.

- *Student Mobility Projects* empowers Canadian students, especially underrepresented students, to take advantage of international learning experiences and to develop skills such as problem solving, adaptability, resilience, and intercultural competency.
- *Innovation Funded* projects support institutions and their researchers as they build on and enhance strategic priority areas, accelerate current research and technology development, and take already-established capabilities to a globally competitive level.

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7. Women's Empowerment Principles 101

https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I1PLUbg9TvKPfsvzllzVZQ

UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact are pleased to invite you to the *Women's Empowerment Principles 101 – Empowering Women in the Workplace, Marketplace, and Community* virtual session. It will provide an overview of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and how the WEPs provide a strong framework to support companies when striving for gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and community. Join us to learn more about the WEPs, available tools, and obtain guidance on the sign-on process. **Feb 3, 2022 11:00 AM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

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8. Professional Development, STEM (Science Tech Engineering Math), Conference

<https://www.ccwestt.org/conference/>

The national CCWESTT Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference will be taking place in **Halifax, May 12-14, 2022** at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. WISEatlantic, along with Women in Aerospace Canada – Atlantic, will be co-hosting this event. The conference highlights activities by member organizations, industry partners and government initiatives that are working towards a more diverse and inclusive SETT workforce in Canada.

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This Month's News

1. Women claim their space in land governance

<https://www.iied.org/women-claim-their-space-land-governance>

Guest blogger Megan Huth details how USAID is employing a novel approach to ensure that rural women participate in decisions about land and natural resource use in Liberia.

Like most tenure systems in Liberia, land rights are based on customary laws derived from local lineage-based governance systems. But the lack of community-led land governance tools has left many rural communities – and women in particular – stripped of their rights to forests or viable agricultural land.

Despite the legal provisions of 2018 Land Rights Act, discriminatory gender norms prevent women from speaking about and participating in political matters in rural communities. Village leadership roles are almost always held by men.

In the run-up to the committee elections, SDI highlighted land experts and civil society leaders on 'Radio Life', a radio programme that was broadcast multiple times. In the week prior to committee elections, coordinators led gender-focused discussions focused on women's land rights, women's participation in land and natural resource management and strategies to effectively work with male counterparts. A candidate gave a memorable campaign speech to the community, calling for women to stand up and support each other.

In June 2021, four women were elected to both the vice-chairperson and treasurer leadership positions in the committees.

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2. More than a third of world's population have never used internet, says UN

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/nov/30/more-than-a-third-of-worlds-population-has-never-used-the-internet-says-un>

Nearly 3 billion people – or 37% of the world's population – have never used the internet, according to the United Nations, despite the Covid-19 pandemic driving people online.

But the growth has been uneven. Internet access is often unaffordable in poorer nations – almost three-quarters of people have never been online in the 46 least-developed countries.

Younger people, men and urban dwellers are more likely to use the internet than older adults, women, and those in rural areas, with the gender gap more pronounced in developing nations.

Poverty, illiteracy, limited electricity access and a lack of digital skills continued to challenge the “digitally excluded”, the ITU added.

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3. How gender equity can boost agricultural business and food production

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/how-gender-equity-can-boost-agricultural-business-and-food-production-102163>

FMS founder Bunmi Akingba recognized that though opportunities for women in industry and businesses had improved somewhat in towns and cities, it was not the same in rural areas. Issues include limited access to resources or profits for women, with their husbands often having control of farms.

Evaluating 58 agriculture-based organizations that IDH has worked with via its smallholder engagement model initiative Farmfit, it found that just two — or 4% — were “gender-transformative,” meaning they took a data-driven approach to understanding the differing needs of male and female employees, tailoring services for equitable access and workplace inclusivity, and trying to address the causes of gender-based inequalities by trying to transform social and cultural norms.

At IDH, which worked with Safaricom and DigiFarm on inclusive and sustainable solutions, van der Velden believes getting the message across about the long-term benefits of gender-inclusive policies in food production is key to overcoming resistance to change. The idea is that gender-inclusive business models need to make business sense and impact the bottom line to gain traction among companies and funders. This is of central importance to IDH, which is working to make all its programs gender-transformative by 2030.

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4. Pakistan: Gender-Intentional Policy Can Make Agent Banking Work Better

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/11/pakistan-gender-intentional-policy-can-make-agent-banking-work-better/>

Many women in Pakistan remain financially excluded. In 2020, only 7% of the female population had a formal account. One of the reasons for this is that agent networks — the bridge between the cash economy and digital financial services — remain largely inaccessible to many women. Approaching policy and regulation through a gender-intentional lens that considers prevailing social norms can help regulators affect positive change in this arena.

Agent networks are recognized as a powerful enabler for the expansion of digital financial services to low-income populations, particularly in rural areas. They can increase access to financial services by lowering the cost of delivery in otherwise hard-to-reach areas.

Agents can also support women during onboarding and use of digital financial services. However, agent networks are part of a market system deeply influenced by social norms and policies that may perpetuate or exacerbate gender inequalities. The reality is that women often don't have equal access to agent banking.

The forthcoming gender-intentional "Banking on Equality" policy is a positive step, and the State Bank of Pakistan has recently taken concrete measures to address the issue.

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5. Clean Cooking Alliance Newsletter

<https://cleancooking.org/news/>

The December 2021 newsletter provides quarterly updates from the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) and partners across the clean cooking ecosystem.

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6. Loans keep women afloat as they plant fast-vanishing mangroves in Kenya

<https://news.trust.org/item/20211206010922-r873q>

Coastal communities rely on mangroves to provide habitats for fish and protect their homes from flooding - and giving financial incentives to plant more can boost conservation

Today, the women of Kizingitini no longer have to struggle to both make a living and conserve the mangroves, thanks to a loan scheme that helps them keep food on the table so they can afford to continue planting.

"This has led to increased participation of women and youth in conservation and community development, as well as reduced gender inequality," said Hassan Yussuf, a regional director at the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), the Kenyan conservation group that implements the project.

Among those receiving loans are Abudhi and the other members of the Kizingitini Women Fishers Group who have been protecting mangroves along the Indian Ocean coast on Pate Island for years. For her work, each woman first got 25,000 Kenyan shillings (\$220), Abudhi explained. After a two-month grace period, the women are expected to repay the loan in chunks of 3,000 shillings per month for a year, then they are eligible to borrow more money. Such low-interest loans can be a huge help to women who lack other means of borrowing the money they need to support and expand their businesses.

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7. As eco-anxieties mount, Africa's young people urge action on climate

<http://news.trust.org/item/20211206171212-mjznt/>

DURBAN, Dec 6 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - As climate change takes a heavy toll on Africa, about two-thirds of the continent's young people are pushing for bolder policy action or trying to reduce their own carbon footprint, a new survey has found.

From locust infestations in the east to devastating droughts in the south, the impacts of climate change are being felt across the continent, which is responsible for only 3% of global carbon emissions.

While 70% of Africa's youth are concerned about climate change, less than half are satisfied with how their leaders are tackling it, the survey found.

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8. Opinion: The key to funding gender equality? Context and collaboration

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-the-key-to-funding-gender-equality-context-and-collaboration-101993>

To promote women's leadership and an intersectional feminist recovery, we need to address deep-seated systemic and institutional issues underlying COVID-19 and other crises. But how do we get more funding to support these efforts, and deploy this funding in a way that gets to the roots of structural inequality?

These questions guide the development of Co-Impact's new Gender Fund, which aims to raise and deploy \$1 billion over the next decade. Through this latest, as well as subsequent open calls, we will invest in initiatives that tackle the root sources of inequality: the systems that control resources and shape the lives of millions of people.

The following three core principles are the basis for the fund's model:

- Recognizing and addressing the systemic nature of gender inequality.
- Supporting partners deeply rooted in the contexts they seek to change.
- Funding in a way that goes beyond short-term, restricted grants.

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9. Cool Scheme to Reduce Food Waste in Nigeria

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/12/cool-scheme-reduce-food-waste-nigeria>

Food spoilage forced smallholder farmers out of pocket and out of business – until an entrepreneur came up with a cool idea. Growing up on a farm in Southern Nigeria, Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu observed how smallholder farmers rushed to sell their produce before sunset to avoid spoiling or selling it at give-away prices. Ikegwuonu came up with a cool idea to save the produce from spoiling: solar-powered cold rooms.

ColdHubs Ltd is a Nigerian social enterprise that designs, installs, operates and rents walk-in cold rooms known as 'ColdHubs'. The Cold Hubs can store and preserve fresh fruits, vegetables and other perishable foods, extending their shelf life from two to 21 days.

Farmers and retailers rent out the walk-in cold rooms for a low fee of \$0.25 (100 Naira) per 20kg plastic crate for one day. Each cold room has a capacity of storing three tonnes of food with other storage units that can hold 10 tons and 100 tons of food at a time.

Ikegwuonu said in designing the cold rooms, emphasis was placed on the solar power generation capacity to run the cold rooms every day of the week. The units generate energy from rooftop solar panels during the day. The energy is transferred and stored in batteries that run the cold rooms at night.

Currently, 54 cold rooms are operating in 38 clusters across two states in Nigeria, and Ikegwuonu plans to double the number in 2022. ColdHubs have created 66 jobs for young women by hiring and training them as hub operators and market attendants. The ColdHubs, located in outdoor markets, serve more than 5 000 smallholder farmers, retailers and wholesalers in Nigeria.

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10. Research chair in beef production systems at the University of Alberta

<https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/features/from-recife-to-edmonton-dr-gleise-silva-takes-the-helm-of-new-research-chair/>

Growing up in Recife, Brazil, an Atlantic port city criss-crossed by bridges and waterways that draws comparisons to Venice, Dr. Gleise Silva may have seemed like an unlikely candidate for a future beef cattle research chair.

But Silva knew she wanted to work with animals one day. Her interest in agriculture and animals persisted through high school, driving her to study animal science at the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco in Recife.

Silva was recently appointed as the inaugural Beef Cattle Research Council-Hays research chair in beef production systems at the University of Alberta. While piloting the maiden voyage of the research program, her goal is to find ways for beef producers to lower the costs of producing forage while leading in sustainable production.

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) has committed \$1.5 million over the next 10 years for the new program and the University of Alberta is matching the commitment. Dan and Kathy Hays have pledged \$1 million towards the chair. Dan is a university alumnus and former Canadian senator, and his father, Harry, created the Hays Converter beef breed, which the family donated to the university for research. Cargill and McDonald's Restaurants of Canada also contributed.

Teaching will be part of Silva's role, showing students how and why it's necessary to be knowledgeable in multiple areas of industry. Producer extension will also be key, ensuring that research results are relevant, useful to and adopted by producers, says Bergen.

A few examples of technology transfer could include improved forage options, enhanced gut function (which will reduce methane emissions) and improving cattle health, resulting in using fewer antibiotics.

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11. New research supports a gender-equal recovery through low-carbon innovation

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/new-research-supports-gender-equal-recovery-through-low-carbon-innovation>

Over the next three years, 12 new research projects supported by IDRC will address the gender barriers that hinder women's access to economic opportunities, while supporting sustainable climate-resilient recovery.

Africa

- Aquaculture of seaweeds and fish: Opportunities for blue economic empowerment and COVID-19 resilience in Kenya
- Energy transition for the economic empowerment of women through the horticultural value chain in a post-COVID context in Guinea and Senegal
- Land restoration for post-COVID rural and Indigenous women's empowerment and poverty reduction in Cameroon
- Prioritizing options for women's empowerment and resilience in food tree value chains in Malawi
- Reorienting the private sector to enable climate-smart agricultural solutions to address gender inequalities

Asia

- ASEAN green recovery through equity and empowerment
- Co-producing a shock-resilient business ecosystem for women-led enterprises in Nepal
- Economic empowerment of women through forest solutions

Latin America

- Creating Indigenous women's green jobs under low-carbon COVID-19 response and recovery in the Bolivian quinoa sector
- Promoting women’s empowerment in agricultural value chains for a low-carbon transition in Central America
- Tourism as an engine of gender-inclusive and sustainable development in Bolivia

The Middle East

- Gaza food connections – Towards resilient women-led urban agroecological farming initiatives

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12. Fund for Innovation and Transformation – 4th Intake Results

<https://fit-fit.ca/wp-content/uploads/Intake-4-Industry-Release-EN.pdf>

Ten innovations have been selected as part of FIT’s 4th intake, bringing our total funded organizations to 41. Each organization has been awarded between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to test an innovative solution focused on advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in the Global South.

This intake’s innovative solutions centre on themes such as Agriculture, Livelihoods and Health, and will be tested throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Included in this round are the following projects:

- i. CEED Concordia. Blended Learning Solution to Advance Gender Equality in Education in Uganda.
- ii. Humber Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning. Entrepreneurship+ Digital Livelihoods+ Creative Arts: Socio-economic Empowerment of Women Refugees in Kenya (EDC-Kenya).
- iii. iDE Canada. Safer Farming for Nepali Women.
- iv. Journalists for Human Rights (JHR). Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights through Media Development in Mali.
- v. NorQuest College. Empowering Women in Rural India by Debunking Feminine Eye Health Myths.
- vi. The Roll a Hippo Foundation Skills Training + Tools + Water = Food Security for Impoverished Women in South Africa.
- vii. St Mary's Road United Church. Engaging culture and community to address and change persistent harmful gender norms and attitudes in Zimbabwe.
- viii. Union for Progress Inc. Femmes pour l’Innovation et la Transformation in Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ix. Université de Sherbrooke. Innovation radicale du modèle d'affaires des systèmes agroforestiers (contexte de conservation) Cutting-Edge Innovation of Agroforestry Systems’ Business Model in a Conservation Context in Cameroon.
- x. Veterinarians without Borders. Edible Insect Farming for Improved Nutrition and Income in South Sudan.

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13. Rural Women in Peru Seed Water Today to Harvest It Tomorrow

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/12/rural-women-peru-seed-water-today-harvest-tomorrow/>

The Agroecological School of the Flora Tristan Peruvian Women’s Center is a non-governmental institution that has worked for the recovery of water sources through traditional techniques known as seeding and harvesting water in this part of the southern Andean region of Cuzco.

So far, these works are focused on the afforestation of 15 hectares and the construction of six “cochas” – the name for small earthen ponds, in the Quechua language – and an infiltration ditch, as part of a plan that will be expanded with other initiatives over the next two years. The ditch, which is one kilometer long in 10-meter stretches, 60 centimeters deep and 40 centimeters wide and is located in the upper part of the community, collects rainwater instead of letting it run down the slopes. The technique allows water to infiltrate slowly in order to feed natural springs, high altitude wetlands or small native prairies, as well as the cochas.

Since agriculture is the main livelihood of the families and this activity depends on rainwater, the main impact will be the availability of water during the increasingly prolonged dry periods to irrigate their crops, ensure harvests and avoid hunger, for both villagers and their livestock.

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14. Indonesia's carbon-rich mangroves in fashion with women weavers

<https://news.trust.org/item/20211215005731-t83vv/>

Indonesia - the world's largest archipelagic country and its biggest home of wetland forests - counts about 3.3 million hectares (8.15 million acres) of mangroves across its rivers, basins and shorelines, an area larger than Belgium. Mangroves have an outsize role in sequestering planet-heating carbon dioxide emissions, storing one-third of the world's coastal carbon stock and about five times as much per hectare as Indonesia's upland forests.

Schemes are underway in several provinces in a bid to demonstrate to communities the practical value of keeping their mangroves standing. This includes making hand sanitizer with an extract from the mangrove trees. It has been patented by a university in Semarang city, on Java Island, and accredited by Indonesia's industry ministry.

Textile weavers adopt natural dyes derived from the sap and fruit of local trees, supporting broader efforts to conserve mangroves. The jengkol tree is used for darker shades, pinang for orange and bixa for red.

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15. Young Agrarians' land-sharing program

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-matchmaking-program-could-help-farmers-find-land-1.6289146>

A networking organization for young farmers is trying to connect them with people who have land to spare in Alberta. Young Agrarians, an organization that helps new farmers share knowledge, plans to replicate its successful B.C. land-sharing program in Alberta, matching veteran farmers with upstarts who cannot afford land of their own. Partnering with local counties near Edmonton, the group has been holding workshops on land-linking, and it published a land access guide earlier in 2021.

Young Agrarians' land-matching program is still in the planning stages in Alberta, but its program in B.C. has yielded 179 matches on more than 8,800 acres of land.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Converging Women's Cooperatives and Agroecology to Create Gender-Transformative Food Systems

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/generation-2030/stronger-together-converging-womens-cooperatives-and-agroecology-to-create-gender-transformative-food-systems/>

Within this year’s historic UN Food Systems Summit, there was significant discussion surrounding the creation of gender-just and gender-transformative food systems. Highlights:

- Addressing the gender gap in agriculture and food systems is essential to the achievement of all 17 of the SDGs.
- Women-only cooperatives are proven to bridge the resource gap that hinders the ability of women farmers to reap the benefits of their labor.
- It is essential to integrate the practice of agroecology into women’s farming cooperatives to maximize their positive outcomes, profitability, and sustainability.

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2. Mobilising for change: How women's social movements are transforming gender norms

<https://www.alignplatform.org/resources/report-mobilising-for-change>

<https://odi.org/en/publications/mobilising-for-change-how-womens-social-movements-are-transforming-gender-norms/>

While existing literature on women’s political mobilisation does not tend to focus on ‘norm change’ directly, research does suggest that women’s political mobilisation has an impact on gender norms. This report argues that such an impact is achieved through two main pathways:

1. promoting legal and/or policy change, which institutes new normative orders, and thus provides incentives or disincentives for attitudinal and behavioural change.
2. encouraging the renegotiation of gender roles and relations within society, targeting gendered attitudes and behaviours directly (whether held by men or women) that underpin gender injustice.

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3. Why mobilising against male violence changes everything

<https://odi.org/en/insights/does-marching-for-change-change-anything-mobilising-against-male-violence-changes-everything/>

In the face of inadequate policy and legal responses to, and normative restraint on, violence in women’s lives, we take to the streets. Each time, however, we may ask - is this making a difference? In search of an answer, ALIGN research unpacked how action by social movements is indeed transforming gender norms.

What this moment demands, is that we confront the deeper drivers of men’s violence – both towards women and other men. It means starting early by re-thinking how we socialise our children and how social media content influences attitudes and behaviours. It means wholistic sex education and in-school conversations such as those promoted by the feminist movement *Everyone’s Invited* holding men and boys accountable to sexually violent behaviours in UK schools. This can sow improved and healthy understandings of relationships and romance. And it means facing up to the role of pornography in promoting excessively sexually violent and misogynistic material.

And what can men do? Calling out sexist banter and harassment is a start, alongside adding their voices to the calls of women activists, taking on childcare and domestic work, and educating their sons about consent.

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4. SSI Review: Standards and Poverty Reduction

<https://www.iisd.org/ssi/reviews/standards-and-poverty-reduction/>

As part of IISD's new SSI Review: Standards and Poverty Reduction, we examined 13 widely adopted voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs) and reviewed existing evidence—all to better understand how standards can improve the three dimensions of poverty access to resources; opportunities and choice; and power and voice.

The report also includes our assessment of the factors determining smallholder farmer access to VSS-compliant markets, based on 57 interviews with actors in six countries from a joint field study by IISD and UNCTAD.

Key Findings

- VSS compliance can support poverty reduction in important ways such as supporting higher crop income, soil and water conservation, skills training for farmers, and respect for human and labour rights.
- For standards to support poverty reduction, smallholders need access to VSS-compliant markets. This requires several enabling factors for market access such as an ecosystem of supporting actors, market demand for compliant products, and the ability of farmers to establish direct links with buyers.
- VSS bodies, value chain actors, and governments can all take action to leverage standards for poverty reduction.

Selected recommendations for VSS bodies, value chain actors, and governments:

- Improve farmers VSS knowledge and implementation
- Support smallholder access to productive and sustainable land
- Stimulate demand for VSS-compliant products
- Establish a living income for farmers

Selected recommendations for VSS bodies

- Enhance support for business and market diversification
- Systematically include smallholders in VSS decision making
- Strengthen VSS assurance, monitoring, and learning systems
- Adopt a gender-equality approach

Read the full report to see all the findings and recommendations.

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5. Videos: Activism on Gender-Based Violence

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzONBczULXF242S-OtRTXZXGiR3wGp-xW>

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence takes place between International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on November 25, and Human Rights Day, on December 10. To join the global conversation, the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation MCIC spoke to five human rights and social justice experts about how to safeguard the human rights of everyone irrespective of gender, and other identities.

How can we create a world free of violence against women and girls (VAWG)?

We need to start each day with a renewed commitment towards eliminating gender-based violence, using an intersectional approach addressing the systems and practices that enable gender-based violence. We need to move beyond raising awareness, to challenge the current structures and attitudes that support violence. And we need to actively engage men and boys, love our differences, and hold everyone accountable. Violence against women is everyone's problem.

Videos include comments by human rights and social justice experts who shared their wisdom.

- Dr Bob Christmas, author and public servant, outlines three factors we need to work towards to end VAW: establish VAW as against social mores, ensure women feel supported, and recognize that VAW is everyone's problem. Eliminating VAWG is a collective effort, and we must establish a public discourse that universally rejects violence.

- Professor Laine Munir, gender violence researcher at the University of Rwanda, reminds us that we all have a role to play in eliminating gender-based violence, especially men and boys.
- Michele Lemonius, Ph.D. Candidate in Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Manitoba, urges us to continue the conversation. Activism Against Gender-Based Violence should not just be observed over these 16 days. It must be every day.
- Sabena Singh, Ph.D. Candidate in Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Manitoba, encourages us to challenge our beliefs on femininity and masculinity, and to learn to love our differences. To end VAW, we need to recognize that there is no hierarchy of gender - femininity is not a disadvantage, and should not be seen as a weakness, and masculinity should not be synonymous with aggression.
- Award-winning Winnipeg community organizer Oyíndámólá Álák reminds us that we all make choices about media that affect our cultural attitudes towards violence against women. What we consume, what we create, and whose stories we engage with, all impact the cultural environment surrounding gender-based violence.

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6. Challenging violence against women in public life

<https://odi.org/en/publications/challenging-violence-against-women-in-public-life/>

The many faces of violence against women in public life exposes the gendered and misogynistic belief that political space belongs to men. These rising threats towards women, both online and offline, are underpinned by harmful attitudes and behaviours perpetuated by patriarchal social norms.

This ALIGN Briefing is a summary of discussion drawn from an expert meeting hosted by ALIGN and ODI in May 2021, entitled ‘Changing harmful norms to prevent violence against women in politics and leadership: charting a forward-looking agenda’.

Key messages

- Overview of the many types of violence experienced by women in legislatures and judicial office.
- Drivers of these forms of violence, including the role(s) of patriarchal gender norms.
- Approaches for challenging violence against women in public life (including the role of women's movements and civil society).
- Suggested avenues for future research in this area.

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7. Mental health and psychosocial well-being among adolescents in Tanzania

<https://odi.org/en/publications/mental-health-and-psychosocial-well-being-among-adolescents-in-tanzania-baseline/>

This ODI Report is focused on identifying the key drivers of mental ill-health and psychosocial well-being among two subgroups of adolescents (those aged 11–15 years and those aged 16–19 years) in two Tanzanian cities: Morogoro and Mwanza City.

Key Messages

- The number of people adolescents' felt they could rely on was positively associated with psychosocial well-being.
- Unhappy/unstable family dynamics were a major stressor in adolescents' lives, including precarious employment of parents and unmet basic needs. The survey found strong correlation between witnessing violence and being at risk of depression.
- Poverty was also cited as a major driver of mental ill-health among adolescents.
- Gendered social norms were cited as an important driver of mental ill-health in the qualitative work, particularly for girls. The greater burden of unpaid care and domestic work responsibilities was identified as detrimental.

8. Women’s Environment and Development Organization WEDO Strategic Plan

<https://wedo.org/wedos-vision-and-purpose-2021-2024-strategic-plan/>

As we look to the future—concluding the first year of our new five-year strategic plan—we’re re-committing to the core objectives that have always underpinned our mission, while harnessing new learnings. With a framework focused on “moving power, money and minds,” we’re building our new strategies to more fully leverage our ecosystem of initiatives in 2022 and beyond.

Our Strategic Approaches

- Advocacy and Influence: Engage in policy processes to ensure policy and actions center gender equality and sustainable development
- Capacity Building and Training: Build capacity and facilitate space for women/ feminists to exercise their political voice, power and influence at local, national and international levels
- Knowledge Production and Outreach: Build and maintain knowledge base related to feminist analysis and approaches to implementing gender equality, women’s human rights, environmental and climate justice across geographies and sociopolitical environments
- Redistribute Resources: Support coalition partners to engage in global advocacy and undertake local and regional advocacy activities via sub-grants.

9. Report: Carbon pricing from a feminist perspective - a gender analysis

https://www.genanet.de/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumente/Themen/Klima/Carbon_pricing-Genderanalysis_en.pdf

At the beginning of 2021, a carbon pricing system was introduced in Germany on the fossil fuels coal, petrol, diesel, heating oil, and gas. The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby contribute to achieving the climate goals. The level of the price, its effectiveness, and, above all, who will be particularly affected, and how the additional costs can be socially compensated are hotly debated in the political landscape. In this paper, the effects of the carbon price and the various compensation proposals for private households/individuals will be presented and their effects on fairness and justice will be examined, especially from a gender perspective. This is not to reject the carbon price in principle; on the contrary, we consider it a reasonable instrument. But its implementation and the compensation measures should and must be critically examined and corrected. We would have liked to examine the situation more from an intersectional perspective - unfortunately, the necessary is still lacking. Therefore, there is still 'room for improvement' in our analysis.

10. She Changes News Media: Gender representation & portrayal in news coverage of COP26 leadership team

<https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1568488/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

<https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf>

Abstract

The underrepresentation and the stereotypical portrayal of women in the news media is an enduring matter. This thesis examines the gender representation and portrayal in news coverage of the underrepresentation of women at the United Nations’ 26th Conference of Parties (COP26). As frame of reference, the theories watchdog journalism, representation, feminist media, and homophily are used. The study conducts a manual content analysis on news reports and news tweets

concerning the topic. The analysis focuses on four categories of women; reporters, sources, women who advocate for better representation at COP26, and women in relation to climate change. Previous research shows that women are underrepresented as reporters and sources in political news. However, this study concludes that women are highly represented in the news coverage of this topic, while men are almost totally absent. Furthermore, the study concludes that the women in the stories are portrayed in stereotypical ways. Women’s role as celebrities is highlighted and thereby other roles occupied by women are downplayed. Also, the stereotypical portrayals of women as victims and saviours in relation to climate change impacts are present in the analysed news reports and tweets. Further research is suggested in gender representation in media coverage of gender inequal representation.

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11. Book: Masculinities in forests: representations of diversity

<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/41706/9781000209761.pdf>

Often, gender consideration focuses solely on women, however to date majority of environment related efforts are also hindered by gender stereotyping of men and by lack of attention to gendered conditions, identities and expectations associated with diverse masculinities. A new book titled “Masculinities in forests: representations of diversity” written by Carol J. Pierce Colfer, attempts to fill in this gap and looks into masculinities and their role in climate change and environmental policies.

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12. STEM Directory – gage

<https://gage.500womenscientists.org/>

Gage is the world’s largest directory of women and gender diverse folks in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine.

We recently updated gage— our global search platform featuring women and gender diverse folks in STEM with a more sophisticated search functionality (filter by geography, discipline, interests and more), increased security measures, and more ways to update your profile and engage with other members.

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13. The Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education

<https://newprairiepress.org/jiaee/>

The last issue of 2021 is the first full issue published on the new JIAEE platform: New Prairie Press. The Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education is the official refereed publication of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE). Its purpose is to enhance the research and knowledge base of agricultural and extension education from an international perspective.

This current issue Volume 28, Issue 5 (2021) features the following articles:

- Discord between Egyptian Agriculture Students’ and Employers’ Perceptions of the Importance of Various Skills in new Employees
- Development and Validation of the International Extension Network Advocacy Capacity Scale
- How Are Egyptian Agricultural Students Preparing for a Career?
- Identifying Respondent Group Representation in Extension Capacity Assessments: A Meta-Synthesis of the Literature and a Primary Study

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