



Storm cloud.. 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.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGH, FAIC, (Volunteer Editor)

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. 2022 Agricultural Scholarships

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/2022-agricultural-scholarships/>

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has compiled a list of county, provincial and national scholarships. Many details, many deadlines.

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2. ICN Webinar Series: Towards A More Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/towards-a-more-decolonial-anti-racist-and-feminist-public-engagement>

This two-part series on public engagement brought to you by the Inter-Council Network examines current practices in public engagement and explores alternative practices for more decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches in public engagement.

The first session (**September 21, 1:00 PM Atlantic**) will feature ICN research participants who will reflect on the research process and share findings and recommendations from the research. We will reflect on the research process highlighting the benefits of participatory methods in knowledge creation and share key findings from the research. To inform our collective efforts to be more decolonial, anti-racist and feminist in our public engagement work, we will also discuss some recommendations for practice and policy.

The second session (**September 23, 1:00 PM Atlantic**), a forward-looking discussion on better practices in public engagement, will feature sector members that use decolonial, anti-racist and feminist approaches in public engagement who will share lessons from their experiences.

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3. Women United for Food Security in Peru

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Cj6VMPToT3-WDAd93kw8tw

This town hall will be in English with French and Spanish live translation provided. The pandemic, supply chain troubles, and food price inflation has been particularly hard on marginalized communities in Lima, Peru. By some estimates, it has set back the country’s poverty reduction efforts by ten-years. Cuso International is responding through an innovative partnered initiative in Lima, Peru. Launched in 2021, Mujeres Unidas por la Seguridad Alimentaria y Ambiental (MUSA) \Women United for Food and Environmental Security (MUSA,) is seeing how grassroots leadership can make a difference.

In this town hall, we'll hear from Tania Shephard, Director of Program Strategy and Innovation, Pilar Garcia, Country Representative for Peru and community member from the Mujeres Unidas por la Seguridad Alimentaria y Ambiental project, on how they are working in partnership with women farmers and women's networks to share knowledge, advocate for food security and support community led decision-making.

Time **Sep 29, 2022 11:00 AM in Central Time (US and Canada)**

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4. International Cooperation Futures Festival

<https://hopin.com/events/international-cooperation-futures-festival/registration>

On **October 17-20, 2022**, Cooperation Canada will host the *International Cooperation Futures Festival* at the Shaw Centre in **Ottawa**, Canada. The festival's ambition is to inject new ideas and energy into Canada's international cooperation ecosystem by re-connecting us while also providing opportunities to learn from and connect with Canadian and global change-makers. Focused on international cooperation futures, the conference will examine the state of the world and the disruptors and trends significantly impacting our shared future.

The objectives of the festival are:

- Energize the Canadian international cooperation ecosystem with thought-provoking discussions on the future of international cooperation, coupled with practical sessions that enable participants to move from theory to practice on the implications of trends and disruptors on their work.
- Convene a diverse set of stakeholders from Canada and beyond to promote new thinking, connections and engagement across government, civil society, philanthropy, academia, politics, the private sector and the social impact community.
- Embed commitments to decolonization, localization, anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion in the format and substance of the conference.

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5. Call for 2023 Conference Abstracts - Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE)

<https://www.iaaee.org/index.php/conference>

The Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) Scholarly Activities Committee is requesting proposals for refereed abstracts to be presented at the 39th Annual Conference. The conference theme is "Technology, Pluralism and Inclusiveness in Agriculture, Food, and Environment". Submitted proposals must have at least one author who is a current AIAEE member. Accepted proposals require one author who is a current member to be registered for the conference by February 1, 2023. The deadline for submitting proposals is **October 17, 2022**.

The conference is being held **April 26–29, 2023 in Guelph, Ontario, Canada**.

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6. Advancing Women in Ag Conference – East

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2022east/>

AWC EAST 2022 is being held on **November 21 & 22, 2022 at Niagara Falls, Ontario**. To date, over 7000 women have attended AWC and have been inspired by leaders in and outside of the industry. Join us to hear role models tell their story – their challenges, obstacles, successes and lessons learned and more:

- Hone your soft skills in leadership and career building. Get empowered.
- Network and build connections with women from across the country and sector

- Share ideas, and different perspectives.
- Speak with like-minded individuals.
- Listen, Learn, Network, and Grow!

Join producers, students, entrepreneurs, representatives of Grower Associations and Corporate Agri-business.

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This Month's News

1. OPINION Climate Change is Putting Women & Girls in Malawi at Greater Risk of Sexual Violence

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/08/climate-change-putting-women-girls-malawi-greater-risk-sexual-violence/>

Climate change exacerbates sexual and gender-based violence in numerous ways, pushing people further into poverty, enflaming conflict over depleting natural resources, forcing migration, and compounding pre-existing gender discrimination. All these and many other forces conspire to put vulnerable women and girls in greater danger of sexual abuse and exploitation.

In Malawi, the climate crisis is already triggering more erratic and extreme weather, resulting in chronic water, food, and financial insecurity for millions. Over the past twenty years, droughts and floods have increased in intensity, frequency, and scale, causing devastating environmental, social, and economic damage. Around 9 out of 10 people in Malawi depend on rain-fed agriculture, and over half the population is food insecure. Rising temperatures, unreliable rains, and extreme weather events like cyclones influence food production and costs.

Climate change is not just an environmental problem – it acts as a “threat multiplier” interacting with social systems to exacerbate systemic inequalities. So, although everyone is affected by the ravages of the climate crisis, the vulnerability of individuals varies depending on their gender, geography, class, ethnicity, and age.

Around the world, a growing climate justice movement is calling for Global North governments to provide countries like Malawi with international finance for climate adaption, restitution for damages already caused, and national debt cancellation so money can be redirected towards supporting those in need, in particular women and girls and other marginalized groups.

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2. Green Schools Network in Malawi

<https://www.cpar.ca/Our-Programs/Where-We-Work/Malawi/Our-Projects/Green-Schools>

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa. And one of the most impacted by environmental degradation. That’s why Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) created the Green Schools Network to teach children about sustainable agriculture, create school gardens for nutritious food, and harness the power of its rainy season to capture this vital resource in 30,000-litre rainwater harvesting tanks - for both crops and sanitation needs.

With 11 schools in the network and hopes we can raise enough funds to continue the program with the next group of schools, CPAR’s Malawi team received some great news and an A+ report card recently.

With funding from the Gay Lea Foundation – one of GSN’s original funders - we’re working this year to support the school Agriculture Clubs to ensure the knowledge passes down as students graduate, while also linking with Farmer’s Groups.

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3. Jamaica Hosts International Forum on Gender-Responsive Adaptation to Climate Change

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/2022/07/jamaica-hosts-international-forum-on-gender-responsive-adaptation-to-climate-change/>

How can climate change adaptation also help promote gender equality? A peer learning summit in Jamaica brought together experts and government officials from 10 countries to share experiences and lessons.

Experts and government representatives from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Zambia) and the Caribbean (Belize, Jamaica, and Haiti) are meeting from July 26 to 28 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, to share lessons and experiences on promoting gender equality through climate change adaptation.

Co-hosted by the NAP Global Network and the Government of Jamaica, with funding from Global Affairs Canada, this Peer Learning Summit aims to strengthen the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes in these countries by sharing knowledge on gender-responsive approaches. Going beyond a sensitivity to gender differences, a gender-responsive NAP process seeks to actively promote gender equality throughout adaptation planning, implementation, and efforts to track progress.

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4. How nine women are helping save India's mangroves – with foraging and eco-tours

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jul/29/women-save-india-mangroves-foraging-eco-tours>

Swamini is a self-help group set up by nine women from this fishing community in Maharashtra who started Mandavi Eco Tourism in 2017. They came up with the idea of running mangrove safaris for tourists in Vengurla's Mandavi creek. And now, as they research their own community's history, they are rediscovering the edible wild plants around them.

Vengurla, in the Sindhudurg district of the west Indian state, is known for its beautiful beaches and seafood, but the climate crisis has made fishing for a living unsustainable, so people are trying to find other sources of income.

Swamini has won financial support from the "Mangrove Cell", a section of the Maharashtra state forestry department, and the UN Development Programme. The women have been working to rediscover local knowledge about biodiversity, bird and marine life, as well as conservation of mangroves, so they can act as tourist guides.

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5. Women Play a Key Role in Food & Nutrition Security in Nigeria

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/08/women-play-key-role-food-nutrition-security-nigeria/>

In Nigeria, women play key roles in food and nutrition security through their contributions to agricultural production, their influence on how to allocate household income, and their efforts to ensure proper nutrition for all household members. However, malnutrition remains widespread among rural women and children in Nigeria, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic and amid the current global food crisis.

To help meet this challenge and empower farming women to improve nutrition, the CGIAR's HarvestPlus program is deepening its longstanding partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Agricultural Development Program (ADP)—specifically, through the ADP's Women in Agriculture (WIA) Extension Program. (CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) is a global partnership that unites international organizations engaged in research about food security. CGIAR research aims to reduce rural poverty, increase food security, improve human health and nutrition, and sustainable management of natural resources).

The WIA platform has proven to be a sustainable and effective mechanism for women to reach out to other women with agricultural information and technologies. Notably, the WIA approach helps break through religious and cultural barriers that may prevent some women from gaining access to life-improving knowledge and resources.

HarvestPlus is strengthening the knowledge and capacity of about 500 WIA women officers in several states on the promotion of healthy feeding practices, nutrition, and promotion of biofortified crops and foods. The officers will then be able to include biofortification messages and trainings as part of their activities with women in the communities where they work, with the aim of motivating women farmers and their families to produce, process, distribute, and consume biofortified crops and foods.

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6. Drought reaches top WHO health emergency status for the first time

<https://www.devex.com/news/drought-reaches-top-who-health-emergency-status-for-the-first-time-103478>

The World Health Organization has classified the drought in the Horn of Africa as a grade three health emergency — the agency’s highest crisis ranking. This is the first time in the history of WHO emergencies program and this grading system where a drought and food insecurity crisis have reached this level of emergency, a spokesperson for WHO told Devex.

The region is experiencing the worst drought in 40 years, following four failed rainy seasons.

The WHO made this declaration on May 20, and it applies to Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

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7. Gender Equality & Women’s Rights Wiped out Under the Taliban

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/08/gender-equality-womens-rights-wiped-taliban/>

NEW YORK, Aug 15 2022 (IPS) - In the year that has passed since the Taliban’s takeover in Afghanistan we have seen daily and continuous deterioration in the situation of Afghan women and girls. This has spanned every aspect of their human rights, from living standards to social and political status.

The Taliban’s meticulously constructed policies of inequality set Afghanistan apart. It is the only country in the world where girls are banned from going to high school. There are no women in the Taliban’s cabinet, no Ministry of Women’s Affairs, thereby effectively removing women’s right to political participation.

Women are, for the most part, also restricted from working outside the home, and are required to cover their faces in public and to have a male chaperone when they travel. Furthermore, they continue to be subjected to multiple forms of Gender Based Violence.

UN Women has remained in country throughout this crisis and will continue to do so. We are steadfast in our support to Afghan women and girls alongside our partners and donors. We are scaling up the provision of life-saving services for women, by women, to meet overwhelming needs. We are supporting women-led businesses and employment opportunities across all sectors to help lift the country out of poverty. We are also investing in women-led civil society organizations to support the rebuilding of the women’s movement. As everywhere in the world, civil society is a key driver of progress and accountability on women’s rights and gender equality.

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8. Solar power helps Indian women make light work of cotton spinning

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220818105722-ljwc5/>

Uttar Pradesh trains women to use solar-powered spinning wheels. The solar-powered spinning wheel, or charkha, is part of a drive by the state of Uttar Pradesh to boost rural women's work opportunities and incomes in an environmentally friendly

manner. The solar charkhas - which feature 12 spindles, double the number on the old wheel - are equipped with a motor and battery pack, and provided along with a 400-watt solar panel. One woman produces up to 1.5 kg of cotton yarn daily using her solar charkha, up from 400 grams she spun with a traditional wheel, which has led to a more than fourfold increase in her monthly earnings - now at least 10,000 rupees (\$126) on average.

Scheme is backed by NGOs and companies to boost cotton trade. Since 2018, solar charkhas worth 50,000 rupees have been distributed to about 1,000 women annually in Uttar Pradesh for free by the state's Khadi and Village Industries Board (UPKVIB). Many women work at home, while others do so at production hubs in their villages which are run by local non-profits.

India seeking to cut coal power and increase renewables capacity. As India seeks to use less planet-heating coal to generate electricity and raise its renewables capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, up from about 115 GW now, Uttar Pradesh is looking to solar energy to power businesses, homes and communities, with a growing focus on those that are not connected to the grid.

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9. Health Needs of Women in AG Overlooked

<https://www.agriculture.com/family/health-safety/health-needs-of-women-in-ag-overlooked>

Many women work off the farm in order to provide a steady income and health insurance for the family, but their workday doesn't end at 5:00. Like other women who work outside the home, they return to a "second shift" of housework and childcare.

The difference between rural and urban women is that on the farm, there is another shift: providing farm labor. Of course, this varies depending on the type of operation, other help available, and the season. This is referred to as the third-shift phenomenon, which has long been recognized as contributing to the stress felt by many women in agriculture.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) lists numerous women's safety and health issues in agriculture, including pesticide exposures, chronic bronchitis, pregnancy-related risks, work-related injuries, exposures to inhaled substances, livestock-related injuries, fatigue, cancer risks, depression, and risk factors for infertility.

"Despite the fact that 31% of all American farmers are women, health and safety education for the agricultural population is aimed at men."

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10. IMF to apply 'gender lens' to all its work under first gender policy

<https://www.devex.com/news/imf-to-apply-gender-lens-to-all-its-work-under-first-gender-policy-103874>

The International Monetary Fund will "apply a gender lens" to all its core work under its first gender-based policy, the institution said as it warned that economic disparities between men and women are growing, in part due to COVID-19 and the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

How it will work: The policy, labeled Mainstreaming Gender, was approved by IMF's board last month, but financial resources for its implementation are still limited, Sahay said. The fund will build out its gender work across four pillars: better analytical tools, governance frameworks, frameworks for external collaboration, and mechanisms for creating scale.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. IFAD Annual Report 2021

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/ifad-annual-report-2021>

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

The *Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness 2021* revealed that IFAD is exceeding its promises on the number of people we are reaching. The latest data indicates that, in 2020, IFAD reached 128 million people, above the target of 120 million. A good balance in terms of gender and age was also realized: 49 per cent of direct beneficiaries were women, while 22 per cent were youth.

Solutions from our work that we brought to the world at the Food Systems Summit and at COP26 included:

- Investing in climate adaptation for small-scale farmers
- Prioritizing nature-based solutions
- Building the resilience of rural people's livelihoods to COVID-19 and other threats
- Focusing on including traditionally marginalized groups, such as women and youth

Other sources of knowledge we took to the world included guidance on securing land rights for rural women and for youth, and on the role of remittances in strengthening rural livelihoods, a topic subsequently highlighted in the 2021 G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration.

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2. The voices of Cabo Delgado's refugee women

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2022/aug/01/hungry-harassed-alone-cabo-delgado-mozambique-refugee-women>

Last year's insurgent attacks in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado region left thousands dead or missing. Hundreds of thousands now live in overcrowded refugee camps where solo women and girls are vulnerable to rape and violence. See the photo gallery at the website, along with individual stories, including the following:

- Women surround one of 16 water outlets for 30,000 displaced people at 25 de Junho camp. Water scarcity sometimes leads to fights.
- The World Food Programme distributes food in Meluco, a village attacked by insurgents. The women, 100% dependent on aid, take their ration of rice, sauces, oil and corn.
- A Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) programme helps the displaced to grow their own food. This camp in Ancuabe has been a model, to the point that some would rather stay here than go home.
- At a camp for displaced people outside Negomano village near the Tanzanian border, Nura makes mud bricks.
- Economic instability due to the departure of the gas companies, 11% inflation, the climate emergency and attacks by jihadists has created a long-term crisis.

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3. Book- Digging into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science

<https://openpress.usask.ca/soilscience/>

The Canadian Soil Science Society has produced an introductory soils textbook that is available through a FREE download.

Written entirely by members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, "Digging into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science" provides an introduction to the core disciplines of soil science, and introduces the concepts and vocabulary needed by students just beginning their soil science journey. The textbook provides supplementary materials that are specific to regions in Canada, or may be of specific interest beyond what might be considered introductory soil science material. Importantly, the textbook also is intended to introduce students to the Canadian System of Soil Classification by providing examples from across the length and breadth of the world's second largest country, and to the Canadian Society of Soil

Science, whose members share a common passion for soil science and are keen to share and instill this passion with students across Canada.

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4. Policy Dialogue: Toward Gender-Responsive Agricultural and Food Systems Policies in Africa

<https://youtu.be/CAWoZIJYL0s>

The recording of recent webinar on Policy Dialogue: Toward Gender-Responsive Agricultural and Food Systems Policies in Africa is available via YouTube. On August 4, 2022, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) hosted an interactive policy dialogue featuring its Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship. The webinar focused on the new Fellowship and its contribution to the global and regional priorities of agri-food policies.

The webinar featured insights from Dr. Lilian Kirimi, Senior Research Fellow, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy & Development, Kenya, Dr. Susan Kaaria, Director, AWARD, and Dr. Michèle Mbo'o-Tchouawou, Deputy Director, Programs, AWARD.

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5. Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture - Mary Ruth McDonald

<https://www.agwomen.ca/iwca-series-mary-ruth-mcdonald/>

Between her work as an OMAFRA pest management specialist and as a professor in the department of plant agriculture at the University of Guelph, Mary Ruth McDonald has spent almost her entire career focusing on vegetable cropping in the unique agricultural production conditions of the Holland Marsh, acting as a bridge between research and application in the field.

In this episode of AgAnnex Talks, McDonald, one of the 2022 Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture, speaks with Fruit and Vegetable and Top Crop Manager East editor Alex Barnard about trying new things, rolling with the punches and seeing research in action.

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6. Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture- Valerie Carney

<https://www.agwomen.ca/iwca-series-valerie-carney/>

Dr. Valerie Carney has been one of North America's most respected poultry science leaders for nearly two decades. Based in Edmonton as the Poultry Innovation Partnership lead, she supports excellence in research and innovation in Canada's poultry industry.

In this episode of AgAnnex Talks, Carney, one of the 2022 Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture, speaks with Canadian Poultry editor Brett Ruffell about taking risks, her defining moment, work-life balance and the biggest challenges women in agriculture still face today.

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7. Learning Community and Incubator for Gender Equality Projects in Nicaragua

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/news/33/stay-connected-read-fit-s-august-newsletter>

Supported by FIT, Mer et Monde in Nicaragua tested an innovative solution aimed at creating a local learning community and gender equality project incubator for civil society organization (CSO) Agents of Change, supported by ongoing coaching

and support. Through alternating between GE capacity-building activities and opportunities for practical application through microprojects, the innovation facilitated the transition from theory to practice for the participants, thus ensuring greater ownership of their learning. Microprojects included: entrepreneurship and small businesses for women and youth; empowerment of women farmers and resilience to climate change; and reducing the vulnerability of girls and boys caused by gender inequality.

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8. Women’s Empowerment, Agricultural Innovation, and Climate Change Adaption

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/news/33/stay-connected-read-fit-s-august-newsletter>

Supported by FIT, Lestari in Indonesia tested an innovative solution that involved disseminating newly developed drought-tolerant coffee varieties using gender responsive climate-smart coffee farming methods to small-scale coffee farmers, particularly women.

The gender responsive farming methods included ensuring women had equal access to training and farming needs and were able to fully participate. Others included planting shorter varieties of coffee trees to ensure women could easily reach the trees and farming in well-lit areas for pruning and harvesting. which had also previously been a safety and security barrier for women farmers. Two demonstration plots, ¼ hectares each, were used to train and mentor the farmers. Capacity-building to enhance women’s leadership, decision-making and advocacy skills were also included in the training and mentorship provided.

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9. “Decolonization of the Home Economics Profession” in International Journal of Home Economics

<https://www.ifhe.org/ejournal/ijhe-issues-1>

As a profession home economics has existed for over 100 years. Given its development out of America in a time when understandings about the colonial project were informed by White privilege, the potential for the profession to be implicated in colonial practices is significant.

Preparation for the IJHE special issue Volume 15 Issue 1 2022 “Decolonization of the Home Economics Profession” began with the following considerations. Holistic learning can only take place by challenging current ethnocentric beliefs and attempting to see the story from an Indigenous perspective. Holistic, interdisciplinary practices are not a new concept within home economics. However, if we are to make the claim to be working for and with families globally can we reconcile our efforts to decolonise our educational practices in an inherently colonial project.

MAHE member and Past President Debora Durnin-Richards, MEd, PHEc has included her paper in this issue: *My “Truth” in Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of Canada* (pp 123-132).

Abstract

I am a professional Home Economist (PHEc) under the Manitoba Act (1990). In this paper I reflect on an approach to uncover my personal contribution (my “truth”) to colonisation of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. I examine my family life, education and career as a professional Home Economist. First Nation (people identified as Indian under the Indian Act) and Métis authors have guided my learning on the impact of colonisation. Historical references related to the practice of Home Economics within the provincial department of agriculture are used to clarify the colonising focus on which my career was based. The intention is to discover a pathway for myself and my profession to learn and acknowledge our colonising impact on Indigenous Peoples. This process is offered to other Home Economists who are exploring ways to decolonise Home Economics and build a respectful, relevant service with Indigenous Peoples.

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10. Podcast: The impact of Taliban rule, one year on: Afghan women’s perspectives

<https://odi.org/en/insights/think-change-episode-10-what-has-the-impact-of-taliban-rule-been-one-year-on-afghan-womens-perspectives>

This month marks a year since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, marking an abrupt end to 20 years of western intervention in the country. While the Taliban were semi-governing everyday life in Afghanistan long before the fall of Kabul, reports from the last year have been deeply troubling – with restrictions on freedom of speech, the erosion of the rights of women and girls, and a devastating economic and food security crisis.

So ,what is life really like under Taliban rule, and how should the international community respond? In this new Think Change podcast, our Chief Executive Sara Pantuliano is joined by inspirational activists Seema Ghani, Nargis Nehan and Forozan Rasooli who are leading the fight for change in the country.

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