

# GENDER & AGE NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2015

1) ALICE EVANS - [WHY IS SUPPORT FOR GENDER EQUALITY MAINLY GROWING IN URBAN AREAS?](#) – 2015

Across the world, support for gender equality is rising. More girls are going to school. Women are increasingly being recognized and supported in historically male-dominated domains, such as employment and politics. Growing numbers of men are sharing unpaid care work. In short, young women are 'beginning to envision a future similar to young men: education, independence, greater financial autonomy, and shared responsibility for their family' – comments Boudet et al (2013: 37), drawing on a comparative study of twenty countries commissioned by the World Bank. However, such egalitarian social change is largely restricted to urban areas.

2) AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - ['LIBYA IS FULL OF CRUELTY': STORIES OF ABDUCTION, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE FROM MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES](#) – 2015

Inside war-torn Libya, thousands of foreign nationals, including refugees and asylum-seekers, face abductions for ransom, torture and sexual violence by traffickers, smugglers and organized criminal groups. Many are systematically subjected to discrimination and exploitation by their employers or face indefinite detention in appalling conditions on account of their immigration status. Religious minorities, in particular Christian migrants and refugees, are persecuted and are at highest risk of abuse from armed groups that seek to enforce their own interpretation of Islamic law.

3) AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - [STARS ON THEIR SHOULDERS. BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS. WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE NIGERIAN MILITARY](#) – 2015 (video)

In the course of security operations against Boko Haram in north-east Nigeria, Nigerian military forces have extrajudicially executed more than 1,200 people; they have arbitrarily arrested at least 20,000 people, mostly young men and boys; and have committed countless acts of torture. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Nigerians have become victims of enforced disappearance; and at least 7,000 people have died in military detention as a result of starvation, extreme overcrowding and denial of medical assistance.

4) HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH - [BANGLADESH: GIRLS DAMAGED BY CHILD MARRIAGE](#) – 2015

Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage of girls under the age of 15 in the world, with 29 percent of girls in Bangladesh married before age 15, according to a UNICEF study. Two percent of girls in Bangladesh are married before age 11. Successive inaction by the central government and complicity by local officials allows child marriage, including of very young girls, to continue unchecked, while Bangladesh's high vulnerability to natural disasters puts more girls at risk as their families are pushed into the poverty that helps drive decisions to have girls married. Human Rights Watch details the damage that child marriage does to the lives of girls and their families in Bangladesh, including the discontinuation of secondary education, serious health consequences including death as a result of early pregnancy, abandonment, and domestic violence from spouses and in-laws.

5) RIFT VALLEY INSTITUTE & LOGICA - [THE IMPACT OF WAR ON SOMALI MEN: AN INCEPTION STUDY](#) – 2015

This is the first extensive study of Somali male experiences of the war and its consequences. It builds on an earlier study on Somali women's experiences of the war, documented in the publication *Somalia The Untold Story – The War Through the Eyes of Somali Women* (Judith Gardner & Judy El-Bushra [eds], 2004)

6) WOMEN UNDE SIEGE - [INFOGRAPHIC: RAPE IN WAR, BY THE NUMBERS](#) – 2015

The problem is that it is nearly impossible to know exact—or often even ballpark—numbers of women raped in conflict. There's too much in the way: the murder of victims after rape (aka the destruction of evidence), deep stigma that prevents reporting, fear of retribution by either the perpetrators or the survivor's family. Women have no reason to come forward. But over time, some have. Much of the work to count them has been done forensically, however, through costly research efforts. Here then are some of the numbers painstakingly gathered by researchers. Beneath the numbers, I've written just a few specific reasons why we shouldn't trust them—why all numbers counting a problem based in trauma and fear are certainly higher than estimated

**For more information or questions, please feel free to contact me: Eliana Irato, [Eliana.irato@echofield.eu](mailto:Eliana.irato@echofield.eu)**