

GENDER EQUALITY: WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Focus: Violence against Women in the Pacific

Dr. Susan Bliss

National Curriculum: Year 10 Human Wellbeing; NSW Geography: Stage 5A4

'Some 121 million children are not in school, most of them girls. If a family can afford school fees for only one child, it will likely be a boy who attends. If someone needs to fetch water or do housework instead of going to school, a girl will likely be chosen. If someone needs to stay home to care for younger siblings or sick or infirm household members, this will most likely be a girl: girls will also most likely be withdrawn from school early in adolescence as the age of marriage approaches.' (UNICEF)



Photographs: Above, illiterate women working on the roads in Tibet and left, cleaning the streets in San Antonio Palopo, Guatemala (S. Bliss)

Did you know?

- in 2008 there were 96 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in primary school;
- the share of women employed outside of agriculture remains as low as 20% in Southern Asia, Western Asia and Northern Africa;
- the global share of women in parliament continues to rise slowly and reached 19% in 2010 – far short of gender parity;
- every year, 5,000 women are murdered by family members in the name of honour;
- one in three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in some way, most often by someone she knows;
- 130 million girls and young women have undergone female genital mutilation.



Gender Equality: Women's Rights

- women and girls across income, class and culture are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse
- 4 million women and girls are bought and sold worldwide each year, either into marriage, prostitution or slavery; and
- Men suffer from gender inequalities – higher mortality and suicide rates, increasing social isolation, and problems related to alcohol, drugs and other substance abuse.

Gender equality means women and men have equal opportunities to realise their potential, to contribute to their country's development and to benefit from their participation in society. Laws in Iran and Saudi Arabia treat women as legal minors under the guardianship of male family members, and deny them equality in marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. These laws ignore international human rights agreements, and highlight the need for individuals, groups and governments to take action for a better future for these women.

Table: Human rights agreements

Articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948	2: rights and freedoms to all people – cannot be taken away because of your sex 3: right to life, liberty and security 7: right to be treated equally by the law 17: right to own goods, land and other property 21: right to take part in the government of your country and to have equal access to services in your country 26: right to an education
United Nations Agreements	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)

Table: Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women all around the world are struggling because their gender automatically places them at a rank of lower importance. The United Nations is fighting to change this inequity by implementing the Millennium Development Goal 3

Target 3.A:



Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

- For girls in some regions, education remains elusive;

- poverty is a major barrier to education, especially among older girls;
- in every developing region except the CIS, men outnumber women in paid employment;
- women are largely relegated to more vulnerable forms of employment;
- women are over-represented in informal employment, with its lack of benefits and security;
- top-level jobs still go to men; and
- women are slowly rising to political power, but mainly when boosted by quotas and other special measures.

Activity:

Track the goal at <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/map.cfm?goal=2&indicator=0&cd=>

Table: Inquiry process

What has worked?	What is United Nations doing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing secondary school stipends for girls in Bangladesh. Money provided directly to girls and their families to cover tuition and other costs on the condition they enrol in secondary school and remain unmarried. As a result the number of girls in secondary schools increased from 33% in 1991 to 56% in 2005. • Gender Equity Seal provided to private firms in Mexico if they achieved specific standards related to gender equity, including recruitment, career advancement, training and reducing sexual harassment. By 2006, 117 companies had obtained the Seal. Similar initiatives have been launched in Brazil, Costa Rica and Egypt. • Setting a gender quota for Parliament in Kyrgyzstan. There were no women in Parliament in 2005. By 2008 Kyrgyzstan had the highest proportion of women in Parliament (25.6%) and in Government (21%) in Central Asia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to reduce female genital mutilation and cutting by 40% between 2008 and 2012 in a number of countries including Burkina Faso, Egypt and Somalia. • Training in political campaigning and governing in Cambodia resulted in an increase in the number of women running for office. • Participation of women in the political process in Rwanda where women now make up 56% of the parliament – the world's highest share. • Installed hundreds of diesel-run generators in rural areas across Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal to help some of the time consuming chores for women, such as fetching water, grinding and milling. • Microfinance in Vietnam. • Teacher training and the development of materials that promote gender equality. • Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women – 304 programmes in 121 countries.



Photograph (left): Illiterate woman and her family living in the Rajasthan desert in India (S. Bliss)



Photograph (right): Illiterate Embera Indian women living a traditional life in Chagres National Park, Panama (S. Bliss)

Article: UNICEF

'Advancing the rights of women and children advances humanity'

Two-thirds of the world's 799 million illiterate adults ages 15 and over are women.

Many children in developing countries start life without adequate means of nutrition, learning, and protection. Women and girls are particularly challenged.

Some 67 countries have primary school attendance and enrolment rates for girls less than 85 per cent. Globally, there are just 96 girls for every 100 boys in primary school, with disparities at the secondary level even more acute. Yet uneducated girls are more at risk than boys to become marginalised. They are more vulnerable to exploitation. They are more likely than educated girls to contract HIV/AIDS, which spreads twice as quickly among uneducated girls than among girls that have even some schooling. Nearly a third of all adults living with HIV/AIDS are under the age of 25, and almost two thirds of these people are women.

As unschooled adults, these girls will be less likely to have a say socially and politically and to be able to support themselves. Women's rights and access to land, credit and education are limited not only due to legal discrimination, but because more subtle barriers such as their work load, mobility and low bargaining position in the household and community prevent them from taking advantage of their legal rights. These problems affect their children: Women earn only one tenth of the world's income and own less than one per cent of property, so households without a male head are at special risk of impoverishment. These women will also be less likely to immunize their children and know how to help them survive.

Gender bias undercuts women's rights in other areas. Practices such as early marriage or poor health services result in high rates of maternal mortality. Some 529,000 women died giving birth last year, 99 per cent of them in developing countries. For each birth-related death, 30 other women were injured or disabled. Having a missing or disabled mother severely undercuts a child's chances of survival and health as well.

The world has recognized the importance of gender equality. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, sets forth provisions that include civil rights and freedoms, family environment, basic health and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures for all children.

<http://www.unicef.org/mdg/gender.html>

Equal rights: responses

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and acceded to by 180 States, sets down rights for women, of freedom from discrimination and equality under the law. Realising the rights and equality of women is also the key to the survival and development of children and to building healthy families, communities and nations.

The Australian government's 1984 Sex Discrimination Act promotes gender equality and eliminates discrimination on the basis of sex. The Act is supported by Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission (HREOC). At the international level the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and **International Women's Day** foster women's empowerment and gender equality.



Photograph: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman

Source: http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/photo_detail.php?recordID=17

Future strategies

Despite improvements in the status of women seventy percent of the poorest people are female. The 2015 United Nations Millennium Development Goals aims to reduce female poverty (Goal 1), provide universal primary education (Goal 2), promote gender equality and empower women (Goal 3) and improve maternal health (Goal 5). AusAID and Women in Development (WID) responded to the challenge and integrated gender equality in development programs.

Article: AusAID's response to promoting gender equality



<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/genderandMDGs.pdf>

Despite advancements in women's rights in Australia, such as the right to vote (1902), women still experience inequality in employment, leadership and political representation. The 2008 Australian Plan of Action towards Gender Equality aims to:

- increase the number of women in leadership positions;
- balance work and family;
- reduce the incidence of sexual harassment and the gender gap in retirement savings;
- strengthen the 1984 Sex Discrimination Act; and
- progress in health and education

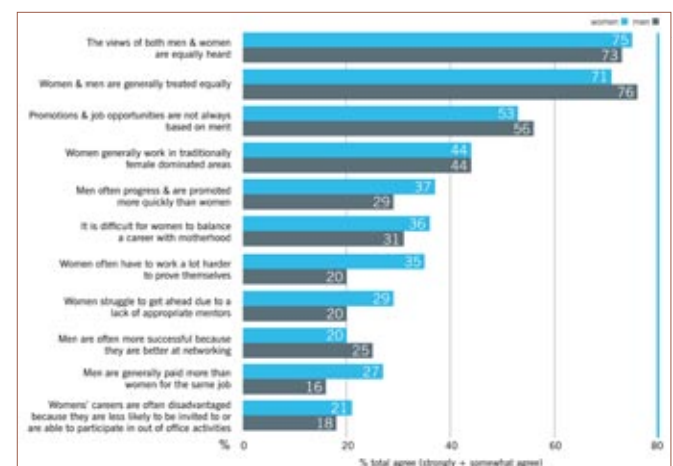
In 2008 the **global gender gap** ranked Australia 21 out of 130 countries after reducing the gap in health and education. Australia aims to improve political empowerment and economic participation of women as 25% of women and 21% of men stated that women are not treated equally in the Australian workplace.

Table: Global Gender Gap 2008 – international comparisons

Australia ranked 15 (2006), 17 (2007) and 21 in 2008 Global Gender Gap 2008 Rating – the lower the number (1) the greater the equality between men and women

Country	Rank (130 countries)
Norway	1
Finland	2
Sweden	3
New Zealand	5
Philippines	6
Sri Lanka	12
Lesotho	16
Australia	21
USA	27
Iran	116
Saudi Arabia	128

Bar graph: Australian attitudes towards equality in the workforce



Source: Centre/EOWA_Publications/Generation_F/Graphs/graph8.jpg

Framework for Action

Framework for Action is an integrated approach to equality of human rights. It operates at all levels – family, community, business and government. The aim is to increase women's:

- access to justice;
- access to support services such as councillors and safe places;
- education and status in society; and
- participation in public life: In Fiji 11% of parliamentarians are women; Solomon Islands and Vanuatu had periods with no female member of parliament; and in PNG only four women elected to its 109 member Parliament in 33 years since Independence. Only Fiji has a solid tradition of civil society activism, now threatened with the country's four coups in the last 20 years.

Protecting the vulnerable

The UN Millennium Declaration stressed protection of vulnerable women and children as ***'tens of millions of children across the globe are victims of exploitation, abuse and violence each year. They are abducted from their homes and schools and recruited into armed conflicts, exploited sexually, or trafficked and forced to work in abominable conditions. Girls in particular are vulnerable, particularly when not in school. They also suffer from abuses that may have their society's mandate, but severely curtail their rights: they are victims of violence in the home, they aren't allowed to attend school, or are forced into early marriage, or to undergo genital mutilation.'*** (UNICEF)

Violence Against Women (VAW)

Violence Against Women is both a cause and consequence of discrimination against women. A life free from violence is a basic human right, yet women were raped in armed conflict in Rwanda, burnt for their dowry in India and six year olds forced to marry in Ethiopia.

'Violence against women persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality.... (A) s long as violation against women continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress toward equality, development and peace.' Kofi Annan

Violence Against Women, including physical, psychological, economic and sexual, is a serious global problem as:

- it affects all countries – including Australia;
- both men and women are perpetrators of violence;
- it is complex as forces are shaped at individual, community and social/cultural levels;
- 1 in 3 women have been beaten, raped or abused; and
- in South Africa, one women murdered by an intimate partner every 6 hours

Photograph and fact file:



Source: <http://musesphere.blogspot.com/2010/11/international-day-for-elimination-of.html>

The costs of VAW have impacted on families, communities and countries, such as:

- increase in health care and social services costs as well as policing and justice system costs;
- World Bank states gender based violence has caused loss of wages - 2% of GDP in Chile and 1.6% in Nicaragua;
- linked to ill health, homicide, suicide and HIV/AIDS; and
- Australia's National Council to Reduce VAW and their Children states that if action is not taken now, VAW will cost the Australian economy \$15.6 billion by 2021–22.

Pacific case studies

Photograph: AusAID program in Pacific Islands



Source: http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/focus/jan07/focus_jan07.pdf

Violence Against Women is severe and pervasive in Melanesia (Fiji, Papua, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) and Timor Leste

a) Timor Leste:

- 1 in 5 married women afraid of partner
- 1 in 10 beaten while pregnant
- during crises 27% of women reported physical violence from outsiders (militia and military)

b) Fiji:

- 66% physically abused by partner
- one third hit for refusing sex
- 13% raped (30% between 11 and 15 years and 31% by family members)

c) Quotes:

- 'Wife beating happens every day, but only the brave ones come to us' (police officer PNG)
- 'The husbands of working women like to give them black eyes, so everyone knows he is still the boss' (PNG)
- 'Boys beat up girls who want them to use condoms' (Solomon Islands)
- 'If a girl stays late at school, she walks home alone, and can then be raped' (Vanuatu)
- 'Men steal girls, keep them and rape them for weeks' (PNG)
- 'Girls can get raped by teachers in primary and secondary school (PNG) - helping with their work and grades'
- 'Women and girls are trafficked – prostitution' (Timor Leste)
- 'Loggers build homes in return for money and their 14-15 year old daughter' (Solomon Islands)
- 'Pack rape is common' (PNG)
- 'Women with a disability are more subject to abuse and rape' (all countries)

d) Complex cultural issues:

- Bride Price: Women viewed as property – 'I bought her for \$5,000. I can do anything with her. She's my property' (Fiji)
- Traditional ideas and culture: Women's role, 'encouraging forgiveness and to be a better wife.. 'men use culture as an excuse'
- Rural: 'Difficult to police in rural areas, low literacy/ education – no information of their rights'
- Prison: 'If I report my husband for what he did, I won't get any money while he is in prison' (Solomon Islands)
- Living with in-laws: 'Women generally live with their husband's family with little support. If they return or escape back home they may be refused, especially when there is pressure on land and resources'
- Faith: 'Gospel approach to domestic violence is forgive and forget- the message most women receive from their churches' (PNG)
- Compensations: 'If a suspect is being violent and can afford to pay compensation, then by accepting the compensation, the violence is allowed to continue' (Timor Leste)

- Arranged and forced marriages: To 'settle a dispute'
- Forced prostitution and slavery: 'No payment for work'
- Sorcery accusations: 'Women accused of being a witch'
- Violence of women against women: 'Particularly disputes over men' (polygamy)
- Women at fault and therefore 'deserving violence'
- Private matter: 'Outsiders should not interfere'
- Sexual double standards
- Mistreatment of widows

e) Natural disasters

Pacific region suffers frequent natural disasters - earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, floods, mudslides, droughts, frosts and tsunamis. Disasters displace populations and increase women's dependence on men. They also increase women's vulnerability to physical and sexual violence, both from displaced males and from rescue workers. 'There was lots of violence and beating of women due to loss of property during the tsunami and men taking out their frustrations on women.' (Save the Children)

Photograph: An old ibu (woman) sits among the ruins of her house in Pariaman, north of Padang, West Sumatra after the tsunami.



Source: Andy Campbell/SurfAid International. photolibrary@ausaid.gov.au

f) Conflicts

- 'Some married women raped during conflicts were forced to pay compensation to their husband's families because of the shame and blame' (Solomon Islands)
- The effects of the nine year civil war which ended in 1999 continues – armed men and boys for years used guns to intimidate women....they have become habituated to violence – women the target (PNG – Bougainville)

g) Links to HIV/AIDS

Sexual and physical violence against women contribute to the spread of HIV. Fear of partners' violent reactions makes women less willing to discuss using condoms or question their partner about their other sexual activities.

Women with abusive husbands are afraid to admit they were raped, be tested for STIs or HIV, disclose a positive diagnosis, and access treatment.

Photograph: Billboard in Nauru by Lorrie Graham.



Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/ausaid_photolibrary/3403752596/lightbox/

h) Problems

- all countries have national umbrella organisations for women but they tend to be conservative and driven by internal dissensions
- 'gender equality has to be nurtured because it causes sensitivities. Merely talking about gender equality is a direct challenge to male dominance' (Ministry for Women, Youth and Children, Solomon Islands)
- shared understanding between men and women is essential to effect permanent change otherwise it risks being counter-productive
- some counselling programs for abused women have encouraged them to be more obedient to their husband
- some faith-based organisations promote authority of the husband
- some training materials on rape place blame on victim's dress or behaviour
- there are vigilante groups promoting barbaric treatment of alleged offenders
- lack of evidence
- lack of resources and support as well as unequal access to services (rural/urban; rich/poor)
- enormous gap between public discourse and reality

Quotes:

'If people hear a woman has been raped, they talk about her as if she was wrong or dirty'

'She will hide it as long as she can' (pregnancy...) 'I couldn't tell my friends. I was ashamed'

i) Violence against women (VAW): responses

In 2008 the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched a campaign to end violence against women by 2015. He said 'at least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten,

coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime' Violence against women exists in all countries and across all levels of education, income, race and culture. Far too often, the crimes go unpunished, the perpetrators walk free and few women seek justice because of fear or lack of money.

In 2008, 39.9% of Australian women experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. The non-government organisation Amnesty International responded with its Stop Violence against Women campaign and its National Plan of Action that works with 100 organisations to end violence against Indigenous, disabled and lesbian women. Also the White Ribbon Foundation of Australia aims to eliminate violence against women by promoting culture-change

j) AusAID: Responding to VAW in Melanesia and East Timor

Stop Violence: Responding to violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor sets out Australia's priorities and actions to prevent and reduce violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor. It outlines the Australian Government's support to increase women's access to justice and access to support services, prevent violence against women, and ensure an integrated approach.

Violence against women and the fear of violence are significant human rights violations. The Australian Government recognises that reducing violence against women is crucial to achieving equality between men and women and delivering good development outcomes.

The impact of violence against women on developed and developing economies is devastating. New research commissioned by Australia's National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children found that if appropriate action is not taken now, violence against women will cost the Australian economy \$15.6 billion by 2021–22.

While the ODE report and this response focus on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, AusAID recognises the spectrum of violence that women face and is committed to addressing all forms of gender-based violence through our development assistance program.

Source: http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pubout.cfm?ID=7821_6079_155_5278_287

AusAID: Putting commitments into practice

In June, Australia joined key United Nations agencies to launch an inventory of best practice in preventing sexual violence in conflict.

The inventory, *Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence—An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice*, provides practical examples of peacekeeping tactics that have helped to reduce sexual violence and improve the safety of women in conflict. For example, in Kenya, thorny bushes were planted around camp perimeters to deter night attackers and sexual predators. This helped to protect the

camp without having to resort to barbed wire.

The inventory will help establish a more systematic approach to preventing sexual violence in conflict.

The inventory was funded by the Australian Government, and is the result of collaboration between the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Fund for Women as part of the inter-agency network, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

United Nations agencies will use the inventory to help train peacekeepers.

Source: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/focus/oct10/focus-gender.pdf>

Article: Individuals making a difference – Gender and volunteering

Source: http://www.ousaid.gov.au/publications/focus/sep05/focus_sep05.pdf

Conclusion

'My UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, and the Network of Men Leaders I launched last year, have generated welcome momentum and engagement. The word is spreading: violence against women and girls has no place in any society, and impunity for perpetrators must no longer be tolerated. On this International Day, I urge all – Governments, civil society, the corporate sector, individuals – to take responsibility for eradicating violence against women and girls.'

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
Message for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November 2010

'We live in one world. What we do affects others, and what others do affects us, as never before. To recognise that we are all members of a world community and that we all have responsibilities to each other is not romantic rhetoric, but modern economic and social reality.'

'Department for Education and Skills, UK (2004)

GENDER AND VOLUNTEERING



A peasant woman takes a rest. Photo: Mark Healey/Panos Pictures

WOMEN IN NEED

CHINA: Elizabeth Loughnan from near Geelong in Victoria, is working with other volunteers at the Maple Women's Psychological Counselling Centre in Beijing. It's a place where hundreds of women, traumatised by years of domestic abuse, seek comfort, advice and mental healing.

Experience of domestic violence is a stark reality for millions of women in both the developed and developing world.

In China, family members who suspect a relative is abused look the other way. They regard such matters as private, between man and wife. For countless victims, the fear of social stigma is worse than the physical and emotional abuse. Victims are either too ashamed to speak out or too afraid the public won't support them – or both. In some sections of Chinese society, domestic violence is a hideous dark secret.

But as China modernises and becomes more open to outside influences, attitudes are changing. The Chinese Government, for example, has made it clear violence against women, in any form, is against the law. The amendment to the Marriage Act in 2001 forbids domestic violence and cites it as grounds for divorce.

A growing number of people agree with Wang Xingjuan, founder of the Maple Women's Psychological Counselling Centre in Beijing and a fierce advocate for women's rights. 'We need determined action by police, prosecutors and local communities – we need a network of change – to help victims of domestic violence.'

Statistics released in a national newspaper state one in every three women has been beaten, raped or emotionally abused by her partner. Yet, as Wang knows only too well, 'Many people believe it is better not to wash dirty linen in public and most domestic violence victims choose to keep quiet.'

The Maple centre is countering this attitude by offering practical help. For the past decade it has run a crisis hotline. It's in constant use as more women are breaking their silence. Not so long ago these same women may have resorted to suicide. With nowhere to turn and at the end of their tether, what were their options?

Now they're ringing the hotline for advice and emotional support. The phone offers comforting anonymity but it still takes enormous courage to take the first step, especially for those who've suffered horrific mistreatment.

Typical of hotline callers is a 29-year-old rural woman from Hebei Province whose story was recently reported in the *China Daily*, China's leading English language newspaper. She told the hotline her boyfriend had formed the habit of beating her whenever she fell pregnant. The beatings had caused eight miscarriages yet she still hopes he will marry her. Her fear is no one else will

Activities

Understanding

- Identify the human rights agreements related to women
- Explain why violence against women is an abuse of their human rights
- Describe how individuals, groups and governments responded to abuse of women's rights
- Suggest strategies Australia can adopt to improve the rights of women
- Imagine you were the goodwill ambassador for UNiFEM suggest strategies you would adopt to promote gender equality and empower women
- What region in the world had the highest gender equality ranking? What was the rank of developing countries such as the Philippines, Lesotho and Sri Lanka? Suggest strategies to improve Australia's global ranking

- Compare men and women's attitudes to gender equality in the workforce. Imagine you were the head of an organisation. Describe strategies you could implement to improve equality in the workplace.

Thinking and Applying

- Select five countries including Australia, a small Pacific nation and a country in South East Asia. Locate statistics on women and men for these selected countries.

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/indwm2.htm>.

- Create a table contrasting the numbers of women and men:
 - * Population – women/100 men
 - * Families – total fertility rate
 - * Health – life expectancy

- * Education - primary and secondary enrolment rate; illiteracy rate
 - * Work - distribution of labour force by status in employment
 - * Political decision making – number of parliamentary seats held by women
- Research the global gender gap rank for the five countries
 - Write a generalisation on equality of men and women in each of these countries based on these statistics
 - Discuss the barriers women face in achieving equality (e.g. culture, poverty)
 - Script a radio report on projects that benefit women's rights.
 - Create a series of questions and answers about the need for, and ways of, overcoming gender inequality.
 - Research how countries are progressing or not progressing toward gender equity by 2015 Millennium Development Goals <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>. Describe the strategies used to address gender inequality in Australia and other nations
 - Discuss how Australian government (e.g. AusAID) programs have addressed the rights of women
 - Violence against women impoverishes individuals, families and communities, reducing the economic development of each nation. Discuss
 - Explain UNIFEM's campaign against violence to women. What are the strategies used by UNIFEM to highlight the issue? <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/>

ICT

Global Education Gender Equality – activities and resources
<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/cache/offonce/pid/517;jsessionid=2F856A3B05F9FFE591C0A747A445A640>

Explain the components of the Global Gender Gap and Australia's gender gap.
<http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/GenderGapNetwork/index.htm>. Suggest strategies to reduce Australia's gender gap.

What is the purpose of International Women's Day? Explain the significance of 2011 <http://www.internationalwomensday.com>.

Discuss how Australian aid contributes to gender equality in developing countries.
<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/gender.cfm>

Discuss how groups such as the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) aims to improve the rights of women <http://www.iwda.org.au/>

Discuss how individuals can make a difference by improving gender equality – Women on the frontline series
http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=111

Describe the United Nations campaign to end violence
<http://endviolence.un.org>.

Explain the roadmap towards gender equality
http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/76_08.html

Explain the purpose of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
<http://www.un.org/events/women/violence/2007/>

Discuss how modern technology, such as the Internet, is used to support a better future for women
<http://endviolence.un.org>

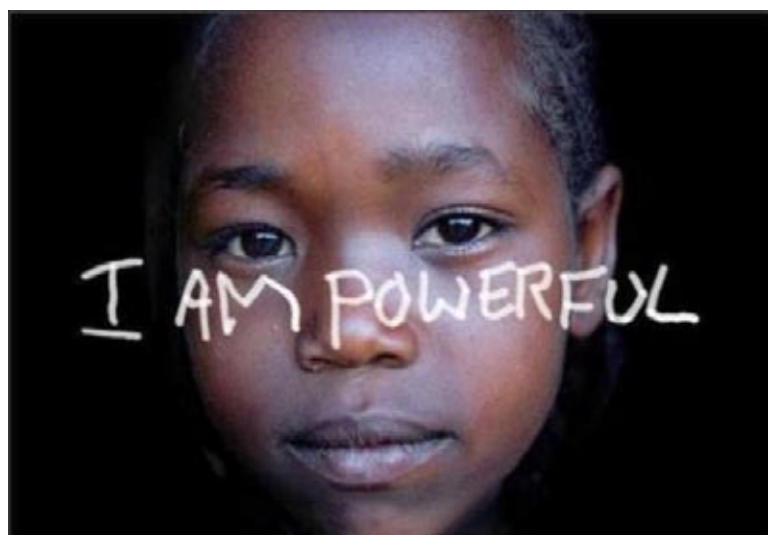
In 2007 the hour-long documentary, **NOW** Senior Correspondent Maria Hinojosa takes viewers to Guatemala, India and Niger to explore stories of early marriage, including an illegal midnight wedding in India where children as young as three years are married, and the courageous efforts of people campaigning to end child marriage in many of these communities. <http://www.icrw.org/html/news/news.htm>

Australian aid: Eliminating Violence Against Women
<http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/women.pdf>

Violence against Women in Melanesia and East Timor: Building on Global and Regional Promising Approaches
<http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/news/news08.html>

Stop Violence: Responding to Violence Against Women in Melanesia and East Timor
http://www.ausaid.gov.au/publications/pubout.cfm?ID=7821_6079_155_5278_287

Photograph: I am powerful



Source: <http://www.therealstevegray.com/2011/02/watch-i-am-powerful/>

