

DAY ONE: 25 November 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women'.

Grooming leading to Violence....

Within days of getting engaged to her wonderful fiancé John, Susan a bright university student, was on her way to a new life in his country. Waking up on her first morning, Susan discovered she was alone, locked in the apartment and her passport was gone. That evening John brought home some friends, one of whom followed her into the bedroom and violently raped her. Later a cold, indifferent John told her they needed money and this was the quickest way to earn it... (As told to writer, names changed for anonymity)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



<https://pixabay.com/en/fear-woman-stop-1131143>

Global Facts re Violence Against Women

- **One in Three women** worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence.
- **Sexual violence** includes rape, unwanted sexual advances, forced marriage or cohabitation.
- **700 million** women were married as children
- **200 million** women/girls have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)
- **2 out of 3 children** trafficked are female
- **Most unsafe place** for Women is the **home**, because of partner violence.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence>

Gender-based violence knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.

<http://brightredtriangle.co.uk/introducing-2017-campaign>

Ref: www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/

Laudato Si - Pope Francis' encyclical to the world in 2015, highlights link between: 'Cry of the Earth and Cry of the Poor'.

".... each human being is a subject who can never be reduced to the status of an object" (Paragraph 81)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) most of these reference Women particularly SDG # 5:
Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

Make your voices heard – every voice counts!



CEDAW

(UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Adopted in 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Reducing feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest reading CEDAW during the **16 Days** www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

UN UDHR

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 5: No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, degrading treatment.

Action to promote respect and equality:

1. Teach children to respect each other irrespective of gender.
2. Support organisations that look after women who have been abused.

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN)
a faith based group with members from the
Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy,
Presentation and Salesians.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



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16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



DAY ONE...

25th November

International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women....

49

Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org



DAY TWO: 26 November: *Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation*

FGM also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some, or all of the external female genitalia. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity.

Fatima's story

Fatima lives in Somalia with her family where she attends a school nearby. Her mother is a seamstress. Fatima, at 6 years of age, had a visit from her grandmother. All was pre-arranged and Fatima didn't know what was happening. *'They held my shoulders and knees, and I started crying and trying to close my legs. It was very terrible. I can never forget that. I was at home for seven days with acute pain in the area they cut. Don't do this to your daughters!'* (Source: www.unicef.org/somalia)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Global Facts

- ✚ 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM
- ✚ 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM annually
- ✚ Girls 14 and younger represent 44 million of those who have been cut, with the highest prevalence of FGM occurring in Africa.

(UNICEF)

Laudato Si - Pope Francis.

"Learning to accept our body to care for it and to respect its full meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." LS June 2015

Beijing+20 in 2015 reaffirmed that a major obstacle to ending violence against women, is the persistence of discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence. Victim blaming attitudes are widespread across all countries.



(Image used with permission of stopfgm.or.ke)

UNICEF with UNFPA (UN Population Fund) co-leads the global programme towards the elimination of FGM. It works with governments, communities, religious leaders and other partners to end the practice.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 5.3: *'Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.'* This target reflects the international community's commitment to ending FGM by 2030.

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination & all forms of Discrimination against Women)

Suggest reading this during the **16 Days**
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

No. 14 - *That State parties take appropriate and effective measures with a view to eradicating the practice of female circumcision.*

No. 12 - *It requires States to eliminate discrimination against women in their access to health-care services throughout the life cycle*

ACTION to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

- ✚ Visit <http://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/what-is-fgm/>
- ✚ Promote the value of girls' education
- ✚ Support organisations promoting children's rights e.g. www.stopfgm.or.ke

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15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org

DAY 2...

26th November

**Elimination of
Female Genital
Mutilation (FGM)**



DAY THREE: 27th November...

'Sexual Harassment'

Marianne's story

Marianne was on her way to university when she was approached by a man on a motorbike who grabbed her, took her to an isolated location and poured acid on her face. The area was deserted, so despite her calls for help no one came to her aid. Marianne's face burned, stinging and swelling to the point where her lips and eyes were no longer visible. The assailant, Marianne's brother-in-law, had long been harassing her, initiating unwanted sexual advances and imploring her to marry him. (*europebreakingnews.net* - Aug. 2017)

Questions:

What is your reaction to this true story?
Why do you think some men think it is OK to treat women in this way?

Global Facts:

- **Gender-based violence** knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socio-economic class.
- **Violence against women and girls** is a **global issue** with 1 in 3 women across the world experiencing violence. (*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 2013*)
- **1 in 5 women and girls** aged 15-49, reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.*



pexels.com

"Today in many places we hear a call for greater security. But until exclusion and inequality in society and between people is reversed it will be impossible to eliminate violence."

Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium 59

* Data is latest available (2005-2016) for women and girls aged 15 to 49, across 87 countries. www.unwomen.org

Laudato Si

In Pope Francis' encyclical to the world in 2015, he clearly values creation and life LS 15

"Human life itself is a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement"



UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Many of the SDGs reference Women. Of significance are:

SDG 5 - Targets 2:

- ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES, INCLUDING TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL AND OTHER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

SDG 11 – Target 7:

- PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE, INCLUSIVE and ACCESSIBLE GREEN and PUBLIC SPACES, IN PARTICULAR FOR WOMEN and CHILDREN, OLDER PERSONS.

UN CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>
(Suggest you read this during the **16 Days**)

CEDAW Article 16: ". . . provides men and women with "the same right to enter into marriage, the same right freely to choose a spouse . . . "

ACTION I will take to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

1. Read more on the subject – <http://endviolence.un.org/orangeday.shtml>
2. Make a donation to [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#)

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16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



DAY 3...

27th November

Sexual Harassment

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 years are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org



DAY FOUR: 28TH November: *Children Caught in Prostitution.*

Jennifer's Story

Jennifer is fourteen years old, though she looks much older. She began her "dancing career" in a bar when she was ten years old. 'My friend told me I could find work as a house help, I didn't know I'd be working as a dancer'. Jennifer discovered at a very young age that she had no choice and had to go with her first customer. 'I didn't want to go with him. I was stripped of my clothes, and then he raped me'. This is sex tourism in the Philippines and it is not done covertly. It happens in broad daylight.

(As told by the survivor)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Reed & Latino
"I have a voice:
Trafficked
Women
in their own
words". 2015.

Global Facts

- Globally 71% of trafficked victims are women and girls.
- 2 out of 3 children trafficked are female.
- Worldwide 15 million adolescent girls have been victims of forced sex.
- The trafficking industry generates \$150+ billion dollars annually (ILO)

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/12/report>

POPE FRANCIS: "The disorder that drives one person to take advantage of another, to treat others as mere objects, imposing forced labour on them... a kind of thinking that leads to the sexual exploitation of children." LS 123

CEDAW: (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) adopted in 1979, aims to:

- ✓ End violence against women
- ✓ Achieve gender equality during peace and war

Suggest reading this during the **16 Days**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goal 5 – Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual plus other types of exploitation.

Goal 16 - Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

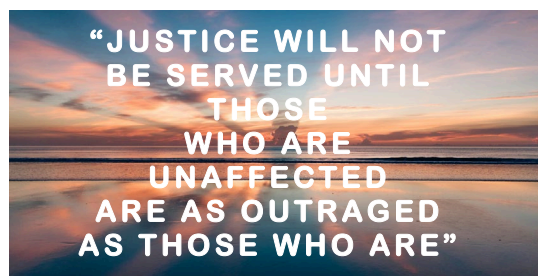


Image from unsplash.com - [Ravi Piniseti](#)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

"State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment... including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other persons" Art 19.

ACTION to protect Children's rights

1. Support organisations promoting the rights of children and working for their welfare. <http://www.childrensrights.ie/sites>
2. Keep informed by visiting: <http://www.ecpat.org/>

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Against
Gender
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DAY 4...

28th November

*Children Caught in
Prostitution.*

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 years are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org



DAY FIVE: November 29th Cyber Bullying

Flora's Story

Flora's cousin, who had been harassing her with threats of physical violence if she did not consent to marry him, pinned her down, taking compromising photos which he stored on a USB drive. Despite his threats of physical violence, Flora filed a legal case against him for intimidation. He threatened to circulate the illicit photos via mobile phone to his friends if she did not drop the battle. He carried through on his threat when she continued to push her case.

(*guardian.com* - Aug. 2017)

In Flora's country, there are few avenues for women like her to seek support. Violence against women is increasingly connected to online forms of abuse that include blackmail.

Questions:

What is your initial reaction to this true story?

How can cyber bullying be tackled?



pexels.com

Global Facts

- Only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about consensual sexual relations and health care. www.unwomen.org
- World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Only 18 out of 173 countries have specific legislation addressing sexual harassment in public places. (*World Bank, 2016*)

Pope Francis said recently: "The spread of ever more extreme pornography and other improper uses of the net, not only causes disorders, dependencies and grave harm among adults, but also has a real impact on the way we view love and relations between the sexes." Rome, October 4, 2017



UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Most of the SDGs reference Women. Of significance are:

Goal 5 Target 5b: "Enhance the use of technology, in particular, information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."

Goal 5c: "Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels."

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of
All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW

(Suggest you read this during the 16 Days)

ACTION I will take to promote respect and equality between all women and men...

1. Read *UN Women's global data base for your country's profile* - <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries#I>
2. Encourage people to report any form of harassment on-line and discuss dangers of divulging personal information. <https://www.icrw.org/making-internet-safe-place/>

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DAY 5...

29th November

CHILD MARRIAGE...



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 years are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org

Cyber Bullying



DAY SIX: Dec 2nd CHILD BRIDES

Each year 15 million girls are married as children.

The Story of a Child Bride

On her wedding day as an 11-year-old bride, Noora remembers her childish delight at receiving gifts and being thrilled because friends and family gathered for a three day party in her honour. Noora didn't realise that dressing up as an adult and putting on jewellery meant she was now the bride of a distant cousin. He was three times her age, and saw marriage as a means to act like a depraved animal.

(Source: www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Global Facts about Children

- If all children learned to read, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.
- 29,000 children under the age of five, 21 each minute, die every day from preventable causes.
- 31 million girls of primary school age are out of school (Unesco)
- Over 8 million children are living as refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

www.voanews.com/a/unicef www.worldhunger.org/world-child

'*Girls Not Brides*' is a campaign of 'The Elders', a group of former leaders that has become a global partnership of 800 civil society organisations. They are committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. www.girlsnotbrides.org/

POPE FRANCIS has pledged:

"..To work strenuously for the protection of minors and their dignity, including online" He said a coordinated, international approach is needed, to protect children from the "corruption of their minds and violence against their bodies". Rome 6th October 2017

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), most of these reference Women, and children, particularly SDG # 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

Target 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.*



www.google.ie/search?q=free+images

UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) Article 4: *Governments have a responsibility to ensure children's rights are respected and protected.*

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Reducing feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest reading this during **16 Days**
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

ACTION I will take to protect children:

✚ See what you could do by reading:
<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/take-action/>

✚ Offer support to organisations working to protect and look after children's welfare.

✚ Campaign to ensure all children receive their basic rights in my country.

<https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/>
<http://srsq.violenceagainstchildren.org>

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*16 Days of
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49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

DAY 6...

30th November

CHILD BRIDES

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 years are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org



DAY 7: December 1st Harassment and Violence in the Work Place

Sarah's Story

"I work in an office. The good days are those when other employees ask you if you're single and why *"a pretty girl like you should be alone"*. The not so good days are the ones where they feel free to touch you, a hand on your arm, an unwanted hug, a pat on the bum." (Irish Independent Nov.4, 2017)

Women and men experience violence and harassment in the world of work, but unequal status and power relations in society and at work often result in women being far more exposed to such treatment.

High Risk Groups

- 1. Migrant workers:** More than half are women, but they comprise 98% of sex-trafficked victims. Often, they are in isolated and invisible "women's work" with higher violence risk.
- 2. Domestic workers:** are usually female, often doing informal work, without a support system. They can undergo physical or psychological violence, including sexual harassment and rape.
- 3. Health services workers,** between 80-90% are women. They are eight times more likely to face physical threats, than those working in manufacturing.

Women in Management: It has been proved that women who reach executive positions, may face high levels of sexual harassment.



Global Fact: 235 million women work in countries where there is no legal protection against workplace harassment. In these situations, women are more vulnerable if there is a male dominated management unless there is a clear, legal framework.

Ref: https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/stop_violence_en.pdf
<http://www.unwomen.org/>

2017 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work'
Agreed conclusions:

'The Commission strongly condemns violence against women and girls in public and private places, including harassment in the work place.

...these forms of violence are major impediments
...hampering women's ability to enter... and remain in the labour market and to make contributions that fulfil their potential.'

✚ **The Beijing Platform for Action** recognizes sexual harassment as a form of violence against women. It calls on employers, unions, and civil society, to ensure governments enact and enforce laws on sexual harassment and that employers develop anti-harassment policies and prevention strategies. (para. 178c)

✚ **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency dealing with labour standards



What could an ILO Convention cover?

- Provisions to prevent gender based violence at work
- Measures to protect and support workers affected by gender based violence
- A description of groups most affected by gender based violence: LGBT, Indigenous and migrant workers, workers living with HIV/AIDS and disabilities and those trapped in forced and child labour

ACTION to promote equality:

1. **Actively** support the rights of women in the work place to ensure protection and equality.
2. **Encourage** women to seek equality and justice when negotiating new employment.

Prepared by the 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group, with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians - (Updated October 2018).

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16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



49

Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

DAY 7...

1st December

Harassment and Violence in the Work Place

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See www.mercyworld.org



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CHILD MARRIAGE...



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org



DAY 8...

2nd December

Girls Deprived of Education



Day 8: December 2nd...

Girls Deprived of Education

Education is a human right regardless of your gender. According to UNICEF, *"When we educate a girl, we not only give her the tools and knowledge to make her own decisions and shape her own future, we also help raise the standard of living of her family and her community."*

Anya's Story

Anya had worked in a factory for two years when she heard that she could learn to read and write in a literacy programme being held after work. She realised that as a child, she had been sent to the big city to work in a factory to earn money, so that her brothers could attend school. When Anya became literate, she spoke about how she had felt ashamed because she had never gone to school. Anya tried to hide this from her companions at work. The literacy programme was very freeing. Anya no longer felt ashamed because now she could read and write and could join in with her companions at work. *(As told to the writer)*

Question:

What are your thoughts as you read Anya's story?
.....



pexels.com

Global Facts on Education:

- Of the estimated 264 million children out of school, 65 million are girls. *(UNESCO 2017 Global Education Monitoring Report)*
- There are multiple barriers to educating girls, including: unfavourable school environments, discriminatory social and cultural factors, early marriage and school-related violence. *(GPE analysis of 42 education sector plans June 2015)*
- Women still represent two thirds of the world's illiterate adults. *(UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report 2000-2015)*
- Children born to a mother who can read, are 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5 than children born to an illiterate woman. *(UNESCO: 'Education Counts' Factsheet)*

Pope Francis: *"Education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women . . ."* (NBC News Video)



*Why should we be silent?
Why don't we speak up
for our rights? Why don't
we tell the world what is
happening?* Malala
Yousafzai

The act of pursuing an education can sometimes be life threatening for girls in situations of political turmoil, as the 2012 attack against Malala Yousafzai

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRC Article 6: *'Every child has the right to life, survival and development.'*

2019 sees the 30th anniversary of the signing of the CRC by most countries, but it is still not fully implemented by many of them.

Suggest you read the CRC during the 16 Days:
www.childrensrights.ie/sites/default/files/UNCRCEnglish.pdf

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Many of the goals reference Women and Girls particularly -

SDG 4.5 *'By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations'*

SDG 5: *'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.'*

Actions to ensure Girls are educated:

1. Promote equal educational opportunities for girls and boys so that both can develop their potential.
2. Avoid stereo-typing so that children free to express themselves, according to their gifts.
3. Call on world leaders to ensure girls in crisis affected areas can stay in school.
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/action/keep-crisis-affected-girls-in-school-ecw>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Mercy, Presentation, Salesians and Josephites.

DAY 9, December 3rd Human Trafficking

"Human trafficking is [all around us](#), in all regions of the world... in practices of forced labour, sexual servitude, recruitment of child soldiers and other forms of exploitation." Mr. Guterres, UN Secretary General.
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/09

Mara's Story

Mara lived in Moldova where it was difficult to find work. She heard there were great opportunities in Western Europe so jumped at the offer of a job in a bar. Mara quickly realised that she had been deceived and was now a victim of trafficking. She was bought and sold by traffickers who took her through Albania, Italy, France and England before she arrived in Ireland. Here her passport and papers were taken from her and destroyed, and she was put to work in a brothel. Mara had to work all day and frequently into the night, receiving only food and shelter. If she did not obey, Mara was told her family in Moldova would be killed. Mara managed to escape and got the support and help she needed. (Shared with permission)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Permission of APT Ireland

Global Facts about Human Trafficking:

1. Human are trafficked for: Sexual Exploitation, Cheap Labour and Organ Transplants.
2. All countries are a source, transit or destination for traffickers.
3. Human Trafficking (HT) is the 2nd most lucrative criminal activity after illegal sale of arms.
4. Globally 24.9 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery. 71% are women and girls and 29% men and boys.
www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource

Pope Francis' describes HT as: '*Ugly, cruel and criminal...an aberrant plague and a modern form of slavery*'. He is asking for a global commitment to end the practice. Rome, 30 July, 2017



www.aptireland.org

UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration –

The Fifth Informal Thematic Session focussed on: "*Smuggling of Migrants, Trafficking in Persons and Contemporary Forms of Slavery*." This includes identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims" UN, NY 5th Sept 2017. www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Target 8.7:

calls for nations to, "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking...recruitment and use of child soldiers..." www.unicefusa.org

CEDAW: (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Article 6: *States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation or prostitution of women.*
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

Action to prevent human trafficking:

1. Raise awareness about Human Trafficking. Often victims are working in beauty salons, car washes and picking fruit.etc.
2. If you see anything suspicious report it to the police or an NGO working to eliminate HT.
3. Pray for victims who have been trafficked and those keeping them in slavery.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



49

Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

DAY 9...

3rd December

CHILD MARRIAGE...



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org

Human Trafficking



DAY TEN: 4th December

Rape as a Weapon of War...

We knew the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was nearby, but it was shocking to see them arrive and brutally round up the men and boys in our village. One of the leaders an older man, pointed at me, then two soldiers approached and roughly lifted me up and locked me in the back of a jeep. I was just 15. For the next seven years I was one of this leader's six 'wives', cooking, cleaning and constantly moving from place to place. I had two children with him. It was only when the Ugandan army ambushed our LRA camp that I was rescued.... (As heard by the writer at the UN in Geneva)

Question

What is my reaction to this horrific true story?

.....



Used with permission from Amnesty International

Global Facts

- Rape and sexual abuse are not just a product of war but are used as a deliberate military strategy. (*Amnesty International*)
- At first, rape as a weapon of war in Syria was committed only inside prisons, but it became more widespread and systematic (Laurent Stoop/Al Jazeera)
- While it is undisputed that strategic rape is an unlawful tactic of war, no state has ever been held accountable, nor any individual prosecuted for its use.
<http://globaljusticecenter.net/documents/Rape%20as%20a%20>

Pope Francis: "Please Lord, stop. No more wars. No more of these useless massacres... today the world is preparing to go even more forcefully into war." 3 Nov 2017 Rome

"War always does grave harm to the environment". (*Laudato Si* 57)

Rape and sexual violence is used as a deliberate weapon of war in the same way guns and tanks are, to terrorise civilian populations, destroy ethnic groups or religious or political opponents, cheaply, silently and devastatingly...

William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary, 2012.

CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest you read during the 16 Days

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

"In 2016, sexual violence continued to be employed as a tactic of war, with widespread and strategic rapes, including mass rapes, allegedly committed by several parties to armed conflict, mostly in conjunction with other crimes such as killing, looting, forced displacement and arbitrary detention." UN Report of Secretary General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, April 2017.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 16 Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

UNHCR 16. a: 'Strengthen relevant national institutions, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.'
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/Metadata_16.a.1_3_March2016.pdf

ACTION

1. Strive to be a peace-filled person.
2. Support any campaign to eliminate weapons of war.
3. Befriend an asylum seeker from a conflict zone who may have suffered greatly.

Read: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/>
<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/>

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DAY 10...

4th December

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org

*Rape As A
Weapon of War*



DAY ELEVEN: December 5th

Widows and Property

Some traditional cultures do not easily concede recognition of a widow's human rights. In practice, especially in some rural areas, it is widely assumed that only men should own or inherit land and that widowhood terminates a woman's social legitimacy.

Michelle's Story

Shortly after Michelle, 57, was widowed in 2012, her in-laws took over the fields she had tilled for decades. They stole fruit from the trees in her kitchen garden and sold the harvest, leaving her without any livelihood. Then they intimidated and insulted her and attempted to chase her away.

Michelle's neighbours advised her that the *Legal Resources Foundation* (LRF) could help her to protect her inheritance. The LRF took the matter to court where Michelle obtained restraining orders against her in-laws, so she was able to go back to tilling her fields. Her in-laws continue to threaten her, so Michelle still worries about the future: *"I am fearful and my heart is unsettled."*
(Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW))

Question

What is your reaction to this true story?

.....



Widow evicted from home, Zimbabwe (Photo HRW)

Global Facts*

- One in seven widows globally - 38 million - lives in extreme poverty, due to denial of property rights.
- A significant number of girls are widowed in childhood - a reflection of the custom of marrying off young girls to much older men.
- Women own less than 20% of the world's land, yet farm and produce most of the world's food supply. *World Economic Forum, January 2017*

* (Source: *World Widows Report* published by the *Loomba Foundation*)

LAUDATO SI - Pope Francis in this encyclical calls us to look at all our relationships: *'We must regain the conviction that we need one another - we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and being good and decent is worth it.'*



pixabay.com: [stevepb](#)

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Most of the SDGs reference Women.
Of significance is:

SDG 5.a: *Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.*

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 15 1.2: *States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property*

Article 16 1.h: *The same rights for both spouses in respect of ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property ...*

(Suggest you read the Convention during **16 Days**)

UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 12: *Everyone has the right to own property alone and in association with others.*

Article 17: *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of (his) (her) property.*

ACTION:

1. Visit the following website -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=IvADol8C0ak - *'Women's Land Rights: giving women the opportunity to change the world.'*

2. Actions to end abuses of women's property rights:
<http://pantheon.hrw.org/legacy/campaigns/women/property/action.htm>

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DAY 11...

5th December

Widows and Property

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org



DAY 12: December 6th

Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change

Leading Academics have warned that "A new obstacle has emerged in the battle for female equality, in the form of climate change. Global warming will inflict far more suffering on women than men, because they are more vulnerable to the floods, droughts and diseases that are expected to increase as the climate changes". (Tom Bawden, *Env. Editor, Independent.co.uk* – Nov. 2015)

Aregash's Story

"A woman's life is hard, and climate change is making it harder," says Aregash, a 32-year-old Ethiopian woman who lives with her six children in a small farming community. "Because of changing rainfall patterns, crop yields are suffering, and my family doesn't have enough food. We used to get 500 to 600 kilos per harvest, but now we can barely get 100. It has never been like this. The only way we can raise our kids is from the land and if it fails to produce, there isn't enough to feed them..." (adapted from 'Weathering Change' Population International: Healthy Families, Healthy Planet)

Questions

What are your thoughts as you read this story?

.....



<https://www.google.ie/search?q=pixabay.com+free+images+-+flooding>

Global Facts

- By 2050 the number of people fleeing the impacts of climate change could reach 150 million. 80% of climate refugees will be women and children.
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/women-impacted-by-climate-change/blog/59194/>
- Five times more women die from natural disasters than men. Cultural constraints on women, including free movement and a lack of assets, makes them more vulnerable to disasters. (Ghalia Fayad blog, Greenpeace 2017)
- Climate change and natural disasters have many negative impacts on women e.g. they are often exposed to rape and gender-based violence. (CEDAW, Feb. 2016)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN acknowledges the link between achieving **Gender Equality** and implementing the SDGs, especially **#13**

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Target: 13. b *Promote mechanisms for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries.... including focusing on women, youth....and marginalised communities.*

Laudato Si: "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it." LS 23
tracts4free.wordpress.com



Action:

Read about the link between climate change and conflict <https://eifoundation.org/secure-international-protection-for-climate-refugees-1>

Campaign for EU leaders to stand up for the rights of climate refugees
<https://eifoundation.org/news-media/2017/eu-leaders-must-recognise-the-rights-of-climate-refugees>

*"We will not solve the climate crisis
or embark on a new pathway
to sustainable development, if we
don't fully engage the 50% of the
world's population which are
women."*

Mary Robinson, 2015 CIDSE Conference, Rome

At COP23 Gender Day in November 2017. the first Gender Action Plan

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DAY 12 ...

6th December

Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.



See: www.mercyworld.org

Day 13: December 7th - Femicide

Femicide is a sex-based, hate crime term, broadly defined as "*the intentional killing of women or girls because they are females.*"

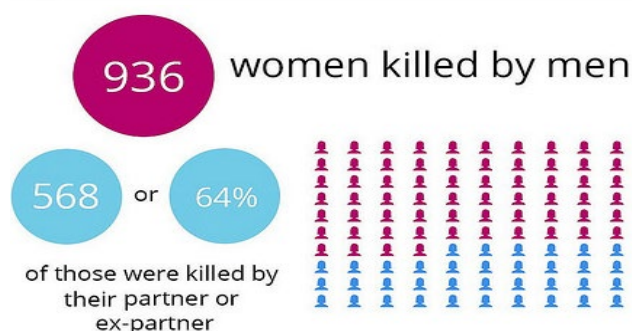
Ana Clara's Story

Ana Clara was thirty and lived on the periphery of Porto Alegre, Brazil. She was in a relationship with a partner for six years and had one daughter. The relationship was very unstable and there was a lot of conflict and violence which resulted in repeated break-ups. On New Year's Eve 2007, Ana Clara was stabbed to death by her partner. (*Femicide: Narratives of Gender Crimes*. SN Meneghel - 2013)

What is my reaction to this true story?

femicide census

profiles of women killed by men



Global Facts

- ❖ A large proportion of femicides are committed by current or former partners. (WHO - <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/>)
- ❖ The highest number of Femicides occurs in South Africa, South America and Central America. <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis>
- ❖ In 2012 intentional homicide took the lives of almost half a million people <https://www.unodc.org/gsh/>
- ❖ Family members commit 66% of Femicide attacks. (Femicide: A Global Problem, 2012).

In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis states:

'It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species, while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being... (91)

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

3 - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security.

5 - No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

7 - All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to protection of the law.

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Articles 1-16 outline what governments must do to end discrimination against girls and women. It also lists specific areas where discrimination against girls and women must end i.e. in law, marriage, education, health care, and employment.

SAFE FROM FEAR
SAFE FROM VIOLENCE

"States shall recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant NGOs and of civil society active in combating violence against women and establish effective co-operation." (Article 9: Council of Europe's Convention) <https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>

ACTION

Raise awareness of Femicide and lobby for justice wherever this occurs.

Work for gender equality in every country.

Read 'A Gendered Analysis of Violent Deaths' -

http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-63.pdf

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CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org

DAY 13...

7th December

Femicide



Day 14: December 8th

Ownership and Objectification of Women

Women frequently face sexual objectification in daily interpersonal interactions and through the active and passive consumption of multimedia. This can lead to internalization of society's scrutiny, resulting in habitual body monitoring and self-consciousness. In turn it can increase feelings of body shame and appearance anxiety. (Emma Rooney 2016 - steinhardt.nyu.edu)

Laura's story

'I was the victim of a crime as a teenager, at the hands of a man who sexually abused me for several years. When I eventually told people about the abuse, some who were close to the abuser chose not to believe me. "Why didn't you fight him?" they asked. "Why didn't you scream? You've always been so outspoken - if it really happened you would have told us earlier!" I was branded a liar, labelled mentally unstable, and told I had got it all wrong. This blame left me feeling broken'. (Jessica Valenti, Guardian Columnist)

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



(Google free to use images)

Global Facts

- In 128 countries, laws treat men and women differently, making it difficult for a woman to **independently obtain** an ID card, own or use property, access credit, or get a job.
- Weight obsession affects millions of teenagers today, especially girls.
- Globally, one out of every seven women has or is struggling with an eating disorder www.webmd.com/mental-health/eating-disorders/ (2017)

In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis says:

'Each human being as a subject can never be reduced to the status of an object.' LS 81

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG Goal #5 - Achieve Gender Equality

Target 5.c 'Adopt and strengthen enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women / girls at all levels.



(Google free to use images)

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

States shall take all appropriate measures:

Article 5 (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women....to achieve the elimination of prejudices...and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority, of either of the sexes

Art. 10 (c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at every level and in all forms of education.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in the UK released a report calling for stronger regulation of adverts that feature stereotyped gender roles "which may be harmful to people" www.thejournal.ie/advertising-gender-stereotyping (July 2017)

Action

Affirm young people in who they are, with their unique gifts and talents.

Read about gender stereotyping -

<http://www.right-to-education.org/resource/gender-stereotyping-human-rights-violation>

Notice how women are portrayed in advertising.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTImho_RovY&feature=player_embedded

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DAY 14...

8th December

**Ownership and
Objectification of
Women**

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org



DAY 15: December 9th Does Patriarchy in the Church Play a Role in Abuse?

"**Patriarchy** is a system of society, in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it." (The Dominant Ideology of Patriarchy)

Survivors of Abuse share their experience...

"I hear similar themes repeated by victims, of church cultures that treated women's bodies as inherently problematic and seductive....that questioned women's ability to think rationally or make decisions without the leadership of men. ... blamed victims of sexual abuse for inviting the abuse...That effectively silenced victims by telling them that reporting the crime would reflect poorly on the church...These women describe an environment of fear...which made it hard to report, or even to acknowledge, the abuse..." (Adapted from:

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/patriarchy-abuse>)

"*God weeps for the sexual abuse of children,*" **Pope Francis** said, after meeting with hundreds of bishops and seminarians, as well as privately with victims of clergy sexual abuse. (USA. 2015)



<http://mary-magdalene-church-s-molton.weebly.com>

Global Realities

1. Feminism promotes women participating in decision-making that affects their lives...to enjoy full and equal civil rights, in and out of the Church.

(Adapted from Joan Chittister, OSB, October 2013)

2. The Royal Commission between January 1980 and February 2015 heard that 4,444 people made allegations of sexual abuse to 93 church authorities.

www.theguardian.com/australia-news/20177

3. "The Church, in fidelity to the gospel, must be open to the full and equal participation of women in all its ministries.

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

Pope Francis

"In communities still weighed down with patriarchal and chauvinistic customs, it is good to note that the Gospel begins by highlighting women who were influential and made history". Pope Francis September. 9th 2017, Colombia



<https://pixabay.com/en/photos/church/?&pagi=7>

"History is burdened by the excesses of patriarchal cultures that considered women inferior.... We must "see in the women's movement the working of the Spirit for a clearer recognition of the dignity and rights of women." (Pope Francis Amoris Laetitia 54)

CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Article 1: Discrimination against women includes any exclusion or restriction on the basis of sex...in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Article 5: States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate stereotyping, prejudices and discrimination.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) SDG #10

Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex... religion, economic or other status

ACTION to promote respect and equality



Read more on the subject
Engage with your church community; be available for election to the Parish Council
Support women and girls taking an active role in all church services.

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DAY 15...

9th December

Does Patriarchy in the Church Play a Role in Abuse?

CHILD MARRIAGE....



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15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.



See: <http://www.pbvm.org/news/full/leave-no-one-behind:-end-violence-against-women-and-girls,-part-ii/172/>

Day 16, December 10th UN International Human Rights Day

Human rights (HR) are inherent to each person without discrimination. They are set out in the Universal Declaration of HR Dec 10, 1948, as interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

A Gift or an Abuse of Human Rights?

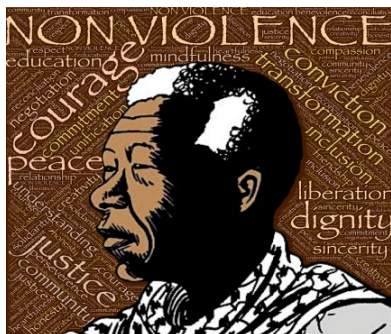
Whilst studying in a rural area of Zimbabwe, I was called to meet a tall, beautiful woman with a child on her back. She had a 20-litre tin of water on her head. As I approached, she elegantly took the tin from her head and placed it at my feet, indicating it was for me to wash whilst staying with my host family. Later I learnt that Sakhile had walked 4 kms to the pump, to bring me this precious gift of water!

As I reflected I began to get angry. Why should women and girls have to spend so many hours fetching water, because the government chooses to spend money on other things? The UN has confirmed that water is a basic human right, yet access is denied to millions, in many countries...

Question:

What human rights abuse have I observed?

.....



<https://pixabay.com/en/non-violence-peace-transformation>

Global Facts about Human Rights

Every State must promote and protect all HR regardless of political, economic and cultural systems. (Vienna World Conference on HR, 1993)

Respect for the three great bodies of international law, humanitarian law and refugee law were eroded in 2016. (Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner of HR, 2016)

Conflicts remained intractable, driving out millions to seek basic conditions for life elsewhere. (UN High Commissioner for HR, 2016)

Pope Francis: "Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities." 2015



<https://pixabay.com>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) with 30 articles on rights, was signed by every State and is a binding document.

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 14 Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries, asylum from persecution.

The International Bill of Rights is the UDHR with the two International Covenants:

a) Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and

b) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which develop the articles in the UDHR. They are therefore binding covenants. Countries report to the UN their progress on HR and other Covenants.



December 10th 1948-2018 marked 70 Years of the UN Declaration on HR. (UDHR)

The theme for the year was:

'Let's Make Human Rights a Fact and Not a Dream'

Actions:

Read the UDHR at: www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/

See: <http://www.humanrights70.eu/>

What HR abuses are you most concerned about? How could these be addressed?

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DAY 16...

10th December

**UN International
Human Rights Day**

