

CATWAO JOINS THE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Sunday, March 25, 2007, 2:00 P.M.

Residence of Ms. Gamze Newell
Rockcliffe Park

Speaker:

Riina Biltekin: Empowering and Educating Women - Perspectives on Gender Equality Around the World

Some Definitions/ concepts:

Gender vs. sex

While 'sex' refers to the biological differences between males and females, gender describes the socially-constructed roles, rights and responsibilities that communities and societies consider appropriate for men and women. We are born as males and females, but becoming girls, boys, women and men is something that we learn from our families and societies.

Being a social construction, gender is a very fluid concept. It changes not only over time, but also from one culture to another and among different groups within one culture. Therefore, gender roles, inequities and power imbalances are not a 'natural' result of biological differences, but are determined by the systems and cultures in which we live. This means that we can address and contribute to changing these roles by challenging the status quo and seeking social change.

Gender Equality

Gender equality is, first and foremost, a human right

Gender equality means that women and men enjoy the same status. Gender equality means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and potential to contribute to national, political, economic, social and cultural development, and to benefit from the results. Gender equality is

therefore the equal valuing by society of both the similarities and differences between women and men, and the varying roles that they play.

Equality between women and men (gender equality) refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. This entails that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities not depend on whether they are born male or female and that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration. Furthermore, there is increasing acceptance that gender equality is not a women's issue, but should concern and fully engage men as well as women, since equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

Empowerment

Empowerment is about people—both women and men—taking control over their lives: setting their own agendas, gaining skills, building self-confidence, solving problems, and developing self-reliance. It is not only a collective, social and political process, but an individual one as well—and it is not only a process but an outcome too.

Outsiders cannot empower women: only women can empower themselves to make choices or to speak out on their own behalf. However, institutions, including international co-operation agencies, can support processes that increase women's self-confidence, develop their self-reliance, and help them set their own agendas.

Women's empowerment is central to achieving gender equality. Through empowerment, women become aware of unequal power relations, gain control over their lives, and acquire a greater voice to overcome inequality in their home, workplace and community.

Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and

productivity of whole families and communities and to improved prospects for the next generation.

Gender mainstreaming

Mainstreaming is not an end in itself but instead is an approach for making the concerns and experiences of women, as well as of men, an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in all activities: policy development; research; advocacy; dialogue; legislation; resource allocation; and planning, implementing and monitoring programmes and projects in all political, economic and societal spheres.

Global milestones:

Gender-based inequality is a phenomenon that transcends the majority of the world's cultures, religions, nations and income groups. In most societies, the differences and inequalities between women and men are manifest in the responsibilities each are assigned, in the activities they undertake, in their access to and control over resources and in decision-making opportunities. In recent history, however, there has been increased recognition that gender-based discrimination prevents societies as a whole, women and men, from reaching their full potential.

UN's DAW and CSW

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women was established in 1946 as the Section on the Status of Women, Human Rights Division, Department of Social Affairs. In 1972, the section was upgraded as the Branch for the Promotion of Equality for Men and Women under the newly created Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office in Vienna. The Centre was then headed by Ms. Helvi Sipilä (Finland), the first woman to serve in the UN as an Assistant Secretary-General.

In 1978, the branch was renamed as the Branch for the Advancement of Women. In August 1993, the unit was moved to New York as the Division for the Advancement of Women where it formed part of the Department of Policy

Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD). As a result of restructuring, the Division became part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in 1996.

The Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1946, is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

The first world conference on the status of women

The first world conference on the status of women was convened in Mexico City to coincide with the 1975 International Women's Year, observed to remind the international community that discrimination against women continued to be a persistent problem in much of the world. The Conference, along with the **United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985)** proclaimed by the General Assembly five months later at the urging of the Conference, launched a new era in global efforts to promote the advancement of women by opening a worldwide dialogue on gender equality. In addition to the already existing Branch (now Division) for the Advancement of Women, the Mexico City Conference led to the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to provide the institutional framework for research, training and operational activities in the area of women and development.

International Women's Day.

In December 1977, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions. For the United Nations, International Women's Day has been

observed on 8 March since 1975. The Day is traditionally marked with a message from the Secretary-General.

The theme for 2007 is: Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls

CEDAW

This recognition has led to the rise of a number of global efforts to combat gender inequality. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, and often described as an international bill of rights for women, commits member states to preventing “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field”.

Beijing

In 1995, the Platform for Action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing more than 10 years ago, highlighted the need to ensure that gender equality is a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development. Since 1997, the United Nations has promoted gender mainstreaming as a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality.

Millennium Summit

Finally, at the Millennium Summit in 2000, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment was adopted as one of eight Millennium Development Goals and as an essential component in achieving all of the other goals.

2005 marked the 30th anniversary of the First World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975. During this year, the world will once again focus on women’s and gender issues, marking this anniversary as well as the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 5th anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Status of women today

Gender Inequalities Remain Pervasive Worldwide, no country has managed to eradicate the gender gap, so we are actually talking about different degrees of inequality rather than equality.

Discrimination against women and girls - including gender-based violence, economic discrimination, reproductive health inequities, and harmful traditional practices - remains the most pervasive and persistent forms of inequality. In addition, women and girls bear enormous hardship during and after conflict and other humanitarian emergencies.

World Economic Forum's the Gender Gap report 2006

The report covers 115 economies cover over 90% of the world's population. The index mainly uses publicly available "hard data" indicators drawn from international organizations and some qualitative information from the Forum's own Executive Opinion Survey. ***The Global Gender Gap Report 2006*** includes an innovative new methodology including detailed profiles of each economy that provide insight into the economic, legal and social aspects of the gender gap. The Report measures the size of the gender gap in four critical areas of inequality between men and women:

- 1. Economic participation and opportunity – outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment**
- 2. Educational attainment – outcomes on access to basic and higher level education**
- 3. Political empowerment – outcomes on representation in decision-making structures**
- 4. Health and survival – outcomes on life expectancy and sex ratio**

No country in the world has yet managed to eliminate the gender gap. Those that have succeeded best in narrowing the gap are the Nordic countries, with Sweden standing out as the most advanced in the world, having closed over 80% of its gender gap, followed closely by Norway (2), Finland (3), Iceland (4) and Denmark (8). Germany (5), United Kingdom (9) and Ireland (10) all hold spots in

the top ten. To date, only four countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) have achieved a combination of approximate gender equality in secondary school enrollment, at least 30 percent of seats in parliaments or legislatures are held by women, and women represent approximately 50 percent of paid employment in non-agricultural activities.

In no region of the developing world are women equal to men in legal, social, and economic rights. Gender gaps in access to and control of resources, in economic opportunities, and in power and political voice are widespread. The lowest ranks are occupied by some of the most populous developing countries such as Nigeria (94), India (98) and Iran (108) in addition to Arab world countries such as Egypt (109), Saudi Arabia (114) and Yemen (115).

14 Canada	0.176
105 Turkey	0.585

The Philippines (6) is distinctive for being the only Asian country in the top ten while South Africa (18) holds the highest position among the African countries covered by the Report. Latvia (19) and Lithuania (21) are some of the new EU members that rank high, but remain behind Spain (11) and the Netherlands (12). Both New Zealand (7) and Australia (15) are leaders in closing the gender gap. At the other end of the rankings, Greece (69), France (70), Malta (71) and Italy (77) have the lowest rankings in the EU. The United States (22) falls behind many European nations in addition to lagging behind Canada (14). Russia (49), China (63) and Brazil (67) occupy the middle of the rankings.

Questions of access, under-representation, school attendance, being under-paid

In most countries, women continue to have less access to social services and productive resources than men:

- women remain vastly under-represented in national and local assemblies, accounting for less than 10 percent of the seats in national parliaments, on average;
- in most low-income countries, girls are less likely to attend school than boys. Even when girls start school at the same rate as boys, they are more likely to drop out (in many cases after getting pregnant,

often due to lack of access to reproductive health services); • in industrial countries, women in the wage sector earn an average of 77 percent of what men earn; in developing countries, they earn 73 percent. Only about one-fifth of the wage gap can be explained by gender differences in education, work experience, or job characteristics.

Even when women are employed and earning it is important to look at how the money is spent and whether they have the right to say how it is spent. Studies show that men and women spend their income on different things and women usually spend more on the home and children.

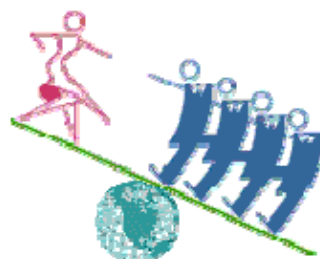
Some gender facts for FINLAND:

Finland has a female president, Tarja Halonen, who is currently serving her 2nd term in office.

Finns are celebrating one hundred of years of democracy this year Finnish women were given the right to vote and stand for election in 1906 and the 19 women were elected to the first Parliament in 1907. Finnish women were the first in Europe to get the right to vote and the first in the world to get the right to stand for election.

WORLD AVERAGE

BOTH HOUSES COMBINED	
Total MPs	43'896
Gender breakdown known for	43'896
Men	36'446
Women	7'450
Percentage of women	17.0%



SINGLE HOUSE OR LOWER HOUSE	
Total MPs	37'173
Gender breakdown known for	37'173
Men	30'797
Women	6'376
Percentage of women	17.2%

UPPER HOUSE OR SENATE	
Total MPs	6'723
Gender breakdown known for	6'723
Men	5'649
Women	1'074
Percentage of women	16.0%

REGIONAL AVERAGES

	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
Nordic countries	40.8%	---	40.8%
Americas	20.0%	19.3%	19.9%
Europe - OSCE member countries including Nordic countries	19.7%	17.5%	19.2%
Europe - OSCE member countries excluding Nordic countries	17.6%	17.5%	17.6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	16.8%	18.2%	17.0%
Asia	16.5%	15.7%	16.4%
Pacific	12.4%	31.8%	14.5%
Arab States	9.5%	6.3%	8.8%

Regions are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in the lower or single House

The percentage of women in the lower or single House

Finland	42 (as of March'07)
UK	19.7
Canada	20.8
Turkey	4.4

The life expectancy for women is 82,2 (75,3 for men).

The education level of Finnish women is very high, younger women are more highly educated, more than 90% of 25-34 year olds has completed at least upper secondary level of education. 36% of the 25-64 year olds has completed

university level education. In 2003, 53.4% of university level students were female.

Differences in employment and unemployment levels between men and women are small but inequalities persist in wages and domestic work. Women's salaries are only 80% of their male counterparts, salary gap grows with the level of education, the higher the education, higher the gap. Women spend more time doing domestic chores and have less free time than men. These stats true for many countries in the EU and the US and Canada as well.

The percentage of female CEOs has slowly grown.

Other Indexes

Human Development Indicators 2006 (177 countries)

Each year since 1990 the Human Development Report has published the human development index (HDI) that looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human development. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as inequality and difficult to measure indicators like respect for human rights and political freedoms. What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

Rank Country

- 1 Norway**
- 2. Iceland**
- 3. Australia**
- 4. Ireland**
- 5. Sweden**
- 6. Canada**
- 7. Japan**
- 8. United States**
- 9. Switzerland**
- 10. Netherlands**
- 11. Finland**

- 92. Turkey**

The Mother's Index

(based on ranking of 125 countries)

*Countries that are tied

Top 10 Countries

1. Sweden
2. Denmark / Finland*
4. Austria / Germany / Norway*
7. Australia / Netherlands*
9. Canada
10. United States / United Kingdom*

74. Turkey

Bottom 10 Countries

125. Niger
124. Burkina Faso
123. Mali
122. Chad
121. Guinea-Bissau
120. Sierra Leone
119. Ethiopia
118. Yemen
117. Central African Republic
115. Democratic Republic of Congo/Liberia*

Key indicators

The status of mothers was compared in 125 countries based on six indicators of women's well-being and four indicators of children's well-being:

- lifetime risk of maternal mortality
- percent of women using modern contraception
- percent of births attended by skilled personnel
- percent of pregnant women with anemia
- adult female literacy rate
- participation of women in national government

- infant mortality rate
- gross primary enrollment rate
- percent of population with access to safe water, and
- percent of children under age 5 suffering from moderate or severe nutritional wasting

“Life is not easy for mums and children in the bottom-ranked countries. Most have never been to school. Mothers are lucky to survive childbirth, and their babies fortunate to survive the first month, yet alone the first year, of life,” said Ms Douglas. “But the good news is that we know what it takes to help these mums and children survive and thrive.”

“Humanitarian organisations like Save the Children are working in partnership with communities and governments to provide proven programs that benefit mothers and children in developing countries. Save the Children’s 85-plus years of experience on the ground have shown us that increasing access to education and child and maternal health—including family planning—are critical to the well-being of children and their mothers,” she said.

Key Findings

The Mothers’ Index identifies female education, presence of a skilled attendant at birth and access to, and use of, family planning services, as the three areas most strongly associated with child survival and well-being.

- Women who are educated are more likely to postpone marriage and early childbirth, seek health care for themselves and their families, and encourage all of their children, including girls, to go to school.
- As contraceptive use rises and mothers are able to space their births at healthy intervals, deaths among mothers and children decline. For example, in Australia, 72 percent of women use modern birth control, 1 in 5,800 mothers dies in childbirth and 5 out of 1,000 infants do not live to see their first birthday. Compare this to Mali, where 6 percent of women use birth control, 1 in 10 mothers dies in childbirth, and 1 in 8 infants dies before reaching age 1.

WHY GENDER MATTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT?

There is increasing evidence of the link between making progress on gender equality, and making progress on all the other development objectives.

Tackling gender inequality in access to services and resources is proven to increase women's productivity, and reduce poverty and hunger. Economically empowered women play a more active role in household decision-making, with greater bargaining power to increase spending on education and health.

Educated girls and women have better opportunities for entrepreneurship and to earn higher wages, lifting themselves and their families, out of poverty.

They also tend to be better informed about the risk of HIV, meaning they are more likely – and better able – to negotiate safer sex. The ability of women to make free and informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive lives underpins their ability to control all other areas of their lives.

Gender inequalities harm everyone

Women and girls bear the largest and most direct costs of inequality between the sexes. But the costs cut broadly across society and ultimately harm everyone. Gender inequalities tend to lower labor productivity and the efficiency of labor allocation in households and the economy. They result in an unequal distribution of resources and contribute to the non-monetary aspects of poverty—lack of security, opportunity and empowerment—that lower the quality of life for men, women and children.

Gender disparities in many dimensions of life remain throughout the world

Despite advances in women's education and health in recent decades, in many parts of the developing world women still are less likely to have equal rights to men in legal, social, or economic affairs. Gender gaps are widespread in access to and control of resources, in economic opportunity, power, and political voice. In addition, violence against women continues to be widespread.

Gender equality is smart economics

Addressing gender issues matters for growth and poverty reduction. In India, for example, recent evidence shows that states with greater gender equality are also the fastest growing and those where growth is more effective in reducing poverty.

Recent World Bank study on the lack of women's economic empowerment in the MENA (Middle East & Northern Africa) region

The MNA case is also compelling: women have almost caught up with men in MNA on average in educational attainment and health indicators, but extremely few women work for a salary. This is clearly a waste of resources. If women worked to the extent they should, judging by education levels and compared to East Asia, household incomes would on average increase by a staggering **25%**

Gender equality is crucial to achieve other Global Goals

Because the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are mutually reinforcing, success in many of the goals will have positive impacts on gender equality, just as progress toward gender equality will help further other goals. Even as gender disparities in education are reduced, other gender differences tend to persist in labor market opportunities, legal rights, and the ability to participate in public life and decision making. It is only by viewing the causes of gender inequality in a holistic manner that we can hope to achieve MDG3 and the other MDGs.

EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION

Education is a fundamental right of every human being -- this right is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Women's Education Significantly Reduces Malnutrition
Faster Progress in Closing Gender Gaps in Schooling Would Accelerate Economic Growth

When a country educates its girls, its mortality rates usually fall, fertility rates decline, and the health and education prospects of the next generation improve.

Educated people are more aware of their rights and they are better able to assert themselves in order to ensure that those rights are respected.

Educated people tend to be healthier and happier since they are better equipped to take care of themselves.

Educated people are also able to make informed choices about their lives and their futures.

The cumulative effect of education extends well beyond individual circumstances -- an educated person is able to share his or her knowledge of health within the family and the community in which they live.

The Situation in Turkey

Despite strong commitment, the overall financial investment in education in Turkey has been low. In 2004 for the first time, the education budget will exceed

the defense budget. Excluding public spending on higher education and other public education institutions, MONE's budget represents 3.07% of GNP.

Girls' education remains a serious problem and challenge for Turkey. Over 50% of girls have never enrolled for secondary education and 40% have not completed compulsory/ primary education. At least 600 000 girls of school age are illiterate/ out of school. There are grave disparities between the urban and rural areas and the regions of Turkey. More than 50% of girls aged between 7 and 13 do not attend school in eastern and southern Turkey. Although primary school enrollment is estimated to be as high as 95-100% in most parts of the country, there are pockets, particularly in the East and South-East, where enrollment of girl students is less than 40%.

Although there has been improvement on all levels of education in terms of infrastructure and supply of teachers, the quality of education is still negatively affected by factors like lingering shortages in physical infrastructure and human resources, double sessions, an emphasis on rote-learning and centralized multiple choice examinations, out-dated curricula, gender disparities, poorly trained and poorly rewarded teachers and overcrowded classrooms. The government's focus has been more on access issues than on quality. There is also not enough progress in introducing and promoting new technologies in education. Turkey has, however, shown a strong commitment to establish a relevant, flexible, gender-sensitive and good quality education system.

Turkey is, along with Italy and Yemen, the co-sponsor of the G-8 mechanism called **Democracy Assistance Dialogue** -DAD (within the G-8 initiative to help reform in the Broader Middle East and North Africa - BMENA). As NGO involvement is important for this, we are working with TESEV in Istanbul which functions as the Turkish lead NGO in this mechanism. And we decided to concentrate on the **empowerment of women**. Turkey has recognized its shortcomings in this area and has furthered its reform process over the years. There is much scholarly body of work and practical experience in the Turkish women related NGO community. So we are in a position to share our positive experiences and best practices with countries in the region. With TESEV we organized several meetings on the issue of women's empowerment.

About violence against girls and women

The fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place from 26 February to 9 March 2007. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2007-2009, the Commission considered “**The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child**” as its priority theme.

Women’s day theme 2007 Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls

Unfortunately violence against women also persists in both developed and developing societies.

Some examples from Pakistan & Afghanistan and a HR update

Gender-Based Violence and Legal Discrimination

In a significant though partial step towards ending legal discrimination against women, Pakistan’s National Assembly passed the Women’s Protection Bill on November 15 with the support of the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party. The passage of the bill removed some of the most dangerous provisions of the Hudood Ordinances. **Judges have now been given authority to try rape cases under criminal rather than Islamic law.** One important consequence of the change is that a woman claiming rape need no longer produce four witnesses, a requirement which had made successful prosecution almost impossible and put the rape victim at risk of being charged with adultery. The amendments also include dropping the death penalty and flogging for persons convicted of having consensual non-marital sex.

However, the Women’s Protection Bill fails to comply with many of Pakistan’s obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which calls on states to modify or abolish laws that discriminate against women. Discriminatory provisions of the Hudood Ordinances that criminalize non-marital sex—which remains punishable by a five-year prison sentence and a fine—remain in place and the law fails to recognize marital rape.

As in previous years, violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape, “honor killings,” acid attacks, and trafficking, remained serious problems in Pakistan. Survivors of violence encounter unresponsiveness and hostility at each level of the criminal justice system, from police who fail to register or investigate cases of gender-based violence to judges with little training or commitment to women’s equal rights. According to Pakistan’s Interior Ministry, there have been more than **4,100 honor killings since 2001**. However, provisions of Pakistani law that allow the next of kin to “forgive” the murderer in exchange for monetary compensation remain in force, and continue to be used by offenders to escape punishment in cases of honor killings.

Women and Girls

Afghan women and girls continue to suffer extremely low social, economic, and political status. They rank among the world’s worst off by most indicators, such as life expectancy (46 years), maternal mortality (1,600 deaths per 100,000 births), and literacy (12.6 percent of females 15 and older). Women and girls confront barriers to working outside the home and restrictions on their mobility; for example many still cannot travel without an accompanying male relative and a burqa. While the number of girls in school increased quickly after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, only 35 percent of school-age girls were in school in 2006. The violence directed at schools hit girls’ schools particularly hard.

Women active in civil or political affairs braved violence and intimidation, such as death threats often conveyed through “night letters.” Safia Amajan, a prominent educator, women’s rights activist, and government official was assassinated in Kandahar in September. Malalai Joya, a member of parliament from Herat, was physically attacked in parliament and threatened with death when she criticized members of parliament notorious for past and current human rights abuses.

Violence against women remains endemic, with few avenues for redress. **The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission registered 704 cases of violence against women, including 89 cases of forced marriages and 50 cases of self-immolation, in 2006—significant increases over 2005. The AIHRC believes these numbers seriously under-represent the true scale of**

the violence due to factors such as social stigma and poor response from the justice system. More than one-third of all marriages were forced, according to the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and more than half of girls were married before the age of 16, the legal age for marriage.

The government took several steps that weakened the already weak government commitment to women, in part because of pressure from ultra-conservative political supporters, and in part to counter anti-Western propaganda by opposition groups. In June, Karzai sent the Afghan parliament a proposal for reestablishing the Department for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which under the Taliban had established a record of arbitrary abuses, notably for beating and harassing women and girls for traveling without male guardians and for even slight infractions of stringent dress requirements. At this writing the National Assembly had not debated the proposal. In November, parliament began debating the possibility of closing the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which, although weak in terms of implementing programs, served as an important symbol of support for Afghanistan's women.

Some Poverty stats

- About 1 billion people - one fifth of the world's population - live on less than \$1 a day. 30,000 people die every single day because they live in extreme poverty.

UN target/ recommendation for ODA, 0.7% only 5 countries have reached that!!

Net disbursements of official development assistance (ODA) by OECD-DAC member countries rose from \$52.3 billion in 2001 to **\$106.5 billion in 2005**. While this represents a 100-percent increase in nominal terms, it is only 28 percent in real terms (adjusted for inflation and exchange rate changes). Also, much of the increase in 2005 is accounted for in debt relief grants provided to Iraq and Nigeria.

Fifteen of the twenty-two DAC member countries reported increased ODA in 2004. The United States remained the largest aid donor in volume terms, followed by Japan, France, the United Kingdom and Germany. The only countries to exceed the UN target for ODA of 0.7% of GNI remain Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Some kind of redistribution of wealth has to happen:

In 2000 the top 400 US taxpayers had the combined income of 69billion USD!!! The combined income of Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda was 57billion and this is the combined income of 161 million people!!!

OECD estimated that 22 of its DAC donor countries had the combined income of 20.2 trillion USD, thus a transfer of 0.6% of donor income would in theory raise all 1.1 billion the worlds extreme poor to the basic needs level.

Table 15. DAC simulation of 2010 ODA based on recent donor commitments As 14 November 2005

Donors	Actual 2004 GNI ratio	Commitment	Estimated 2010 net ODA (\$ million)	Estimated 2010 GNI ratio
Above 0.7%				
Norway	0.87%	1% over 2006-2009	2,876	1.00%
Denmark	0.85%	minimum 0.8%	2,185	0.80%
Luxembourg	0.83%	1% in 2009	328	1.00%
Sweden	0.78%	1% in 2006	4,025	1.00%
Netherlands	0.73%	minimum 0.8% 2004-2007 /a	5,070	0.80%
0.7% target				
Belgium	0.41%	0.7% in 2010	2,807	0.70%

France	0.41%	0.7% in 2012	14,110	0.61%
Ireland	0.39%	0.7% in 2012	1,121	0.60%
United Kingdom	0.36%	0.7% in 2013	14,600	0.59%
Finland	0.35%	0.7% in 2010	1,475	0.70%
Spain	0.24%	0.7% in 2012	6,925	0.59%
0.51% target				
Portugal	0.63%	0.51% in 2010 /b	933	0.51%
Germany	0.28%	0.51% in 2010	15,509	0.51%
Austria	0.23%	0.51% in 2010	1,673	0.51%
Greece	0.23%	0.51% in 2010	1,196	0.51%
Italy	0.15%	0.51% in 2010	9,262	0.51%
Other targets				
Australia	0.25%	0.36% in 2010	2,460	0.36%
New Zealand	0.23%	0.28% in 2007-2008	289	0.28%
No specific targets				
Canada	0.27%	/c	3,648	0.33%
Japan	0.19%	/d	11,906	0.22%
US	0.17%	/e	24,000	0.18%
Switzerland	0.41%	/f	1,728	0.41%
Total DAC	0.26%		128,128	0.36%
Notes				
/a Netherlands's ODA in 2004 was below its 0.8% target due to India's repayment of all its outstanding Dutch aid loans.				
/b Portugal's ODA in 2004 was above trend due to exceptional debt relief for Angola.				
/c Canada intends to double its 2001 International Assistance Envelope (IAE) level by 2010 in nominal terms.				
/d Japan intends to increase its ODA volume by \$10 billion in aggregate over the period 2005-2009.				
/e DAC estimates \$5 billion annual increase in ODA from 2005 based on Gleneagles G8 Commitments.				
/f Switzerland's ODA will increase by 8% in nominal terms from 2005 to 2008.				

Source: Taken from OECD-DAC Secretariat simulation of DAC members' net ODA Volumes in 2006 & 2010⁴

Annually, the world spends **around US\$325bn on agricultural subsidies.**

Military spending vs. ODA

Global military spending in 2004 for the first time exceeded \$1 trillion. The combined military budgets of the DAC donors far surpass, by factors of 100s, investments in MDG priorities to reduce global poverty.

War and military spending continues to dwarf what donors spend for development aid. US ODA in 2004, for instance, is merely 4% of what it spent for its military during the same year, while the UK's ODA is only 17% of its military spending. The US budgetary allocation for the war in Iraq alone is \$212 billion. "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan has cost well over \$100 billion to

date. For the UK, the Chancellor of the Exchequer put the total cost of UK operations in Afghanistan and Iraq at UK £4.4 billion, in excess of the annual budget of DFID in recent years.

Global Military Spending Hits **\$1.12 Trillion in 2006** The USA is responsible for 48% of the world total, distantly followed by the UK, France, Japan and China with 4 to 5 percent each.

The US and countries in the Middle East are responsible for the bulk of the growth in military spending, but some of the world's poorest countries have also increased spending. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Botswana, and Uganda all doubled their military spending between 1985 and 2000. Between 2002 and 2003, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan spent more on their military than on health care.

Growth in military budgets has caused a boom for the arms industry with the top 100 arms companies seeing their sales increase by almost 60 per cent from US \$157bn in 2000 to US \$268bn in 2004.

And while the world spends more on weapons, the number and scale of conflict-related food crises is also growing. Last year, conflict became the leading cause of hunger, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Conflict and economic problems were cited as the main cause of more than 35 percent of food emergencies between 1992 and 2003, compared to around 15 percent in the period from 1986 to 1991.

Conflicts not only cause immediate suffering and destruction. The UK's Department for International Development estimates that after a conflict it takes an economy an average of 20 years to get back to where it was beforehand.

"Across Africa, US\$15bn is lost every year through the impact of war, an iniquitous waste of resources given the continent's desperate need for increased development assistance.

Key World Bank analyst Paul Collier has estimated that the typical cost of a civil war is at least US\$50 billion. On average around two civil wars break out each year — so, the phenomenon is a US\$100 billion a year problem. To put this in perspective, if we could bring the risk of civil war in developing countries down to the negligible level of developed countries, the gains would be equivalent to tripling the global aid budget.

Countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East hold 51% of the world's heavy weapons and spend an average of US\$22bn annually on arms purchases. This sum would have enabled these regions to be on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals of achieving universal primary education (MDG 2 — costing approximately US\$10m) and targets for reducing infant and

maternal mortality (MDG 4 — approximately US\$12m). Instead, one child in five does not complete primary school, more than 10 million children die each year, and half a million women die in pregnancy or childbirth.

A few other sobering statistics:

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, military expenditure rose by 47% during the late 1990s whilst life expectancy fell to just 46 years.
- In South Asia, militarization levels doubled in the late 1990s whilst nearly half of all children under the age of five are malnourished

MDGs

The need to tackle the multiple dimensions of poverty simultaneously is recognized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to which the United Nations member states committed themselves in 2000.

The eight goals are as follows:

- **the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day and suffering from hunger will be half the 1990 level;**
- **boys and girls alike will complete primary school;**
- **gender disparities in all levels of education will be eliminated;**
- **the mortality rate of children under five will be cut by two-thirds the 1990 level;**
- **the maternal mortality rate will be cut by three-quarters of the 1990 rate;**
- **the spread of HIV/AIDS will be reversed;**
- **environmental sustainability will be ensured;**
- **a global partnership for development will be established.**

Poverty: Current Estimates and Outlook

Poverty projections indicate that over the next 15 years the share of the population living in extreme poverty is expected to decline in all developing regions. Overall the poverty Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing extreme poverty by 50 percent from its 1990 level by 2015 will be achieved. At the global level, this means that by 2015, only 10 percent of the population in developing countries will live on less than \$1 a day or less, down from 28 percent in 1990. The sharp drop in percentage terms is only partially reflected in the absolute number of poor. Due to population increases, the number of poor is forecasted to be 617 million as compared to 1.2 billion in 1990 and 1.0 billion in 2002.

However, **the decline in poverty across regions is highly uneven.** In East Asia, the goal of halving extreme poverty has already been achieved. By 2015, the percentage of poor is projected to drop to one percent, albeit with a still

significant 13 percent share using the broader \$2 a day poverty indicator. At the other extreme is Sub-Saharan Africa where the incidence of extreme poverty in 2002 was actually higher than in 1990. While current projections suggest 8 percent of the sub-continent's population will be lifted above the extreme poverty line by 2015, some 38 percent of Africans will still be living in extreme poverty—a far higher portion than the target of 22 percent to reach the MDG. Furthermore, the absolute number of Africans living at or below the \$1 a day level is projected to increase. And, because per capita incomes elsewhere are projected to grow faster, the continent will continue to fall farther behind the rest of the world—unless steps are taken to improve economic growth in Africa.

Across regions, the risk of falling short is even greater for the human development goals. In particular, **on current trends, most regions will fall short of the health and related goals, including reduced child and maternal mortality, the reversal of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and increased access to sanitation.** Prospects are brighter in education, but the pace of progress remains too slow in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East to attain the goal of universal primary education. And although significant progress has been made, these three regions will not achieve the goal of gender equality in primary and secondary education on time.

Developing countries, have made real progress during the last two decades on gender equality

The gender gap in primary school completion rates in lower-income countries narrowed, from 18 percentage points in 1990 to 10 in 2003. The gap between girls and boys completing primary school in Low Income Countries has narrowed from 18% on 1990 to 10% in 2003.

- Worldwide, the number of healthy years lost to disease and premature death for women due to communicable diseases and poor maternal conditions, decreased from 49 to 38 percent between 1990 and 2001.
- Women's share of the labor force has risen in almost all regions of the world.
- Women have a greater voice in politics and governance at all levels. For instance, within the last decade, women in India went from having almost no presence in local governments, to holding one third of the elected government seats (1 million out of 3.2 million seats)

Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go to increase gender in both low and middle-income countries

- The mid-term target of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 was not achieved. In most developing

regions, the educational gap between girls and boys widens after primary education.

- Maternal mortality remains high throughout the developing world. Over 500,000 women die each year in pregnancy and childbirth.
- Women are at a disadvantage in the labor market.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 57 percent of adults with HIV are women, and young women often between the ages of 15 to 24 are more than three times as likely to be infected as young men.
- Each year, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders, the majority who are trafficked for sexual exploitation are women and girls.
- Despite rapid gains, women's participation in elected assemblies and state institutions is still low. In 2005, the global average of women legislators in both houses of parliament was 15.7 percent, up from 11.3 percent in 1995.

The advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are matters of human rights and conditions for social justice and should not be seen in isolation as a women's issue.

Empowerment of women and gender equality are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental security among all peoples.

Achieving gender equality requires the recognition that every policy, program and project affects women and men differently. Women and men have different perspectives, needs, interests, roles and resources - and those differences may also be reinforced by class, race, caste, ethnicity or age. Policies, programs and projects must address the differences in experiences and situations between and among women and men.

Achieving gender equality does not mean that women become the same as men. Equality means that one's rights or opportunities do not depend on being male or female.

Promoting the equal participation of women as agents of change in economic, social and political processes is essential to achieving gender equality. Equal participation goes beyond numbers. It involves women's equal right to articulate

their needs and interests, as well as their vision of society, and to shape the decisions that affect their lives, whatever cultural context they live in. Partnership with women's organizations and other groups working for gender equality is necessary to assist this process.

Gender equality can only be achieved through partnership between women and men. When choices for both women and men are enlarged, all society benefits.

In closing:

You must be the change you wish to see in the world (Mahatma Gandhi).

Gender resources:

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

www.worldbank.org/gender

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTGENDER/0,,menuPK:336874~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:336868,00.html>

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

<http://www.eldis.org/gender/>

http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/newsdesk/2006-05-08b.html

<http://www.undp.org/women/>

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/gender.asp>

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

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

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/gender/index.htm