YOU CAN ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST



ÖCOURSE MAGAZINE

May 2023

YOU CAN ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

ABOUT THIS COURSE

The Gender Snapshot 2022 report ALERTS us that at the current rate of progress, it will take up to 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws related to women.

In other words, it will take 286 years to achieve full Gender Equality!

One of the main consequences of gender inequalities is violence against Women (VAW). VAW is both the cause &consequence of gender inequalities.

In this course, the participants have learned:

- how to become a more effective change-maker by gaining a deeper understanding of women's human rights, non-discrimination, state obligation, and substantive equality.
- about sexism, toxic masculinity, and the backlash against women's rights. The course will introduce you to different strategies used by advocates and communities from all over the world.
- how to plan an advocacy project to promote gender equality and prevent VAW.

INSTRUCTOR



Ivy is a Malaysian women's human rights advocate and a gender consultant cum educator. Ivy is the former President and Executive Director of Women's Aid Organisation (WAO- www.wao.org.my), where over 20 years she developed WAO's shelter services and advocacy strategies for law and policy reform. WAO opened Malaysia's first shelter for survivors of domestic violence in 1982.

Ivy N Josiah

Participants

A total of 38 participants from 20 countries participated in the course "You Can Eliminate Violence Against Women" in May 2023.

AFGHANISTAN



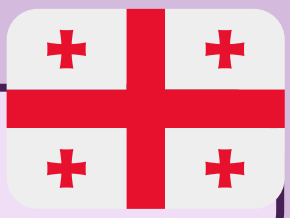
- BEBE RANA AZIMI
- HASIBULLAH SAMMANDARI
- HAWA SALEHI
- KHALIDA QARIZADA
- KHATERA MIRZAII
- MARZIA WAKILZADA
- NILUFAR MIRZAII
- QUDSIA KHAIRY
- RAMIN HAKIMI
- SADAF DARWISH

CAMEROON



- MAMBEH VIVIAN

GEORGIA



- TINATIN TAVDGIRIDZE

HAITI



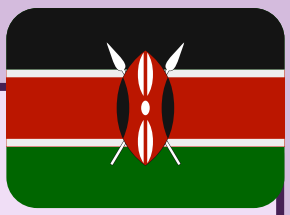
- BERLINDIA MEDINA DENISCA

INDIA



- SEJUTI BARUA
- TUSHHITA BARUA

KENYA



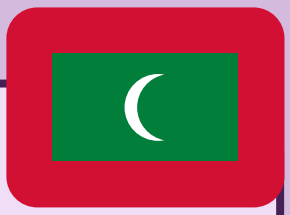
- CYNTHIA WANJIKU MWANGI
- JANE SHIKUKU OGALO
- NAMLONDWE SWAI
- PHANICE MWATSUMA

MALAWI



- SIBUSISIWE CHATIMA NKHATA

MALDIVES



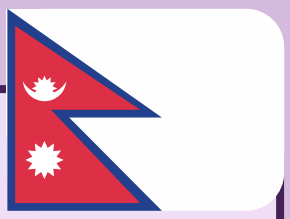
- DR. MARIYAM SHAHUNEEZA NASEER

MOROCCO



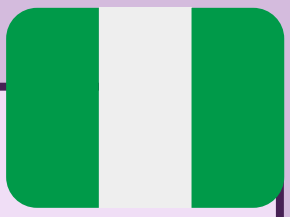
- YOUSSEF BENZEKRI

NEPAL



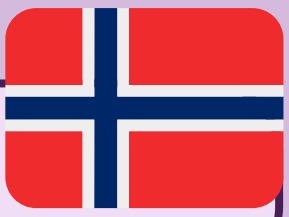
- PRAKRITI LAMA

NIGERIA



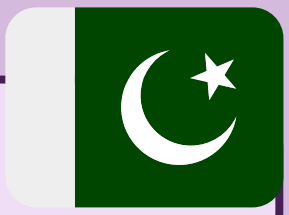
- ELEANOR OKOROMA
- EMMANUEL SAMUEL HOLMAN
- TESSY AMAYO

NORWAY



- HELENA LORENTZEN

PAKISTAN



- FAREEHA IQBAL

PHILIPPINES



- ARCHIE NACIONAL
- GENEVIVE KAREN DUMAYAS

RWANDA



- JEAN CLAUDE MANIRAKIZA

SOUTH AFRICA



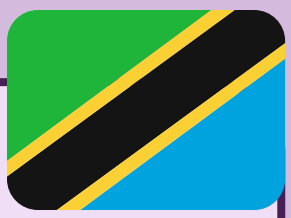
- SPHESIHLE BHENGU

SOUTH SUDAN



- JACOB DENG BOL DENG

TANZANIA



- ANTHONY GUNINITA
- IRENE SANGA

ZAMBIA



- NKWETO NKWETO

ZIMBABWE



- AUXILIA TICHAREVA
- LINDSAY NYABEREKA

2023

Class of MAY

PLAYLIST

Take a look at the playlist made by the participants!

With the underlying theme of women and empowerment, different songs were picked by the participants for you to listen to.

1. PERFORMANCE BY SHAHLA ZALAND
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZpIBt6TMno
2. AYEH - MOJGAN AZIMI
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9zH0fscsfk
3. CHILD LABOR - SONITA ALIZADEH
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2YICUyC_rQ
4. AFGHAN RAP - REZA E "ZAN" FT. KBORA ALI
   https://youtu.be/qmwVK53lVNw
5. ZAN ASTAM - ARYANA
   https://youtu.be/zkojG1-Yvmk
6. MAADAR-E- AFGHAN - ARYANA SAYEED
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QcN7K_DB60
7. HEMAT KON - ARYANA SAYEED
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SY-jSkJKWoI
8. LANAT - ARYANA SAYEED
   https://youtu.be/xPmij7P-7Gs
9. PROPER MEN - PUTHIKA
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jETsXQM-v8
10. GENDER EQUALITY - MARY ANN CARDENAS
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJVIQDiUROs

11 MONEY, MONEY, MONEY - ABBA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETxmCCsMoD0

12 FANM PEYI'M - ANSY DEROSE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li_RQil--wM

13 DOING HER THING THO - FENA GITU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPOgv92D0AI

14 SUPERWOMAN - NADIA MUKAMI
https://youtu.be/BAhS7_3RTfc

15 MALKIA WA NGUVU - LINAH X KHADJA NITO
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AunyB6J36sM

16 ANYANGO 'POD ITIN' - SUZANNA OWIYO
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbccuKHYyCg

17 TRUE TO ME - KARUN FT. SKY GIRLS KE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSceh0Fx7zk

18 IS IT BECAUSE I AM A GIRL - LAWI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fASrrOfPU98

19 CAMPAIGN SONG BY UNOOSHA
https://fb.watch/knsa8INhWC/

20 MAKHELAW MAGALOU - MANAL
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07gpeX2-pIE

21 MA DAMI CHHU - SAMRIDDHI RAI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHKP6uVV0gI

22 MAN MAGAN - DEEPAK BAJRACHARYA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0GOxBvHNNg&t=3s

23 WOMAN - SIMI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udnkr-pMRa8

24 DON'T KILL MY VIBE - SIGRID
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk7SRjgkaPQ

25 ONE BILLION RISING
https://youtu.be/c--kmLY4Zag

26 THIS IS ME
https://youtu.be/CjxugyZCfuw

27 SIRENA - GLOC-9 FEAT. EBE DANCEL
https://youtu.be/3nKmv5oDzBw

28 TARIHINDA - CÉCILE KAYIREBWA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7y9W0aG7SLM

29 PATA PATA - MIRIAM MAKEBA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lNeP3hrm__k

30 NHEIR DO MAMA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QosFbAxel2k

31 SUPERWOMAN - TANZANIAN WOMEN ALL STARS
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaamB7o--Ck

32 CRY OF A WOMAN - B FLOW FT. JUDY YO
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df2U5pqM4N0

33 NERIA- OLIVER MUTUKUDZI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw_ej3nApHU



Speeches and Poems



This magazine is designed to exhibit the voices of the participants from different countries. It comprises participants' original poems as well as poetry from their favorite writers and speech notes regarding a major achievement that impacts women positively in their country.

*All pieces of literature in this magazine are raw write-ups without editing.

THE TWO-THIRDS GENDER RULE; A STEP FURTHER FOR KENYAN WOMEN.

Kenya is a beautiful country, where human rights matter. I love it. But just like any other democratic and non-democratic state, women's rights have always been ignored. Well not until 2010 when our country promulgated a new constitution that changed the game for women. Under the Bill of Rights, we have an affirmative action called the two-thirds gender rule, where not more than two-thirds of government office holders should be of the same gender. This affirmative action is awesome. It's opened doors for representation of Kenyan women in the government. Last year we had our general elections and we had more than 5 female governors. One county broke the record by producing all female leaders (governor, senator, MCA and woman representative). The two-thirds gender rule is something I am proud of, and I have no doubt that my dream of becoming a legislator is no longer obscure thanks to this affirmative action.

JANE SHIKUKU
OGALO-KENYA

POEM

I am a woman
A title I carry with pride
I am soft spoken
And this is both a blessing and a curse
For my soft nature has been used to abuse me

I am feminine
In fact, as feminine as I can be
But even so,
My femininity should not be used to abuse me

Other than a woman I am a believer
I believe in a life
Of equity, of equality
I believe in a better future
Where the future is female
Where being a woman will not be a weakness
And being feminine won't be just another flaw to explore.

NILUFAR MIRZAII -AFGHANISTAN

One Good Thing Happened for Women of Afghanistan:

In 1996, when the Taliban took over Afghanistan, girls and women were deprived of everything; they were deprived of education, working, going out, and traveling, and they were all forced to live in a quadrangle at home for about five years. In 2001, US military with the help of people entered Afghanistan. The Taliban government collapsed and they retreated. The new government was established, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in which girls and women were allowed to go to school, university, work, and go alone everywhere they want, and they had the freedom of expression, the right to vote for the president and representative which they consider the best, and other opportunities and rights. After that girls and woman had a lot of improvement; they become great doctors, expert engineers, popular singers, and so on.

Unfortunately, when Taliban come back to power again, we do face the same situation which we were facing in 1996. Even though we are encountering with many challenges, we continue to work hard, get education from everywhere it is possible, and we are doing our best to change the situation and make a better future for women and girls who are living in Afghanistan.

A Beautiful Poem of Parwin E'tesami about Woman

زن اگر بود از این پیش اسیر یا که در جامعه نادان و حقیر

If woman was captive, ignorant and inferior the society before

چون نشد تربیتش همچو رجال بود محروم ز تحصیل کمال

It was because, she was not raised like men, and she was deprived of getting education and knowledge

حالیا دوره علم و هنر است زن هم از علم و هنر بهره ور است

Now that is the time of knowledge and education, and woman is beneficiary of knowledge and wisdom

بانوانی که به دانش سمرند همه دارای کمال و هنرند

The women who got educational knowledge, all own excellence and wisdom

داری از سامعه روحانی گوش کن این سخن عرفانی

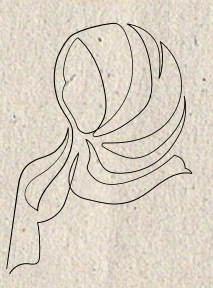
Listen to this mystical piece if you have a hearing ear, clergyman

طایر آدمیت راست دو بال یک نسا است و دگر دجال

There are two wings for flyer of humanity; one of which is woman and the other is man

این دو بال ار که برابر نشود طیران هیچ میسر نشود

If these two wings do not balance, the fly would never happen



KHATERA MIRZAII – AFGHANISTAN

I live in a country in which there is no good news for you when you are a woman. How do you expect me to talk about a positive thing that has been done for women while in my country women are not allowed even in education and work which are the basic rights of a human? My personal experience in the case of education is an example of a girl's life in Afghanistan.

I finished school in 12 years with excellent grades, next I passed successfully the university entrance exam; I was studying in engineering faculty of Kabul University. I was in the seventh semester when the Taliban, the current rulers of my country, banned education for girls, so I was forced to leave my education and stay at home. It is very hard for me, today I see my university classmates who are boys still continuing their education, but I am not allowed just because I am a girl. It is the hardest time for all the girls who do not have the right to decide about their future. The only positive thing that I have in mind is the establishment of the first school for women in 1921 by the name of Masturat in Kabul. Establishing this school was the start of girl education in Afghanistan. However, education has been a fluctuating issue in the history of my county. Some of the rulers that took the governmental power of Afghanistan supported educating girls, but others applied limitations and discrimination toward women. Unfortunately, as we have seen that the current rulers of Afghanistan banned education towered girls and women. It is really bad news for all the girls in Afghanistan.

SPHESIHLE BHENGU - SOUTH AFRICA

What I love and admire about South African women is that they have stood against all odds to empower themselves and have contested and occupied spaces that were previously not available for women. South African women are leading innovative organizations and businesses and are empowering each other through education and collaborative projects.

ANTHONY GUNINITA - TANZANIA

Hi,
My name is Anthony Guninita and I am from Tanzania a Country located in the East African Region.
What I admire or like that my country has done for women is on the side of my Government through the reign of President SamiaSuluhu Hassan (A woman) allowing teen mothers back in school after four years order of pregnant girls to be expelled and blocked from returning to school during the previous regime.
Hence, I love this change in policy that gives and return rights to education for girl children.

MAMBEH VIVIAN- CAMEROON

My name is MAMBEH Vivian Bilingwe, my country is Cameroon. There are so many good things about women in my country. Some of which are:
Women are colorful, beautiful, and very supportive beings on earth, women in my country are very loving, caring, and supportive at home and are also boss ladies at work. Women quickly know who their children are and what their children can do.
In my country, women are resilient no matter what life throws at them, they rise above it and thrive.

Women are good listeners and are very good at giving in my country, Women have a high tolerance to pain and persist despite the trauma.
In fact, women are not bossy but are the boss.

SADAF DARWISH - AFGHANISTAN

“I think big prosperity was in Afghanistan when they chose a robotic science girls group for an international competition.”

Afghanistan is a country where women were granted the right to vote in 1919, Since 2001, Afghanistan has made progress in gender equality, following are the most important achievements in gender equality that impacts Afghan women positively:

1. The rise of an educated generation reached every aspect of social life – from political leaders to entrepreneurs. Millions of women have voted in national elections, most of them for the first time in their life.
2. Of 249 parliamentary seats, the Afghan Constitution of 2004 guarantees a minimum of 68 seats, or over 25 percent, for women.
3. Women are ministers or deputy ministers, and a number of women serve as ambassadors. A new Ministry of Women's Affairs was created as part of the government cabinet, with departments throughout the country at the provincial level.
4. More than 4,000 women were engaged in the Afghan National Defense Security Forces.
5. Another success story in Afghanistan is the establishment of freedom of speech and free media. Media absolutely empower women in Afghan society today, especially in public campaigning processes where it is more acceptable for men to participate, so it can be difficult for women to campaign. Media, especially in the 2005 elections, gave women the opportunity to campaign by giving them free access to the campaign.

For example, by seeing women speaking in the parliament or a woman as an anchor on television, it builds confidence in women's talents that have been missing for a long period of time."

Those achievements came at a high cost. The international community and the Afghans have paid in blood and treasure in Afghanistan for a prosperous and democratic country where women and human rights are respected. Today more than 3.5 million girls are enrolled in school, and there are many programs promoting women's rights and their freedoms. A significant number of Afghan women who had experienced the worst form of oppression started working as women's rights activists soon after the fall of the Taliban, often supported by Western-funded NGOs. And with support from the international community, Afghan women's condition has improved significantly over the past 18 years.

KHALIDA QARIZADA - AFGHANISTAN

JACOB DENG BOL DENG - SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan's groundbreaking achievement of appointing a female Vice President is a momentous step towards empowering women and promoting gender equality. With a bold commitment to allocate 35% of political positions to women, the nation is setting a remarkable example for inclusivity and progress. This historic appointment shatters barriers and demonstrates South Sudan's determination to amplify women's voices in decision-making processes.

The Vice President's role not only symbolizes a significant stride toward gender parity but also serves as an inspiration for girls and women across the country. South Sudan's commitment to women's empowerment sends a powerful message that women's contributions are invaluable and essential for the nation's development. Through this exciting milestone, South Sudan is paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future, where all citizens have an equal opportunity to shape the destiny of their nation.

MARIYAM SHAHUNEEZA NASEER - MALDIVES

In December 2019, the Parliament of Maldives unanimously approved to allocate 33 percent of local council seats for women, which is a major achievement in increasing the role of women in local governance.

Thank you.

POEM

It all starts with a simple hello.
You trust the seemingly genuine fellow.
After a whirlwind romance.
Into marriage we advance.

Soon you see a different side.
Into misery you slide.
You are surrounded by darkness.
Subjected to harshness.

You spend days and nights in tears.
Struggling to overcome your fears.
You want to end the cycle of abuse.
But you are too scared to choose.

What women go through is real.
The reaction of society is surreal.
Society needs to change.
Women need a chance.

To end violence against women.
We need to work with men.
Teach that kindness is not a weakness.
Indeed, respect equals chicness

Background:

Today, in EPH class & Sexual Education.
The teacher skipped, oh my god it's about..
Show curiosity as a teenager····..
What's so special?
I'm Prakriti and recently it feels like I'm in love.
Recently we've started liking each other····.
We're young and naive and let's explore and experiment, he said,
He Approached me,... should I?
I was irresolute···I contemplated..
But I wasn't ready, but he said we're in love and everything is yes in love.
The threshold is 20, but who cares? Love he said ····.
I'm unsure but Intimacy and sex is love, he said.
Difficult to discern but ultimately I said yes····.
And the result, I'm pregnant at 13, Abortion horribly went wrong···
Doctor said due to early pregnancy complications and my life is at stake,
My future on the brink, my life looming and lurking in darkness.

In the need of Comprehensive Sexual Education and empowerment of young girls/women...

Prakriti Lama – Nepal

SHE DECIDES

No, I am not that weaker than words intended to break my bold spirit.
Had never intended to have contempt others' work in my life
So, but then I fight to dissipate these fallacious vindicates (....
Stereotypical– misogynist words...mention)
That society splashed on my character that,
So gracefully coated with sweetness too sweet that almost murdered my innocence.
As all of these tangled my heart in dismay, tears brimmed over my eyes.
Aren't these tears a corroborate of my innocence?Aren't they?
But as the confusion unfazed,
In a midst of chaos and absurdity, a hollowness of doubt created a
Resonating noise of disappointment within,
As others in this Hostile and intimidating world,subjugate me towards frailty
For being a girl, a delicate human being– a Yes being?
No No, x3 times, my inner voice dissipated into the ether.
NO. With conviction,
I'm firm and valiant as I uphold my dignity and also my right to say no..
Because if my partner loves me, my partner will respect my decision and
Respecting my sexual response matter
I know..
Respecting my stance matters..
Respecting my boundaries matters.
Respecting my decision matters.
I Venture forth to transverse these misogyny, judgments and stereotypes and with defiance , I'm a girl, I'm she and she is I and when she decides to say no, she has right to say No
To any sex and sexual behaviour.
Because my love, love is just not being intimate,
It transcends To being
Empowered, it makes you independent, free to say no, to decide about your body.
Now every girl decides and I decide,
Because It's my Body, my right, my decision...and I'm empowered to do so

Warm Greetings, everyone.
I am Prakriti Lama from Nepal, and today I want to express my sincere admiration for a transformative legal mandate in my country—the Local Level Election Act of 2017. Enshrined in the constitution, this law has impeccably amplified women's influence and empowerment through leadership to contribute to shaping the future trajectory and spheres of their regions.

The law mandates a minimum representation of 40% of women in elected positions within local bodies, contributing to local governance, voicing their concerns, and influencing policies that directly impact their communities.
Since its inception, a discernible upswing has been observed in the number of women, bringing a more inclusive political landscape in Nepal.

The Local Level Election Act stands as an exemplar of inspiration for striving to establish gender equality, underscoring the significance of women's perspectives and contribution in governance by propelling Nepali women in political engagement.
Thank you.

Prakriti Lama – Nepal

Tessy Amayo-Nigeria

I'm Tessy Amayo, from Nigeria. I'm sharing an extract from one of the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, a Nigerian novelist, activist and feminist, who has become a role model to women and young girls with her outstanding literature and personal stand on gender equality.
Teach her to reject likeability.
Her job is not to make herself likable, her job is to be her full self, a self that is honest and aware of the equal humanity of other people.
Remember I told you how infuriating it was to me that Chioma would often tell me that 'people' would not 'like' something I wanted to say or do. It upset me because I felt, from her, the unspoken pressure to change myself to fit some mold that would please an amorphous entity called 'people.' It was upsetting because we want those close to us to encourage us to be our most authentic selves.
Please do not ever put this pressure on your daughter. We teach girls to be likeable, to be nice, to be false. And we do not teach boys the same'

Tessy,
Nigerian NATCOM-UNESCO.

NORWAY WAY TO WOMEN RIGHTS

Norway has long been a leader in gender equality, and women's rights have been at the forefront of the country's political and social agenda for decades. In fact, Norway has been named the most gender-equal country in the world by the World Economic Forum for several years in a row.

But this achievement did not happen overnight. It resulted from a long and difficult struggle that began in the early 20th century.

At that time, women in Norway were largely relegated to the domestic sphere. They had limited rights, and their opportunities for education and work were severely restricted. Women were not even allowed to vote until 1913, after years of persistent activism and advocacy.

But despite these obstacles, Norwegian women continued to fight for their rights. They formed women's organizations, held public rallies, and wrote articles and books to raise awareness about the need for gender equality.

And their efforts paid off. Slowly but surely, Norwegian women began to gain more rights and opportunities. In 1948, women were granted equal inheritance rights. In 1956, they were allowed to work without their husband's permission. And in 1978, a groundbreaking law was passed that mandated gender equality in all areas of society, including employment, education, and politics.

These milestones were not the end of the fight for women's liberation in Norway. Women still faced discrimination and inequality in many areas, including pay and representation in leadership positions. But the progress made over the years laid the foundation for further advancements.

Today, Norwegian women enjoy many rights and freedoms that were once unimaginable. They comprise of nearly 50% of the country's workforce and hold important positions in politics, business, and other fields. Norway has even had a female prime minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who served three terms between 1981 and 1996.

But there is still work to be done. Despite the progress made, women in Norway, as in many other countries, continue to face challenges such as gender-based violence and harassment, and the gender pay gap remains an issue.

As we celebrate the achievements of women's liberation in Norway, we must also remember that the fight for gender equality is far from over. We must continue to work together to address these challenges and create a world where all women can thrive.

HELENA LORENTZEN - NORWAY



TUSHHITA BARUA -INDIA

I stand before you to talk about a significant legislation in India, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. This act was established to address the pressing issue of female feticide and protect the rights of the unborn girl child.

The PCPNDT Act was enacted in 1994 and amended in 2003 to regulate the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques and prevent their misuse for sex determination. The Act is a vital tool in the fight against gender-based discrimination. It prohibits the misuse of medical techniques for determining the sex of a fetus, thereby preventing the selective abortion of female fetuses. The Act has had a significant impact in curbing the practice of female foeticide and sex-selective abortions, which have been responsible for the skewed sex ratio in our country.

Through this act, the government aims to ensure the well-being of both mother and child by regulating the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques, encouraging prenatal counseling, and creating awareness about the importance of gender equality.

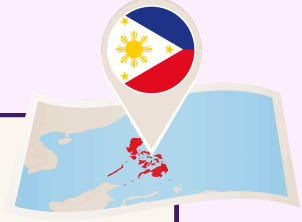
To achieve the objectives of the PCPNDT Act, it is essential that we all actively participate. Let us work together to eliminate gender bias, create a nurturing environment for women and girls, and build a society where every child is welcomed with open arms.

Thank you.

TO MY FAIRY FANCIES BY SAROJINI NAIDU

NAY, no longer I may hold you,
In my spirit's soft caresses,
Nor like lotus-leaves enfold you
In the tangles of my tresses.
Fairy fancies, fly away
To the white cloud-wildernesses,
Fly away!

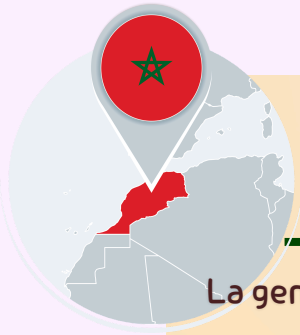
Nay, no longer ye may linger
With your laughter-lighted faces,
Now I am a thought-worn singer
In life's high and lonely places.
Fairy fancies, fly away,
To bright wind-inwoven spaces,
Fly away!



ARCHIE NACIONAL

In the Philippines, women's rights and their important contributions to nation-building are embedded in the Constitution. Several laws were passed to protect and promote women's rights which include Magna Carta of Women, Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995, Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act, Safe Spaces Act, and recently, the passage of Extended Maternity Leave for Women. Currently, there is also a proposed bill in the Legislative branch of the government aiming to provide women with 2 days paid menstruation leave.

Even the Catholic Church in the Philippines had taken baby steps to provide equality for women by allowing them to serve in the ministry and as altar servers. The church is also actively calling for eradicating all forms of violence against women and take part in the celebration of women's month and other activities for and by women.



BENZEKRI YOUSSEF

La gente féminine est l'éloge de la diversité économique et sociale
Qui dit femme dit éducation
Qui dit femme stabilité politique
Qui dit femme dit perspectives évolution (investissement ,étude de faisabilité)
Qui dit femme dit abolir l'analphabétisme
La discipline est la clé de la réussite
La réussite est le succès de la femme

Translate

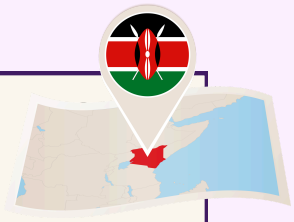
The female gender is the praise of economic and social diversity
Who says woman says education
Who says woman political stability
Who says woman says evolution perspectives (investment, feasibility study)
Who says woman says abolish illiteracy
Discipline is the key to success
Success is success woman



MAMBEH VIVIAN

HOMELESSNESS

Responsibility is not what is done
nor what is promised
for we are just windmills,
jostling at life while seeking
but not finding shelter
for in blindness to our neighbors' plight,
we have become wraiths
destined to roam forever,
looking for the way home



NAMLONDWE SWAI - KENYA

My name is Namlondwe Swai and I am from Kenya. As a country, we have made considerable efforts to ensure the equity and development of women in society. Kenya has made contributions to gender equality in a number of areas, such as access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, women in leadership positions, the eradication of violence against women and girls, and women's economic empowerment. Due to policies ensuring free maternity care, births are now more safely performed, with experienced medical professionals performing 61% of births. Pregnant women are guaranteed free prenatal and postnatal care through government programs, which has greatly increased the likelihood of safe deliveries and good care for both mother and child.

Kenya also acknowledges that attaining gender equality and sustainable development—which includes providing everyone with access to decent work and productive employment—depends on women's economic empowerment both dependent on the economic empowerment of women. In order to achieve this, both the local and federal governments have implemented a number of programs, such as gender mainstreaming, affirmative action, and gender-responsive budgeting. For development programs, the government has set aside specific catalytic funding for women, people with disabilities, and young people. These include the Women Enterprise Fund, which offers micro-loans and other forms of financial assistance to women, the Youth
Enterprise Development Fund, which offers credit to young women so they can start their own businesses, and the Uwezo Fund, which provides startup funding to niche interest groups.

Other initiatives worth mentioning include the National Government Affirmative Action Fund, which runs initiatives aimed at the socioeconomic empowerment of women, youth, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly, as well as the Access to Government Procurement Opportunity program, which reserves 30% of procurement opportunities for the vulnerable. A toll-free hotline (1195) run with assistance from several telecom agents is in place to track and lessen the effects of GBV. By guaranteeing prompt reporting of all instances within the advised 72-hour timeframe, the aim is to engage community members and survivors in the fight against sexual abuse, FGM, and other forms of violence.

47 Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers are being established by the Ministry of Health in 47 Counties. There are now four centers where survivors can receive comprehensive medical care, emotional assistance, access to justice, and initial temporary protection all in one location.

On inclusive leadership, it was highlighted that the Kenyan constitution has significantly benefited the female agenda. The Constitution's Article 27(8) mandates that the State "shall take legislative and other measures to implement the principle that not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender."
In addition, Article 98 of the constitution reserves 16 seats in the Senate and 47 members in the National Assembly for women. Other progressive articles include equality and non-discrimination regardless of one's race, religion, tribe, level of education, gender, or involvement in politics, business, or other spheres of influence.

Since then, there has been a huge increase in the number of women participating and occupying influential positions. The direction has been up. These are significant gains by any consideration. The country has made notable strides. However, there is a lot more ground yet to be covered. This is why, we shall continue to be impactful in driving the global gender equality agenda.

BLESSED, CURSED

They say we are flowers, nurturers and queens
Yet they wither our petals with cruel words, punches
and screams. It's always them before us but they
don't hesitate to end our lives before time.
We are blessed, cursed and oppressed
We are deemed foolish and frail,
to give love that is never reciprocated.
Why kill you a goose that lays a golden egg?

A simple hug and embracement is all we need
to overcome all that's engulfed our world
with despair and rue.
We are blessed, cursed to birth babies that are
snatched from us untimely.
They get to be loved, cherished and respected and
What do we get in return?
A corpse in the name of love?

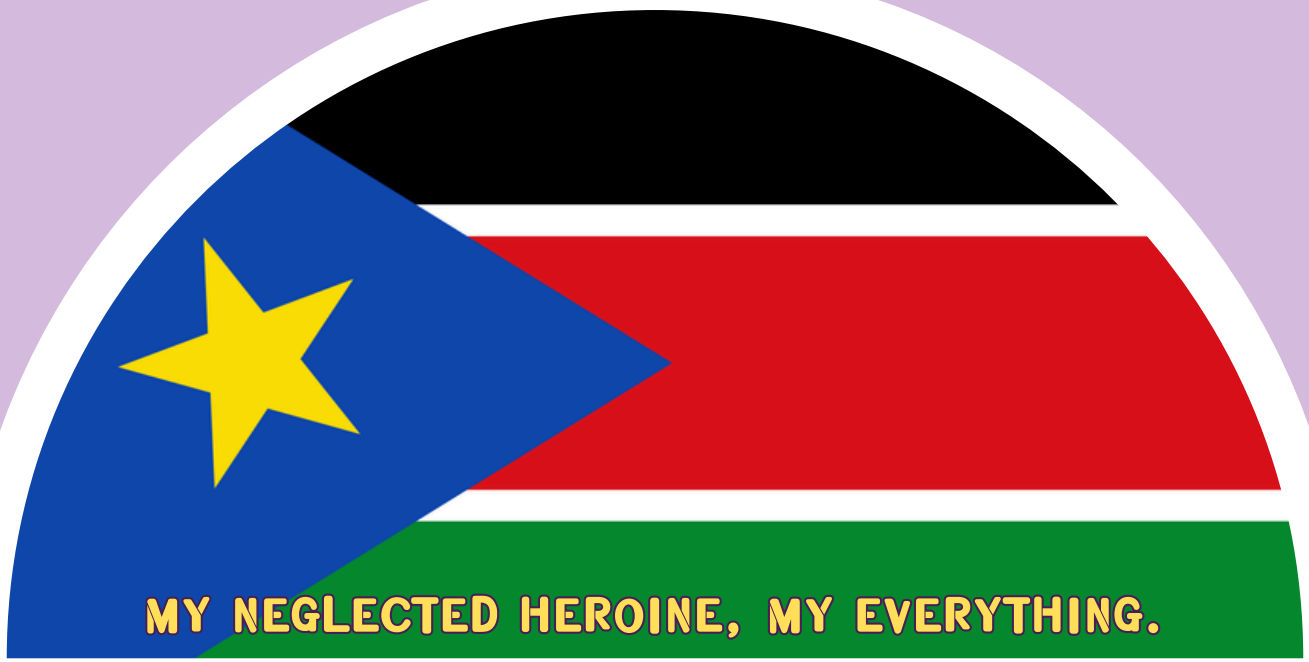
They use love as an instrument to hide their
wicked souls. Hateful words, emotional massacres
and brutal deadly endings.
Why can't they fathom if we don't cook or clean
We are just tired, if we ever do wrong
we are just not having an easy day.
We live with blame and shame for this lands
honest mistakes.
How can we flourish in such a dark world?

They see us as weak enemies and prey.
Where can we go with all these bruises and scars?
gifted to us by those we hold at heart.
All we know is pain, lies and realizing that
they never really liked us.
Questions in our minds, hope that is never found.
Why can't we love without violence and pain?
Where are our kings that remain sane?
Our brigadiers and cocoons of sweet butterflies
and toe curls?
Where have they gone to?
Please, return
Love women!

SPHESIHLE BHENGU – SOUTH AFRICA

What I love and admire about South African women is that they have stood against all odds to empower themselves and have contested and occupied spaces that were previously not available for women. South African women are leading innovative organizations and businesses and are empowering each other through education and collaborative projects.





MY NEGLECTED HEROINE, MY EVERYTHING.

Human = woman

Without women no humanity...

Humanity is womanly, my angel mother you are the most beautiful soul on Earth second to none...

You muchly support our existence indeed you are a neglected leader and heroine. You love us more than we do, you care for us more than we do.

Oh! The woman is Mother, the only beautiful creature of God, brought to look after us, wake up! Wake up and see the glorious work of your hand, without you no existence..

You are neglected, neglected leader and heroine indeed you're...

You're our greatest teacher ever you teach us from Zero level to reach on high.

You are like a foundation that can't be seen from afar but held the building safe indeed all the beautiful tall buildings seen afar have got a strong foundation not seen.

Should your strength be seen, recognized, appreciated, and worked for, then the world will be a good place to live in.

Peace, joy, love, humility, and humanity are seen and found in you alone, when Young we befriend enemies like fire, you educate us to touch not and to stay away from it.

Your love demonstration is the best drama ever. You wash, dress, and create a peaceful environment for us.

9 months you keep me safe in your womb without getting rid of me, you let me see this world of wonders! You labor in much pain and agony because of me.

We owe you everything, our humble leader, you are much more special to us than I can express.

JACOB DENG BOL DENG

RAMIN HAKIMI - AFGHANISTAN

According to human rights teachings, all human beings are born free and equal in terms of human rights and dignity, and they have these rights simply because they are human. After the Taliban took over Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, this country is going through the darkest days in its history in terms of human rights, especially women's rights. Today, Afghan people are deprived of their most basic and fundamental human rights, and women, as half of the active body of society, have been completely excluded from political, social and economic life. While the world insists on the equality of men and women in all human rights, today women in Afghanistan are deprived of their most natural and basic rights, including the right to education, work, political participation, freedom, holding gatherings and protests, etc. Also, the Taliban's response to women's protests and lawsuits against these deprivations has been nothing but intimidation and threats, severe repression, arbitrary arrests and imprisonment, murder and torture. After taking control of the country, the Taliban have imposed widespread and systematic discrimination and the most severe restrictions and deprivations on Afghan women, including:

The right to education

According to human rights teachings, all human beings are born free and equal in terms of human rights and dignity, and they have these rights simply because they are human. After the Taliban took over Afghanistan
The right to education is one of the fundamental human rights and it is mentioned in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of Any Discrimination Against Women and other general international human rights documents. Humanity is emphasized. Based on this right, all people in the world should
have equal access to education. But Afghanistan is the only country in the world where women are denied the right to education. Under the current rule of the Taliban, women are absolutely banned from school, university and education.

The right to freedom

Also, the Taliban have restricted women's right to freedom at all levels of society. According to Taliban orders, all women are required to wear long black dresses. Wearing any other color in official places is punishable. Also, women must cover their faces with a black mask. With these restrictions, the Taliban, in addition to removing the identity of women, are seeking to remove their face from the society.

In addition, the Taliban have restricted one of the most basic and natural rights of women, i.e. the right to freedom of movement in the society. Based on this restriction, adult women without a male mahram are not allowed to travel abroad or even within the country to other provinces. In its more extreme case, women cannot go to government offices and hospitals, and health centers without a male mahram. This is despite the fact that many women have lost their husbands and fathers in wars and explosions and have no male mahrams in their families. By applying these cruel restrictions, these women are deprived of all social and health services. Also, as a result of these restrictions, many women miss the opportunity of

scholarships abroad or necessary trips for treatment.

Also, among other discriminatory and anti-human restrictions that the Taliban have imposed on women is the ban on women going to parks, recreation centers, and restaurants and the closing of women's bathrooms. This cruelty and open discrimination is actually a violation of Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which emphasizes freedom of movement. Such petrifying and misogynistic laws do not exist in the laws of any country, even in Islamic countries. The goal of the Taliban in imposing these restrictions on the women of the country is to remove their identities and physically from society and imprison them. With these actions, the Taliban have violated and trampled the four important principles of human dignity, freedom, and equality, which are at the top of all human rights and freedoms.

The right to work and employment

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the most important human rights document agreed and accepted by all governments, men and women are born free and are equal in terms of dignity and social rights. Therefore, all women have the right to enjoy the desired economic life, freedom in choosing a job and job security, and they cannot be forced into slavery. Also, based on these human rights documents, women should not be subjected to torture or cruel punishment, and contrary to humanity and human affairs, they should not be forced to accept a job and they should not be deprived of choosing their desired job. Also, according to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, member states must recognize the right to work for women and also give them the opportunity to freely choose or accept a job that will help support the family. The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also emphasizes the fact that equality between men and women in employment leads to the realization of their rights, and also declares: Discrimination in any way against women's employment rights violates the principle of equality and respect. It is human character.

With the effectiveness of the Taliban, Afghan women have been widely deprived of the right to work and stay at home. Women who worked in ministries, government offices, judicial courts and police have been dismissed from their jobs by order of the Taliban. Businesswomen, artists, athletes, audio and visual media employees, female journalists and employees of private companies have lost their jobs due to the orders or threats of the Taliban. In the recent Taliban decree, women have been banned from all jobs, even working in foreign institutions and relief organizations. This is despite the fact that many of these women are the breadwinners of their families, who are now unemployed and struggling with poverty. In many cases, these women beg or sell their children, including girls, due to extreme poverty and destitution. This exclusion and restriction on women's jobs, in addition to paralyzing the country's economic and development cycle, leads to the spread of poverty and misery in society. The Taliban have deprived women of the right to work under the pretext that women's work is against Islamic standards. This is despite the fact that there is no prohibition on women's work and economic activity in Islamic laws, and in all Islamic countries, women are equal to men in various jobs and play an active role in the development and prosperity of their country's economy.

BEBE RANA AZIMI - AFGHANISTAN

During the 1920s Afghanistan government crafted a new constitution that endeavored to guarantee civil rights for all, both men and women. The King outlawed strict traditional dress codes, and Queen Soraya(queen of Afghanistan at that time and a feminist and women rights and gender equality activist) set the example by removing her own veil public display. New schools were opened for both boys and girls, even in rural areas; the legal age for a woman to marry was raised; forced marriages were outlawed; and the king endeavored to end the practice of polygamy.
Queen Soraya even began Afghanistan's first women's journal, Ershad-e Niswan ("Guidance for Women"), which advocated gender equality. Other women's journals followed. Unfortunately it is different now but we change!

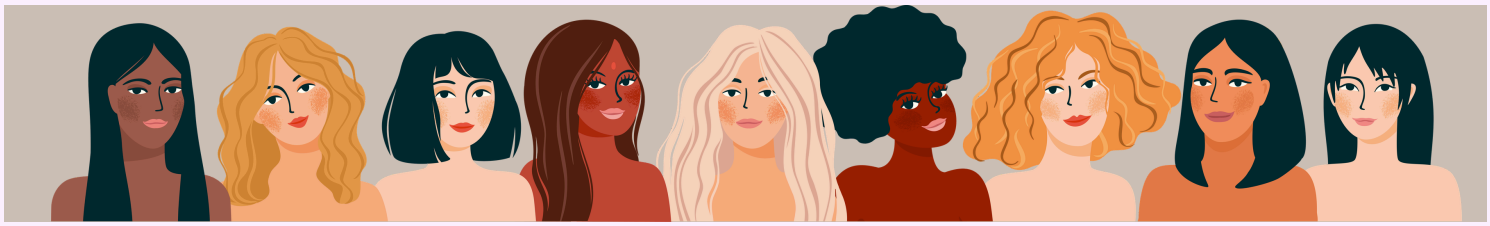
PHANICE KADZO - KENYA

Proud Kenyan

Hi, my name is Phanice Kadzo from Kenya, and I'm proud to share that, Kenya has made significant progress in increasing the number of women in leadership positions. Currently, women hold over 20% of parliamentary seats, which is above the global average. Additionally, women occupy key positions in government, including the Cabinet Secretaries to various ministries, and Chief Justice. This is a clear indication that the Kenyan government recognizes the critical role that women play in shaping the country's future and is committed to promoting gender equality.
Secondly, the Kenyan government has made efforts to improve maternal healthcare services in the country. It has implemented programs to reduce maternal mortality rates and improve access to family planning services, through the ministry and county departments of health in partnership with other stakeholders.
Thank you.

TINATIN TAVDGIRIDZE - GEORGIA

Hello everyone or shall i say "Gamarjoba"
I am Tinatin from Georgia. No not from the American state .I am from small Georgia, which is at the junction of Europe and Asia. Apart from culture and traditions, I am proud of my country where women's rights are also protected. I am proud that Women from Georgia, one of the first in the world, won the right to vote. It happened on November 22, 1918.
5 women were elected to the founding assembly of Georgia, while in most of the states of the world at that time women did not have the right to vote, moreover, a woman was elected as a member of the presidium (secretary).



"Hail Love, hail Love, because Love is divine
It is tender, it is beautiful and benign
What passion, what passion, we are burning like the sun
It is hidden and obscure, it is an obvious sign.
We've fallen, we've fallen, it is hard to rise up
We know not, we know not, this complex chaotic design."

MARZIA WAKILZADA – AFGHANISTAN

Good thing that happen for women in Afghanistan:

Women's rights in Afghanistan have oscillated back and forth depending on the time period. After King Amanullah Khan's attempts to modernize the country in the 1920s, women officially gained equality under the 1964 Constitution. However, these rights were taken away in the 1990s through different temporary rulers such as the mujahideen and the Taliban during the Afghan civil war. During the first Taliban regime (1996–2001), women had very little to no freedom, specifically in terms of civil liberties. When the Taliban was overthrown by the United States following the 9/11 attacks, women's rights gradually improved under the presidential Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.Women were de jure equal to men under the 2004 Constitution.

SEJUTI BARUA – INDIA

Today, I would like to draw your attention to critical legislation that has transformed the lives of countless women in India – the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005. This act has been a beacon of hope, providing a legal framework to safeguard women from the horrors of domestic violence.

Recognizing the urgent need to address this pervasive issue, the Act covers various forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic. It empowers women by granting them the right to protection orders, shelter, financial support, and legal recourse.

Moreover, the Act acknowledges that domestic violence extends beyond physical harm, addressing psychological trauma and economic exploitation as well. It also encourages the establishment of support services and counselingcenters to assist survivors on their path to recovery.

While this Act is a significant step forward, it is our collective responsibility to ensure its effective implementation and raise awareness about its provisions. Let us work together to create a society where women can live without fear, where their rights are respected, and where domestic violence is truly eradicated.

Thank you.

JEAN CLAUDE - RWANDA

"Women and men are equal in terms of ability and dignity, and they should also be equal in terms of opportunities. As Rwandans, as a global community, we need every member of our society to use his or her talents to the fullest if we are
ever to reach our development goals."
His Excellency Paul KAGAME,
The President of the Republic of Rwanda.



Aunt Jennifer's Tigers - Adrienne Rich

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

Submitted by:
SEJUTI BARUA - INDIA

JEAN CLAUDE MANIRAKIZA – KIGALI, RWANDA

My country is Rwanda,
In a pre-genocide patriarchal society, women were once restricted access to opportunities outside of the home. Their main role was to live in subordination to their husbands and care for the household. After the genocide, women carried the burden of reconstruction on their shoulders.
During the genocide, others used women as weapons of war and they experienced rape to increase fear in the country. Even years after the genocide, thousands of Rwandan women are victims of sexual violence and can take little no legal action. One can attribute the majority of this to the lack of representation of women in police and judicial positions.
Rwanda was the first country to have a majority of women in its government. In fact, women hold 64% of the Rwandan government seats, whereas men hold 36% of the seats. On paper, women's rights in Rwanda seem to flourish and represent a standard for other countries. Following the genocide and the diaspora of a majority of the population, women made up more than 60% of the remaining population and became responsible for the workplace.
President Paul Kagame, who rebuilt Rwanda after the genocide, leads this nation of 12.3 million people. He created a new constitution mandating a reservation of 30% of the parliament seats for women. Since this new amendment from 2003, the Rwandan government has consisted of a mostly equal balance of men and women.
A compulsory education program has put boys and girls in primary and secondary schools in equal numbers. Women can now own and inherit property and are active leaders in all sectors of the nation, including business. National mandates and programs are reducing violence, including violence against women.
"Mothers took in orphaned children and organized support groups for widows. Women moved from cleaning buildings to reconstructing them. They farmed and started businesses. Throughout the country, they created stability in the aftermath of unspeakable violence."
Thank you

EMMANUEL SAMUEL HOLMAN_NIGERIA

MY ROLE MODEL: NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is a Nigerian economist and international development expert who has achieved numerous accomplishments throughout her career. Here are some of her notable achievements:

1. First African and First Woman Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO): In February 2021, Okonjo-Iweala was appointed as the Director-General of the WTO, making her the first African and the first woman to hold the position.

2. Two-time Minister of Finance in Nigeria: Okonjo-Iweala served as Nigeria's Minister of Finance from 2003 to 2006 and again from 2011 to 2015. During her tenure, she implemented a series of economic reforms that helped to stabilize the Nigerian economy and improve its fiscal management.

3. Coordinating Minister for the Economy: In addition to her role as Minister of Finance, Okonjo-Iweala also served as Nigeria's Coordinating Minister for the Economy from 2011 to 2015. In this role, she oversaw the country's efforts to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil.

4. Managing Director of the World Bank: From 2007 to 2011, Okonjo-Iweala served as a Managing Director of the World Bank, where she was responsible for overseeing the bank's operations in Africa, South Asia, Europe, and Central Asia.

5. Author of several books: Okonjo-Iweala has authored several books on economic development, including "Reforming the Unreformable: Lessons from Nigeria" and "Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons."

Overall, Okonjo-Iweala's achievements have been recognized both nationally and internationally, and she has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to economic development and international trade.

WHAT IS HER CRIME?

A campaign against violence against women and girl-child. – Poem by Isaiah

FROM EMMANUEL HOLMAN_NIGERIA

Her eyes went dried like a piece of some broken calabash left in the harmattan wind.
She was tagged an object of horror and stigma
There was no comforter;
All her lovers are gone.
Only flames of biting fire was left in her fragile heart.
She lay naked in her shame:the shame from her abuse and violation.
Nobody heard her crying;
Her voice was stiffened.

WHAT IS HER CRIME?
Her kindness taken for weakness.
Her voice taken for some taboo.
Her guts taken for arrogance.
Her beauty taken for an orgies ...
Who cares that she was a symbol of strength and dignity?
Who cares that she was once a shelter upon heads?
Do you know that this battered face was once graceful and charming?

Oh my goodness!
Who has done this bizarre thing to her?
She bleeds from her assault.
Nothing to clothe her,
Nothing to suture her.

Hey you, stop!
She is a WOMAN
And still a HUMAN
She is weak.
Yes, she she.
But you know one thing?
She has got strength in kilos.

Oh dear man,
Don't be monstrous,
Don't be beastly,
Hold your punches.
Swallow your pride!
Kill the ego!
Kiss some Love and learn to be a human!
You know why?
The woman is a human too.

EDITORIAL NOTE

We did not edit for language and grammar as we wanted to present the original work.

Thank you to all participants who wrote and contributed.

This magazine was collated by GCED Online Campus Team



COURSE MAGAZINE
May 2023