



Gender and Security Sector Reform Ticker:

November & December 2008

Below you will find the news on GSSR. Please note that summaries of the different topics and specific links are below table of content.

Table of Content

A) Announcements:

1. Sweden: Action Plan Against Prostitution and Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes
2. United Arab Emirates (UAE) Calls for Women's Participation in the Protection of Peace & Security
3. Seeking Justice for Women in Post Conflict Situations

B) Call for papers/ applications:

1. Bottom-up Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific - Applications Open

C) Reports and Publications:

1. Pakistan, "Reforming the Judiciary", International Crisis Group
2. The UN Secretary-General's In-Depth Study On All Forms Of Violence Against Women, United Nations

D) News:

1. Central African Republic: "Female prison management workers hired in Central African Republic"
2. USA: "Legal Reform in Haiti"
3. USA: "Ensuring Security in an Unpredictable World: The Urgent Need for National Security Reform"
4. FIJI: "Female Prison Inmates Attend First Gender Workshop"
5. Norway: "Paying for Sex Is a Criminal Offence"
6. UK: "For Men Who Pay for Sex with Trafficked Women, Ignorance Is No Longer a Defence"
7. Australia: "New Website Against Trafficking Launched"
8. Niger: "Court Rules Niger Failed by Allowing Girl's Slavery"
9. UN Experts Warn On The Ongoing Crackdown Of Women's Rights Defenders In The Islamic Republic Of Iran
10. Egypt: "Egypt's Sexually Harassed Women Begin to Speak Out"
11. Brussels: "European Commission Acts Against Six Countries on Gender Equality Legislation"

Contents

A) Announcements:

1. Sweden: Action Plan Against Prostitution and Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

On 10 July 2008, the Government adopted an action plan for combating prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. The plan covers five priority areas: greater protection and support for people at risk, more emphasis on preventive work, higher standards and greater efficiency in the justice system, increased national and international cooperation, and a higher level of knowledge and awareness. Altogether, the Government will be investing SEK 213 million in 36 measures up to the year 2010.

The Action Plan is downloadable at

http://www.regeringen.se/download/fcd261a4.pdf?major=1&minor=110629&cn=attachmentPublDuplicator_0_attachment

2. United Arab Emirates (UAE) Calls for Women's Participation in the Protection of Peace & Security

The UAE has called on the international community to help boost a balanced women's participation in all efforts being made in the making and protection of national peace, security and stability in their communities and regions, as well as in the decision making process, mediation, reconciliation, administration of humanitarian operations, disarmament and reconstruction efforts. The UAE's call for the strengthening of cooperation among the UN entities, governments, civil organizations and task forces of regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, especially in the areas of exchange of information and good practices which proved to be effective in post-conflict countries.

http://www.gulfinthemedial.com/index.php?id=438711&news_type=Top&lang=en

3. Seeking Justice for Women in Post Conflict Situations

The design of any post-conflict social and economic order must include women and women's rights in order to facilitate their access to justice, says an expert panel on the prosecution of sexual violence organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 15 December. OHCHR has held several expert meetings and commissioned two major studies to examine the effectiveness of international post-conflict accountability mechanisms in prosecuting sexual violence, and the extent to which women and women's rights have been included in post-conflict reconstruction.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/JusticeforWomen.aspx>

Back to Table of Content

B) Call for papers/ applications:

1. Bottom-up Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific - Applications Open

The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) is seeking applications from young and emerging women leaders from Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga to participate in a project entitled: the Bottom-up Governance Leadership Program for Women in the Pacific (BGLP). BGLP aim to provide lesser-advantaged women with basic knowledge of governance and leadership in the Pacific and support bottom-up governance initiatives by women in their local communities. Applications close 30th January, 2009. Further details are available from:

<http://www.fdc.org.au/files/initiative/BGLP/BGLP-Application-Package.pdf>

Back to Table of Content

C) Reports and Publications:

1. Pakistan, "Reforming the Judiciary", International Crisis Group

Pakistan's return to civilian government after eight years of military rule and the sidelining of the military's religious allies in the February 2008 elections offer an opportunity to restore the rule of law and to review and repeal discriminatory religious laws that restrict fundamental rights, fuel extremism and destabilise the country. Judicial reforms would remove the legal cover under which extremists target their rivals and exploit a culture of violence and impunity. Ensuring judicial independence would also strengthen the transition to democracy at a time when it is being undermined by worsening violence.

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5728&l=1> and video presentation at http://www.crisisgroup.be/video/samina_nov08/samina_nov08.html

2. The UN Secretary-General's In-Depth Study On All Forms Of Violence Against Women, United Nations

The Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women was launched in the General Assembly on 9 October 2006. Its presentation and discussion in the Third Committee were accompanied by a panel discussion on "Ending violence against women: The role and responsibility of various sectors in effective prevention and response" and an exhibit of posters from around the world to raise awareness about violence against women and strengthen commitment to end it.

Among other, the study aims to highlight the persistence and unacceptability of all forms of violence against women in all parts of the world, strengthen the political commitment and joint efforts of all stakeholders to prevent and eliminate violence against women; and identify ways and means to ensure more sustained and effective implementation of State obligations to address all forms of violence against women, and to increase State accountability.

<http://www.un.org:80/womenwatch/daw/vaw/SGstudyvaw.htm>

Back to Table of Content

D) News:

1. Central African Republic: "Female prison management workers hired in Central African Republic"

Four female prison wardens and 12 female prison guards trained at the National School of Administration of the Judiciary in Bangui have been seconded to the Minister of Justice as part of UNDP's Project in Support of Judicial Security. The hires mark the first time that qualified female staff have been chosen to work in prison management in the Central African Republic.

<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2008/november/gardiennes-de-prison-en-centrafrique.en>

2. USA: "Legal Reform in Haiti"

Haitian criminal laws -- which date from the 1860s -- do not reflect contemporary criminal justice standards, human rights norms and some of the country's most serious crimes. A reform movement is underway. Haitian laws do not reflect contemporary criminal justice standards and international human rights norms and do not address some of the most serious crimes that are committed in Haiti. On December 9th, Haiti's special advisor to the country's president on legal reform and a panel of specialists have discussed the issue.

Audio available at http://www.usip.org/events/2008/1209_haiti_legal.html

3. USA: "Ensuring Security in an Unpredictable World: The Urgent Need for National Security Reform"

The national security system of the United States was created in 1947 during the administration of President Harry Truman. That world no longer exists. Today the nation is confronted with a globalized, more unpredictable world with multidimensional threats. It is a system in need of massive restructuring according to The Project on National Security Reform, a two-year undertaking of some 300 scholars and national security experts under the leadership of James Locher. PNSR is about to release its recommendations to Congress and the next president for resolving the current national security system problems.

James R. Locher III, Executive Director of PNSR, has discussed the project's recommendations for a comprehensive redesign of the system including draft presidential directives and a new National Security Act to replace many of the provisions of the 1947 legislation.

Ambassador James F. Dobbins, bringing over three decades of experience in European and global affairs, offered his comments on the National Security Reform Project and the transformation of the national security system.

Audio available at

http://www.usip.org/events/2008/1212_national_security.html?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Ensuring+Stability+in+an+Unpredictable+World%3A+The+Urgent+Need+for%0ANational+Security+Reform&utm_content=npopovic%40uninstraw.org&utm_campaign=USIP+Weekly+Bulletin+November+21%2C+2008

4. FIJI: "Female Prison Inmates Attend First Gender Workshop"

Female inmates of Suva Women's Prison were reminded by the Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Mr Auta Moceisuva that even though they were offenders they had the right to be treated with dignity.

The Deputy Commissioner made these comments while opening the first ever training on gender violence and gender sensitised issues.

Mr Moceisuva said the prison reforms is about making sure that when inmates are released from prison, they are accepted back into society and workshops such as this is a step forward.

www.wunrn.com/news/2008/12_08/12_01_08/120108_fiji.htm

5. Norway: "Paying for Sex Is a Criminal Offence"

The Norwegian Parliament has voted in favour of making payment for sexual acts a criminal offence in order to protect vulnerable women and children. The law passed with 44 votes in favour and 28 against and will come into effect on January 1, 2009.

The legislation, inspired by the success of neighbouring Sweden which criminalised the purchasing of sex in 1999, is actually rather more robust than that of its next door neighbour, setting a new pace for prostitution law reform.

Designed to reduce trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation in Norway, the legislation is welcomed by many Norwegian NGOs.

Norway is a country of destination for trafficking in women and children. The majority of trafficking victims come from or through the Baltic states, other Central and Eastern European countries, and Russia, as well as from Latin America and Thailand.

<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/news/?NewsID=3344>

Field Code Changed

6. UK: For Men Who Pay for Sex with Trafficked Women, Ignorance Is No Longer a Defence

New prostitution laws set out on 19th November mean a plea of ignorance is no defence for men facing prosecution for buying sex from a woman who has been trafficked or is being exploited by a pimp.

Under proposals by the home secretary, Jacqui Smith, a man who "knowingly" pays for sex with a woman who has been trafficked or is under the control of a pimp could face a charge of rape, which carries a potential life sentence.

The new offence of paying for sex with somebody who is "controlled for another person's gain" is to carry a hefty fine and a criminal record.

The decision to criminalise men who pay for sex with trafficked women is likely to have a widespread impact. The Metropolitan police have estimated that 70% of the 88,000 women involved in prostitution in England and Wales are under the control of traffickers.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/nov/19/prostitution-law-trafficked-women-smith>

7. Australia: "New Website Against Trafficking Launched"

A new website to fight against trafficking and slavery has been launched in Australia. ACRATH, that stands for Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans, represents more than 8000 women and men who belong to religious orders and that are engaged in eliminating trafficking and slavery. This site seeks to tell the trafficked people stories so that society here can make a stand against such human rights abuses.

The site also seeks to allow users to discuss and actively respond to the crisis that is human trafficking and slavery in Australia.

<http://www.acrath.org.au/home.php>

8. Niger: "Court Rules Niger Failed by Allowing Girl's Slavery"

A West African regional court ruled Monday that the government of Niger had failed to protect a young woman sold into slavery at the age of 12.

The landmark ruling, the first of its kind by a regional tribunal now sitting in Niamey, Niger's capital, ordered the government to pay about \$19,000 in damages to the woman, Hadijatou Mani, who is now 24.

Slavery is outlawed throughout Africa, but it persists in pockets of Niger, Mali, Mauritania and amid conflicts like the one in northern Uganda. Antislavery organizations estimate that 43,000 people are enslaved in Niger alone, where nomadic tribes like the Tuareg and Toubou have for centuries held members of other ethnic groups as slaves.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/28/world/africa/28niger.html>

9. UN Experts Warn On The Ongoing Crackdown Of Women's Rights Defenders In The Islamic Republic Of Iran

"Over the past two years, women's rights defenders have faced an increasingly difficult situation and harassment in the course of their non-violent activities in the defence of women's rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran," warned a group of two UN human rights experts. In a joint statement, Special Rapporteurs Margaret Sekaggya (situation of Human Rights Defenders) and Yakin Ertürk (Violence against Women, its causes and consequences) expressed deep concern regarding the ongoing crackdown of women's rights defenders in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

http://www2.ohchr.org/SPdocs/IRAN_WOMEN_HR_Statement.doc

10. Egypt: "Egypt's Sexually Harassed Women Begin to Speak Out"

A recent study by the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights found that 83% of Egyptian women and 98% of foreign women experience public sexual harassment in this country dependent on Western tourists, including explicit comments, groping, men exposing themselves and assault.

In a landmark case in October, a man was sentenced to three years of hard labor for reaching out his truck window and groping Noha Rushdi Saleh, a documentary filmmaker. On one day last month, police arrested more than 300 teenagers on suspicion of harassing and flirting with women across Cairo; more than 50 youths were arrested in a sweep in the capital last week.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-harassment17-2008dec17,0,6756136.story>

11. Brussels: "European Commission Acts Against Six Countries on Gender Equality Legislation"

On 27 November 2008, the Commission sent reasoned opinions to six countries to fully implement EU rules prohibiting discrimination in employment and occupation on the grounds of sex.

Austria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy and Malta have two months to respond.

If they fail to reply or if the response is unsatisfactory, the Commission can decide to take them to the European Court of Justice (ECJ)

Six Member States that have not implemented the Directive correctly received 'reasoned opinions'. This is the second step of the infringement procedure. The main problems include definitions of direct and indirect discrimination; rights of women on maternity leave; and the functioning of equality bodies.

<http://ec.europa.eu:80/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=423&furtherNews=yes>

[Back to Table of Content](#)