



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network

FEMNET's Bilingual E-Bulletin

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In #BringBackOurGirls solidarity march, Kenyans join other nations in demanding quick release of the abducted Chibok school girls in Nigeria. (Photo Credit: FEMNET/Ken Otina)



“This horrific act offends our common humanity and demands global outrage and action”

UNFPA Executive Director, Babatunde Osotimehim and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka reacting to the abduction of the Nigerian school girls



01. Your Voice

We called for a Solidarity Day of Action on May 15, marking one month since over 300 girls were abducted in Chibok, Nigeria. Actions were organized across the continent to stand in solidarity with the girls, their families and their communities. From Cairo, to Lilongwe, to Pretoria, Joburg, Dakar, Accra, Freetown, Yaounde, Lusaka, Kampala - citizens of conscience took a stand against increasing fundamentalisms, militarism and oppressive systems of patriarchy and domination which perpetuate injustice. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. As citizens of a global community, we march collectively for the dignity, respect and justice for all.

In Nairobi, hundreds of us took to the streets. It was a powerful gathering. [The pictures](#) are some indication of the kind of energy exhibited on the streets of Nairobi. Here under is the [statement we read out](#).

‘We are racing against time and every moment counts.’ #BringBackOurGirls

02. FEMNET Briefs

- 🔗 We welcome with love the newest and youngest member of the FEMNET family, Ethan Shema. Join us in congratulating the new parents; Dinah and Philip!
- 🔗 FEMNET mobilized its members and partners in a [Solidarity Day of Action](#) on May 15th, which marked one month since the abduction of over 300 girls in Chibok, Nigeria. Actions took place across the continent. Some of these include: [Kenya](#) | [Senegal](#) | [Ghana](#) | [Zambia](#) | Nigeria | [Mali](#) | [Tanzania](#) | Egypt | Mozambique | Sierra Leone | Liberia | Malawi | Sudan | South Africa | Zimbabwe | Cameroon | Uganda.
- 🔗 FEMNET & [Make Every Woman Count](#) hosted [#TheAfricaWeWant](#) tweetathon asking Africans to define the Africa they envisioned. The tweetathon was featured on [Al Jazeera’s the Stream](#). Find a [compilation of visions here](#).
- 🔗 FEMNET also joined the [LEPA Initiative](#) and Red Elephant Foundation in commemorating the very first Menstrual Hygiene day in the [#MenstruationMatters](#) and urging others to [#BreakTheSilence](#)
- 🔗 FEMNET joined [Girls Not Brides](#), [SOAWR](#), [Equality Now](#) in supporting the [#EndChildMarriageNow](#) tweetathon in line with the AU Campaign Launch to end Child Marriage. See [Al Jazeera Interview](#).
- 🔗 FEMNET is continuing to follow and demand [#JusticeForLiz](#). Please see [press release](#). A court date is set for June 24th.
- 🔗 FEMNET also hosted an online conversation on [#Beijing20](#) alongside UN Women and others
- 🔗 FEMNET along with SOAWR and NGOGCN organized a [Learning Mission to Malawi](#) during the elections that took place on May 20th. This was supported by UAF-A.

03. Regional Briefs

Sudanese woman convicted of adultery, apostasy facing death penalty

A 27-year-old Christian mother-of-one from Sudan is facing a possible death sentence unless she renounces her faith after being convicted on charges of adultery and apostasy. Meriam Yehya Ibrahim, who is eight months pregnant with her second child, is currently in detention with her 20-month-old son. [Read more](#) and [sign the petition here](#).

Political Parties Discuss the Code of Ethics for Supporting Women's Political Participation

Egypt Centre for Women Rights organized a seminar for the political parties entitled "Code of Ethics for Supporting Women's Participation. A step for real participation of women in the upcoming parliamentary and local elections, the Seminar was attended by 37 heads of political parties and representatives of women's committees of many parties. [Read more here.](#)

Sexual Violence Soars in South Sudan

Sexual and gender-based violence might not be a new phenomenon in South Sudan, but the current crisis and the near absence of protection for civilians has exacerbated it, analysts say. [Read more here.](#)

In the words of Evelyn Amony: "I was forced to become one of his 27 'wives'"

Evelyn Amony was abducted by the Ugandan rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) when she was only 12 years old. For nearly three decades, this rebel group has committed a range of atrocities including the abduction of children, rape, killing, maiming and sexual slavery. In her own words, she tells her story. [Read more here.](#)

Killing of French journalist turns spotlight on CAR media

The Central African Republic is no safe place for journalists. The shooting of the French photographer Camille Lepage highlights the plight of both local and foreign reporters in the CAR. French authorities have already opened an investigation into her murder. [Read more here](#)

04. International Briefs

Maya Angelou, Poet, Writer, Activist Passes Away at 86.

We pay tribute to and celebrate the phenomenal Maya Angelou. Her words inspired countless across the globe. Today and always, we salute her. Here are [11 Ways Maya Angelou taught us to be better women.](#)

#BringBackOurGirls: thousands march in solidarity in Pakistan

Mian Zaryab Arif, A World at School Global Youth Ambassador, led a packed public hearing in Kasur on the crisis and what can be done. Explaining the event, Mian said: "As Pakistan is facing attack of Taliban on our schools for so many years it is easy for me to explain the issue of the innocent Nigerian girls to the students of various schools and set up a plan to have a rally to stand up for the Nigerian girls." [Read more](#)

#WomenCan: World Bank, UN Women and Hillary Clinton to launch ground-breaking report

After two years of research and many in-depth consultations, the World Bank team will launch a ground-breaking report, with Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. [Read more here.](#)

UN Women starts an online #HeForShe campaign

The online campaign dubbed HeForShe is a new equality branding campaign, in which men all over the world are being encouraged to speak out against the inequalities faced by women and girls. [Read more](#)

Quality care at birth could save nearly 3 million children – UN-backed study

The majority of the almost 3 million children who die before they turn one month old could be saved if they received quality care around the time of birth, according to the findings released in a study supported

by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is urging additional attention and resources for this group of children. [Read more here.](#)

In Cambodia social causes find new partner in technology

"The Internet provides a space where we can speak openly about violence against women [and girls]," says Man Keo Sema, a 22-year-old business administration student at the Build Bright University, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. [Find full information here](#)

05. Vacancies

UNAIDS Human Rights and Gender Equality Adviser, Panama City, Panama

Deadline: June 7

UNAIDS is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. [Apply here.](#)

GNWP Call for Interns

Deadline: Open until filled

At the Global Network of Women Peace Builders the intern will be required to track policy deliberations on the UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security; post 2015 development agenda, CEDAW and other international laws, relevant to women and peace building. [More details here.](#)

06. Call for Action

Stop Execution of Mother In Sudan

Meriam Yehya Ibrahim has been sentenced to death for 'apostasy', or refusing to renounce her Christian faith. Meriam is imprisoned with her newborn baby girl and her 20-month-old son. Meriam has also been sentenced to 100 lashes for being married to a Christian man. She is a prisoner of conscience. Ask Sudan to release her. [Take action here.](#)

TAKE ACTION: Rescue Chibok's schoolgirls immediately! Nigeria - #BringBackOurGirls

Take Action Now! Equality Now and Nigerian partners - Women's Rights Advancement & Protection Alternative, Echoes of Women in Africa, Women for Justice & Peace and Alliances for Africa – have identified officials in Nigeria who should have the resources to find and return the girls to their families. Please join us in calling on them and the Governments of Cameroon and Chad, where allegedly, some of the girls were transported and sold, to Bring Back Our Girls! [Sign and share petition.](#)

Support Women's Rights to Drive in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is about to join the UN Human Rights Council - but should a country that oppresses the rights of women be allowed to have input on human rights issues around the world? [Sign and share the petition](#) to tell the UN that women should be treated equally and deserve to exercise their right to drive before Saudi Arabia is admitted to the council.

Bring Back Nigeria's 200 Missing School Girls #BringBackOurGirls

In Nigeria, over 200 girls were recently abducted from their boarding school and plans are reported of them being sold as brides for \$ 12 each. We need the world to unite in efforts to save them. The abducted

young girls are being affected by a conflict they did not create, and their voices need to be heard. It can only be imagined, what these over 200 girls are going through. [Sign and share the petition.](#)

07. Calendar of Events

12th Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG 12)

16th – 20th June 2014, UN Headquarters, New York City, US

[Click here to register and read more](#) on the upcoming 12th Session to be held in New York. FEMNET will be in attendance and you can follow us for updates on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Blog](#).

Gender and Land Tenure, Codesria Gender Institute

16 -27 June 2014, Dakar, Senegal

The Institute is designed to strengthen the integration of gender analysis into social science research in Africa and encourage the emergence of a community of researchers versed in the field of gender studies. The 2014 Gender Institute will be directed by Zenebework Tadesse Marcos, one of the most eminent African experts on Gender. [Read More](#)

23rd African Union Summit

20th – 27th June 2014, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Will be held under the theme “Agriculture and Food Security in Africa” [Read more.](#)

UN Environmental Assembly of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

23rd – 27th June 2014, UNEP headquarters Nairobi, Kenya

UNEA has replaced the UNEP Governing Council and the 1st session will convene under the overarching theme of “Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production”. A Gender Forum will be hosted by Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment on 23 and 24 June 2014. FEMNET will be in attendance and you can follow us for updates on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Blog](#).

23rd International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference

27th - 29th June, 2014, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

The theme of the Conference *Women’s Economic Empowerment and the New Global Development Agenda* is intended to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on how feminist economics contributes to discussions about the new global development agenda. [Read More](#)

3rd African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

10th – 12th July 2014, Abuja, Nigeria

According to the Secretariat of the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the third AfIGF will discuss critical issues of relevance and concern to the Continent as part of a global 10-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10). The Forum will also make recommendations for consideration and adoption by African governments and other stake-holders. [Register and read more here.](#)

Upcoming Days to Commemorate/ Observe/ Take Action:

- ❖ **5th June 2014:** [World Environment Day](#) (theme: Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level) [Read more](#)
- ❖ **16th June 2014:** [Day of the African Child](#) (theme: A child friendly, quality, free and compulsory education for all children in Africa). [Read More](#)
- ❖ **17th June 2014:** [World Day to Combat Desertification](#) (theme: Land Belongs to the Future - Let's Climate Proof It). [Read More](#)
- ❖ **20th June:** [World Refugee Day](#) (theme: 1 family torn apart by war is too many). [Read More](#)

08. Awards

Photojournalism : The ICRC's Humanitarian Visa d'Or Photo Contest

Deadline: 11th June 2014

Rewards a professional photojournalist who has succeeded in highlighting the issue of respect for the medical mission in war and other violent situations. The winner will receive a prize of 8,000 euro. The initiative is part of the Health Care in Danger project run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the award will be officially given on September 5th in Perpignan (France). [More details](#)

2014 Online Journalism Awards (OJAs)

Deadline: 13th June 2014

The awards by Online News Association, the world's largest membership organization of digital journalists, honors data journalism, visual digital storytelling, investigative journalism, public service, technical innovation and general excellence. The 2014 OJAs are open to work published between June 16, 2013, and June 15, 2014. Applicants are invited to [submit their work](#) until Friday, June 13, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. ET [in one of the 33 categories](#) after reading the [Rules & Eligibility](#).

09. Fellowships/ Scholarship Opportunities

2015 Rotary Peace Fellowship

Deadline: 1st July 2014

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is the premier academic scholarship of The Rotary Foundation and supports Rotary's mission to empower, educate, and increase the capacity of peace builders through rigorous academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities. [Click here](#) to submit your application.

2014 West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)

Deadline: June 16

The West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) would like to announce the start of admissions to the West Africa Peace building Institute (WAPI) 2014 training session from 1st to 26th September, 2014. WAPI is a three-week intensive training program that aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society-based peace building practitioners and institutions in order to promote the development of indigenous responses to conflict. [Click here](#) to apply and for more information

10. Call for Papers/Submissions/Abstracts

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

IT for Change and IDRC are co-organising a Round Table on 'Inclusion in the network society – mapping development alternatives, forging research agendas' in September 2014 in Bangalore, India. The round table will bring together around 25 participants – leading scholars, development practitioners and thinkers, who are interested in the theoretical and policy aspects of equity, inclusion and participation in the 'ICTs and development' domain. For further information, please read the [Call for Abstracts](#) and [Concept Note](#).

11. E-RESOURCES

UNESCO's Report: World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development

The Report paints a picture of change and disruption to media freedom, pluralism, independence and the safety of journalists brought on by technology and, to a lesser extent, the global financial crisis. [Download](#)

Displaced Girls - Compounded Vulnerabilities - Girls Disrupted

Girls pay a high price in situations of displacement. Conflicts and disasters make them doubly vulnerable and often put an end to their childhood. Sudden disruption of education, trafficking, gender based violence such as early and forced marriage are some of the protection issues faced by girls that have a critical impact on their future and contribute to perpetuate existing inequality. This paper aims at show case good practices through stories from Afghanistan, DRC, CAR, Palestine and Colombia and provides recommendations on girl specific prevention and response mechanisms. It also highlights the amazing resilience capacities of displaced girls who have been supported and helped to bounce back, to restore their stolen childhood and to be better equipped for the future. [Click to Download](#)

Safer Journo: Digital Security Resources for Media Trainers Toolkit

The toolkit is a free and open-source, step-by-step training resource in six parts for media trainers on digital safety and online security. Leading the toolkit is the trainer's guide, which walks journalism trainers through the adult learning approach used in the modules and provides tips and planning techniques. The six modules include *Assessing Digital Risks*, *Avoiding Malware*, *Keeping Data Safe*, *Researching Securely*, *Keeping Email Safe* and *Mobile Phone Safety*. [Click to Download](#).

We would love to hear from you!

Please send your contributions, comments and suggestions to:
communication@femnet.or.ke and/or library@femnet.or.ke.
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