



1

"The improperly veiled woman is a stain on the Islamic Republic of Iran who must be eliminated immediately."

2

The past is not as far away as you think.....

Women Living Under Muslim Laws

Annual Report 2011

¹ First Women MP's, Iran, 1964.

² Wall Graphic Iran –Islamic Punishment Law, Iran, 1983: 74 lashes for not wearing the strict Hijab

International Solidarity Network

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WLUML Purpose and History

Mission Statement

'Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) is an international solidarity network that promotes human rights and gender equality for women whose lives are shaped, conditioned or governed by laws said to be derived from Islam. It works in partnership with women's organisations and individuals to strengthen movements for social justice and the advancement of women's human rights.'

Purpose and History

WLUML was initiated in 1984 in response to 3 cases in Muslim countries in which women were being denied their rights through reference to laws said to be 'Muslim'. The network has now spread to over 70 countries. WLUML was founded and is led by women's groups & individuals with mainly Muslim backgrounds based in the Global South.

WLUML's purpose is to strengthen women's individual and collective struggles for equality and access to their rights, especially within Muslim contexts. WLUML has played a critical role for women who either lack information regarding their official, legal rights – both in terms of personal status laws and civil codes – or have limited access to information that might enable them to challenge the validity of either type of law. This knowledge gap is reinforced by a deliberate policy of misinformation, exacerbated by the existing monopoly and control over matters purportedly relating to Islam.

Over the last 25 years, the growing power of extremist groups organised around identity politics has been a major cause of limiting the range of choices available to women living in Muslim majority contexts. These disempowering forces continue to exert increasing pressure on people, especially women, to embrace ever more narrow definitions of self, such that their multiple identities based on gender, citizenship, class, religion or ethnicity are reduced to one single, imposed identity; a reduction to the 'right' identity. These forces can silence dissenting voices, both religious and secular, often through the use of violence, actual or threatened. The result is isolation, fragmentation and weakening of those who dissent.

WLUML has worked over the years to break the silence and isolation by developing a transnational network for information, solidarity and support, giving women access both to information and each other. With the increasing threat posed by politico-religious fundamentalists, WLUML's support for women to mounting resistance to these forces has become even more crucial. It has 25 years of experience in bringing together the collective strength and voices of women, gathering different analyses and strategies to advance women's human rights and gender equality within Muslim contexts.

WLUML Relevance Today

In Asia, Africa, the Middle East and diasporic Muslim communities' violence against women continues to be perpetrated in the name of religion and/or culture. In the rapidly changing MENA region, old autocratic regimes have collapsed and new interim governments are assuming power. At a time when there is an obvious opportunity for women rights to be high on the agenda, new developments are causing grave concerns and violent acts continue; for example, compulsory virginity tests, the upholding of laws that treat honour crimes with leniency, guardianship laws that limit women's mobility, etc.

The Arab world saw great political turmoil in the beginning of 2011. The Tunisian dictator Zen el-Abidin was overthrown before January 2011 ended. Then a similar turmoil began in Egypt and hundreds of thousands of people poured in Tahrir square to protest against Hasni Mubarak, another long serving dictator who was forced to go and then Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. Now all this has been much written about and need not be repeated but what concerns us here is about the role of women in these revolutionary changes in these Arab countries.

In all these countries women played very significant role right from Tunisia to Yemen. No one can underestimate their role. Both in Egypt and Yemen women initiatives played a most crucial role. In fact the Tahrir Square mobilization was due mainly to a young girl's appeal on facebook. As everyone knows the social media as facebook played an important role in mobilization in the Islamic world against kings and dictators.

But post-revolution a shadow of doubt hangs over them? What this democratic revolution will give them? Or will it take over the rights they had gained under dictatorships. There is a lot of truth in this as much as there is possibility of Islamic laws, as they are, being re-imposed in these countries.

--Asghar Ali Engineer – Writer and Activist. November 2011



Egypt, November 2011



Libya's National Transition Council proclaimed on October 23, 2011, that a number of laws would be considered annulled as they were not in compliance with 'Sharia law'. The Interim leader went on to say that 'Sharia allows Polygamy'.

WLUML released a press statement on 25 October, which called into question the version of Sharia being 'legitimized' and raised concerns regarding the unelected status of the interim body that was proposing such changes. This statement was re-posted within days on local and international NGO websites, the Association of Women in Development (AWID) and UK national newspaper blogs³; its readership was in the millions.

From the religious point of view alone, the Qur'an itself can be read and interpreted in different ways. Diversity (iktilaf) is an accepted tradition in Islam. Tunisia took the historic decision in 1956 to forbid polygyny (aka polygamy), as legislators pointed out that the Qur'an clearly indicated both that equal treatment between wives is required and that it was not possible for a man to treat several women perfectly equally; conversely Algeria in 1962 used the same verse to allow a man to have 4 wives and legitimize polygamy. Which of these contradictory interpretations conforms with 'sharia'?

³ Guardian Middle East liveblog 28/10/11, which can be found here:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/middle-east-live/2011/oct/28/libya-tunisia-middle-east-unrest#block-18>

We denounce the loose use of the term 'sharia' to give a false religious legitimacy to patriarchal interpretations of religion, as well as to patriarchal traditions. WLUML calls on women's organizations and progressive people around the world to remain alert to the contradictions between pretending to be a democracy and decreeing the application of undefined religious laws.

--WLUML Libya Statement October 2011



Looking Forward

The future direction remains focused on addressing women's rights within both religious and secular frameworks. The continuing and morphing presence of Islamic fundamentalism and the subsequent promotion of strict patriarchal interpretations of the Koran and Sharia are the biggest single threat to women's human rights in majority Muslim contexts. Hence, there is a need to work alongside women who are facing these emerging situations and struggles in North Africa and the Middle East, as well as in other parts of the world. These unprecedented phenomena are shaping the way the network will move, the course it will take, and the situations it must adapt to.

In 2012, WLUML will engage in more effective social mobilisation and advocacy work, as it is fast becoming a necessity, as well as strategic responses such as developing the area of expertise in constitutional, legal and electoral processes in Muslim context situations, developing political leadership resources. WLUML will respond to the needs of the regions and the prevailing political economies and circumstances. We hope that partners, donors and supporters will continue to be responsive and support WLUML's work, to bring attention to and re-focus priority on strengthening women's rights in these regions and contexts.

I am writing this post to celebrate belonging to a great family, which the international solidarity network [Women Living Under Muslim Laws](#), herein after WLUML.

WLUML works mainly on offering support and knowledge and securing networks for its networkers. I have been always valuing this such, until the Egyptian revolution came and it was my only way out, WLUML staff kept calling me, publishing what I write when the internet return back. and it conveyed my message and voiced that situations of millions of Egyptians, men and women.⁴

--Fatma Emam – Nazra for Feminist Studies

⁴ 'Brownie' Blog, 24/10/11, <http://atbrownies.blogspot.com/2011/10/women-live-under-muslim-laws-women.html>.

WLUML Governance and Structure

Governance

WLUML is a registered charitable organisation (in England and Wales) limited by guarantee and a 'not-for-profit' company. The Board of Directors, currently 7 Board members, who serve in a voluntary capacity, are responsible for the company's governance. The Board are assisted by an advisory group, the International Council who are drawn from women human rights and women's rights activists from across the Global South. The Council has a current membership of 15.

During the past year, Women Living Under Muslim Laws prepared to register as a charitable organisation in the UK. An 'in principle' application followed by the formal application was sent to the Charity Commission during 2011. Women Living Under Muslim Laws was finally registered as a charitable organisation by the Charities Commission on the 3rd of November 2011. The Directors are, therefore, now also Trustees of the newly registered charitable organisation. WLUML's Charity number is: 1144519. WLUML continues to be a company limited by guarantee, registered company number: 04117440.

2011 Board Members:

Fatou Sow –Interim International Coordinator	(Senegal)
Zarizana Abdul Aziz – Chairperson	(Malaysia)
Djingarey Maiga	(Mali)
Faizun Zackeriya	(Sri Lanka)
Homa Hoodfar	(Iran/ Canada)
Isatou Touray	(Gambia)
Katayoon Hoodfar - Company Secretary	(Iran/ United Kingdom)

Structure

WLUML's regular services, Communications and Publications, are run from the registered company office in London. During the main part of this year the International Coordination Office staff team consisted of 5 full time posts: Communications Officer, Publications Officer, Iran Programme Coordinator, Finance & Administration Officer, Funding & Resources Coordinator (Lead officer). In addition WLUML employed a range of freelance staff around the globe, that included two full time positions of Programme Manager for the Women Reclaiming and Redefining Culture programme and a campaign manager for the Violence is not our Culture campaign. WLUML also had a strong volunteer base that supported many of the organisation's functions and tasks.

A restructure of services took place in August 2011, taking account of a reduction in funding income. As a result of this restructure, the Communications post and the Funding & Resources post became part time and Publications work was outsourced, either to volunteers or freelance professionals.

The restructure has enabled WLUML to maintain its services, whilst not at the capacity achieved during the first half of the year, at a surprising good output considering the reduction in staff resources. This is mainly due to the 'network' character of the organisation, where activists from all parts of the globe have re-grouped and given more of their time and commitment to WLUML activities, mainly to supplement the Publications and Communications work that provide human rights and women's rights education.

The savings made will enable WLUML in the next year to pursue more Middle East and West Asia focused work. To support this direction, at the beginning of 2012, WLUML will be recruiting for a West Asia programme post.

Regional Coordination Offices

There are 2 regional coordination offices which are housed in independent organisations in Africa and Asia: GREFELS in Dakar, Senegal and Shirkat Gah in Lahore, Pakistan. These independent sister organisations facilitate WLUML regional networks, and provide administrative and programme support to WLUML as and when required.

GREFELS:

GREFELS is a feminist research and advocacy project; it is non-denominational and not-for-profit. Its purpose is to conduct research on women's rights and to issue action alerts, advocacy and support for human rights. The association brings together researchers and women's rights activists in Senegal who promote research on the status and roles of Senegalese women and contribute to the promotion of their rights in an institutional and multidisciplinary approach. GREFELS is open to all Senegalese women who share this vision, and works at the local, regional and international levels with many women's organisations and advocacy NGOs.

GREFELS, as a member of the network Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), hosts the regional coordination office for Africa and the Middle East. As such, it is responsible for activities and tasks related to networking, data collection, and the provision of information and solidarity actions within these contexts. GREFELS is a non officio member of WLUML's Advisory Council. The RCO-AME regional activities are described in a separate chapter.

Shirkat Gah:

Shirkat Gah is a multifaceted not-for-profit organisation that works towards capacity building for women on both an individual level, supported by outreach partners across Pakistan, and at a strategic level to ensure good governance and policy making at the local and domestic levels.

Shirkat Gah actively conducts and supports research that promotes and assists in its objective of empowering women. It works closely with the civil society and community based organisations. Over almost three decades, Shirkat Gah has and continues to play the role of a catalyst in bringing about change at the grassroots by increasing awareness around existing policies, programmes and laws. It provides legal assistance, awareness and capacity building interventions in all four provinces of Pakistan, which work to uplift the status of women in their own environment. Today, Shirkat Gah has expanded well beyond being a collective; it is an organisation that operates across Pakistan, regionally and internationally, and enjoys ECOSOC status at the United Nations.

Shirkat Gah, as a member of the network Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), hosts the regional coordination office for Asia. As such, it is responsible for activities and task relating to networking, data collection, and provision of information and solidarity actions within these contexts. Shirkat Gah is also a non officio member of WLUML's Advisory Council. The RCO- Asia regional activities are described in a separate chapter.

2011 – SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



Dangerous times: Syrian uprising/demonstrations 2011

In 2011 WLUML:

- 1. Generated new analyses contributing to women's struggles in Muslim countries and communities regarding WLUML critical issues, and provided a platform for a broad range of networkers' voices and analysis.**
- 2. Offered a visible source of and means of exchanging alternative information, analysis, strategies and experience on gender, identity and culture, ensuring WUML's unique information resources reached networkers more widely.**
- 3. Built capacity within the network, reaching and involving old and new networkers and organizations, producing and disseminating information.**
- 4. Raised awareness of the work being undertaken around culture and women's rights in the past few years, through the programme supported by the MDG3 Fund 2008 -2011 'Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures: Asserting rights over body, self and public spaces' and the 'Violence is Not our Culture' campaign.**

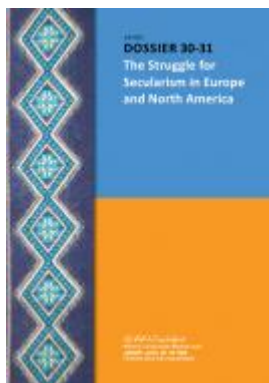
Publications and Conferences

WLUML generated new analyses contributing to women’s struggles in Muslim countries and communities regarding its critical issues, and provided a platform for a broad range of networkers’ voices and analysis.

In 2011 WLUML produced new analysis and publications that examine a range of human rights and women rights issues. The publications have been available as both free to download e-publications and in hard copy.

WLUML, in various shapes and forms, participated in many local, regional and international events and conferences during the year. In each such event, the below publications were either/and launched, a panel discussion topic, referenced, or given out as free resources.

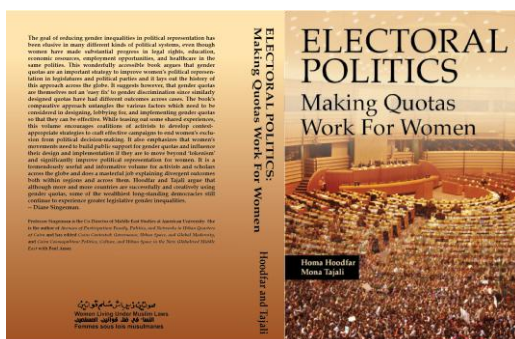
Dossier 30-31: The Struggle for Secularism in Europe and North America.



This dossier was published online in July 2011. It brings together articles by activists, legal experts and scholars on the subject of women’s rights and secularism in ‘the West’ (Canada, USA, UK, France and the former Yugoslavia). *Dossier 28* addressed models of secularism in various Muslim and non Muslim contexts, but this publication carries the debate further by specifically addressing the issues of the separation of religion and state politics vis-à-vis women’s rights in Europe and North America, from experts in the field. With rising debates about ‘Islamophobia’ and multiculturalism, this publication is a timely contribution. It is edited by Algerian sociologist and WLUML founder, Marieme Hélie-Lucas. Over 15 contributors, including Karima Bennoune: “The Law of the Republic Versus the ‘Law of the Brothers’: A story of France’s law banning religious symbols in public”; Pragna Patel: “Cohesion, Multi-Faithism and the Erosion of Secular Spaces in the UK: Implications for the human rights of minority women”; and Gita Sahgal: “‘The Question Asked by Satan’: Doubt, dissent and discrimination in 21st-century Britain”.

<http://www.wluml.org/resource/dossier-30-31-struggle-secularism-europe-and-north-america>

Electoral Politics: Making Quotas work for Women



A WLUML project entitled ‘Gender Equality and State Machinery’ was developed at the request of networkers working at increasing women’s citizenship rights and political participation at various levels. *Electoral Politics: Making Quotas work for Women* is the subsequent publication to *Dossier 29: Mechanisms and Structures to Promote and Protect Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equality*, which bought together papers and discussions on mechanisms and structures to advance gender equality, and underpin the principle that ‘women’s issues should be everyone’s issues’.

Electoral Politics: Making Quotas work for Women is the next phase of this project. The publication has 6 chapters including an Introduction, and a concluding section that outlines “Important Steps for Successful Gender Quota Adoption in Addressing Women’s Political Underrepresentation”.

The introduction presents an overview of the debates on the importance of women's representation in political and decision-making structures globally. Chapter 2 introduces the three prominent electoral systems and details their main elements and their fit with various gender quotas. Chapter 3 summarises the arguments used to support or oppose gender quotas. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 analyse successful and not-so-successful cases of gender quota implementation through specific case studies, with an eye to the key features and factors which influenced success in each case. The use of political party quotas is examined in the contexts of Finland, Sweden and the UK in Chapter 4; legislative quotas are discussed in relation to Argentina and France in Chapter 5; and reserved seats quotas are explored through the case studies of Bangladesh and Rwanda in Chapter 6.

The book concludes with a synopsis and guiding discussion of the important steps for successful gender quota adoption, as a practical tool for activists, campaigners and civil society members working on these issues. *Electoral Politics* was printed in November 2011. The e-copy will be uploaded to the WLUMML website in December 2011.

WLUMML plans to translate this book into relevant local languages and produce companion CDs. These resources will be used for the 'Gender equality and State Machinery' training workshops which WLUMML is planning this year.

Dossier 32: Sexuality in Muslim Contexts

Since the 1980s, across the globe and in many Muslim contexts, women have witnessed and contested a rising tide of politico-fundamentalist movements in which social conservatives and actors linked to the religious right invoke Islam to control the expression of women's sexuality. This control comes in a myriad of forms and includes restricting women's mobility, socialisation and modes of dress, control over reproductive rights, ability to make free choices concerning marriage and sexual partners, and lack of female representation in society and politics.

Young women are often denied access to comprehensive sexual education and sexual health services. Within marriage, women are also often denied the right to use contraception and protection, even when their husbands may have HIV or other STIs. This control of women's sexuality is increasingly being legitimated across Muslim majority societies by legal means; through strict legislation and the creation of moral police forces charged with the right to reinforce, often violently, adherence to proposed moral codes. Across contexts 'anti-pornography' laws are being brought to the table, and sex work remains criminalised and stigmatised. Queerness and transsexuality remain incredibly taboo, though women's movements in Muslim contexts are increasingly taking up the challenge of breaking these silences.

Dossier 32 is a collection of 10 papers on themes such as: Violence against women as a mechanism of controlling women's sexuality ('honour' killings, stoning, femicide, female genital mutilation); Sexual politics of human rights; Transsexuality; Anti-pornography legislation; Sex work; Moral policing; Sexual orientation; Dress codes; Women's autonomous control of their reproductive rights; HIV and sex education; Autonomy in marriage and divorce; Marital rape. 27 papers were received following the call for papers publicised on the WLUMML website earlier this year. 10 articles were chosen and are currently being edited. *Dossier 32* will be e-published in Spring 2012.

Reviews of WLUML Publications:

Meredith Tax's Blog : Thursday, August 4, 2011 - 01:31

So, while my own thoughts percolate, I am passing along a wonderful resource: the latest dossier of Women Living Under Muslim Laws, edited by Marieme Hélié-Lucas, which "addresses a burning issue: the specificity of the struggle that women – be they Muslim or 'of Muslim descent' – are waging in Europe and North America, and the way in which their struggle and their strategic decisions are perceived elsewhere, outside the context.

Début du message réexpédié:

Je ne me crois pas qualifié pour juger de ce dossier. Le fait que je l'envoie à quelques amies manifeste que je trouve ce travail très intéressant. Je l'ai lu en grande partie et j'ai apprécié son clair positionnement sur la laïcité et sur les religions en général. La situation des femmes mariées vivant en France et "répudiées" par un simple divorce unilatéral légal par l'époux dans son pays d'origine, m'a paru un chapitre particulièrement intéressant, de même que les viols "légaux" et la complexité de la situation des jeunes filles d'origine maghrébine vivant dans les banlieues française, abordée par plusieurs auteures est un aspect particulièrement important. En bref je trouve que tu as fait un remarquable travail et les références à Daniel Bensaid ne gâtent rien. Ce serait vraiment intéressant que ce document puisse être diffusé en français en France avant les élections présidentielles et envoyé entre autres aux candidats.

Seminars, events, conferences at which WLUML networkers contributed:

- WLUML and IWE organised a WRRRC workshop on Women's Inheritance and Property rights at the World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal, on February 10-11, 2011. The workshop was headed by Vivienne Wee (IWE) and Fatou Sow (WLUML). Three panels were held during the workshop: Countering the use of culture to dispossess women; Strategies for advancing women's rights to land; Defending women's rights to the commons for sustainable environmental justice.
- Dr Ziba Mir Hossieni, legal anthropologist, Professorial Research Associate at Centre for Islamic and Middle East Law (SOAS), author of the recent WLUML publication *Control and Sexuality* talked about this publication, referenced other WLUML publications at the following events:
 - 'Sexuality, Honour and Rights: Women and the Green Movement in Iran', March 2011, Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Exeter;
 - 'Muslim Women: Through the Lens of History, Religion, Law and Society', March 2011, Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture, Karachi, Pakistan;
 - Launch of *Control and Sexuality*, VNC campaign organized in March 2011 at the Human Rights Council.
 - 'Religious Law, Local Practice, and Global Debates about Muslim Women's Rights: The Politics of Consent', April 2011, CCASD and CTDR, Amman, Jordan;⁵
 - 'Law, Religion and the State', September 2011, University College Dublin (UCD);⁶
 - 'WISE: Muslim Women Leaders at the Frontline of Change', October 2011, Turkey;⁷

⁵ This was meeting organized by Lila Abu Lughod.

<http://www.socialdifference.org/events/womens-rights-muslim-family-law-and-politics-consent>

⁶ This was a conference organised in conjunction with Shirin Ebadi's honorary doctorate; she was present and in fact referred to *Control and Sexuality* and the VNC campaign.

⁷ For a report see: <http://www.asafeworldforwomen.org/womens-rights/wr-global/1476-wise-muslim-women-shatter-stereotypes-at-istanbul-conference.html>

- Musawah conceptual workshop on developing an egalitarian understanding of qiwama and wilaya, (24-26 Nov), organised in partnership with the Jordanian Women's Union and the Society for Protecting Family Violence Victims (Jordan).
- Fatou Sow, Professor of Sociology and WLUML International Coordinator, directed the 2011 Annual CODESRIA Gender Institute in Dakar, Senegal, June 6-24 2011, which was attended by 15 scholars from various parts of Africa. Two were from Canada and Belgium. The Gender Institute was a collective initiative of Ayesha Imam, Amina Mama and Fatou Sow and started in 1994. It aims, for 3 weeks, to promote concentrated debates, experience-sharing and knowledge-building on gender related issues. The title of the course was *Gender, Cultures, Politics and Fundamentalisms in Africa*. The course aimed at exploring the links between culture, religion and politics, which are extremely complex in a contemporary context where political and religious issues clash at both national and international levels. Karima Bennoune was among the resource persons and dealt with the issues of fundamentalisms and human rights.

Communications

WLUML offers a visible source and means of exchanging information, analysis, strategies and experience on gender, identity and culture; WUML's information resources reached networkers and the wider public.

WLUML Website:

WLUML's website has maintained its wide reach throughout 2011. It is available in 3 languages, English, French and Arabic. Furthermore, a Farsi and Dari section was developed this year (see Farsi/Dari report).

On average, the website received 1.4 million hits per month, with that number swelling in months during the uprisings in the Arab World. This shows that people have come specifically to WLUML's site seeking information on important world issues that WLUML is seen to have an expert perspective on. The WLUML communications team, during this historic time, actively coordinated with networkers in Egypt and Tunisia to get out 'on-the-ground' information that the regimes of these countries were working to silence. For example, [here](#) are [two](#) reports from Egyptian networkers, which were either sent or dictated to the communications team for dissemination during the January/February revolution in that country; these were two of the most popular stories on the site during the month of February.

First of all, I have to apologize to the readers for any grammatical mistakes, or if I make no sense; my mental capacities are at their lowest level due lack of sleep for three days.

Something that impressed me in this revolution that made my dreams come true: I saw a feminist movement united, powerful, and engaging in the political situation, a historical precedent. We are united for one cause, regardless of ideology, generation or political affiliation. Women showed a great example in this revolution; they were in the front lines: coordinating, strategizing and implementing. As my dear friend, Mozn Hassan said, we fought in the public and the private realm to claim our rights, and this is the core of our feminist struggle.⁸

This is an extract from a message Fatma Emam emailed to us to post during the Egyptian revolution in February 2011. The internet and media situation in Egypt was so bad at that point that she had no other way of getting information out. It was the 18th most visited page that month.

WLUML sent out 10 unique Solidarity action alerts (with many more updates as situations progressed), covering issues such as: the overturning of anti-polygamy laws by the transitional authorities in Libya; the imprisoning of women activists, for driving, in Saudi Arabia; the continuous imprisonment of women's activists in Iran. The [Libya statement](#) received extraordinary response; WLUML was one of the first organisations to respond to this shocking development with a statement sent out on the 25th of October. This alert has received widespread support and endorsement, and has been republished on multiple sites (examples: [CLADEM](#); [AWID](#); [ISIS](#)). Notably, it was also published on the [Guardian Middle East Liveblog](#) on the 28th of October. WLUML's statement on Libya also garnered much attention from local women's rights organisations in the region, with an invitation extended to attend a conference in Tripoli on the political role of women in the new Libya.

The website has received 15.3 million hits to date (November), the expected total for the whole of the year being 17 million. Monthly website summaries were sent out on list serves (to over 2000

⁸ <http://www.wluml.org/node/6926>

people), as well as information on solidarity actions from other human rights and gender equality organisations and activists. To date, the WLUML facebook page has 876 'likes', which is anticipated to top 900 by year end. The facebook page has also proved to be successful for disseminating information and networking connections. WLUML has received requests for solidarity through facebook, such as the Pashtun Organization for Women who contacted WLUML through a facebook posting to support their petition and steps to combat stoning in Afghanistan (November 2011). In the first 9 months of a live Farsi/Dari section, 124 news stories were posted, mostly on women in the MENA region and the Arab uprisings.

Dress Codes Exhibition:

This exhibition looks at women's dress in some Muslim countries and communities; it is a snapshot of the diversities and commonalities through space and time, and highlights the influence of many forces—class, status, region, work, religious interpretation, ethnicity, urban/rural, politics, fashion, climate. From regions as diverse as Turkey and Iran, Uzbekistan and Indonesia, the suburbs of Paris and northern Nigeria, the concerns of women who live under Muslim laws are shaped by customs, colonial history and gender relations as much as by Islam. The exhibition uses 250 images (paintings, drawings, photos), past and present, and over 85 quotations from a rich variety of sources along with some explanatory text in English. There are 20 large printed panels (each on its own exhibition stand with lighting), a DVD and items of dress with stands. The exhibition is designed to pack and travel easily anywhere in the world, with each of the 20 stands fitting into its own case. It is also easy to assemble.

In 2011 the Dress Codes exhibition travelled twice: West Hampstead Women's Centre in London in April and Duke University in North Carolina USA in April to May.

The WLUML website has a section devoted to the Dress Codes Exhibition that receives continuous interest; the total hits for the Dress Codes pages from Jan to Oct was 5207, averaging at 520 a month. A number of requests for hosting the Dress Codes exhibition next year have been received at the ICO. The feasibility of sending the exhibition overseas is dependent on the available staff capacity in the coming year.



Left to right: Turkish women, Police Notice in Turkey – Dress Codes Exhibition

Solidarity Actions and Networking

WLUML built capacity within the network – reaching and involving old & new networkers & organisations – and produced and disseminated information.

Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition:

The WHRD International Coalition is an advocacy network for the protection and support of women's human rights defenders worldwide. It undertakes public education, policy advocacy, and produces global reports on human rights defenders. It has 25 coalition members, including the internationally recognised HR organisation Amnesty International.

WLUML is an executive member of the Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition and regularly takes part in the Coalition meetings.

In 2011, WLUML contributed to the WHRD coalition women human rights working group reports looking at violations, perpetrators, contextual trends and actions taken. WLUML has continued to have a women alert mechanism, which includes urgent appeals for WHRD's at risk. Urgent appeals are public statements concerning reports of actual or impending human rights violations or abuses that aim to generate a rapid and broad based response. WLUML assisted with 1 Urgent Action.

2011 Urgent Action:

Law professor Karima Bennoune, a member of WLUML's Council, served as a human rights observer at a series of pro-democracy demonstrations in Algeria (February 12 and 19, 2011). These demonstrations included significant numbers of women, and WHRDs from the new coalition, the *Observatoire Nationale sur la violence faites on femmes* (National Observatory on Violence against Women). The Observatory was one of the organisations that participated in the *Coordination Nationale Pour le Changement et la Démocratie* (CNCD), the group that organised the protests.

Professor Bennoune documented the treatment of protestors, in particular of women activists involved, through words and photos, as they faced police beatings, arrest and harassment. She reported the arrests of prominent women's rights advocates, like Cherifa Kheddar, as they occurred to other WLUML networkers and women's human rights advocates internationally. She met with and interviewed a number of prominent WHRDs about the situation in Algeria, the government's response to women's rights activism, and the democracy movement in general. She documented the use of counter-protestors against women demonstrators (like in Egypt).

The protests in Algeria continue, so one cannot say the situation has been resolved. However, the mission made a significant contribution to spreading awareness about what was happening in Algeria, and the risks taken by women human rights defenders who participated in the protests. As a result of this mission, Bennoune was able to write some of the only first-hand English language accounts of February's marches in Algeria.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/12/algeria-egypt>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/17/algeria-middleeast>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/19/algeria-middleeast>

These articles appeared on the Guardian's Comment is Free section, and were picked up by *inter alia*, Al Jazeera, The Wall Street Journal, the Huffington Post, and the Times of India. In addition, these were some of the only accounts that discussed the involvement of women in these protests. They were widely distributed internationally, including via WLUML's listserves. Professor Bennoune

also brought back pictures and sound recordings of the demonstrations, and women's participation was widely apparent, including at universities.

Through this work, there is a historical record in English and on the Internet not just of the important activities of Algeria's pro-democracy movement in February 2011, but also of women's participation in this movement. This can provide some protection for WHRD's in the ongoing protests, as they are more well-known in the Anglophone world now. Professor Bennoune's mission strengthened the relationships with the Observatory and Djazairouna in particular. This makes information-gathering and sharing easier going forward. Given that two CNCD activists have recently been assassinated, including one woman, these contacts are very important.

WLUML MENA Intern programme:

The WLUML Middle East and North Africa internship scheme began in Spring 2011.

The purpose of the volunteer programme was to extend WLUML's networking capacity in the Middle East by building stronger links with local human rights/women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders around critical issues. These issues included: reform of personal status codes; judgements on family law issues in Sharia courts; honour crimes; sexuality; youth and women in the labour market.

4 interns were recruited from the School of Oriental and African Studies' Centre for Gender Studies and Middle East Studies department in London. Each intern worked on a specific Middle Eastern country (dependent on their background and language skills), and compiled a list of new contacts in Libya, Syria, and Egypt. Papers that formed part of a three-part series on women's rights in the context of the 'Arab uprisings' were also developed and e-published on the WLUML site during Summer 2011.

Extract from 9th June 2011 – "Egypt: Fighting for Women's Rights in the Aftermath of the Revolution", Carolyn Barnett (Intern) for WLUML.

The absence of women from key decision-making positions during the political transition – no women on the constitutional committee, only one woman in the interim cabinet – has been widely criticized. A joint statement from feminist organizations [deplored](#) the absence of any women on the committee that drafted the proposed constitutional amendments which were approved in the referendum of 19 March. Fatema Khafagy, former member of the National Council for Women and political activist, said, "Women have been ignored although they were in the revolution doing everything – being killed, getting arrested. We thought gender equality was stripped from [the SCAF's] minds just temporarily, but no. Look at their actions: on the Constitutional Committee there were no women. The number of women ministers is down to one.

The June 9th paper evidenced a developing frustration with the political transition. In light of this, the current news from the media and WLUML networkers in Egypt comes as no surprise:

Message from WLUML networker - Egypt , November 23rd 2011.

I hope you are all safe and doing well. I am writing to you to tell you about the situation in Egypt at the moment, as I am not sure about the accuracy of the media. Last Friday there was a huge demonstration in Tahrir Square calling for ending the military rule, to end military trials for civilians (more than 12,000 civilians have been referred to military tribunals) and to object to the supra constitutional principles.

As always, since the start of the revolution in January, women are taking up the streets in different roles. Some are taking the frontline in the protests, others are helping out the injured by providing emergency medical aid, and female doctors are helping in the field hospitals that are being targeted by tear gas. I have witnessed women brought out of the frontline losing conscience due to tear gas, and we have followed cases of women who got detained by security forces and we are in the process of documenting the circumstances in which they were arrested and the violence that was used against them, if there was any. Women played, and are still playing, their role for Egypt's freedom and in the fight against militarism. We are all in the streets fighting against police brutality and militarism. Support us by spreading the truth about the situation. What we are demanding is accountability.

A Networker's Voice from Nigeria:

Case Study: Homophobia and morality politics in Nigeria



Public Hearing in Lagos on Sexuality bill November 2011

It is no longer news that some members of Nigeria's National Assembly are currently debating a bill that would criminalise same sex relationships in Nigeria. The Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill 2011 has generated more debate than ten bills on development issues combined. The 3rd reintroduction of this bill took civil society organizations – especially those working on sexual and reproductive health and rights – by surprise; before they could say 'h-u-m-a-n r-i-g-h-t-s', the second reading had taken place. The public hearing, just like the readings, also came like the proverbial 'thief in the night'.

A few Women Human Rights Defenders, including Vision Spring Initiatives, went to the public hearing in order to raise issues and highlight how passing of this bill would jeopardise the safety of Nigerian citizens who already live in fear following fundamentalist attacks in the country.

The question on the minds of WHRDs was: why this bill at this time? Some Nigerian laws already criminalise consensual same sex relationships and encourage hate crimes and violence against persons. The Criminal Code Law Chapter 21, sections 214, 217 and 229, criminalise same sex relationships and proscribes prison terms for offenders. The Sharia Penal Code Law Chapter 8, sections 130, 131, 134, criminalises same sex relationships and proscribes prison terms, fines and even death by stoning for the offenders. Civil society organisations insist that Nigeria honour its

commitment to respect human rights, as it has signed multiple human rights documents, and repeal discriminatory laws that have led to hate crimes in the country.

A member of the National Assembly, who supported the passing of this bill into law, stated that it was aimed at 'nipping the idea of same sex relationships in the bud'. According to him, such marriages were already happening in other countries.

It was interesting to see how all religions represented at the hearing aligned and spoke with one voice in favour of the bill. It was clear that human rights, and the violations of those rights that might ensue should the bill be passed, were of little concern. All arguments focused on morality and the idea of homosexuality as an 'import'. According to a young man who witnessed the public hearing, and in reaction to a question posed by a Vision Spring Initiatives representative, "homosexuality isn't imported; and even if it were, the religion that tells you to condemn homosexuality (Christianity/Islam) is also imported".

Senators and media personnel at the hearing referred to WHRDs as homosexuals. It was in the news weeks after the debate; the media classified all WHRDs as homosexuals. On the said date, Senators had to arrange for law enforcement agents to save WHRD from physical attack! Vision Spring Initiatives looks forward to when corruption, political intolerance, poverty, bombings and the under-funding education is nipped in the bud!

About Vision Spring Initiatives

Vision Spring Initiatives is a duly registered (RC No. 908183) non-governmental, not-for-profit human rights organisation focusing on literacy and gender equality in education, participatory leadership, and effecting positive visible changes in our world.

Our mission, therefore, is to provide our constituencies with practical tools towards the realisation of our vision. We do this by promoting gender equality in education, mainstreaming participatory leadership in the educational system, engaging in debates, research and development, advocacy, information dissemination, amongst other strategies.

The organisation was formally founded in 2002 and registered in 2010. Prior to that, there was a two-year research project on young women's sexuality rights in selected Catholic Church communities in Lagos state funded by the Macarthur Foundation under its Funds for Leadership Development (FLD) Grant. The findings of the research led to various interventions using different spaces. The implementers of this project, who are also active networkers of WLUMML-AME, eventually founded Vision Spring Initiatives.

Our objectives

- To contribute to research and development activities addressing women and young people's education rights.
- To increase women and young people's leadership capacities in order to effectively engage in their communities.
- To contribute to the knowledge base of Nigerian youth by establishing educational support systems.
- To promote gender equality in all spheres of our programming and develop literary skills amongst women and young persons.
- To collaborate with like-minded organisations and find areas of knowledge sharing and build strategic partnerships.
- To support and strengthen the devising of strategies by our constituencies towards growth and development.

- To constantly evaluate and review our strategies, debates and methods, and apply lessons learned towards making positive differences in our communities.

Thematic areas: Gender justice; Leadership and development; Research and education. Vision Spring Initiatives operates from a national office in Lagos. The organisation works with women, young people, legal professionals, human rights NGOs, educators, media and members of the general public. All projects allow the organisation to carry out its human rights work through information sharing and effective networking.

Programmes and Campaigns

WLUML disseminated work being done on culture and women's rights through the programme supported by the MDG3 Fund 2008-2011 'Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures: Asserting rights over body, self and public spaces' and the 'Violence is Not our Culture' campaign.

Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures (WRRC):

Today, culture is used as a tool of new forms of oppression of women, whether in its oriental or occidental guise...Compromising women's rights is not an option; the challenge before us is to respect our diverse cultures while developing strategies to resist oppressive practices in the name of culture and to uphold universal human rights standards while rejecting ethnocentric rulings.

--Yakin Erturk, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

The Women Reclaiming & Redefining Cultures programme examined the use of culture (in mainly Muslim contexts) as a justification for women's oppression. The programme looked at the underlying processes of 'culturally' legitimated oppression that:



- **Perpetuated** systemic violence against girls and women
- **Deprived** women and girls of property and inheritance rights
- **Discriminated** against women in employment and impeded equal opportunity in the labour market
- **Inhibited** women from political participation and hence limits women's decision-making in national parliaments and local governmental bodies.

The programme objectives were to develop strategies and resources that could address and counter the 'cultural' factors in which the power imbalance between men and women was and is anchored. The programme was divided into three broad areas: violence against women, sexuality, and inheritance and property rights.

The programme worked with project partners in 9 countries in Africa and Asia; the thematic emphasis was drawn from local contexts and determined by local partners. Women who are marginalised through totalistic gender systems and intolerant political agendas, along with women's rights groups, informed the development of these strategies and resources.

Between 2008 and 2011, the WRRC programme worked with 21 partners in over 50 projects to develop tools that could challenge and reject the 'cultural' legitimization of women's disempowerment.

The WRRC archive on the WLUML website provides an extensive account of this work. This archive is a collection of over 150 products - videos, presentations, essays, press releases, advocacy materials, and briefing papers - from the projects supported by the WRRC Programme. The archive can be searched by theme, country or type of product. This site is intended as a resource for activists, organisations, development professionals, and interested experts.

WRRC was run by Women Living Under Muslim Laws in partnership with the Institute of Women's Empowerment. The Dutch government under Millennium Development Goal 3: 'promoting gender equality and empower women' funded the WRRC programme (2008-2011). Please see the WRRC report for further information.

Violence is Not our Culture (VNC):



VNC partner project to increase community responsiveness against gender based discrimination and violence. Organisation: Baidarie Sialkot, Pakistan.

Acid sprayed on two Afghani school girls on their way to school, a 15 year old Pakistani girl found dead, killed by her brother, a son killing his mother for a suspected affair in Uttar Pradesh, these are just a few of the 'honour killings' reported by Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) in 2011. 'Violence is Not Our Culture' campaign coordinated by Women Living Under Muslim Laws seeks to put an end to violence perpetrated in the name of religion and culture in Muslim countries. With the support of the MDG3 Fund WLUML strengthens women's individual and collective struggles for equality and their rights, in Muslim contexts where women's lives are shaped, conditioned or governed by laws and customs said to be derived from Islam. The MDG3 Fund is supporting their work specifically in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Sudan.

The project rejects the notion that violence is part of Muslim culture, religion, or traditions. The campaign reports and exposes CVAW where it occurs in order to defeat the widespread mis-use of religion and culture against women. The campaign aims to end all forms of violence be it stoning, whipping/lashing, and 'honour' killings, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, acid attacks'

--Wendy Harcourt – describes the Violence is Not our Culture campaign November 2011.

The Violence is Not our Culture Campaign aims to end the misuse of 'culture, tradition religion' to legitimise acts of violence against women; in short, 'culturally justified violence against women' – CVAW. The campaign was launched on November 25th 2007.

VNC is led by women in Afghanistan, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Indonesia including Aceh, and Iranians in the diaspora. The campaign works principally to expose and confront all forms of CVAW and reject cultural and religious justifications that condone impunity and minimise the severity of crimes committed against women and girls.

The campaign firmly believes that positive, inclusive and empowering values are intrinsic in all cultures, but denounces the misuse of culture and value systems that condone abuse, discrimination and violence.

VNC has worked with 10 local partners in Africa and Asia, on approximately 22 projects looking at the causes and consequences of CVAW and to develop strategies and resources that can be used & adopted by activists to challenge the abuses of stoning, honour killing, whipping, and FGM.

A wide range of materials have been produced since the launch to support women's rights activists, including the publication (in November 2010) of *Control and Sexuality – the revival of Zina Laws in Muslim contexts*. The book investigates how *Zina* laws have become the basis and justification for criminalising sexual activity outside of marriage, often targeted at women and sexual minorities. During 2011, the authors took part in events and conferences exploring the issues raised in this book.

It is most timely that this publication should emerge when issues of culture and human rights are being debated in many venues in the international arena: within the United Nations; in national and transnational, mainstream and alternative media outlets; and across social and political movements.

Some cultural practices may be particularly detrimental to the rights of women and girls. All harmful practices, regardless of provenance and justification, must be eliminated. All human rights are universal, indivisible and inter-related. It is my hope that by building upon the progressive, equitable and just aspects of culture which are inherent to all, this book can make a substantial contribution towards the promotion of rights, under law and custom.

--Farida Shaheed, UN Independent Expert on Cultural Rights

A practical guide to online activism is now available as a free download on the VNC website: 'Strategising Online Activism'.

Finally, the campaign has been very successful at connecting to the international human rights community; it has held a book launch and panel events at the UN and presented CVAW papers at annual AWID conferences. For further detail on the Violence is Not our Culture campaign, please see the VNC chapter.

Details of support WLUML received in 2011

1. Restricted Funds

MDG3 Fund (WRRC Programme)

- Project name: “Women Reclaiming and Re-defining Cultures: Asserting rights over body, self and public spaces”.
- Total received for July 2010 to June 2011 (the final year of the programme) was €371,731 (£314,221).
- Out of the amount above, WLUML-ICO received **€47,500 (£40,765)** for overhead costs.
- All our obligations under the contract have been fulfilled, and we have sent the funder our final reports. The financial audit was completed and passed in August 2010.
- The sum of €75,000 will be disbursed after our final reports are approved, which we’ve been told will be in January 2012 at the earliest.

Urgent Action Fund

- Project name: “Awareness raising campaign on women’s human rights in Algeria”.
- We received US \$2,672 (£1,650) to enable one of our networkers - Karima Bennoune - to travel to Algeria as an observer.

Justice for Iran

- Project name: “Iran Programme”
- We received the sum of **£38,671** for the salary of the Project Coordinator and rent for her office space.

Feminist Review Trust

- Project name: “Core support towards WLUML’s information dissemination services”.
- Total received was **£3,500**; designated for publications/ communications which include the following:
 1. e-publication of *Dossier 32: Sexuality in Muslim Contexts*.
 2. e-publication of *Making Gender Quotas Work for Women*.

Wellspring Advisors and Tides Foundation

- Tides Foundation and Wellspring Advisors on behalf of anonymous donors funded the VNC campaign.
- This grant was actually received in December 2010; however, it was not received in time to be reported on during the AGM.
- We received the sum of **\$75,000 (£47,831)** which was split between our SKSW Campaign (now VNC – 80%) and RCO-AME’s child marriage project (20%).

Donations

We received a generous response to our appeal for donations, when the call was sent out mid-year. Several people in the USA, UK and Europe responded generously to our call, and a total of **£6,516** was realised for specific work. We'd like to use this opportunity to thank especially Homa Hoodfar for funding a significant proportion of WLUMML publications and Ayesha Imam for funding the WHRD 2011 subscription.

2. Unrestricted Funds

HIVOS

- Core Funding
- Total grant is €300,000 for three years (2011 – 2013); we received the sum of **€100,000 (£87,163)** in 2011 towards core costs.

HIVOS committed to a new round of funding for core support from 2011 until 2013. A total of €300,000 was granted for the three years, to be disbursed in yearly instalments of €100,000. In addition to core services, the funding is also to strengthen WLUMML's work in Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Global Fund of Women

- Project name: "Support towards operations and administrative expenses".
- We received the sum of **\$19,500 (£11,864)** in June 2011, being full and final funding for 2011.

Donations

We also received unrestricted donations from people in the UK, USA and Europe; also in response to our call for donations. A total of **£4,120** has been raised so far from this avenue, and we would like to thank Ayesha Imam, Fatou Sow, Muslim Women Research and Action Forum, Karima Bennoune, Dorothy Bennoune, Meredith Tax, Lynn Freedman and Charlotte Bunch for their generous donations, There are many others whom we have not listed here as they are too numerous to mention.

WLUMML Online Fundraising Appeal

WLUMML began a fundraising appeal on its website in June 2011. Friends and supporters from around the world helped WLUMML to send the news of our public appeal beyond the WLUMML website. The donation amounts are stated above.

Speaking of global feminism, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, the go-to organization for women's human rights in the Muslim world, desperately needs funds. The Arab Spring offers a unique opportunity for women to move forward, but they could easily be pushed aside. Please make sure WLUMML has the support it needs to help women seize the day.

--Katha Pollit – The Nation (US magazine), June 28th 2011

Acknowledgements

Since the 2010 Annual General Meeting, WLUML has undergone and adapted to working within the bounds of a significant reduction in funding; WLUML underwent a restructure of services and staffing from August this year.

Full time staff – Eleanor Kilroy, the Communication Officer, and Nandita Dutta, the Publication Officer – left the International Coordination Office in August 2011. Eleanor had been with WLUML since January 2009, and Nandita joined WLUML in July 2010. We would like to thank them both for their numerous achievements during their time at the International Coordination Office, their commitment, and friendly collaboration. We wish them the best in their future endeavors, and look forward keeping them in the extended WLUML family.

Fatou Sow resumed her position as Honorary Interim Coordinator in July 2011. The Fundraising and Resource Coordinator post and the Administration and Finance Officer post became part time, and WLUML recruited a part time Communications post from September 2011. Thank you to the staff, Anthonia Onwardi, Shaina Greiff and Aneela Majid for their acceptance of the part time positions and their continuing commitment to WLUML.

The WRRC project entered its final phase this year, and was successfully completed in August 2011. WLUML would like to take this opportunity to thank: the WRRC programme partners, the Institute of Women's Empowerment (Lin Chew and Vivienne Wee); the original MDG3 drafting committee, who made the application successful; Ayesha Imam who managed the project for the first six months; Roya Rahmani, the Programme Manager, who carried the project to its completion with the assistance of the Programme Officer, Shaina Greiff; the Strategic Task Force and Management Team; the consultants and international partners whose incredible energy and commitment made all the difference; and, finally, the WLUML International Coordination Office staff who provided the administrative and financial support to the programme.

WLUML would like to say a big thank to the VNC Campaign staff for their strong and continuing support for the VNC Campaign. They have been its staff for most of the Campaign, but as with most funding, it has an end date; however, this has not held back the work! The VNC Campaign continues apace due to the energy and voluntary commitment of Edna Aquino, Rima Athar, Rochelle Terman and Aisha Shaheed, not to mention the partners from around the globe who continue activities – such as the 16 days of activism – in the name of VNC. Thank you everyone for your continuing support and love for this Campaign.

We wish to express our gratitude to the many volunteers who supported WLUML's work during this past year, from helping to construct the Farsi website to being part of the Middle East and North Africa internship scheme (Spring 2011)

Aisling Hope Barrett supported WLUML's publications work, Ana Ghorishain also assisted with research and publications work. Nasrin Afazali worked on the Farsi website and Jeiran Ibrahimi assisted with the Farsi e-publications.

MENA Interns, Alaya, Carolyn, Wafaa and Nafiseh were recruited from the School of Oriental and African Studies' Centre for Gender Studies and Middle East Studies department in London. They helped to identify local human and women's rights organizations around critical issues and produced reports on the recent 'Arab Spring' during summer of 2011.

WLUML wants to also acknowledge and thank networkers for their strong support and engagement to the institution during this critical transitional period. They contributed hugely to debates and activities. A special mention therefore to our networkers and council members.

This year, again, WLUML benefited from the generous support of current donors.

We are grateful to NORAD, whose core funding cycle, that supported our work for 10 years, came to a close at the end of December 2010.

HIVOS continued to fund WLUML. A three year grant for core support was awarded for 2011-2013. We thank HIVOS for their longstanding support over the year, which has helped enormously in enabling WLUML's work to continue and develop; a particular mention for Jessie Hexpoor, our Grants Officer, who has been very supportive of WLUML.

The Global Fund for Women, in July 2011, assigned a subsidy which allowed us to carry on with planned programmes. This donation provided support to WLUML and we would like to thank The Global Fund for Women for their support at a critical time.

In 2011, The Feminist Review Trust (FRT) grant contributed to the production of *Dossier 32: Sexuality in Muslim Contexts* and the e-publications of *Making Gender Quotas Work for Women – Successful Steps for Effective Gender Quota use* and *Women's Charters – Strategic Use in Promoting Women's Rights*. Thank you to the FRT for this support; it was very timely in helping to support publications on political participation and leadership which are very relevant to this coming year's activities and plans.

Finally, in order to cover some of the costs of administration, communications and publications services, which are essential to WLUML's work, we launched an online donation campaign. The generosity of members, allies and sympathisers around the globe was amazing, shown by a surge in solidarity and donations. This has meant a lot to the WLUML network. We thank each and every one of them for their very generous, faithful sentiments and support.

As we look forward to a busy year where WLUML can once again contribute its expertise and resources to women in Muslim contexts, we go forward with the support of the network and perhaps even a touch of re-invigoration.

Thank you!

On behalf of the WLUML Board

Fatou Sow
International Coordinator

Annex I: Africa and Middle East Regional Coordination Office

This report covers the activities undertaken by WLUML AME in 2011:

I. Under the Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures (WRRRC) Programme

WLUML-AME was involved in all 3 of the Working Groups' projects:

Sexuality Working Group

3 countries were involved at the regional level: Senegal, Sudan and Nigeria

In Nigeria the organizations involved were:

Safe Haven which implemented a *Campaign against Female Genital Mutilation* through a participatory approach via advocacy, research, community mobilization, media awareness campaign, trainings and designing of a restructured rite of passage curriculum to redefine the culture without actual cutting of the clitoris.

WRAHP which implemented an *Advocacy and Capacity Building for Comprehensive Management of Gender-Based Violence in Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (ELCDA), Lagos, Nigeria*.

The project developed a critical mass of gender advocates among Local Government Council Official by sensitizing government officials to their roles in promoting the rights of women through legislature, policies and programmes. It strengthened the capacity of 30 health and social welfare workers personnel for effective management of gender based violence through providing information on the documentation of evidence necessary for persecution of GBV perpetrators.

CEADER whose project aimed at educating women and girls of harmful effects of some traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), to provide holistic information on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, to encourage young person's to speak out when denied their sexual and reproductive health and rights and finally to equip and encourage beneficiaries to become peer educators on sexuality and reproductive health issues.

Womankind whose project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Muslim women in PURDAH to demand and claim their sexual rights in Karu and Keffi in Nasarawa State, north central Nigeria.

In Sudan:

Salmah Women Resource Center participated in the WG.

Its projects implemented advocacy forums to bring concerned bodies together to from pressure groups in order to publicize the Sudanese government's signing of the African Protocol for Women's Human Rights and document the violations that women face from the public order police.

In Senegal

GREFELS finalized the drafting and printing of a book on women's sexuality in Senegal.

II. Participation in the evaluation of the WRRRC Programme

Sexuality Working Group Bangkok, March 2011

Violence is Not our Culture (VNC) Strategic Consultation Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, May 2011

Inheritance and property rights. February 2011 in Dakar

III. Under the VNC Program

Research on Child Marriage and forced feeding

This research is already carried out in Senegal Mali Yemen, and Egypt. Two countries were added in 2011: Nigeria and Mauritania. While Nigeria is carrying out a research on Child marriage with the same TOR as the four first countries, in Mauritania, another type of violence justified by culture is investigated that is young girls forced feeding.

The reports on these two researches are expected by December 31, 2011

3-2 Advocacy

An advocacy project aiming to protect children against female genital mutilation was implemented in Senegal. A two days training workshop was held for 30 participants to improve their knowledge on New Communication Technologies like You Tube and Facebook and how to create blogs. The workshop was organized during the 16 days activism against violence against women) to take advantage of this event. A television program was broadcasted and enabled the children who participate to the workshop, participants from women's organizations, some teachers and doctors to raise the issue of FGM and demand the enforcement of the law.

Publication of a comic book on Women Living with Handicap Reproductive and Sexual Rights. Handicap International requested the right to copy the comic book

IV. Dossier 32

Publication of a paper in the Dossier 32 on the impact of gender inequalities and social constructions of male and female sexuality on the feminization of HIV / AIDS in Senegal.

V. Training

Networkers of WLUML AME attended two trainings organized at the regional level:

The Multi-stake holders policy dialogue on Sexual and Reproductive health and Rights in Africa: Towards the ICPD +20 reviews and the post MDG's agenda setting. This meeting took place in Nairobi Kenya August 31-Sept. 2, 2011

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Improve the understanding of the main Sexual and Reproductive Health and maternal health, challenges, needs and opportunities for intervention across sub-continent.
- Identify the region's specific SRH priorities and needs.
- Finalise policy recommendations derived from lessons learnt and practices to be utilized in the implementation of the continental framework.
- Develop a common vision towards agenda setting
- The report of the meeting is available

The Connect your rights workshop : 21th to 27th September 2011, Mombasa, Kenya.

The Association for Progressive Communication that is a VNC partner held a workshop on behalf of women's rights defenders organizations in Africa on data and identity protection and security for human rights defenders. The workshop was part of APC's Women's Network Support Program Campaign "Connect your rights! Internet rights are human rights."

The workshop consisted on 5 intensive days of theoretical learning and practical uses of technology to cover the need of every organization dedicated to the defense of human rights for safe communication.

Annex II: Asia Regional Coordination Office

Advocacy Articles:

1. Contributed report titled “Women’s control over sexual and reproductive Health in Pakistan” in Dossier 32: Sexuality in Muslim Contexts (Fauzia Viqar and Fatima Saeed)
2. Contributed paper titled ‘Surviving in the Spotlight: Women shaping a Political Image in Pakistan’ to Dossier 32: Sexuality in Muslim Contexts (Amina Samiuddin, Sadia Ahmed and Hooria H Khan).
3. Contributed article titled “Blasphemy Law and Women’s Rights in Pakistan” for WLUML Newsletter 11 (Fauzia Viqar).

Violence is not our Culture Campaign:

- Identified key people in educational institutions including university heads, faculty members and students. Held meetings with the institution’s staff and students to inform them of requirements and provided basic guidelines. Briefed all stakeholders including students about the campaign objectives.
- Provided the following publications of Shirkat Gah to all participating institutions to give background knowledge of the issue:
 - Don’t let them get away with murder
 - The Dark Side of Honour
 - *Karo Kari TorTora, Siyahkari, Kali Kali*
 - “Javaz, Insaaf Nahi!” – No Justice in Justification
 - Brochures
 - Newsheet - Vol-22
- Regularly monitored the work of all participating universities to keep them on track.
- A total of 13 films were made by students of 4 participating institutions on the issue of VAW and its various forms. Of these, 4 were entered into the competition but 7 were screened due to relevance and quality of those films.
- A Film Festival was held on 3rd March 2011 at Ali Auditorium, Lahore with a large audience of students from participating universities. The documentaries were screened and prizes awarded based on the decision of a panel of esteemed judges. The event was a success and received a lot of media coverage.
- The documentaries were later screened to wider audiences in four educational institutes and two community based organizations. The screenings were followed by group discussions moderated by Shirkat Gah personnel.
- Students from participating universities were recruited to form an Anti-VAW group. This group aims to increase report cases of VAW by creating awareness of the community, promote advocacy against VAW through individual and group efforts and increase awareness regarding cultural and religious justifications of VAW.
- Social networking tools and the digital media were employed to increase awareness and mobilize the target population.

- An estimated 1000 students were engaged during this campaign to reduce VAW and increase awareness regarding VAW.

Women Inheritance and Property Rights working group (under WRRRC):

- 1) “WOMEN’S LAND RIGHTS AND INHERITANCE RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN” – A paper by Khawar and Hooria was finalized and submitted. This Country Chapter on Pakistan is to be published in the E book that is going to come out as part of WIPR.
- 2) Mentor Reports for both Sangtani WRDO and Women Workers Helpline were submitted.
- 3) Narrative reports from Sangtani and Women Workers Helpline were edited by us and sent on to WIPR in fulfilment of project deliverables.

Training workshops attended:

Strategic Consultation Meeting from 6th to 8th May 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Strategic Consultation Meeting; Violence is not our Culture (VNC) Campaign on 6, 7 and 8 May 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - attended by Fauzia and Hina Noureen (from partner CBO Baidarie).

Workshop on Secure Online Communications for Women Human Rights Defenders

- 2 people (Fatima Saeed from Advocacy and Communications Unit, Shirkat Gah and Hina Noureen from Baidarie) attended the training workshop on secure online communications for women human rights defenders from 25th to 29th July, 2011.
- Learning shared with staff and a workshop is to be conducted with Shirkat Gah staff.

Proposal for FLOW on Women’s Empowerment and Leadership Development for Democratization (WELLD)

- SG with WLUML and IWE prepared the proposal and finalized budgets
- Finalized proposal after feedback from various quarters

Proposal for Promoting Rights through Alternative Media and Spaces (PRAM): The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression in collaboration with the Institute of Women’s Empowerment (IWE)

- Drafted the proposal and incorporated feedback
- Finalized budgets

Solidarity and Alerts:

- Shirkat Gah posted 16 alerts and petitions related to women’s rights violations and issues for Asia and Middle East. Among the appeals and petitions by the RCO were:
- An appeal drafted and disseminated in relation to ensuring safety of Asia Bibi and her family and repealing Pakistan’s blasphemy laws.
- Solidarity extended in the case of hate campaign waged against London based Imam and Academic, Dr. Usama Hasan.
- Solidarity extended in the case of Iranian Women’s Rights Activist, Maryam Bahreman for charges levied regarding “Actions against National Security”.
- Solidarity extended in relation to the case of Manal Al Sharif for ‘breaching public order’ and ‘deliberately inciting the media and other Saudi women’ to drive cars.

Publications 2011:

- Newsheet Vol.XXIII.Nos.1, 2, 3 (2011)
- Khabarnama Vol.XXIII.Nos.1, 2 (2011)
- Khabarnamo Vol.XII No.1 (2011)

Eleven thousand two hundred seventy six (11, 276) copies of the English, Urdu and Sindhi Newsheet (total number is inclusive of earlier issues) were disseminated to approximately (8,000-10,000) people with the aim of disseminating information and increasing knowledge about the current state of women's rights.

Nine hundred and ten (910) copies of *No Justice in Justification* (Urdu) were disseminated and reached approximately 4500 people.

SG translated 2 chapters (*Criminalizing Sexuality* pp. 19-48 and *Pakistan* pp.153-179) of *Control and Sexuality* into Urdu and sent it to ICO for use on the WLUMML website.

Annex III: Farsi/Dari Website

Date 2011	news	action	Books and Articles	Audio/Video	Translations	Iran	Afghanistan	Muslim countries	others
Before	20	1							
March	2	1	1	1					
April	15	0	0	1					
May	17	1	0	1					
June	32	1	1	1					
July	18	0	1	1					
August	21	0	1	0					
September	17	0	0	2					

اخبار:
سپتامبر 2011:

ایران: قانون تابعیت فرزندان زنان ایرانی عطف به ما سبق می‌شود

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

مشاور رئیس جمهور و رئیس مرکز امور زنان و خانواده ریاست جمهوری اعلام کرد: مصوبه جدید دولت مبنی بر اعطای تابعیت ایران به فرزندان زنان ایرانی که با اتباع خارجی ازدواج کرده‌اند، شامل حال فرزندان نیز که پیش از این قانون به دنیا آمده اند نیز می‌شود. به گزارش خبرنگار مهر مریم مجتهدزاده در حاشیه جلسه امروز [...]

افغانستان: یک زن و مرد جوان در هرات به ظن داشتن روابط نامشروع به قتل رسیدند

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

مقام های امنیتی ولایت هرات میگویند که یک زن و مرد هراتی به اتهام داشتن روابط نامشروع به قتل رسیده اند. این خانم ۲۳ سه ساله خانه دار بوده است که با جوان ۲۵ ساله ای، روز یک شنبه در قریه خواجه عالم ولسوالی گذره هرات با شلیک گلوله تفنگ شکاری کشته شده اند. مقام های امنیتی [...]

عربستان سعودی: حق رای و نامزد شدن در انتخابات برای زنان

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

پادشاه عربستان سعودی فرمان حق رای دادن و نامزد شدن زنان در انتخابات شورای های شهری را صادر کرد. ملک عبدالله، پادشاه عربستان سعودی اعلام کرد که زنان در عربستان از این پس حق رای دادن و نامزد شدن در انتخابات شوراهای شهری این کشور را دارند. وی گفت که زنان همچنین از این حق برخوردار خواهند [...]

مصر: اعطای جایزه به دو زن مصری به خاطر مبارزه با مزاحمت های جنسی

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

دو زن مصری، انجی فُزلان و امانی التونسی، به خاطر پروژه های "هراس مپ. ارگ" و "فقط رادیوی دختران" برنده "جایزه قله جوانان جهان" سازمان ملل شدند. کارهای ارائه شده این دو علیه خشونت و مزاحمت جنسی هستند و صدای زنان را در جامعه تحت سلطه مردسالاری مصر بازتاب می دهند.
در مجموع ۷۰۰ پروژه از [...]

ترکیه: از «دختر باکره» در قانون قدیم تا «زن بدون یسوند» در قوانین جدید

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

تصویب نخستین قوانین مدنی و جزائی در ترکیه به سال ۱۹۲۶ یعنی سه سال پس از سقوط امپراطوری عثمانی و تاسیس جمهوری باز می گردد. در آن زمان قوانین مدنی برگرفته از قوانین مدنی کشور سوئیس و قوانین جزایی برگرفته از قوانین جزایی ایتالیا بود. هر چند تصویب هر دوی این قوانین در آن زمان [...]

عربستان سعودی: راننده زن به شلاق محکوم شد

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

ملک عبدالله، پادشاه عربستان گفته است زنان این کشور در سال ۲۰۱۵ حق رای خواهند داشت
دادگاهی در عربستان، زنی را به اتهام رانندگی و نقض ممنوعیت رانندگی زنان، به تحمل چند ضربه شلاق محکوم کرده است.
این زن که نام کامل او فاش نشده در ماه ژوئیه در شهر جدّه رانندگی کرد.
دادگاه هم اکنون این زن [...]

ایران: انجمن بین المللی قلم خواستار رسیدگی به وضعیت فرانک فرید شد

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

کمیته نویسندگان زندانی از انجمن بین المللی قلم، در اطلاعیه ای که در ۲۰ سپتامبر ۲۰۱۱ منتشر کرد، خواستار اقدامی فوری در جهت رسیدگی به وضعیت فرانک فرید، نویسنده، مترجم و شاعر آذربایجانی و فعال حقوق زنان در تبریز شد. فرانک فرید روز ۱۲ شهریور ۱۳۹۰ به هنگام خرید در تبریز بازداشت شد. به گفته [...]

ایران: بیانیه ی حزب ابتکار فمینیستی سوئد در رابطه با دستگیری دو فعال جنبش زنان

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

حزب ابتکار فمینیستی سوئد در بیانیه ای ضمن محکوم کردن بازداشت فرانک فرید و فرشته شیرازی از وزیر امور خارجه این کشور خواست که به موضوع نقض حقوق زنان در ایران توجه بیشتری نشان دهد. در این بیانیه که روز ۲۵ سپتامبر منتشر شده است، آمده: دو فعال دیگر جنبش زنان ایران، فرانک فرید و فرشته [...]

مصر: سازمان های مدنی خواهان پایان دادن به سکسیم در سیاست شدند

جمعه, 30 سپتامبر 2011

اتحاد سازمان های مدنی مصر در نشست اخیر خود در قاهره خواهان پایان داده شدن به سکسیم در سیاست و در حوزه سیاسی در جامعه شدند.

خبرگزاری عربی "روز هفتم" با درج این خبر نوشته است که سمیر آلیش، رهبر این اتحاد، گفته است: برای این که مشارکت زنان در جریان انتخابات شورای شهر و پارلمان تامین [...]

ایران: نماینده مجلس: زنان متوجه نفع قانون چندهمسری نیستند

جمعه, 23 سپتامبر 2011

عضو کمیسیون حقوقی و قضایی مجلس حذف ماده ۲۳ لایحه حمایت از خانواده را نه تنها رافع دغدغه زنان مبنی بر ازدواج مجدد مردان ندانست بلکه معتقد بود حذف این ماده نگرانی های زنان را بیشتر می کند در حالی که خود متوجه این موضوع نیستند.

موسی قربانی در حاشیه بازدید خود از رسانه قانون در گفت و گو [...]

پدیده خودکشی دختران ترک تبار اروپا به علت مشکلات هویتی و باکرگی

جمعه, 23 سپتامبر 2011

گرایش به خودکشی در میان دختران ترک تبار ۵ برابر دختران آلمانی و ۳ برابر دختران سوئیسی است. علت این امر، طبق پژوهش ها، مشکلات هویتی و مسأله باکرگی است.

بر پایه پژوهش موسسه درمانی شارپته برلین، علت گرایش و اقدام این دختران به خودکشی، پیش از همه هویتی است. این بحران، تنهایی، مشکلات آموزشی، ازدواج [...]

مصر: آغاز مبارزه اخوان المسلمین علیه بیکینی و مشروب در سواحل توریستی

جمعه, 23 سپتامبر 2011

هفت ماه پس از سقوط حسنی مبارک در مصر، اخوان المسلمین برنامه اسلامیزه کردن مصر را با انتقاد از توریسم ساحلی و پوشیدن بیکینی و مصرف الکل در سواحل آغاز کرد.

به گزارش "ولت آنلاین" آلمان، محمد سعاد، دبیر کل حزب نوبنیاد "آزادی و عدالت" - بازوی سیاسی اخوان المسلمین - اعلام کرده است که "توریسم ساحلی باید [...]

ممنوعیت روسری در یک مدرسه کاتولیکی هلند

جمعه, 23 سپتامبر 2011

دادگاهی در آمستردام ممنوعیت روسری در یک مدرسه کاتولیک ها را قانونی دانست. طبق رای قضات دادگاه، مدارس که در اختیار موسسات خصوصی هستند مجازند مقرراتی را که مهم تشخیص می دهند، برقرار کنند.

گزارش "ولت آنلاین" آلمان، به نقل از رسانه های هلندی، حاکیست که یک دختر دانش آموز مسلمان، هنگام نام نویسی از مقررات [...]

ترکیه: روشهای نوین برای مبارزه با خشونت خانگی

جمعه، 23 سپتامبر 2011

آغاز استفاده از دستبندهای الکترونیکی برای شوهران آزار رسان نشان دهنده ی یک جنبش رو به رشد در ترکیه در برابر قتل های ناموسی است.

“زن بودن” در ترکیه به معنی زندگی با تناقضات متعدد است. از یک سو حق رای در سال ۱۹۳۴، بیشتر از بسیاری از کشورهای اروپایی به زنان ترک واگذار شد.[...]

افغانستان: افزایش خود سوزی ها در هرات

جمعه، 23 سپتامبر 2011

خشونت علیه زنان به عنوان یک معضل جدی در ولایت های غربی کشور، همواره عامل برای مشکلات خانوادگی بوده است. خود سوزی، فرار از منزل، ازدواج های پیش از وقت و اجباری، لت و کوب و توهین از مواردی است که هر روز در این حوزه اتفاق می افتد.

به تازگی مسوولان در شفاخانه سوختگی در ولایت[...]

ایران: تغییر جنسیت و شرایط عدالت

جمعه، 23 سپتامبر 2011

یکی از مهمترین دعوی ها در برابر فقه اسلامی ارتدوکس که تنها خاص دوره معاصر و به زنان هم محدود نمی شود، این بوده است که در بسیاری موارد فقها نظر شخصی و حتی منافع شخصی خود را به جای نظر شرع و آموزه های وحیانی مطرح کرده اند. این مسأله به ویژه در مورد[...]

عربستان سعودی: نظام قیمومیت عامل ترس زنان مطلقه از ازدواج مجدد

پنجشنبه، 1 سپتامبر 2011

حدود ۶۲ درصد ازدواج ها در عربستان سعودی منجر به طلاق می شوند و در صورت ادامه این روند، تا سال ۲۰۱۵ حدود ۴ میلیون زن مطلقه بالای ۳۵ سال در این کشور محافظه کار اسلامی وجود خواهد داشت.

به گزارش روزنامه آلمانی تاتس، یکی از علل بی شوهر ماندن زنان مطلقه در عربستان، نظام قیمومیت[...]

آگوست 2011:

کردستان عراق: اعتراض اسلامگرایان به ممنوعیت ناقص سازی جنسی زنان و خشونت خانگی در کردستان

دوشنبه، 29 آگوست 2011

پس از سال ها تلاش گروه های مدافع حقوق بشر، سر انجام پارلمان کردستان عراق چندی پیش قانون ممنوعیت ناقص سازی جنسی زنان، خشونت علیه زنان و کودکان، ازدواج اجباری و کار کودکان را تصویب کرد. تصویب این قانون خشم و مقاومت شریعتمداران برانگیخت.

از دیدگاه گروه های اسلامی و شریعتمداران، تصویب این قانون عبور[...]

ایران: طرح انتقال تابعیت از طریق مادر تصویب نشد

دوشنبه، 29 آگوست 2011

طرح تابعیت ایرانی فرزندان که نتیجه ازدواج زن ایرانی با یک مرد خارجی هستند، در کمیسیون قضایی و حقوقی مجلس شورای اسلامی ایران تصویب نشد.

عبدالرضا مرادی، عضو کمیسیون قضایی و حقوقی مجلس شورای اسلامی، امروز یکشنبه ششم شهریورماه به خبرگزاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران (ایرنا) گفت که اعضای این کمیسیون در نشست امروز خود به این [...]]

افغانستان: دختر افغان پس از هفت سال کسب مدال در پاکستان، اینک به نام افغانستان بازی می کند

یکشنبه، 28 آگوست 2011



دختر ورزشکار افغان که هفت سال به نام پاکستان در مسابقات ملی و بین المللی اشتراک میکرد، با ایجاد کلب ورزشی در کابل می خواهد برای افغانستان افتخار آفرینی نماید.

این دختر "مینا" اسدی نام دارد و ۱۷ سال را در شهر کوئته پاکستان سپری نموده است. وی در شش سال اخیر در وزن ۵۰ و ۵۵ کیلوگرام عضویت تیم [...]]

ایران: صد روز از بازداشت مریم بهرمن، فعال جنبش زنان، گذشت

یکشنبه، 28 آگوست 2011

چکیده: بیش از ۱۰۰ روز از بازداشت مریم بهرمن، فعال جنبش زنان و وبلاگ نویس می گذرد و او در آخرین تماس تلفنی خود در مرداد ماه ۱۳۹۰ خبر داده که در بند ۲۰۹ وزارت اطلاعات به سر می برد. این فعال جنبش زنان صبح روز ۲۱ اردیبهشت ماه سال جاری در شهر شیراز توسط [...]]

افغانستان: نمایشگاه هنری زنان هنرمند در کابل؛ شکست کلیشه ها

شنبه، 27 آگوست 2011



سال ها بود که هنر در افغانستان عمدتاً در انحصار مردان بود، اما برگزاری نمایشگاهی از ۵۰ اثر هنری زنان هنرمند افغان در کابل این عرصه را از انحصار کلیشه های رایج در آورد.

این ۵۰ اثر از کولاژ تا ویدیو و مجسمه سازی را در بر می گیرند و موضوعات محوری این آثار نیز عرصه های [...]]

زنان کرد در مناطق مرزی ترکیه و عراق سیر انسانی ایجاد کرده اند

جمعه، 26 آگوست 2011

رسانه های کردی از ایجاد سیر انسانی در مناطق مرزی بین ترکیه و عراق خبر داده اند. در این رسانه ها آمده است که مادران کرد چند روز متوالی در اعتراض به حملات ترکیه به روستاهای مرزی کردنشین دست به اعتراض زده اند. تلویزیون نوروز با انعکاس این خبر به نقل از تظاهرکنندگان گزارش داده است [...]

ایران: سهم ورزش زنان در المپیک ۲۰۱۲: تا امروز فقط ۲ نفر

جمعه، 26 آگوست 2011



پس از موفقیت های زنان ایرانی در رشته ووشو در بازی های آسیایی گوانجو؛ مسئولان ورزش با بی نظیر خواندن این نتایج، از مدال های رزمی کارها به عنوان نمادی برای موفقیت های آتی زنان ورزشکار ایرانی یاد کردند. اما وضعیت نامناسب ورزش ایران در فهرست کشورهای که سهمیه گرفته اند؛ حاکی از تکرار وضعیت سابق و حضور حداقلی ایران در بخش [...]

لیبی: زنان، نیروهای فعال انقلابی

جمعه، 26 آگوست 2011

زنان لیبیایی نیروهای فعال در انقلاب لیبی نوشته ی بثری تکبالی

مترجم آزاده دواچی

مدرسه فمینیستی: بثری تکبالی فعال، وبلاگ نویس و روزنامه نگار آمریکایی لیبیایی تبار است. او در مقاله اش تحت عنوان "خاطرات هیل" در آنتالوژی بسیار مشهور "من برای خودم صحبت می کنم: زنان آمریکایی در مورد مسلمان بودن می گویند" [...]

ترکیه: خودکشی یا قتل ناموسی ۹ زن و دختر طی ۱۰ روز در منطقه باتمان

جمعه، 26 آگوست 2011

بیش از ده سال است که شهرستان باتمان، واقع در جنوب ترکیه، به خاطر رقم بالای خودکشی، به ویژه در میان دختران و زنان جوان، در راس اخبار رسانه های این کشور قرار می گیرد، اما سازمان های زنان بر این باورند که بیشتر آنان قربانیان "قتل ناموسی" شده اند. به گزارش روزنامه "ملیت" ترکیه، تنها [...]

مصر: چالش دشوار فمینیست های اسلامی

جمعه، 26 آگوست 2011

پس از گذشت شش ماه از جنبشی که منجر به سرنگونی حکومت حسنی مبارک شد، مصری ها و به ویژه زنان قصد دارند از دستاوردهای این جنبش استفاده کنند.

به گزارش تارنمای «تینک آفریکا پرس» گروهی از زنان مصر می‌خواهند ثابت کنند که فمینیسم با اسلام همخوانی دارد. عیسرا، دختر ۲۲ ساله می‌گوید: «ما در جنگ میان مردم و [...]»

ترکیه: تجاوز به ۴۰۰ زن سوری در اردوی آوارگان جنوب ترکیه

سه شنبه، ۲۳ آگوست ۲۰۱۱

به گزارش روزنامه «آیدین لیک» ترکیه، حدود ۴۰۰ تن از زنان آواره سوری در اردوی آوارگان، واقع در مرز جنوبی ترکیه به سوریه، مورد تجاوز قرار گرفته و مجبور به تن فروشی شدند. رسوایی این تجاوزات زمانی برملا شد که ۲۵۰ تن از زنان مورد تجاوز باردار شدند. طبق این گزارش، عبدو اسلانر، مالک زمینی که [...]»

ترکیه: «انقلاب دفنه»، جنبش اینترنتی زنان در اعتراض به بی‌احترامی به مجری زن

سه شنبه، ۲۳ آگوست ۲۰۱۱

توهین به «دفنه جو فاستر»، مجری تلویزیون و هنرپیشه درگذشته در ترکیه، موجب به راه افتادن جنبشی زنانه به نام «انقلاب دفنه» در این کشور شده است. تا کنون حدود ۹ هزار تن در پلتفرم اینترنتی مربوط به این جنبش، شرکت کرده و در تلاشند تا بحث برابر حقوقی زن و مرد را در کشور [...]»

ایران: در مصوبه جدید کمیسیون قضایی مجلس، مجوز ازدواج موقت همچنان باقی است

سه شنبه، ۲۳ آگوست ۲۰۱۱

روزنامه اعتماد: کمیسیون قضایی مجلس سرانجام دیروز لایحه حمایت از خانواده را به صحن علنی مجلس آورد و بار دیگر مساله ازدواج موقت کارشناسان حوزه زنان را به واکنش واداشت. حذف برخی مواد جنجالی از لایحه موجب دلگرمی آنان است اما الحاق برخی تبصره‌ها و مواد موجب شد برخی انتقادات باقی بماند. بر اساس مصوبه [...]»

ایران: اختلاط نوآموزان دختر و پسر در کلاسهای پیش‌دبستانی ممنوع است

سه شنبه، ۲۳ آگوست ۲۰۱۱

طبق دستورالعمل اجرایی دوره پیش‌دبستانی، اختلاط نوآموزان دختر و پسر در کلاسهای پیش‌دبستانی «ممنوع» بوده و فعالیت هفتگی آنها نیز پنج روز در هفته است. به گزارش جمعیت مبارزه با جمعیت تحصیلی، بر اساس دستورالعمل اجرایی دوره پیش‌دبستانی، مدت فعالیت روزانه مراکز پیش‌دبستانی حداکثر ۳،۵ ساعت در روز و ۵ روز در هفته است؛ همچنین، کلاس‌های [...]»

لبنان: اصلاح قوانین مربوط به جرائم ناموسی

دوشنبه، ۲۲ آگوست ۲۰۱۱

لغو یک ماده از قانون جنایی در لبنان که حکم قتل‌های ناموسی را کاهش می‌دهد یک قدم مشوق و دلگرم‌کننده برای رسیدگی به خشونت مبتنی بر جنسیت است. دیده بان حقوق بشر می‌گوید: پارلمان لبنان باید مقررات کیفری تبعیض آمیز در زمینه ی جنسیت را حذف و اصلاح، و قانونی برای [...]»

افغانستان: از برقع تا یونیفورم پلیس

دوشنبه، 22 آگوست 2011



پس از سه دهه جنگ و درگیری در افغانستان، زنان این کشور در حال شکستن یکی از تابوهای سنتی هستند و شمار آنان برای کنار گذاشتن برقع و پوشیدن یونیفورم پلیس در حال افزایش است. دولت قصد دارد که تا سال ۲۰۱۴، زمان خروج نهایی نیروهای بین المللی، ۵۰۰۰ زن پلیس را به خدمت بگیرد.
به[...]

مصر: گروهی از مهمانداران مسلمان مصری خواهان اونیفورم های اسلامی اند

جمعه، 19 آگوست 2011

طی هفته های اول ماه اوت گروهی از خدمه و پرسنل زن خط هوایی مصر با دست کشیدن از کار، خواهان داشتن حجاب در موقع پرواز شده اند.
سایت "المصری الیوم" ضمن انتشار این خبر می افزاید که مذاکرات اعتصابیون با مقامات وزارت راه و هوانوردی مصر بی نتیجه مانده است. مقامات این وزارتخانه اعلام[...]

ترکیه: در اعتراض به فشار بر پوشش، زنان شورت پوش ترکیه تظاهرات کردند.

جمعه، 19 آگوست 2011



گروهی از دختران در استانبول که می گویند زنان بدون حجاب در ترکیه روز به روز تحت فشار بیشتری قرار می گیرند در اعتراض به ضرب و شتم یک دختر شورت پوش در آن شهر، تظاهرات می کنند.
ماجرا از آنجا آغاز شد که نورجان ابراهیم اوغلو دختر ۱۹ ساله عضو باشگاه والیبال بشیکتاش که با[...]

کویت: نماینده زن مجلس کویت خطاب به معترضان: شما نمی توانید زنی را مجبور کنید حجاب بیوشد، اینجا ایران نیست

جمعه، 19 آگوست 2011

دیلی تلگراف چاپ لندن نوشت: دو نماینده زن مجلس کویت با نامهای رولا دشتی و اصیل الاودی با خودداری از رعایت حجاب در طول برگزاری یکی از جلسات مجلس کویت، جنبش اسلام‌گرای این کشور را به چالش کشیده‌اند. این دو نماینده در میان ۴ نماینده زن قرار دارند که در ماه می برای نخستین بار[...]

ایران: دادستان تهران علیه روزنامه ایران به اتهام جریحه‌دار کردن عفت و اخلاق عمومی اعلام جرم کرد.

جمعه، 19 آگوست 2011

به گزارش خبرگزاری فارس به نقل از پایگاه اطلاع‌رسانی دادسرای انقلاب، در اعلام جرم دادستان تهران آمده است: روزنامه ایران در ضمیمه مردادماه سال ۹۰ با عنوان «خاتون ۱» به درج مطالبی راجع به حجاب و اعتقادات زن مسلمان ایرانی پرداخته و با حمله به چادر و حجاب و عفاف به ترویج اباحه‌گری در حوزه پوشش [...]

ایران: برخورد پلیس با برنامه های اجتماعی در پارک های تهران

چهارشنبه، 3 آگوست 2011

برگزاری چند برنامه تفریحی جوانان در پارک های تهران با برخورد نیروی انتظامی و واکنش منفی نمایندگان مجلس مواجه شده است. سرتیپ دوم حسین ساجدی نیا، رئیس پلیس تهران در گفت و گو با خبرگزاری مهر از برخورد پلیس با جوانانی که در یکی از پارک های پایتخت اقدام به اعمال "خلاف شئون اسلامی" کرده بودند [...]

جولای 2011:

افغانستان: چگونه طالبان می توانند دستاورد های زنان را حفظ کنند؟!

جمعه، 29 جولای 2011

به گزارش شبکه اطلاع رسانی افغانستان حکومت افغانستان، ایالات متحده آمریکا و سایر قدرتهای خارجی توجه شان را به سوی پایان جنگ در افغانستان معطوف ساخته و این کار نیز معامله با طالبان را دربردارد. اما این استراتژی شکافی را میان شورای عالی صلح که ۹ عضو آن را زنان تشکیل می دهد و رهبران جنبش [...]

عربستان: دستگیری دو زن عمانی به جرم رانندگی در عربستان

جمعه، 22 جولای 2011

دو زن عمانی در عربستان سعودی به دلیل رانندگی دستگیر شدند. به گزارش اینسنا، پلیس این دو زن را هنگام سفر با خانواده‌هایشان در جاده ریاض - طائف دستگیر کردند. روزنامه الحیات نوشته است: این دو زن که گواهینامه رانندگی کشور عمان را داشتند متعهد شدند که هرگز از قانون تخطی نکنند. اواخر ژوئن عربستان سعودی [...]

عربستان: ازدواج های اجباری

دوشنبه، 18 جولای 2011

تصویری که جهان تاکنون از جامعه عربستان سعودی داشته است، تصویر جامعه ای بسته، یکپارچه و سنتی است که در آن تفاوت زیادی میان فرهنگ سنتی پادشاهی با فرهنگ عامه مردم وجود نداشته است. تا پیش از وقوع خیزشهای موسوم به «بهار عرب» هیچ تصویر روشنی از وضعیت اقلیتهای اجتماعی و شکافهای مذهبی، قومی، [...]

اعتراض به تفکیک جنسیتی در اتوبوس های بیت المقدس

یکشنبه، 17 جولای 2011

الگوی مبارزه ای که در دوران تبعیض نژادی علیه سیاهپوستان آمریکا صورت گرفت و سرانجام نیز نبرد آنها را برای گرفتن حق سوارشدن به اتوبوس های سفیدپوستان به پیروزی رساند، این روزها در بخش هایی از محله های بشدت مذهبی اورشلیم (بیت المقدس) در حال اجراء است.

اکنون چند هفته ای است که داوطلبانی از میان یهودیان غیرمذهبی [...]

افغانستان: خیابان مال من هم هست، مبارزه زنان با خیابان آزاری

شنبه، 16 جولای 2011



“زمانی که در افغانستان زن به دنیا می آید، جامعه به شما می آموزد که چگونه از زن بودن خود شرمسار باشی. به شما یاد داده می شود که چگونه از داشتن موهای بلند و یا اندام زنانه خود خجالت بکشی. یاد می گیری که چگونه با شانه های افتاده راه بروی و مجبورت می [...]”

مالزی: اختصاص حداقل ۳۰ درصد مقامات مدیریت شرکت ها به زنان

شنبه، 16 جولای 2011

تا سال ۲۰۱۶ حد اقل ۳۰ درصد مقامات تعیین کننده شرکت های بزرگ در کشور مالزی، سومین قدرت بزرگ اقتصادی آسیا، در اختیار زنان قرار می گیرد.

به گفته “نجیب رزاق”، نخست وزیر مالزی، دولت این کشور برنامه ای را به تصویب رسانده که طبق آن حداقل ۳۰ درصد از “مقامات تصمیم گیرنده در [...]”

ایران: انتقال مریم بهرم، فعال حقوق زنان، به کانون اصلاح و تربیت میانه رود

چهارشنبه، 13 جولای 2011

مریم بهرم، فعال جنبش زنان و عضو انجمن زنان پارس روز ۱۳ تیرماه ۱۳۹۰ به کانون اصلاح و تربیت میانه رود، محل نگهداری زندانیان زن در شیراز، منتقل شد.

وی در طول این مدت چندین بار با خانواده خود تماس تلفنی داشته که وضعیت جسمی و روحی ایشان مساعد عنوان شده است.

بهرمن، صبح روز ۲۱ اردیبهشت ماه ۱۳۹۰، [...]

افغانستان: نگرانی کمیسیون حقوق بشر افغانستان از قاچاق زنان و کودکان

سه شنبه، 12 جولای 2011

کمیسیون مستقل حقوق بشر افغانستان با ابراز نگرانی از قاچاق کودکان و زنان در این کشور، خواستار برخورد جدی با عوامل آن شده است. این کمیسیون روز سه شنبه، ۲۱ سرطان/تیر با انتشار گزارشی در مورد قاچاق کودکان و زنان در افغانستان گفته است که افراد قدرتمند در قاچاق آنها دست دارند.

ثریا صبحرنگ، عضو کمیسیون حقوق [...]

ترکیه: قتل ۶ زن بر اثر خشونت مردانه خانگی طی ۴ روز

سه شنبه، 12 جولای 2011

از روز پنجشنبه ۷ ژوئیه تا ۱۱ ژوئیه ۶ زن در ترکیه به دست شوهران و یا شوهران سابق خود به قتل رسیدند. روز جمعه گذشته در شهر سامسون مردی به نام جم شن همسرش را در پی نزاعی بر سر قرض بانکی با کارت وام با ۱۲ ضربه چاقو به قتل رساند. در همان روز[...]

افغانستان: داستان دخترانی که فریاد می زنند، می گیرند و می خندند

دوشنبه، 11 جولای 2011



دو اتاق در بیمارستان ابن سینای کابل شلوغ است و صدای داد و فریاد دو سه دختر ظاهرا هفده و هجده ساله در یکی از این اتاقها آرامش طبقه دوم بیمارستان را برهم زده است. مادر و برادر جمیله دستان او را محکم گرفته اند، اما او به هر سو می غلند، گاهی گریه می کند[...]

افغانستان: سفارت آلمان به دختران فوتبالیست افغان ویزا نداد

پنجشنبه، 7 جولای 2011

سفارت آلمان در کابل از صدور ویزای شنکن برای دختران فوتبالیست افغان، که قصد سفر به دانمارک را داشتند، خود داری کرد. علت عدم صدور ویزا وجود شایعاتی دال بر امکان تقاضای پناهندگی برخی از این دختران در آلمان بود. تیم زنان افغان قرار بود چند مسابقه دوستانه با تیم های دانمارکی برگزار کند. کریستیان استادیل، [...]

غزه: حماس آرایشگر مرد را به دلیل کوتاه کردن موی یک زن دستگیر کرد

پنجشنبه، 7 جولای 2011

مقامات حماس تاکید کرده اند که قانونی را به اجرا گذاشته اند که اکثریت مردم غزه خواهان آنند. مقامات حماس در غزه اجرای قانونی را آغاز کرده اند که آرایشگران مرد را از کوتاه کردن موی زنان منع می کند. این قانون سال گذشته به تصویب رسید اما تا پیش از این بطور جدی به اجرا در[...]

ایران: جنبش زنان، جنبش سبز و بهار عربی

شنبه، ۴ تیر ۱۳۹۰

گفتگوی آزاده دواجی با دکتر علی اکبر مهدی ترجمه سحر مخم
پروفیسور علی اکبر مهدی استاد ممتاز بازنشسته دانشگاه اوهایو وسلیمان در رشته جامعه شناسی است. علی اکبر مهدی بعد از پایان تحصیلات لیسانس در سال ۱۹۷۵ به آمریکا رفت و در سال ۱۹۷۹ موفق به کسب مدرک فوق لیسانس از دانشگاه ایالتی میشیگان و در[...]
ادامه مطلب...

افغانستان: افزایش خشونت علیه زنان افغانی حتی پس از مرگ بن لادن

شنبه، ۴ تیر ۱۳۹۰

مرگ بن لادن هیچ امیدی را برای زنان افغانستان زنده نخواهد کرد
ترجمه آزاد و تلخیص از شهرزاد امین
تغییر برای برابری – سحر صبا روزنامه نگار تارنمای پرسپکتیو فمینیستی معتقد است که مرگ بن لادن میتواند موجب نزدیکی آمریکا، دولت افغانستان و طالبان شود. چنین پیشرفتی هیچ امیدی را در جهت احقاق حقوق زنان افغانی زنده نمی[...]
ادامه مطلب...

پیام تبریک فعالان و روزنامه نگاران کرد ایرانی به مناسبت انتخاب لیلا زانا و ۱۲ زن کرد دیگر در پارلمان ترکیه

شنبه ۴ تیر ۱۳۹۰

تغییر برای برابری - هفته‌ی پیش در انتخابات پارلمانی ترکیه ۳۶ نفر از نامزدهای کرد توانستند با وجود محدودیت‌های قانونی برای حضور گسترده و واقعی نامزدهای کرد وارد مجلس این کشور شوند. کردهای ترکیه از این اتفاق را یک پیروزی بزرگ برای خود می‌دانند. لیلا زانا (برنده جایزه ساخاروف اتحادیه اروپا) به همراه ۱۰ زن کرد [...]

ادامه مطلب...

عربستان: کلینتون زنان 'شجاع' سعودی را ستایش کرد

چهارشنبه ۱ تیر ۱۳۹۰

خانم کلینتون می‌گوید در امور داخلی عربستان سعودی دخالت نمی‌کند. هیلاری کلینتون، وزیر خارجه آمریکا، از زنان "شجاع" عربستان سعودی که با ممنوعیت رانندگی بانوان مبارزه می‌کنند، تمجید کرده است. خانم کلینتون در اولین واکنش رسمی خود به این موضوع گفت که آنها حق دارند که چنین مطالبه‌ای داشته باشند. بسیاری از زنان عربستان [...]

ادامه مطلب...

عربستان سعودی: فعالان اجتماعی از زنان بلندیایه غربی خواستند به زنان این کشور برای به دست آوردن حق رانندگی کمک کنند

چهارشنبه ۱ تیر ۱۳۹۰

یک ائتلاف فعالان عربستان سعودی از زنان بلندیایه سیاسی در کشورهای غربی خواسته است که از کمپین تشکیل شده، به منظور به دست آوردن حق رانندگی برای زنان این کشور، حمایت به عمل آورند. این گروه اعلام کرد روز دوشنبه نامه‌های جداگانه‌ای برای هیلاری کلینتون، وزیر خارجه آمریکا، و کاترین اشتون، رییس سیاست خارجی اتحادیه اروپا، [...]

ادامه مطلب...

پاکستان: برهنه گرداندن یک زن در یک روستا

سه شنبه ۳۱ خرداد ۱۳۹۰

بسیاری از پاکستانی‌ها از شنیدن آنچه بر سر یکی از اهالی روستایی در این کشور آمده بهت زده شده‌اند. شهناز بی‌بی نام زنی است که عده‌ای از ساکنان روستایش او را برهنه کردند و در روستا گرداندند، به این اتهام که پسرش با یک زن رابطه خارج از ازدواج دارد. گزارش بی‌بی [...]

ادامه مطلب...

افغانستان: نهادهای خیریه در بریتانیا جایزه سالانه‌اش را به یک زن افغان داد

سه شنبه ۳۱ خرداد ۱۳۹۰

به روز شده: ۱۷:۳۰ گرینویچ - دوشنبه ۲۰ ژوئن ۲۰۱۱ - ۳۰ خرداد ۱۳۹۰
مدینه راشدی می‌گوید او هر ماه به حدود چهل زن باردار، کمک می‌کند صندوق حمایت از کودکان بریتانیا امسال جایزه سالانه‌اش را به یک دوشیزه افغان به نام مدینه راشدی داده است. این جایزه به زانی داده می‌شود که [...]

ادامه مطلب...

افغانستان: دو میلیون زن بیوه

چهارشنبه ۲۵ خرداد ۱۳۹۰

۱۴ جون ۲۰۱۱، کابل-۲۴ جوزا، ۱۳۹۰

مقامات در وزارت امور زنان می‌گویند که در حال حاضر حدود ۲ میلیون زن بیوه با انبوهی از مشکلات و دشواری‌ها دست و پنجه نرم می‌کنند.

به گزارش آژانس خبری روز، حسن بانو غضنفرسرپرست وزارت امور زنان امروز در مراسم تجلیل از روزملی مادر در کابل خاطر نشان ساخت، این وزارت طرح پیشنهادی را به [...]

ادامه مطلب...

افغانستان: کارشناسان مسایل جنسیتی: افغانستان، خطرناکترین محل جهان برای زن بودن

چهارشنبه ۲۵ خرداد ۱۳۹۰

در نظرخواهی از کارشناسان مسایل جنسیتی در مورد وضعیت زنان در کشورهای مختلف، افغانستان به عنوان "خطرناکترین محل جهان برای زن بودن" معرفی شده است. این تحقیقات توسط بنیاد رویترز - تامسون انجام شده و نتیجه گرفته است که خشونت علیه زنان، کمبود امکانات بهداشتی و فقر در افغانستان دست به دست هم داده است تا [...]

ادامه مطلب...

افغانستان: در هر دقیقه یک مادر در جان می دهد

سه شنبه ۲۴ خرداد ۱۳۹۰ مقامات وزارت صحت عامه میگویند که هم اکنون افغانستان بلندترین رقم مرگ و میرمادران را در دنیا به خود اختصاص داده است. به گزارش آژانس خبری روز؛ ثریا دلیل سرپرست وزارت صحت که امروز به پیشواز روز ملی "مادر مصون" صحبت میکرد، میزان مرگ و میرمادران را به موجب بیماری های مختلف [...] ادامه مطلب...

می 2011:

1- عربستان: کمین کتکزدن زنان تشکیل شد

دوشنبه ۹ خرداد ۱۳۹۰ پس از آنکه هیئت امر به معروف و نهی از منکر یا همان پلیس دینی عربستان سعودی اولین زن عربستانی را به علت رانندگی بازداشت کرد، کمپینی در حمایت از وی به راه افتاد که خواستار رانندگی همه زنان عربستانی در این روز شد؛ اما در مقابل مردان و هابی نیز کمپینی علیه آنان و در [...] ادامه مطلب...

2- ایران: داستان ازدواج زن ایرانی با مرد افغان

دوشنبه ۹ خرداد ۱۳۹۰ "من در افغانستان با همسر آشنا شدم و ازدواج کردیم، می خواهم ازدواجمون رو ثبت کنیم... شوهرت کجاست؟ -شانس آوردی که از پای تلفن داری صحبت می کنی و شوهرت هم نیست، والا اگر اینجا بودید، شوهرت را به خاطر ازدواج غیر قانونی دستگیر می کردیم".... این بخشی از گفت و گوی همسر ایرانی سعید، روزنامه نگار افغان [...] ادامه مطلب...

3- افغانستان: آمنه افضلی: سطح بیکاری در افغانستان در حال بلند رفتن است

یکشنبه ۱ خرداد ۱۳۹۰



در حالی که در رابطه به ارقام افراد بیکار در افغانستان سروی مشخص صورت نگرفته است، اما وزارت کار و امور اجتماعی این کشور می گوید، که رقم بیکاران در افغانستان روز به روز در حال افزایش است. آمنه افضلی وزیر کار و امور اجتماعی افغانستان می گوید: عوامل مختلف در افزایش بیکاری در [...] ادامه مطلب...

4- عربستان: زن راننده در عربستان بازداشت شد

یکشنبه ۱ خرداد ۱۳۹۰

گزارش ها حاکی از آن است یک زن سعودی که برای آزادی رانندگی زنان در عربستان تلاش می کرد، بازداشت شده است. فعالان حقوق بشر می گویند منال الشریف تنها چند روز پس از آن که ویدئویی در اینترنت منتشر کرد که او را در حال رانندگی در شهر خبر در شرق عربستان نشان می داد، [...] ادامه مطلب...

5- اقدام یک زن سعودی برای رفع ممنوعیت رانندگی زنان

پنجشنبه ۲۹ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰



یک زن در عربستان سعودی در مخالفت با ممنوعیت رانندگی زنان در این کشور، پشت فرمان اتومبیل نشست. او از هفته پیش در شهر جدّه رانندگی می کند. تصور می شود که نجلا حریری، تنها زنی باشد که در یکی از شهرهای عربستان سعودی رانندگی می کند. نجلا که ۴۵ سال دارد می گوید که تظاهرات مردم در [...] ادامه مطلب...

6- ایران، برنامه نظارت بر حمایت از مدافعان حقوق بشر: فعالان حقوق زن مریم بهرمن و محبوبه کرمی را آزاد کنید

سه شنبه، ۲۷ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

فراخوان فوری - برنامه نظارت بر حمایت از مدافعان حقوق بشر

IRN 003 / 0511 / OBS 077

ایران: بازداشت خودسرانه/آزار و اذیت قضایی

۲۷ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

فعالان حقوق زن مریم بهرمن و محبوبه کرمی را آزاد کنید

http://www.fidh.org/Iran-Release-women-s-rights-activists-Maryam?var_mode=calcul

برنامه نظارت بر حمایت از مدافعان حقوق بشر- برنامه مشترک «فدراسیون بین المللی جامعه های حقوق بشر (FIDH)» و «سازمان جهانی

مبارزه [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

7- ایران: اجرای حکم سه سال زندان محبوبه کرمی، فعال حقوق زنان

دوشنبه، ۲۶ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

دانشجویوز: محبوبه کرمی از فعالان جنبش زنان و کمپین یک میلیون امضاء، صبح امروز برای اجرای حکم ۳ سال حبس در زندان اوین بازداشت شد.

بر اساس احضاریه ای که هفته گذشته به محبوبه کرمی رسیده بود، وی باید ظرف سه روز خود را به دادسرای اوین برای اجرای حکم زندان معرفی می کرد.

به گزارش [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

8- زنان در جهان عرب: فیس بوک مرا کشت!

شنبه، ۲۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰



فروغ ن. تمیمی- روب فریکن، مردی هلندی و روزنامه‌نگار پرکار روزنامه فولکس کرانت است. او در چندسال گذشته در سفرهای متعدد به کشورهای اسلامی با موشکافی یک مردم‌شناس در مورد وضعیت زنان مسلمان از هر تیپ و طبقه تحقیق کرده است. حاصل کشت و گذار و گپ زدن‌های خودمانی او با زنان خانه‌دار، معلم، کارگر، هنرمند، [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

9- راندنگی اعتراضی زنان عربستان سعودی در روز ۱۷ مه

شنبه، ۲۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

زنان عربستان سعودی برای گرفتن حق راندنگی، از طریق کارزاری در فیسبوک، قصد دارند روز ۱۷ مه خود فرمان اتومبیل هایشان را در دست بگیرند.

منال الشریف، یکی از فعالان حقوق زنان و از سازمان دهندگان این کارزار اعتراضی با عنوان "در این روز خود راندنگی می کنم"، گفت: همین که زنان برای رفتن از [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

10- مریم بهرمن فعال جنبش زنان در شیراز بازداشت شد

شنبه، ۲۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

در ساعت هفت و نیم صبح ۲۱ اردیبهشت، چند تن از مأموران امنیتی با در دست داشتن حکم بازداشت به منزل این فعال اجتماعی مراجعه کرده و بعد از سه ساعت بازرسی منزل (اتاق شخصی) و ضبط بعضی از اموال شخصی، از جمله تلفن همراه، چند جلد کتاب، لپ‌تاپ و...، ایشان را به اتهام «اقدام [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

11- جایزه شهامت در خبرنگاری امسال را سه زن خبرنگار ربودند

شنبه، ۲۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰



سه خبرنگار زن از جمله یک زن ایرانی، برنده جایزه شجاعت در خبرنگاری شدند. این جایزه به زنانی داده می‌شود که تحت شرایط خطرناک به خبررسانی ادامه داده و از خود انسجام و کاراکتر نیرومندی به نمایش گذاشته‌اند. اسامی سه زن برنده جایزه شجاعت در خبرنگاری و دستاورد زندگی که برای دادن پوشش خبری، زندگی [...]»

12- تجاوز به دختر ۱۲ ساله و قتل ۴ دانش آموز و دانشجو در افغانستان

چهارشنبه، ۲۱ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
مردان مسلح در روستایی در ولایت تخار در شمال شرق افغانستان به یک دختر دوازده ساله تجاوز کرده اند. به گزارش بی بی سی؛ اعضای خانواده این کودک می گویند شش تن از این افراد، لباس پلیس به تن داشته اند. اداره محلی امور زنان در ولایت تخار این حادثه را تأیید کرده و مقامات پلیس این [...]

ادامه مطلب...

13- سانسور عکس هیلاری کلینتون به دلیل تحریک کنندگی جنسی در یک روزنامه یهودی

چهارشنبه، ۲۱ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰



یک روزنامه یهودی که تصویر هیلاری کلینتون را از عکس منتسب به اتاق فرماندهی عملیات ترور بن لادن به دلیل 'جاذبه جنسی' حذف کرده بود، از وی عذرخواهی کرد. مسئولان روزنامه یهودی "در زایتونگ" چاپ بروکلین به دلیل حذف تصویر هیلاری کلینتون از عکس جنجالی منتسب به اتاق فرماندهی عملیات علیه بن لادن از وی عذرخواهی [...]

ادامه مطلب...

14- فوزیه کوفی تنها زن کاندیدای ریاست جمهوری افغانستان

سه شنبه، ۲۰ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

درحاشیه انتشار کتاب «نامه‌هایی به دخترانم» و ترجمه آن به شش زبان فروغ. ن. تمیمی - «شاید باور نکنید روزی که به دنیا آمدم مادرم خیلی ناراحت شد. او دیگر دختر نمی‌خواست چون نوزاد دختر داشتن ننگ بود. برای همین مرا برد زیر نور شدید آفتاب گذاشت تا بمیرم. آفتاب‌زدگی باعث سوختگی شدید پوستم شد، اما [...]»

ادامه مطلب...

15- «ایمن العبیدی» زن قربانی تجاوز، از لیبی فرار کرد

سه شنبه، ۲۰ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

«ایمن العبیدی» زنی که قربانی تجاوز گروهی از نظامیان قذافی قرار گرفته و مدتی توجه رسانه‌های جهانی را به خود جلب نموده بود، بدلیل آنچه که نداشتن امنیت خواند، از لیبی فرار کرد. به نقل از سی ان ان؛ العبیدی به خبرنگار این خبرگزاری گفته است که روز پنج شنبه هفته گذشته با کمک یک [...]

ادامه مطلب...

16- امضای کنوانسیون جدیدی برای حمایت از زنان ترکیه توسط شورای اروپا

شنبه، ۱۷ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

وزرای خارجه ۴۸ کشور عضو شورای اروپا، در نشست هفته آینده خود در استانبول، قرار است کنوانسیون جدیدی را، مبنی بر حمایت و حفاظت بیشتر زنان ترکیه در مقابل خشونت خانگی و قتل ناموسی، امضا کنند. ریاست نشست امسال شورای اروپا با ترکیه است. تنظیم کنوانسیون مزبور دو سال تمام طول کشیده است و فعالان حقوق [...]

ادامه مطلب...

17- اولین کاندیدای ریاست جمهوری زن در مصر

یکشنبه، ۱۱ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

۱۰ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰ - ترجمه از سوئدی: شهرزاد امین

تغییر برای برابری: اولین زن کاندیدای ریاست جمهوری مصر خود را معرفی کرد. بوتهاینا کمال، چهره مشهور رسانه ای و فعال حقوق زنان خبر کاندیداتوری در انتخابات ریاست جمهوری مصر در اواخر سال جاری را رسماً اعلام کرد. بوتهاینا کمال یکی از ژورنالیستهای مشهور [...]

ادامه مطلب...

آوریل 2011:

1- گفتگویی با شیرین عبادی به بهانه انتشار کتاب جدیدش

جمعه، ۹ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

شهرزاد نیوز: گفتگوی کریم سجاد پور از «بنیاد کارنگی برای صلح بین‌المللی» با شیرین عبادی، ۷ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰ ♦
عبادی می‌گوید، اپوزیسیون مسالمت‌طلب متأسفانه تاکنون موفق نبوده است و رژیم فقط وحشی‌تر شده است. با وجود این، حکومتی که علیه مردم‌اش از خشونت استفاده می‌کند، به مرور خود را تضعیف می‌کند. در برابر هر یک نفری که به [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

2- اعتراض سمبلیک زنان در عربستان سعودی: راه اندازی مرکز رای زنانه

جمعه، ۹ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
شهرزاد نیوز: گروهی از زنان در جده - عربستان سعودی که برای حقوق زنان در این کشور فعالیت می‌کنند، اخیراً دست به یک اقدام سمبلیک زده اند. آنها با به راه اندازی یک مرکز رای‌گیری، تلاش کرده اند تا توجه افکار عمومی را نسبت به بی حقوقی زنان و ممنوعیت شرکت آنان در [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

3- امام جمعه تهران: برای حل مسئله حجاب باید خون های پاک ریخته شود

دوشنبه، ۵ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
روزآن لاین: یکی از روحانیون حکومتی با بیان اینکه «کار فرهنگی دیگر فایده ندارد»، از لزوم «ریختن خون های پاک» برای رفع «بدحجابی» سخن گفت. احمد خاتمی، انطور که جهان نیوز، ارگان نزدیک به بسیج گزارش داده گفته است: «مسئله حجاب در جامعه امروز ما تبدیل به یک مشکل و فاجعه فرهنگی شده است و [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

4- مانیفست برابری و شهروندی زنان تونس

یکشنبه، ۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
تغییر برای برابری - ترجمه سوده راد-
گروه های فمینیستی در تونس، با انتشار مانیفستی خواسته هایشان را اعلام کردند. آنها ضمن ابراز خوشحالی از سرنگونی دیکتاتوری و افتخار به میراث مشترک اصلاح طلبانه در تونس، بر ادامه ی مبارزه برای بهبود شرایط زندگی شخصی و عمومی زنان تاکید کرده اند متن مانیفست زنان تونس [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

5- اکیرین: دعوای روبنده در فرانسه، نزاع ظاهری است



یکشنبه، ۴ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
رادیو فردا (رویا کریمی): قانون منع استفاده از نقاب یا روبنده از صبح دوشنبه در فرانسه اجرا شد. این در حالی است که اسلامگرایان از مدت‌ها قبل اعتراض‌های گسترده خود را نسبت به اجرای این قانون آغاز کرده بودند و روز جمعه تظاهراتی را بر علیه دولت فرانسه ترتیب دادند.
اما چرا موضوع حجاب اسلامی در کشور [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

6- مصایب نخستین دادستان زن افغانستان

شنبه، ۳ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰



«ماریا بشیر» یکی از دشوارترین شغل‌ها را در افغانستان دارد. این زن، دادستان کل هرات است و در این سمت باید با فساد و خشونت‌های داخلی در افغانستان مبارزه کند. او همچنین از حق زنان آن کشور برای کار در بیرون از خانه دفاع می‌کند و آنها را مورد تشویق قرار می‌دهد. مبارزه برای دستیابی به عدالت و [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

7- مصر: آزار جنسی زنان، برگشت به سطح پیش از انقلاب

جمعه، ۲ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰

شهرزاد نیوز: نُه ابوالمجد اهل مصر و استاد دانشگاه شبکاگو است. وی در پژوهشهای خویش بر مسائل فرهنگی، مذهبی و جنسیتی زنان عرب (بویژه زنان مصر) متمرکز است و اطلاعات تحلیلی جامع و مفیدی در مورد مسائل جاری در مصر بدست می‌دهد. با وی دربارهٔ انقلاب، موقعیت زنان و رفراوند گفتگویی داشتم. پس از آن، [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

8- جنبش زنان عربستان بیماری ملک عبدالله را تشدید کرد

جمعه ۲ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
خبرگزاری بین‌المللی زنان: «ملک عبدالله» به دنبال اظهارات دخترش، مبنی بر حمایت از جنبش زنان عربستانی برای دستیابی به حقوق بیشتر، به شدت از دست وی ناراحت و به همین دلیل، بیماری وی تشدید شده است.
به گزارش خبرگزاری زنان؛ صبح امروز، منابع آگاه از کاخ پادشاهی عربستان سعودی فاش کردند، حال شاهزاده [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

9- زنان افغان، شاکي از متلك گویی مردان

پنجشنبه ۱ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۰
در افغانستان، متلك گویی مردها، در کنار خیلی چیزهای دیگر شیرینی آزادی‌های اجتماعی زنان را تلخ کرده. خیلی از دختران کابل شکایت دارند که هنگام گشت و گذار در شهر، مردها مزاحشان می‌شوند. زنان افغان بعد از سقوط طالبان اجازه رفت و آمد بدون مرد محرم را پیدا کرده‌اند.
گزارش بی بی سی فارسی را در [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

10- خیابان آزاری در افغانستان، مشکلی که روزیه روز جدی تر میشود

چهارشنبه ۳۱ فروردین ۱۳۹۰
هزاران زن روزانه در خیابانهای کابل و دیگر شهرهای افغانستان با پدیده خیابان آزاری روبرو می‌شوند.
زنان افغان برای رسیدن به آزادی‌های مدنی خود با انواع محدودیت‌ها دست به گریبان هستند و یکی از معمول‌ترین این محدودیت‌ها که همیشه نادیده گرفته شده، بدرقتاری با آنها در خیابانهاست، چیزی که به آن «خیابان آزاری» [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

11- حذف تعیین سقف مهریه در لایحه خانواده/ اجازه همسر اول شرط ازدواج مجدد

شنبه ۲۷ فروردین ۱۳۹۰
عضو فراکسیون زنان مجلس از حذف تعیین سقف مهریه در لایحه حمایت از خانواده خبر داد و گفت: براساس اصلاحات لایحه خانواده که در کمیسیون قضایی مجلس نهایی شده یکی از شروط ازدواج مجدد آقایان اجازه همسر اول است.
مهر: فاطمه رهبر در گفتگو با خبرنگار مهر با اشاره به اصلاحات لایحه خانواده که در [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

12- جایزه سال ۲۰۱۱ بین به نسرین ستوده تعلق گرفت

شنبه ۲۷ فروردین ۱۳۹۰



بی بی سی: انجمن قلم آمریکا (بین) روز چهارشنبه ۲۴ فروردین (۱۳ آوریل) اعلام کرد که جایزه آزادی قلم باربارا گلداسمیت سال ۲۰۱۱ خود را به نسرین ستوده، وکیل، فعال حقوق بشر و روزنامه‌نویس ایرانی اختصاص داده است.
[ادامه مطلب...](#)

13- آفکام: پخش اعتراضات سکینه آشتیانی بلامانع بوده است

شنبه ۲۷ فروردین ۱۳۹۰
به نوشته روزنامه گاردین، آفکام، نهاد ناظر بر رسانه‌های صوتی و تصویری در بریتانیا، اعلام کرد که شبکه تلویزیونی انگلیسی زبان ایران در پخش برنامه‌ای در مورد سکینه محمدی آشتیانی، قوانین بریتانیا را نقض نکرده است.
[ادامه مطلب...](#)

14- دولت سوریه ممنوعیت پوشیدن برقع را برداشت

سه شنبه ۲۳ فروردین ۱۳۹۰
بی بی سی: رسانه‌های دولتی سوریه اعلام کرده‌اند با تجدید نظر در مورد پوشش روبنده آموزگاران که بعد از اجرای این ممنوعیت در ماه ژوئیه سال گذشته مجبور به کناره‌گیری شده بودند می‌توانند به سرکار بازگردند.
ماه ژوئیه سال گذشته وزیر علوم سوریه اعلام کرد که بستن روبنده کامل مغایر ارزش‌های آکادمیک [...] [ادامه مطلب...](#)

15- لیبی: فعال حقوق بشر زنان، ایمان العیبدی را آزاد کنید

شنبه ۱۳ فروردین ۱۳۹۰
شبکه جهانی زنان و قوانین در کشورهای اسلامی (ولوم) با پیوستن به دیگر سازمان های حقوق بشری و گروه های جامعه مدنی، از مقامات لیبیایی می خواهد تا هرچه سریع تر وکیل ۲۹ ساله و فعال حقوق بشر زنان، ایمان العیبدی، را آزاد کنند. ما همچنین خواهان آن هستیم تا کسانی باعث آزار جنسی خشونت [...]

ادامه مطلب...

مارس 2011:

1- نقاشی های پسر یک روسی: خانه کوکو، هنرکده ای در محله روسی های لاهور

دوشنبه ۱ فروردین ۱۳۹۰



بی بی سی: در آثار آقای حسین زنان در حال دلربایی هستند؛ زنانی با لباس های رنگارنگ، عده ای افتاده در بستر، گاهی حین معامله با مشتریان بدهیکل مرد.
“هیرا مندی” یا بازار الماس در شهر قدیمی لاهور محله ای است که از دست کم سه صد سال پیش در آن پایکوبی و آوازخوانی زنان و بازار سکس آزاد بوده است.

در [...]

ادامه مطلب...

2- ایالات متحده امریکا از صدور ویزا برای ملالی جويا ، نویسنده و فعال حقوق زنان افغانستان خودداری کرد

شنبه ۲۸ اسفند ۱۳۸۹



ماموریت زنان افغان: ایالات متحده امریکا از صدور ویزا برای ملالی جويا از فعالان سرشناس حقوق زنان افغان و نماینده سابق مجلس افغانستان خودداری کرد.

ادامه مطلب...

1- ایران: دادستان با آزادی نسرين ستوده، وکیل حقوق بشری مخالفت کرد

یکشنبه ۲۵ مهر ۱۳۸۹
مدرسه فمینیستی: امروز ۲۵ مهرماه، وکیل نسرين ستوده موفق به دیدار باز پرس پرونده موکل اش شد. باز پرس شعبه سه دادسرای اوین در این دیدار اطلاع داد که برای نسرين ستوده کیفرخواست صادر شده و پرونده اش به دادگاه ارسال شده است.
رضا خندان همسر نسرين ستوده در مصاحبه با سایت مدرسه فمینیستی افزود که: کیفرخواست [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

2- نامه ی سرگشاده به رییس جمهوری دولت افغانستان: از تکرار اعمال ضد بشری جلوگیری کنید!

سه شنبه ۱۶ شهریور ۱۳۸۹
جناب رییس جمهوری افغانستان! دهه گذشته تاریخ کشور با تمام کاستی ها، سال های پر از امید برای زنان افغانستان بود. در نخستین سالهای این دهه ما شاهد تحولات مثبت در راستای اعتلا و آزادی زنان از بند اسارت، تعصب و بنیادگرایی بوده ایم. این تحولات صفحه جدید از تاریخ را [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

3- بیانیه زنان کمپاین ۵۰٪ افغانستان به کنفرانس کابل: "حقوق زنان غیر قابل معامله است"

سه شنبه ۱۶ شهریور ۱۳۸۹
ما زنان بیش از همه به صلح نیاز داریم برای آنکه در جنگ بیش از مردان متضرر می شویم. بودن در حالت جنگی اندک حقوقی را که سالیان متمادی برای آن مبارزه کرده ایم و همچنین فرصت های اقتصادی، سیاسی، اجتماعی و فرهنگی را از ما می رباید. در عین حال معتقدیم که دستیابی به [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

4- رهنمودهای کمپاین ۵۰٪ زنان افغانستان به جرگه مشورتی صلح

پنجشنبه ۱۳ خرداد ۱۳۸۹
از تمامی اشتراک کنندگان در جرگه مشورتی صلح می خواهیم که به قانون اساسی جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان به عنوان بالاترین سند قانونی این کشور و مجموعه دستاوردهای ۹ سال گذشته دولت افغانستان و جامعه مدنی پایبند باشند.
از تمامی اشتراک کننده گان [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

5- فرانسه: جریمه برای مردانی که زانشان را مجبور به پوشیدن چادر می کنند

جمعه ۳۱ اردیبهشت ۱۳۸۹
فرانسه: هر مردی که همسرش را مجبور به پوشیدن چادر کند، به پرداخت جریمه نقدی تا ۱۵ هزار یورو و حبس تا یک سال محکوم می شود. این قانون از تابستان پیشرو اجرایی خواهد شد.
این قانون، همچنین جریمه ای ۱۵۰ یورویی، برای زنانی که در اماکن عمومی برقع به صورت بزنند نیز در نظر گرفته [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

6- ایران: شادی صدر و محبوبه عباسقلی زاده به حبس و شلاق محکوم شدند

یکشنبه ۲۶ اردیبهشت ۱۳۸۹
ایلنا: محمد مصطفایی وکیل دو تن از فعالان زن از برگزاری دادگاه رسیدگی به اتهامات شادی صدر و محبوبه عباسقلی در روز ۱۸ اردیبهشت ماه خبر داد.
وی در گفت و گو با ایلنا، با بیان اینکه شادی صدر و محبوبه عباسقلی در خارج از کشور به سر می برند، اعلام کرد که این دادگاه بدون حضور آنها برگزار شد.
به [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

7- افغانستان: شورای عالی علما و حوزه غرب خواستار جلوگیری از سفر زنان به خارج از کشور بدون محرم شرعی شد

یکشنبه ۲۶ اردیبهشت ۱۳۸۹
به گزارش پامیر پرس، در جریان جلسه عالی شورای علما، روحانیون حوزه غرب تحت ریاست الحاج مولوی خداداد صالح تشکیل شد، علمای کرام با ناجایز خواندن سفر زنان به خارج از کشور و ادای فریضه حج بدون محرم شرعی خواستار پایبندی بیشتر مسلمانان به اجرای دستورات دینی شدند.
رییس شورا در آغاز این جلسه که [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

8- افغانستان: نقش زنان در آرامش، امنیت و بازسازی

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹
منبع: کارکنان WLUML
(1) کمیته رفع تبعیض علیه زنان (که در این نوشته از آن به عنوان کمیته یاد خواهد شد) از سوی ۱۸۶ کشور از جمله افغانستان، متعهد شده

بر اجرای کنوانسیون رفع هرگونه تبعیض علیه زنان نظارت کند. این کمیته از تلاش های دولت افغانستان و هم پیمانان بین المللی اش برای ساختن آینده [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

9-کمپین جهانی توقف سنگسار و کشتار زنان: خشونت علیه زنان به نام فرهنگ و عرف را متوقف کنید!

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹ در سال ۲۰۰۷، کمپین جهانی توقف کشتار و سنگسار زنان (کمپین SKSW) اقداماتی را آغاز کرد تا به سوء استفاده های بی رحمانه شرعی و عرفی که کشتار، ضرب و جرح و شکنجه زنان را توجیه می کند پایان دهد، مجازات هایی که به عنوان تنبیهی برای نقض "هنجارها" ی جنسی برای زنان در نظر [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

10-ایران: ادامه بازداشت محبوبه کرمی بدون تفهیم اتهام

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹ تغییر برای برابری - پس از ۱۸ روز از بازداشت محبوبه کرمی، از اعضای کمپین یک میلیون امضاء، وی همچنان بدون تفهیم اتهام در اوین به سر می برد. کرمی، شب گذشته پس از ۱۱ روز در تماس تلفنی با برادر خود اعلام کرده است که هنوز نمی داند چه اتهامی دارد. محسن کرمی در این [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

11-هفت قطعنامه کنفرانس زنان سازمان ملل جهت تقویت حقوق زنان

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹ شهرزاد نیوز: در کنفرانس زنان سازمان ملل، هفت قطعنامه جهت تقویت حقوق دختران و زنان به تصویب رسید. نخستین قطعنامه، برای پایان دادن به ناقص سازی جنسی زنان است. طبق آمار عفوبین الملل، هنوز هم سالانه حدود ۲ میلیون دختر و زن در جهان دچار این سنت خونین اند. به گفته پاتریشیا شولتس، رئیس هیأت نمایندگی سوئیس [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

12-ترکیه: ممنوعیت سفر زنان به خارج برای تلقیح مصنوعی

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹ کانون زنان ایرانی: در ترکیه قانون جدیدی به تصویب رسیده که بر اساس آن سفر زنان به خارج به منظور استفاده از لقاح مصنوعی برای بارداری، جرم جنایی خوانده شده است. لقاح مصنوعی هم اکنون در ترکیه غیر قانونی است ولی تا کنون زنان این کشور می توانستند برای لقاح مصنوعی به خارج سفر کنند. با تصویب [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

13-ایران: فعال حقوق کودکان در زندان دست به اعتصاب غذا زد

سه شنبه ۳ فروردین ۱۳۸۹ رهانا: علی رغم صدور قرار وثیقه برای ضیاء و با وجودی که مدت یازده روز است که خانواده وی سند را به دادگاه ارائه داده اند بر اثر بی توجهی مسئولان پرونده از آزادی وی جلوگیری به عمل آمده بود. به گزارش خبرنگار رهانا، از تاریخ ۱۸/۱۲/۸۸ سند آزادی برای ضیاء در بازداشت است ولی متأسفانه بازپرس شعبه [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

14-ایران: وضعیت نگران کننده فعال حقوق زنان در زندان

جمعه ۲ بهمن ۱۳۸۸ فعالان جنبش زنان سمیه رشیدی **ادامه مطلب...**

15-ایران: اخراج یک فعال جنبش زنان از تدریس در دانشگاه

چهارشنبه ۳۰ دی ۱۳۸۸ مدرسه فمینیستی: صبا واصفی پژوهشگر، فعال حقوق بشر و فعال جنبش زنان که از سال ۱۳۸۵ تاکنون در دانشگاه شهید بهشتی مشغول به تدریس بود، صبح امروز، ۳۰ دی ماه، از تدریس محروم و از دانشگاه اخراج شد. صبا واصفی، سومین فعال جنبش زنان است که طی چند ماه گذشته از محل کارش اخراج می شود و [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

16-ایران: راه حل پنج ماده ای ما زنان برای برون رفت از "بحران"

چهارشنبه ۳۰ دی ۱۳۸۸ شبکه سراسری همکاری زنان ایرانی: آقایان موسوی و کربوبی هر کدام در طی روزهای اخیر بیانیه های منتشر کردند که راه حل های خود را در ۵ ماده برای برون رفت از "بحران" بیان کردند. این راه حل ها با استقبال پنج "روشنفکر دینی" در خارج از کشور روبه رو شد: آقایان گنجی، سروش، کنیور، مهاجرانی [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

17- عربستان: شورش در زندان زنان

چهارشنبه ۳۰ دی ۱۳۸۸
بی بی سی فارسی: زندانیان زن زندانی در مکه در عربستان گفته اند که هفته پیش به دلیل بدرفتاری و سوء استفاده زندانبانان و مقامات دست به شورش زدند.
این زنان در گفت و گو با روزنامه سعودی گازت گفتند که در زندان مورد ضرب و شتم قرار گرفته اند، از غذا محروم شده و به [...] **ادامه مطلب...**

18- ایران: احتمال اجرای حکم سنگسار برای یک متهم زن در تبریز

چهارشنبه ۳۰ دی ۱۳۸۸
رحیم محمدی صبح دیروز بدون اطلاع اینجانب وکیل و خانواده اش اعدام شد، نگرانی این است که حکم سنگسار در مورد همسر او کبری نیز اجرا شود. **ادامه مطلب...**

19- ترکیه: مهندسان زن با تبعیض در عرصه کاری مبارزه می‌کنند

جمعه ۲۵ دی ۱۳۸۸
کانون زنان ایرانی: مهندسان زن ترکیه‌ای علیه اطلاعیه‌های شرکت‌هایی که در آگهی جذب نیروی خود فقط خواستار مراجعه «مهندسان مرد» یا «مهندسان دارای کارت پایان خدمت نظام وظیفه» می‌شوند کمپینی اعتراضی به راه انداخته‌اند. این مهندسان قصد دارند شرکت‌ها را از انتشار چنان اطلاعیه‌هایی بازدارند. آنها علاوه بر این خواستار ایجاد دبیرخانه پیگیری موارد مربوط به تبعیض جنسیتی در اتحادیه اتاق‌های مهندسی و معماری ترکیه (TMMOB) هستند. **ادامه مطلب...**

20- ایران: تأیید حکم سنگسار دو شهروند

پنجشنبه ۲۴ دی ۱۳۸۸
هرانا: حکم سنگسار دو متهم یک پرونده به اتهام زنا محصنه در دادگاه تجدید نظر استان آذربایجان غربی تأیید شد.
به گزارش واحد زندانیان مجموعه فعالان حقوق بشر در ایران، شعبه ۱۲ دادگاه تجدید نظر استان آذربایجان غربی حکم سنگسار برای دو متهم به زنا محصنه را تأیید کرده است. **ادامه مطلب...**

Call for actions:

ایران: فراخوان برای آزادی فعال حقوق زنان ، مریم بهرمن
زنان و قوانین: روز چهارشنبه ۱۱ می (۲۲ اردیبهشت) نیروهای امنیتی ایران مریم بهرمن از فعالان حقوق زنان و جامعه مدنی در شیراز را دستگیر کردند. بهرمن عضو موسس و دبیرکل انجمن زنان پارس، که در سال ۸۲ تأسیس شده است. او به عنوان عضو این انجمن در بسیاری از حرکت های زنان حضور داشت از جمله کمپین یک میلیون امضا

<http://farsidari-wluml.org/?p=331>

Annex IV: WLUML Iran Focus

Less than one year after the Iran Programme has been started, these are our achievements:

WLUML Farsi Website & Publications:

The Farsi web site launched in March 2011, over 120 news items posted. Volunteers have helped to construct the site as currently WLUML has limited funds, once we have fundraised for the website we look forward to develop it further.

Farsi Journal: the content of the first issue has been gathered, edited and ready to publish.

Crime's without Punishment:

This project is hosted by WLUML, the outputs so far:

- Established Boarding and governing bodies – We are still looking for one or two international lawyers to join the board.
<http://justiceforiran.org/%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87-%D9%85%D8%A7/?lang=en>
- Uploaded 2 call for actions – In addition to calling upon all the victims and families to break their silent, which was foreseen, we made a call for participation of the prisoners who were forced to marry with their interrogators what the facts have not been unveiled, yet.
- Found at least one other donor – Other than WLUML that contributed a seed grant to JFI, we have approached to the UK Foreign Office (in the framework of their development aids) with proposals which they have approved orally. However, receiving the funds for the projects is still in process. Launched a research framework.
- Trained 15 women's movement activists in Europe. We had foreseen the number to be 12. Trained 3 women's movement activists in Iran trained. We had foreseen the number to be 12 – As mentioned above when describing the development of the socio-political context, due to security concerns, we had to change the method of training and some of our volunteers backed out because of increased security threat.
- Fully documented 60 cases of sexual abuse – Fortunately, we are far ahead of our work plan both in number of interviews and in number of completed cases. So far, 33 interviews had been done and through them, we succeeded in completing more than 50 cases. Of course, there are still cases awaiting completion. We continue to administer interviews and we are considering expanding the 1980's thematic report into at least two different reports; one about the systematic rape and sexual abuse and another one about the special cases of rape and the abuses based on gender discrimination.
- Uploaded a bilingual interactive website (in English and Farsi). Recorded 33 voice files from victims/families/witnesses – We had foreseen 30 voice files, though the files have not yet been uploaded due to a decision explained in question 2 below. Recorded 14 video files from victims/families/witnesses so far – We had foreseen 15 by the end of the project. The video files have not been uploaded yet due to a decision explained in question 2 below.
- Published 2 bilingual article (one in Guardian, and one in Huffington Post), both translated by Mardomak. Links are provided below:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shadi-sadr/the-branded_b_901142.html
<http://www.mardomak.org/story/63656>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/nov/09/iran-human-rights-abuse>
[http://www.mardomak.org/story/Dont ignore Irans human rights abuse/](http://www.mardomak.org/story/Dont_ignore_Irans_human_rights_abuse/)

Unforeseen outputs of this project:

- Created a facebook page for Justice For Iran, accessible in this address.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Justice-For-Iran/206090329406413>
- Participate in 5 TV show interviews – 4 with the mainstream media (2 with BBC Persian, 2 with VOA) and one with an Iranian TV station in San Francisco.
- Translated and uploaded to the website one academic paper on sexual torture.
- Translated and uploaded to the website one international document on impunity.
- Handled 2 refugee cases
- Wrote one academic paper in Farsi on the necessity of justice for rehabilitation of Iranian society – It was originally published on JFI's website but was later republished widely on the internet.

Collaboration with the VNC campaign:

Justice For Iran prepared a paper called 'Global Map of Stoning' which identifies countries in which stoning has been implemented justified either by law or by tradition.

Annex V: Women Reclaiming and Redefining Culture

Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures (WRRC) was a three-year programme initiated by Women Living under Muslim Laws and the Institute for Women's Empowerment – funded by the MDG3 Fund of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a grant of 1.5 million Euros.

The *aim* of the programme was to enable women to reclaim and reconstruct cultural resources, including religion and tradition, and to provide women with empowering resources vis-a-vis those who use cultural and religious discourses to disempower women and deny their rights.

Objectives:

- 1) To pioneer, develop and support strategies that enable women's empowerment in the face of disempowering forces that use 'culture' to legitimise women's oppression.
- 2) To produce and disseminate multi-lingual, multi-media products to diverse audiences, promoting women's empowerment as a culturally legitimate, universally desired, and practically feasible goal across all contexts
- 3) To build up global momentum around the Global Campaign *Stop Killing and Stoning Women!*, thereby catalysing changes in policies, laws, and public opinion in support of women's rights over their bodies, mobility, and sexuality, without 'cultural' exceptions
- 4) To develop cross-cultural solidarity between women's rights advocates working in diverse contexts, including Muslim and non-Muslim contexts.

The programme was implemented through 3 thematic working groups, focussing on control over the body, ownership of and access to resources, and violence against women:

- Sexuality Working Group (SWG)
- Working group on Women's Inheritance and Property Rights (WIPR)
- Stop Killing and Stoning Women Campaign (SKSW), which pre-dated the WRRC programme, as a Campaign hosted by WLUMML, and which continues as the 'Violence is not Our Culture' (VNC) Campaign.

In less than 3 years, 46 projects were implemented in close cooperation with partners in 10 countries, and numerous multi-media and multi-lingual products were realised these projects. Furthermore, through VNC, projects were implemented across four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America).

The programme supported the development of effective strategies to contest the various contextual aspects of cultural/religious legitimisation of women's oppression. In addition, two WRRC over-arching projects were undertaken: a database of progressive texts and resources, and a compilation and analysis of the strategies.

An extensive and diverse range of multi-media and multi-lingual products was realised, used, improved, and are available for others to utilise. During the 3-year span of the WRRC programme, the WLUMML website expanded from 600,000 to 1,300,000 hits per month on average. VNC's linked website has expanded enormously from 8000 at the start to over 6.6 million hits per year in 2011.

These resources form the WRRC archive on the WLUMML website.

Local campaigns have been catalysed by VNC's global campaign, and the communications team has linked local activism with the international human rights agenda and platforms. Local women's

groups have enhanced their capacities to protect women's rights. All three thematic working groups, not just SKSW, have achieved convincing results in this area.

Perhaps the very existence of the WRRRC programme, with all its partners and activities, is the most striking and impressive example of challenging the trend of fundamentalisms and of cross cultural solidarity: all three working groups united women working from different backgrounds, with different paradigms and strategic choices (for instance, to work within a religious framework or within a secular frame), making use of each other's experiences, and helping one another to strategize.

Cross-cultural solidarity, in terms of opportunities for project partners and WG members to *compare* and *share* activities and experiences across different contexts, was also developed. In at least one project, women of different religious communities worked together to strengthen each other's ability to claim property rights. Furthermore, through SKSW/VNC solidarity appeals and campaigns, women of different religious/cultural communities supported each other's struggles.

WRRRC has largely managed to realise its aims; this is very admirable considering that 'cultural/religiously legitimised violence against women' is a *very controversial theme* to address, and the network is quite complex, with women working in different time zones and contexts.

It is a testimony to the success of WRRRC that all project partners appreciated not only the material support but also the framework of women reclaiming and redefining cultures. It has stimulated creative and innovative efforts, and boosted the desire to continue the work.

Through a range of interventions, WRRRC achieved the following;

- *Safe spaces were created* to explore and share ideas and experiences around controversial themes (physical and digital spaces)
- Awareness was raised for women (and men, girls and boys)
- (New) strategies were developed, and instruments to influence particular contexts were shared
- Information materials were produced which informed and/or attracted attention
- Discussions were initiated to gain input in the form of new arguments and alternative interpretations
- Media coverage (on old and new media) was organised
- Local experiences were brought to international HR platforms
- The advocacy agenda was influenced, with alliances made with other social movements
- All projects/strategies were systematically documented, reported and analysed, with key lessons edited for publication and dissemination.

In strategising for women's long term empowerment, WRRRC helped to create a counter culture to the forces that deny women's human rights. The programme created a vital space for local women to speak and act in taboo areas, campaign at the international level, and develop materials and strategies to counter disempowering forces that seek to deny women their rights. In the words of Farida Shaheed – UN Independent Expert for Cultural Rights:

'All harmful practices, regardless of provenance and justification, must be eliminated. All human rights are universal, indivisible and inter-related'

Annex VI: Violence is Not Our Culture Campaign

1. Background

In 2007, the Global Campaign to Stop Killing and Stoning Women was launched by a group of individual women's rights activists, journalists, lawyers and academics to end the relentless misuse of religion and culture to justify the killing, maiming and torture of women as punishment for violating the imposed 'norms' of sexual behaviour. The Campaign was catalyzed by members of the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign in Iran, who requested the Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) network to host a global campaign within which the issue of stoning would be raised at the international level. Other groups joined from the outset who had also been working on violence against women (VAW) and culture including those working on stoning in Nigeria, lashing in Indonesia, and so-called 'honour killings' in Pakistan. Since its launch, the Campaign has been hosted by the WLUML network. Due to feedback signaling a desire for a broader platform with which all those engaged in the nexus between culture and women's human rights could relate, along with a need to align with the objectives of the Women Reclaiming and Redefining Cultures: Asserting Rights over Body, Self and Public Space (WRRRC Programme) between 2008 and 2011, it grew into the Violence is Not our Culture (VNC) Campaign by 2011. This name-change captures the diversity of the contexts within which active participants work, and links them with the principles that: (i) discrimination against women is a root cause of VAW and (ii) that no violations of women's rights can be excused by cultural or religious arguments, because (iii) women should be rightful and equal participants in shaping culture.

In 2010-2011, the VNC Campaign was funded through the WRRRC Programme led by WLUML and the Institute for Women's Empowerment (IWE) and funded by the "MDG3 Fund: Investing in Women" of the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The three thematic areas of this programme were Sexuality, Inheritance & Property Rights, and Violence Against Women through the VNC Campaign. The Campaign was also funded by an anonymous donor, administered via the Tides Foundation, which had extended research and operational support since 2009.

Through these two funding streams, resources were provided in 2010-2011 to support a campaign team led by a full-time Campaign Manager and project partners in Asia, Africa and diasporic groups in Europe, pulling together various initiatives and strategies into an overarching and coherent global campaign. The VNC campaign provided seed funding to partners working at community and national levels in various countries, including Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Sudan, which led to a substantial increase of the breadth of issues being taken up by VNC Campaign the umbrella of culturally-justified violence (CVAW).

The VNC Campaign is designed to mobilise international support for actions and projects of partners and allies around the theme of culturally-justified gender-based discrimination and VAW, to facilitate capacity-building of partners and local activists especially around advocacy (including language, technology, networking) and building a knowledge-base (including around religious and civil laws and customs) to serve as a repository of knowledge and advocacy strategies on various themes of women, human rights, gender, religion and culture.

The VNC Campaign's objectives during this period were:

- Exposing and confronting all forms and manifestations of CVAW wherever and whenever they occur
- Rejecting those 'cultural' and 'religious' justifications which condone impunity and minimize the severity of crimes committed against women and girls.

- Supporting the demand for justice on behalf of victims and survivors of CVAW through advocacy and campaigning and building of partnerships with the women’s movements and other sectors of civil societies in support of their causes.
- Raising awareness on gender-based discrimination as the root cause of CVAW and promoting initiatives toward women’s empowerment and gender equality.

The VNC Campaign has employed the following strategies toward these objectives:

- Supporting local initiatives (‘sister campaigns’) in WRRRC Programme focal countries through seed grants for advocacy projects, along with informal mentoring and active network-building
- Strengthening the capacity of partners through training workshops, exposure to international human rights mechanisms, as well as through informal mentoring and networking
- Developing and implementing a communications strategy, which includes online appeals, public statements, and regular circulation of information; translation of material for women human rights defenders (WHRDs); developing online platforms where partners, campaign team members and allies can engage with the issues; developing internal communication systems including linkages between WLUML and the wider Campaign.
- Linking local and global processes through strategic engagement with United Nations and other human rights instruments around the issues of culture, violence, sexuality and women’s rights. This involves bringing partners’ cases and analyses around CVAW to the agenda of the international human rights policy-makers, while simultaneously discussing trends in the international human rights arena related to culture and women’s rights with partners and allies.

2. Outcomes

2.1 Supporting strategies for women’s empowerment

The VNC Campaign proceeds from an understanding that local groups have the expertise and knowledge required to develop context-specific, successful, and flexible strategies for change. Working in a ‘bottom-up’ manner is designed to permeate its work from planning of projects and interventions, to strategizing and creating alliances. Following the path set by WLUML as an international network, VNC campaigning privileges consultation and collaboration with partners or contacts close to the issue before taking any public action.

In 2009-2010, the VNC Campaign Team contributed research to “Strategies of Resistance: Challenging the Cultural Disempowerment of Women,” electronically-published by WLUML and IWE through the WRRRC Programme.⁹ For this publication, the VNC Campaign conducted interviews and desk reviews to collect strategic narratives from ten organizations in the Global South. Some of the strategies identified included the ‘politics of fun’, working within the justice system, community awareness-raising, working within religious frameworks, creating physical safe spaces, using media including radio and theatre, action-research, alliance-building and linking VAW and disabilities through the lens of culture. The strategies collected were loosely collected into three main headings: Using and Diversifying Multi-Media Strategies, Research for Action and Networking for Change, and Building capacities to reclaim cultural rights and public space. Along with engaging with the international human rights system, these strategies are employed by the VNC Campaign at the level of its partners and transnational campaign team.

⁹ <http://www.wluml.org/archive/wrrc/content/strategies-resistance-challenging-cultural-disempowerment-women-global-project->

2.2 Research and networking

At the international level, the VNC Campaign Team and allies have contributed to research, as a contribution to collective knowledge and as tools for advocacy: the production and translation of its three original policy papers¹⁰ and the book *Control and Sexuality: The Revival of Zina Laws in Muslim Contexts*,¹¹ also available as an e-publication. *Control and Sexuality* is an evidence-based study on forms of culturally-justified VAW and legal frameworks in Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, and is already being used in creative ways, including as a tool for working with university students in Indonesia and was praised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion and Belief, who commented that he had used the text with his university students in Germany.

The issues of the VNC Campaign also inform, and are shared through, the academic research of graduate students involved with the VNC Campaign, including the publishing of “The Piety of Public Participation: The Revolutionary Muslim Woman in the Islamic Republic of Iran” the journal *Politics, Religion & Ideology* (2011), and the paper “To Specify or Single Out: Should We Use the Term “Honor Killing,” published in the *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*. Issues and outputs of the VNC Campaign were presented at forum held by the Latin American women’s rights network CLADEM, “Education Beyond Goals,” in Peru in 2010, which was also attended by the UN Special Rapporteur on Education.

Research initiatives by VNC partners supported under the WRRRC Programme include: Salmmah Women’s Resource Centre’s innovative research on sexual harassment in Sudan, ongoing interactions with the Afghan Women’s Network, supporting the creation of the Association of Progressive Muslims Movement in the ASEAN region, and research by Solidaritas Perempuan on issues of CVAW, rural women and sexuality in Indonesia.

Active networking is an ongoing component of the VNC Campaign, with partners, between partners, and in both ad hoc and formal settings. It has included developing an online rapid response system for responding to urgent actions, regular digital communications including the establishment of an online space for VNC partners and allies, and systematic engagement with human rights mechanisms including through a presence at UN arenas from 2008-2011 and via the International Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders.

2.2 Capacity-building

The VNC Campaign organized two regional trainings on ‘Strategic E-Campaigning on CVAW’ in 2010 with expert trainers on progressive communications and women’s issues, from the Women’s Networking and Support Programme of the Association of Progressive Communications (APC-WNSP). These workshops brought together a total of approximately 40 participants from the VNC Campaign’s network in Asia and Africa. For the Africa region, our partner BAOBAB For Women’s Human Rights hosted the training for VNC participants, as well as allies from the broader WRRRC Programme, and our partner Solidaritas Perempuan in Indonesia hosted the training for the Asia region, bringing together VNC campaigners. The trainings addressed conceptual issues of how to

¹⁰ The VNC Policy Briefing Series includes: “[No Justice in Justifications: Violence Against Women in the Name of Culture, Religion and Tradition](#)”, “[Stoning is Not our Culture: A Comparative Analysis of Human Rights and Religious Discourses in Iran and Nigeria](#)”, and “[Criminalizing Sexuality: Zina laws as Violence against Women in Muslim Contexts](#)”, and translations into French, Indonesian, Urdu, Arabic and Farsi have been undertaken. <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/policybriefing>

¹¹ <http://www.wluml.org/node/6869>. Translations of select chapters into Indonesia, Farsi and Urdu have been undertaken and are currently being circulated online.

develop an advocacy campaign and a communications strategy, as well as hands-on training on using various software and online tools to implement these strategies. These trainings led to spin-off workshops held by partners in Senegal and Sudan with their colleagues and youth in the community around using information and communication tools (ICTs) for campaigning, and directly prompted Baidarie and Shirkat Gah in Pakistan to integrate ICT components into their campaigning on VAW.

This partnership with the APC-WNSP also led to the VNC campaign's participation in two trainings in Asia and Africa on 'Online Security' in 2011. In 2011 the VNC also participated in a workshop on 'Internet Rights and Women's Rights' and strengthened its understanding of the intersections of online campaigning and the human rights framework through its participation in the sixth annual Internet Governance Forum.

This partnership also resulted in the e-publication of a resource for activists: *Strategising Online Activism: A Toolkit*¹², a 50-page guide which provides practical advice on planning an online campaign, selecting relevant ICT tools, and factoring in issues of online security. The Toolkit is currently being translated by APC, for wider use and accessibility.

Since its inception, building of capacity has also taken the form of supporting delegates from the Campaign to attend and actively engage in UN spaces, in order to strengthen skills and confidence in networking and advocacy. This continued in 2010-2011, with a delegation of VNC campaign to a series of networking meetings with UN staff and allies in Geneva (2010), participation in a workshop organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2010, and two events at the Human Rights Council in 2011 (see below for further details).

Strengthening skills and building empowerment is also built into the projects of VNC partners, including awareness-building of CVAW and women's rights amongst: journalists in Nigeria and Sudan (BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights and Salmah Women's Resource Center), university students in Pakistan and Indonesia (Shirkat Gah and Solidaritas Perempuan), schoolchildren in Senegal (Grefels), and rural women in Indonesia, Pakistan and Nigeria (Solidaritas Perempuan, Baidarie Sialkot and Baobab).

2.4 Online Activism and strategic use of the Media

Media and communications formed the focus of the majority of the partners' projects and a substantial portion of the projects of the Campaign Team. Outputs ranged from original radio-shows and comic books, to setting up Facebook sites and online petitions. Sustainability and networking has been built into the multi-media projects, including working with journalists and students, in a number of countries. In addition to producing materials that challenge the cultural and religious acceptability of gender-based discrimination and violence, projects have also expanded the online presence of the VNC Campaign and attracted media coverage. See the Annex for further details on multi-media outputs by the VNC Campaign and its partners.

The VNC Campaign continues to rely upon a Communications Team of approximately 4 people to address internal and public communications, as well as coordinating collective projects that bring together outputs and analyses from partners and sister campaigners. This has included ongoing dissemination and translations of *Control and Sexuality* and the three VNC Policy Papers into partner's languages, redesigning the website, creating a private online platform for VNC partners and allies, and creating a multi-media compilation DVD with VNC reports and audio-visual material from partners, which was updated in 2011 with a total of 1500 discs produced and currently being circulated. When the campaign was launched in late 2007 the website received 8528 hits, which escalated to 969,630 hits in 2008. In 2009 it received 1,430,556 hits, and by January 2011 had

¹² <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/files/Strategising%20Online%20Activism.pdf>

received 6,605,832 hits. Between 2008 and 2011, over 29 calls for action and statements were issued through the VNC website, on both specific cases of CVAW and broad trends.

At the global level, the VNC Campaign partnered with Take Back the Tech Campaign (through the APC-WNSP), and worked with VNC partners to mark the occasion of its third year with a series of global actions during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence¹³

This on-going work of the Communications team has laid foundations of a campaign communications strategy that recognizes that online spaces and both new and older forms of media are themselves public spaces, which women may reclaim and redefine in their work on culture, rights, and VAW.

2.5 Engagement with Human Rights

Since its outset, the VNC Campaign has highlighted the engagement with Human Rights as a part of a continuing strategy to assert the universal and indivisible nature of women's rights as human rights and to confront cultural relativist agendas. The rights-centred work of partners in resisting cultural and religious justifications for gender-based violence and reclaiming and reshaping 'culture' to uphold women's rights and social justice are intrinsic parts of this strategy. The Campaign holds that working with a rights-centred approach includes invoking the UN and human rights instruments to demand State and non-state accountability and equality before the law as they are applied at the national, regional and transnational levels, and within the communities in which women live.

The VNC Campaign Team works to link partners' issues and analyses with developments in HR arenas, by calling for state accountability in cases of CVAW, calling for State due diligence to ensure that violations by non-state actors and impunity are addressed, and delivering public statements to feed into the setting of standards, opinions and global agendas. Along with threats to women's universal human rights, there have also been positive developments in the United Nations in terms of increasing recognition of gender-based violence against women as a human rights violation which can occur by state and non-state actors, which renders the human rights system an important arena for linking with others to push for States to exercise their responsibility to eradicate all forms of VAW. The arenas of international human rights are also public spaces that the VNC Campaign encourages women to access, reclaim and redefine.

In 2010-2011, the VNC Campaign's activities in UN arenas to raise the issues, cases and analyses of CVAW have included:

- Organizing a panel event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2010, bringing VNC partners and activists from Afghanistan, Indonesia (including Aceh), Malaysia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan, in a dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteurs on VAW (Rashida Manjoo 2008-present), Torture (Manfred Nowak, 2004-2010), and Extra-Judicial and Summary Executions (Philip Alston, 2004-2010).¹⁴
- At this session of the CSW, the VNC campaign also held a forum to introduce the WRRRC programme and screen two documentary films (on the case of a stoning sentence in Iran produced by colleagues in the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign, and on a whipping sentence in Indonesia, from colleagues in Solidaritas Perempuan).¹⁵
- In 2010 the VNC Campaign shifted its focus to work more actively with the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and UN special mandate

¹³ <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/node/1578>

¹⁴ Report available at <http://www.wluml.org/node/6128> and <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/node/901/>

¹⁵ <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/node/902>

holders. The Campaign became involved in a resolution that had been put forward to the HRC that sought to seek agreement upon ‘universal traditional values.’ The VNC Campaign presented a statement during a workshop organized by the OHCHR, which challenged the notion that any state may invoke ‘traditional values’ to excuse a human rights violation highlighting the role of VNC partners and other WHRDs in challenging those ‘traditional values’ and practices that are antithetical to human rights and which are often used to excuse VAW. The statement also raised concerns about the tendency to essentialize traditional values as inherently harmful to women, and with the notion that human rights law alone can eliminate “harmful traditional practices,” without addressing the economic and political underpinnings of women’s subordination.¹⁶ The Campaign also attended an open session of the annual meeting of the UN Special Procedures mandate-holders, using the opportunity to raise issues of CVAW and cases of VNC partners in a statement.

- At the 16th session of the Human Rights Council (March 2011), the VNC Campaign organised a panel on “Cultures, Traditions and VAW: Human Rights Challenges”¹⁷, organized jointly with AWID, IWRAP-AP and PLD, India¹⁸. This panel included perspectives on CVAW from non-Muslim contexts in India and Latin America, and a presentation from the UN Independent Expert on Cultural Rights (Farida Shaheed, 2009-present).
- The campaign also used the opportunity of this session of the HRC to launch the publication *Control and Sexuality: The revival of zina laws in Muslim contexts* (WLUML/VNC Campaign: 2010).¹⁹ Along with presentations from the authors, Ziba Mir-Hosseini and Vanja Hamzić, and Campaign supporters from the WLUML network and beyond,²⁰ a presentation was given by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Heiner Bielefeldt, 2010-present).
- During this session of the HRC, two oral statements by the VNC were presented on the anniversary of the Vienna Declaration which noted that the relationship between culture and human rights remains highly contested within the UN human rights system when States perpetuate a culture of impunity by legitimizing the harmful values and traditions underpinning instances of VAW. A second statement was delivered on the need to retain the independence of women’s shelters in Afghanistan.²¹
- During the HRC session, the Director of Salmah Women’s Resource Centre, the VNC/WLUML partner in Sudan, had a series of briefings with a number of State delegates to the HRC in preparation for the next universal period review (UPR) of Sudan.
- The issues of CVAW and the work of VNC Campaign continue to be regularly shared with the UN Special Rapporteurs, including the UNSRs on Human Rights Defenders and the SR for Human Rights Defenders in Africa.

3. Recommended strategic directions for the Campaign in the next four (4) years

On 6-8 May 2011, the VNC Campaign brought together 24 partners, campaign teams and allies to review the first three years of the Campaign and to discuss its future. This meeting built upon the evaluation process which had been conducted between February and May 2011, and looked ahead

¹⁶ <http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/node/1342>

¹⁷ Report available at http://violenceisnotourculture.org/HRC_Sessions and <http://www.stop-stoning.org/node/1602>

¹⁸ http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/HRC_Sessions

¹⁹ Report available at http://www.stop-stoning.org/HRC_Sessions and <http://www.stop-stoning.org/node/1618>

²⁰ Khawar Mumtaz (CEO, ShirkatGah, Pakistan), Seval Yildirim (Law professor, Whittier Law School), and Zarizana Abdul Aziz (WLUMML Director and VNC Advisor).

²¹ <http://www.wluml.org/node/7045>
http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/files/Joint%20Statement_22%20March%202011.pdf and
<http://www.violenceisnotourculture.org/index.php?q=node/1605>.

to strategize for the next phase of the Campaign. Five (5) strategic objectives were identified during this Strategic Consultation Meeting.

- For the VNC Campaign to contribute to the critical analyses of “VAW” and “culture” and its nexus through a research on how women in different cultural contexts view ‘violence’ and how violence is learnt and reproduced in a variety of ‘cultural’ contexts and how ‘culture’ of violence could be changed.
- The VNC Campaign will continue to contribute to the evolution of a vision towards a just, rights-based, violence-free culture through mainstreaming of its human rights framework in addressing CVAW at the meso-, national, regional and international levels.
- The visibility and effectiveness of the VNC campaign will be further increased by expanding its alliances with diverse actors in Muslim contexts. By Muslim contexts, the group meant Muslim majority countries and communities and those in diaspora.
- Through new and creative ways of mobilisation, the VNC at different levels of its presence will reach out to, mobilise and build new constituencies especially the youth.
- The VNC Campaign will be a major contributor to a greater coverage and critical analysis of CVAW at mainstream national, regional and international media.

VNC Campaign’s multi-media outputs (2009-2011)

The table below shows the VNC projects between 2009 and 2011 that involved production and dissemination of original, multi-media advocacy materials. The connection between these diverse outputs of is that partners incorporating the framework of the global VNC Campaign while retaining their specificities, finding common ground in expressing that violence and discrimination against women is never acceptable, while retaining their context-specificity.²²

WRRC Year	Production/Dissemination of original materials	Partner / Location
1	The ‘Stop Criminalisation and Inhuman Punishment of Women Campaign’ organised a series of public debates and radio programmes, and produced and disseminated brochures	Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia
1	20 journalists from 6 geographical zones were trained in media advocacy techniques to open up discussion on Stoning and Killing women as a form of punishment. (led to Year 2 media outputs)	BAOBAB for Women’s Human Rights, Nigeria
1	A group of WHRDs and artists collaborated to produce a travelling art exhibition “No Honour in Killing: Making Visible the Buried Truth”, which has been shown around the country and produced an exhibition catalogue.	various individuals affiliated with Women’s Action Forum, Pakistan
1	Producing, translating and disseminating the Campaign’s concept notes, objectives, and statement on the 60 th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	Campaign Team, online and at the 2009 CSW
2	The ‘Stop Criminalisation and Inhuman Punishment of Women Campaign’ created print, audio-visual materials and training materials to use with women and men in rural communities to address the issue of women and fundamentalism fact-sheets and press releases for the media. Also participated in radio talk shows, V Film Festival: International Women Film Festival, and	Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia

²²Further information and outputs can be found at <http://wrrc.wluml.org/archive/wrrc/theme/violence-against-women>

	created booklets, comics, t-shirts (“Why my body?”) and buttons (‘we are equal in front of God, what’s the matter?’, ‘My body is mine, why fight over it?’, and ‘God appreciates differences, why do we miss it?’)	
2	In follow-up to their Year 1 project, held radio call-in shows on issues of CVAW, religion and women’s rights in 4 areas of Nigeria, in English and local languages. Radio jingles and a sticker campaign were also developed and circulated.	BAOBAB for Women’s Human Rights, Nigeria
2	Creation of two comics on sexual violence against girls with disabilities (‘Nafi’, an 11-year old in a wheelchair is abused while begging, and ‘Khadija’ who is discriminated against by her would-be in-laws for being albino), highlighting their agency and reclamation of their rights, as well as cultural and religious factors contributing to their abuse. Is now being translated, reprinted and distributed by Handicap International.	GREFELS, Senegal
2	The production of two research-for-action reports: one on strategies against sexual harassment in Egypt and Morocco, and one based on field investigation on sexual harassment by interviewing students and female tea-sellers. Reports presented to the media.	Salmmah Women’s Resource Centre, Sudan
2	Production of the following VNC materials: original design of a new campaign strap line and logo; hard and soft copies of the 3 original policy briefing papers (stoning in Iran and Nigeria, overview on culturally justified VAW, and zina laws as a legal basis for CVAW); 1000 data DVDs compiling reports, .ppt presentations and videos; bookmarks, streamers, informational leaflets, calling cards; hard and soft copies of the Campaign’s Statement on Beijing + 15. Website redesigned and re-launched to include platforms for campaign partners and a search function.	Campaign Team, online and to partners and allies
2	Local radio broadcasts; sms campaign capturing feedback from the public about new, regressive legislation; production of a comic book about the legislation which would allow for stoning and other punishments; dialogue with community and religious leaders.	Koalisi NGO Ham, Aceh Indonesia
3	Training of school-children on how to use ICTs (online petitions, blogs, social networking tools, etc.), using the techniques learned at the WRRRC Strategic E-Campaigning training to find out about and speak out against FGM. The children wrote out their recommendations around FGM and set up a Google Group for further discussion.	GREFELS, Senegal
3	Two workshops conducted using the techniques learned at the WRRRC Strategic E-Campaigning training, one with journalists and caricaturists, and one with students and civil society allies.	Salmmah Women’s Resource Centre, Sudan
3	3 press conferences; creation of a blog and twitter page; 2 radio talk shows in Bulukumba (site of whipping case); screening of the short documentary <i>Makkunrai Makkuntana</i> with religious scholars and community women; press release on violence to religious minorities; public rally/event <i>GADIS</i> (Anti-Discrimination Women Movement) Weekend on 100 th	Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia (national)

	anniversary of IWD which created pins/buttons, online petition and blogging as well as direct action.	
3	Two radio talk-shows, press releases, a Face Book group, a launch of research findings (“Analysis of the Impact of Religious Values Institutional to Women’s Life”), and a public event.	Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia (Aceh)
3	Online petition to pass pending domestic violence legislation; hard-copy petition in Urdu; broadcasts on local television including circulating information about a women’s helpline telephone number	Baidarie – Sialkot, Pakistan
3	2 radio programmes, development of a facebook page and website, as part of creating a network of Iranian lesbians in Germany/Europe	Equal Despite Difference campaign (Iran/Global)
3	Supported the creation of a documentary film on stoning in Iran and state control, using the case study of Sakineh Ashtiani Mohammadi, circulated online with English subtitles.	Institute for Women’s Empowerment (IWE)-Iran (Iran/Global)
3	Held a film competition with university students, produced 10 films, two of which won the competition; production of ‘violence is not our culture’ materials	Shirkat Gah Women’s Resource Centre (Pakistan)
3	Improving website functionality, creation of an online, open-source private platform for sister campaigners, global team, advisors, etc (forthcoming), ongoing implementation of internal and external communication strategy; translations of policy papers and <i>Control and Sexuality</i> chapters into languages of WRRRC-focal countries and making freely available online, 500 more DVDs with partners’ media outputs from Year 3	Campaign Team, online