

CYBER DIALOGUE
2 MARCH 2005
WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
TRANSCRIPT (tidied not edited)

kubi	Hello everyone, Welcome to the first global cyber dialogue. My name is Kubi Rama and with my colleague Lydia Levin, will be facilitating this discussion. Our panelists for today are Gladys Mutukwa, acting Regional Co-ordinator of WILDAF, Athalia Molokomme, a high court justice from Botswana and Yifatt Susskind, associate director of MADRE. Charlotte Bunch from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership is not feeling too well and might join us later. The theme is women's human rights. Some house rules. We will post a question and allow each of our panelists to make comments. After that there will be discussion, comments and questions from everyone. Let's chat!
lydia-hi	Good morning everyone. I'm with Gender Links and look forward to co-facilitation with Kubi
gladys	Good morning I am gladys and looking forward to this discussion. Hi. I am from zambia and the regional coordinator for WILDAF.
kubi	What have been the main gains for women's human rights over the last ten years.
claire	Still stereotypes convey the ideas that women do not need education, specially the school education and professional/vocational one. we must fight so that girls and women can have access to education. This opens many doors for the girl and the woman herself, but it gives society/ communities means to work and meet the Millenium Development Goals.
yifatt susskind	"Cultural norms" as you say are a threat everywhere (I'm based in New York). Every culture has norms that make women into sex objects. I think when we focus on rights instead of blaming culture, we have more potential for progress.
gladys	I believe the main gains over the last ten years have been the ratification of a number of conventions by many many countries. the main challenge now is to get the governments to really implement the commitments and give resources for this.
claire	women can now speak on their own and for themselves, they can take part in development actions and decision making. I know what we gained is not big, but we have to go on and gain more.
gladys	The other gains are the fact that women's rights is no longer a taboo subject.
yifatt susskind	I think important progress was made at the regional level in Africa (our friends from the region, can say more on this), but this, of course, is "on paper." In MADRE's work with women at the community level, I think the biggest gain is a (slight) shift away from thinking about "needs" and towards reframing them as rights.
oriokot henry	some countries have signed/ratified the treatie just for the sake of signing but what is on the ground is different with what they promised to do.
laure	in my country the problem is still ignorance girls still have problem to take care of themself
yifatt susskind	MADRE works with a women's group in Rwanda that was involved in winning legal recognition of women's right to inherit property -- very significant in post-genocide Rwanda, with so many widows.
gladys	For africa, one major step is also the adoption of the Prottool on Women's rights which covers issues like rights of widows, inheritance etc.
Deepa from India	In India, I must say it is a little different. Women's rights after Beijing has been talked about a lot but it has been mostly hot air. we are yet to ratify a law for Domestic Violence and parliament has been discussion it for 3 years. Same is true for quota for women in government. Truth is -- In Domestic Violence law has been modified to make it easier on the man.
claire	Yes countires sign teaties but do not use them for the benefit of the people, but things are changing/improving.

Nonhlanhla	IF you are a women and educated you are a threat, not only amongst your peers, especially to men.The majotiry of women I now do not have husbands or lifetime partners. Why? South African men I would say they are afraid of a challenge, even your brother (siblings).
yifatt susskind	I think we all agree that its easier to think of regressions in women's rights this decade. Let's face it -- the political climate is hostile to human rights in general and women's rights in particular.
Joe_Black	In our country Uzbekistan there opened many Organizations and began functioning a lot of projects dealing with human rights and especially women rights
gladys	We work in several countries to give women basic awareness on the rights they have and how they can claim them.
Loga	Mauritius has good pieces of legislation - Protection from Domestic Violence and the Sex Discrimination Division Act but implementation is another matter. Women are now being murdered by their partners.
claire	Right, Gladys, the adoption of the protocl is important for us in Africa, but you know how slow our governments are to ratify it. A lot of advocay and lobby work is needed.
Nonhlanhla	You cannot go around education women about their rights in rural South Africa, especially KwaZulu -Natal. I am Zulu of course
oriokot henry	in our country people asked the presdent openly that if they stop women jenital sircutition (wjc) will he give the what to eat
Loga	May be I should also add that a Sex Discrimination under the Human Rights Commission has been set up and I feel there is still more to be done
Deepa from India	I have started writing a legal column on women's rights for a magazine since last year as even educated don't know about legal rights granted by the constitution. Claire makes a good point about lobbying . Considering women's economic power, maybe it is time women form pressure lobbies
Joe_Black	Dear friends can you suggest what is the best way to enlighten the women in villages and small towns who really do not know their rights??
gladys	Yes a number of countries are very slow in ratifying and many of us have to prioritise the advocacy for these. we also need to fight the backlash against our gains.
yifatt susskind	Yes. the Africa example is what I mentioned first -- the signing of the Protocal on women's rights. Very important and the result of hard work by African women's groups, of course.
oriokot henry	other instnce is that in our culture women are ment bring wealth home,their after she becomes the property of the other man,when she is beatten she comes back home she is sent back that we dont have ang thing to refund
Nonhlanhla	It's not that women don't know about their rights. They know them, the problem i, especially in rural SOuth Africa, mummy-in-laws are the most instigators. Not to leave out aunts, sister-in-laws
gladys	The best way to enlighten women in the villages about their rights is to tie this education to the real issues ofsurvival they face--- like issues of water, access to health etc.
francoise	Good afternoon, I am a member of the Cameroon Female Jurists association, we manage since many years law clinics free of charge,but we do not have sufficient funds to help women who have problems in introducing legal procedures or act in all sorts of ways. What sort of legal aid funds do you have in your country ?
claire	Kubi, in Togo there are more women organisations who are fighting for women rights. We can now speak of rights openly. One organisation worked to abolish widow rite in a region. this serves women integrity as haman beings.
Nonhlanhla	By educating our boy-childre about girls right, I think it would be an impetus for us women of the earth to fight this monster of women discrimination and exclusion

Deepa from India	Well, we have a few programs here that are working well in India. One is the NGO funded initiative of Community media Trust -- Rural women who are in agriculture but who are illiterate are trained in video journalism and they make their own documentaries and show them at villages all over the state covering issues important to them
oriokot henry	from uganda sabinyi tribe,baganda
lydia-hi	Yes Nonhlanhla it is a real problem that women can oppress each other - thinking of female genital mutilation
yifatt susskind	I agree with gladys: educating women about rights must start with their daily circumstances and answer the question: what does this discourse have to do with my life? Once women feel they have a stake in this issue -- that it links, for example, to the issue of spending hours a day hauling water for their families and then the water isn't even healthy -- that will make a difference, I think.
Margaret	Joe, we have to educate the women and empower her to claim her God given rights.
laure	according to media, the women emancipation pass through occidentalisation,I want to know what is emancipation? Due to the fact that i am muslim, can intellectual muslim woman who knows her rights and duties and who decide to carry her veil can consider herself like emancipate?
Sabah	I'm from Mauritius...I think Nonhlanhla made a very interesting point: women are very often the reasons of their own downfall isn't it?
gladys	We also have programmes to work with the old traditional women counsellors to move them from teaching women about subservience to teaching them about their rights. It is also important for them to join up with other women for support.
KELAB	(Sorry I did not finish my sentence) no human rights at all because of the cultural laws and that women belong to the kitchen. There is a big gap in terms of training women to know their rights
Nonhlanhla	KELAB, there is an NGO Coalition in the Eastern Cape, I believe that mobilising community organisations would help highlight the the issues.
mothibi	My two cent comment, is that, part of the awareness, and advocacy work done, is done at a macro level, hence, the information, that is supposed to be filtered down at grass root level, ends up in pamphlets and posters. I am not saying those do not work, but, that, other means of communicating to micro level constituencies, need to be identified and used.
Deepa from India	Another is the Naodayam project. Rural, poor women with a high school education have started their own magazine and write about HIV/AIDS, family planning, sexual harassment, etc. and the magazine is distributed in over 100 villages through self Help groups.
yifatt susskind	Laure, do you know the org. Women Living Under Muslim Law? This org. includes devout Muslims and they have a clear understanding that women's rights and Islam are not contradictory -- and that women's rights are not a "western" intervention.
claire	It is difficult to have women rights respected by men and society, that is why girls and women must be educated to know what they want and they can assert their persons, they can make a choice of which kind of life they want to lead. They can make a choice for their persons, for their communities, their countries.
Joe_Black	You are right Gladys but village women in our country are very afraid of their husbands and could not complain
Margaret	Yifatt , It is not a western invention. Jesus gave women their rights for example the woman caught in adultery.
kubi	Do you think the Beijing Platform for Action has helped improve women's human rights?
Deepa from India	Actually in the Community media trust case that I sighted, women belong to the rural ,illiterate, landless class and because they are able to wield a video camera , their husbands and men in the village respect them

yifatt susskind	I agree with Claire about the need to educate women/girls about rights. Also, it's important to educate boys/men. Especially crucial is to offer boys a model of masculinity that is not dependent on oppressing women. What does it mean to be a man and be in partnership with the women in your life/community? How can you express your manhood in a way that rejects violence and discrimination? These questions are important and I think it is in the interests of men's well-being (as well as women's) to engage with these questions.
lauryn	Hi, this lauryn from Cameroon. Good morning everyone. Can the Un translate their tests in the local languages because most of the women are rural women who do not speak neither english nor french. UN texts are only in french and english.
gladys	Yes Kubi, the BPFA has really helped women's rights because it covers many subjects that are of interest so people have been able to see that women's rights are indivisible.
oriokot henry	yes islamic religion also violates womens right you find aman with five women that he can not help cant we do some thing about it
lauryn	Measures taken to curb environmental hazards for rural women in Cameroon.
Joe_Black	Yes yifatt susskind I agree with we should educate first men and boys to make it easier
laure	Kubi in countries which are in the south part of the world i don't think that Beijing help to improve the human right. In my country rural women really ignore what was the goal of beijing
yifatt susskind	I think the bpfa has helped improve women's rights to the extent that women at the community level know about it, understand how it can be used. I think at the national level there have been far too many obstacles, especially a Macro-economic environment that prevents governments from meeting the commitments they made.
Nonhlanhla	Kuybi, It has not, instead there has been these huge animosity for women who express their rights and feelings. For instance, there were cases in South Africa, I will always quote the locations communities, when a women raises a concern she was labeled that she thinks she know much, and in that way you are discriminated against.
Deepa from India	To answer Kubi's second question, not so but it has made it more fashionable to talk and write about it.
kubi	Do women at community level know about the Beijing Platform for Action?
Margaret	Yiffat, To be in partnership is to freely exercise your God given tarlets, whether man or woman.
gladys	In a number of our communities women know the word Beijing and that it stands for their rights. In Zambia we even have anumber of men blamingh Beijing for the fact that woives are assertive.
Nonhlanhla	Kubi, They dont. Why? Women hve a tendency of shying away. They only talk about these issues when they are together, once they get home they are lambs who agree to everything.
Joe_Black	Kubi I do not think women at community level do know about Beijing Platform for Action
yifatt susskind	I have met some women (in Rwanda, Nicaragua, for example) who know about it. these are women who are part of community-based orgnaizations. I think women who are not part of such networks don't have much access to information about Beijing. Certainly in the US (with Bush's hostility towards the international community and human rights) few women know about Beijing.
mothibi	Kubi, good job. This is where my point is at. Lets start concertrating on the micro level and put more of our efforts into that so that, women in rural areas across the world are better equiped to understand all the intricacies about Beijing Platform.
athaliah	It seems I am on the technology after all. How nice to be in my chambers in Botswana, and still be with people all over the world! I think that although a lot remains to be done to realise women's human rights, there have been achievements in Southern Africa. in the past ten years. The recognition of women's rights as human rights - ie that women need not always justify their claims. Women are also more aware of their rights, and programmes to enhance this awareness are in place in many countries. There has also been more institutionalisation of gender issues,

	which also enhances women's human rights
KELAB	I agree with Claire that we should involve men/boys and prevention is better than cure, if this boy grown up seeing his father beating up the mother, then he will do the same when married. Women should start practising what they preach, they should stand up and fight for their rights
gladys	Joe , I think the level of awareness depends on how much advocacy has been done by women's groups. Where they have been active, women in the communities know about Beijing and they are using it.
kubi	Lets chat about how we can address some of these challenges. What innovative projects are happening in your country?
Joe_Black	Nonhlanhla dear not everywhere women rights are recognized in the paper. It depends how is you government reacting to this issue!!
sylvie biem	why do you put a particular accent on women rights whenever these rights are the same as for men?
gladys	Yes in some cases there is no implementation and that is why this meeting is going on--- to see how we can have better implementation. we have a number os cases where the courts have upheld the rights of women. The women have themselves been able to claim and use some rights.
francoise	kubi; we in Cameroon,we still await the law reforming the civil code specially the Family Code.CAFEJ has made proposals concerning the rights of adultery children and patrimonial rights of polygamous unions,access of women to land.
lauryn	Can we globally know what happened since 10 years for women in development concerning access to credit and responsibility positions in administration and private sector?
laure	knowing that education of women is more important because it`s help them to take care of themselves, their children and even their homes, what are the policies that government put in place to help young muslims girls who because of their veil don`t have rightto education?
athaliah	Sorry, I thought I was into the technology but after typing some unfinished words,off they went! I was going to say that the challenge now is to implement, allocate resources, So I hear you Nonhlanhla, but as you can see, I was still getting there. I want to encourage us to look at women's human rights broadly, as an issue that cuts across the other 12 critical areas, ie women's human rights need to be given content, eg, women's rights to education, health, power etc, and then evaluate achievements in those areas, challenges and strategies.
lauryn	Problems of widows even when married to members who are intelec in the family the widowns are always harassed even when dealing with intellectual family members. Is a matter of law?
oriokot henry	we have some development projects at the community level but no one to fund them,when they grow vanilla to improve on their income prices drop by 60 percent
gladys	We put emphasis on wommen's rights because in many instances, the rights have been ignored for women even when thye have them on paper.
Joe_Black	sylvie biem we see a lot of situations when women rights are ignored especially by men
lauryn	Do you have any follow up structure within the UN for women affairs in developing countries?
claire	When we say women need education, it is because they need to rise their level up to what men have the privilege for now. When a woman can assert her person she can have the necessary dialogue and talk which can allow gender awareness so tha boys and men change their wayof doing things and their behaviour.
gladys	Yes alll the UN has offices , UNDP has a section that deals with women's issues on behalf of UNIFEM. But also all UN offices-- UNICEF, UNESCO UNFPA etc have programmes to follow up on BPFA.
oriokot henry	ithink we should adress this directly by involving poor rural women but the town women are after money when they get some thing every thing is changed

lauryn	African women are marginalized in the advent of globalization. How the Un can concile liberalization and their will to promote gender equity in order to give the same opportunities to all?
Deepa from India	Actually in the Community media trust case that I sighted, women belong tro the rural ,illiterate, landless class and because they are able to wield a video camera , their husbands and men in the village respect them
Deepa from India	Video should be thought of as alternative way of education as is radio
Joe_Black	In our country is fuctioning program School Connectivity for Uzbekistan which also gives privilege to girls and women. I can say that recently we began new project called Technology girls which also aims to educate girls to be leaders and to know all their rights
kubi	It is important structures and governments accountable, at the same time what can we do in NGOs and CBOs to contribute to improving women human rights. Good example Joe.
gladys	In the review going on now, it has been decided that we do not go back on the issues agreed on in Beijing. Remember the BPFA has a whole chapter--caklled a critical area of concern, on Human rights of women. the decision is to ensure that these are implemented better now. So it is a strong reaffirmation of what beijing decided.
lauryn	the attitude of african women still upholds the man as her superior do you thing it is easy to change this attitude/
claire	In the basic communities, many women and people do not know much about Bejing. It is necessary to let them know about it. We have to find the means to inform more people about Bejing platform. I call on those who can offer support to help organisations in developing countries to meet the chalenge.
Deepa from India	The women not only ask questions and at times we are confronted. Here is a question one woman asked -- They have developed the infrastructure and have the training for a community radio network. The question from the women in villages were why are FM licenses being given by the govt. to foreign music hannels but not to them
oriokot henry	yes but we are encouraging them to kill
gladys	abortion is just one of the items under reproductive rights and health. the right to have an abortion when the perosn determines it is necessary and the onlu option is actually a right.
yifatt susskind	Laure, I don't think the question is abortion itself, but rather that women have the right to CHOOSE when and whether to have a child. In some places women are denied the right to become mothers (forced sterilization, for example) and other places, women are denied the right to end an unwanted pregnancy. But there is an internationall recognized legal right to abortion as part of overall health services -- agreed to in Cairo conference 1994.
claire	Lauryn, It is not easy to change this attitude. This work of sensitization will last . It must be sustained and people have to work for this issue
francoise	Hi Kubi,the promotion of women in Governance matters is progressing trough appointment to administrative,economical and political responsibilities post
Margaret	Lydia, to use the media in Cameroon is difficult because most of the peo[ple are not connected and do not have time to listen to the media.
Deepa from India	Pretty tricky question Laure, considering the US just put pressure on the UN on the same topic
sylvie biem	do you think that wonen's rights is a social , cultural or a political problem which has to be solve by local government by putting some laws which facilitate their integration in various domains/
birabwa	I think it is a Reproductive right for women to have a choice as to whether to have an abortion or not.
lydia-hi	Yes that is important issue. Perhaps you want to go back to the main chat room and raise the issue

Margaret	those who are even connected a too busy that they miss news.
lauryn	What are the main obstacles to overcome in order to implement women rights in Africa?
mcfcd	greetings this is Ogira from Uganda working with women development firm.
Deepa from India	I think with HIV/AIDS and rape facing women, abortion is a woman's right and calling it illegal is absurd.
francoise	Do you have special judges for family matters? how coexist in your country customary law courts and modern civil courts?
Gabrielle_USA	what is being done to ensure that women's rights policies are being implemented and followed?
Joel	The first conference in Beijing received such good coverage, why is the follow up down played?
Deepa from India	However, in India though abortion is illegal in law, you can have an abortion and no one goes to court about it.
birabwa	The obstacles to be overcome include, attitude of both the women and men, implementation and enforcement of the often good policies and laws
gladys	The main obstacles include patriarchy, limited political commitment by governments, who are dominated by men, little resources given to issues of women's rights and the socialisation that has made both women and men thinking that the rights of men are superior to those of women.
oriokot henry	now days you tell a woman to breast feed she does not want when you force her she say you have violated her right is it true. some live breast feeding when the baby is two month old what can we say about it because its if women are becoming confused
Joe_Black	I can give one more example that in our city Termez there is functioning the small organization called "The Association of business women", which gives a great attention to women rights and women issues. Also they have a "Hot phonenumber" by which women can say about their problems touching upon their rights and ask recommendations.
lauryn	What can you do to encourage women in the World and in Africa to voice their concerns about violence to them by their husbands? Divorce cases, women do not benefit anything whereas men in America are the ones to paid prejudice to their wives if divorced. This is a problem because women can't want to divorce because of their poor conditions and no allocations or allowances are given to divorcees when divorce is pronounced.
Loga	Of course abortion shows that women have rights. Why should men decided whether a woman should have an abortion or not? It is her body for goodness sake. But saying this, she must be responsible and not use abortion as a contraceptive method
mcfcd	what can remove the african syndrom that regards women domestic donkeys?
Margaret	Why is it that people talk of adultery only in terms of women and not men? Does the woman commit adultery alone.
lauryn	I am a christian and abortion is a crime. We can't encourage our sisters to abort unless their life is threatened.
oriokot henry	lauryn: women can voice it up open in form of concern but not like they are fighting men
athaliah	Gladys, I'm glad to hear that the review is not 'going back' on what was agreed at Beijing. I hope that the section on women's human rights can be strengthened and given substantive content by linking them to the other 11 areas. Presently, the section is very much based on legal rights, which can sometimes seem empty, which is what I guess the reference to me and Gladys as looking at it from the legal perspective is implying. But please remember, while they are not self enforcing, legal rights remain important; in their absence, women have nothing to claim. So we need to move from there. I will say something about customary law when others have had a chance, if there is time.
sylvie biem	what can women do in order to know their rights? because many of them are unilliterate so that they are not able to go through the problems they are facing

gladys	The right to education is one of the major and basic human rights. so once we talk about educating women, we are already talking about women's rights.
laurn	The UN legislation has already passed laws about violence to women? If YES, what do you think about violence to Africa women?
laure	Do you think that muslim woman who accept to practice all what her religion prescribes to her has no right?
claire	There are many obstacles to implement women rights in Africa. Here are some: tradition, culture, woman status in society, economy, family, woman own image of herself...
laurn	Is the Un specialized has specialized jurisdictions for children and women?
francoise	What kind of lobbying actions do you have to change men mentalities such as traditional chiefs apart from parliament, senate or traditional assemblies?
Loga	I think we should start by educating parents so that they can pass this on to their daughters. Very often the problem is how boys and girls are brought up so differently.
claire	this target group can have sensitization and information workshops, field visits, visual aids, talks to exchange their views...
laure	we are in country where it is not easy to work with muslim women because they are ignored and minimized because of their veils and dresses which are not conform to what they need to see
laurn	Kubi: Women do not know their rights, especially those at the rural areas. What can we do to overcome that women are their own obstacles to overcome most of their problems, please? Give us some examples from your country or personal experiences with female villagers
Loga	Dear Francoise - One good lobbying action that we did and it worked was to work with Community Leaders. They very often do not realise that they are discriminating women. They believe it is normal to treat women as second class citizens.
Elvira_nam_58	hello kubi
laurn	WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY JUDGES IN IMPLEMENTING WOMEN RIGHTS/
kubi	Does anyone have examples or contacts for people doing gender training for rural women?
laurn	HOW THE DIFFERENT WOMEN CONVENTIONS WERE PUT IN PLACE A DOMESTIC LEVEL BY THE UN?
mefd	what is the best way of regarding sexual rights in terms of husband & wife?
Deepa from India	Laurn and others - Domestic Violence is yet to be passed in India -- they have been humming and hawing about it forever. As for Muslim women in my country who have been at the mercy of the Muslim Personal Law Board, some have formed a Women Muslim Personal Law Board.
Loga	I agree with you Gahsiena but during media literacy workshops with girls I have noticed that mothers need training too so as not to perpetuate all these gender discrimination.
oriokot henry	education is not right but in village what about those who can not afford to take their kids to school dont you think they would take their gov't to court if its their right to go school.it may be right in developed countries but a country like uganda its not
gladys	The Protocol on Women which improves on the African Charter on Human and Peoples rights is a major document that also covers the issue of violence against women in Africa. The SADC Gender Declaration also has a very strong Addendum on Violence against women. other sub regions in Africa also address this issue. Furthermore, the Special declaration on Gender Equality by the Heads of State of Africa also talks about violence as a violation of the rights of women in africa which needs to be eliminated. In fact I think is leading in the area of documents on this . we just need to ensure that they are fully implemented.
gahsiena	yes...the aids legal network, +27 21 447 84 35, fax. +27 21 447 9946, email, sandy@aln.org.za

Loga	Kubi - I have been doing gender and media training for community leaders and as I said it works really well
lauryn	WHAT CAN WOMEN DO TO HAVE SOLIDARITY AMONG THEM? BECAUSE MOST OF THE TIME, WOMEN CHASE WOMEN, WOMEN JEALOUS WOMEN.
laure	i think women have to accept themselves, this means that christians, jews, animists, muslems and others must be together and then i think the can talk about women rights
claire	we need to give good information to rural women. Information which is constructive fo them, which give them examples on what can cahnge their life, information that shows them they are human beings and adults, that make them participate in decision making for them and their communities...
athaliah	Let us be careful not to generalise about africa. We have many similarities but also differences. As i said, in many african countries, laws have been changed to enhance women rights, but need to be implemented. In some, legal literacy programs are common including in rural areasi, but enforcement remains a problem. In SADC, eg in South africa, courts have interpreted the consitution in favour of women. The problem is where there is no constitution, or its provisions are vague on its relation with customary law.
Loga	The problem with all these laws and declarations is implementation and mechanism for support. If women do not get the proper environment for support how will they ever make it
Margaret	Joe, When a husband refuses to have sex with the wife and they still live in the same roof, are they still married? Especially when the husband satisfies himself out of wedlock?
oriokot henry	women dont tell the judges every thing they keep some other things.some times when aman is being panished same woman goes to plead for this person because he is the only who can look for fees ,food etc when he is taken to prison then the home is dead
Uzbekistan	As much as we know there was a konference in Tehran some years ago and they was dicussed the difference of men and women, hopely the women's limit on using intrauterine device. As a result women became unexpectedly pregnet and it causes abortum.
oriokot henry	in our country some of this laws are very old that they can never be applied.
laure	most people condemned muslem women behaviour because they ignore that Islam prescribes them to be reserved when they are among the people it is a sign of respect
gladys	One of the results of the bad socialisation that pitches women against each other is the in fighting that goes on. we therefore need to intensify actions to discuss this and expose it and show womenthat they need to fight for their rights collectively. I believe this has improved a lot given the number of women's organisations all over the world as well as many networks.
lauryn	Oriotkot, you are right this is exactly what women do because their have no access to work or means to live so their prefer to be rather behind their husband even when the husband are worng.
Loga	Very often magistrates are not gender friendly. A little anecdote from a Judge "I had a quarrel with my wife before attending the court and I do realise now that I was unfair to that woman being judged!"
lauryn	THAT'S IT FOR ME TODAY. SEE U ALL TOMORROW. THANKS FOR THE FIRST DAY!!!
athaliah	Thanks Gladys for mentioning the African union and SADC instruments; they are useful lobbying tools, but they need domestication and dissemination. Organisations such as Gender links, and WILDAFcan share these with women in other countries.
claire	Solidarityamong women is important to succeed in the women rights actions.Men support each other . Women must support women . They must know that men will not fight for women rights since they want to keep the power. Women must work for solidarity among them. Men are happy when womencan not agree with each other.
laure	Muslem women have to be respect by everybody , please it is not a favour

birabwa	Women need to be helped to raise their self esteem, be helped to realise that it is them and not anyone else who have to bring about change in their lives and those of their offsprings. But in most cases there is a tendency to expect that the government,religious structures and cultural structures are the ones to bring about the change. It is the women who have to change their attitudes first, once they have self conviction then they can advocate to change the other structures that hamper their progress and development.
Loga	Although I agree with you Claire, I believe it is very important to get men as partners. We have lots of catching up to do as we started this fight a bit late. If we do not change their mentality it will take even longer
francoise	We in Cameroon at CAFEJ ,had traning program for para-jurist(cmmunity leaders ,social workers ,teachers,local council members) who have an important role of counsel in legal and civic matters.We have mobile law clinics and law traning in rural areas and women associations.But we have a serious lack of means:transport, documents,commodities,perdiems for consultants...etc
oriokot henry	african union in uganda is by name becuse we have nener seen any thing being done by it and it seems it does not have much lobing powers like the UN
mcfid	Iam achristian and amuslims,always fine it aproblem to intergrate with christians how can this rights help in intergration?
gladys	Because men have been socialised to think they have superior rights, it is very important taht we do not leave them out of the sensitisation. In fact i think they need alot more sensitisation for them to know that respecting women's rights does not take away their own rights. that is why i agree that we should target boys from a very early age and then we need strict laws to call to book the men that refuse to follow the right path.
Loga	Dear Francoise, during the 16 days activism campaign gender training to magistrates was raised and it stopped there
claire	We must convince men that they have benefit in the fact that women rights are respected. women must have supporters among men to help convince other men
yifaat susskind	Birabwa, it is not my experience that women are as passive as you describe. I think many women are very strong and active in defending their rights within the very limited circumstances. A big barrier to women standing up for their rights isolation. I have seen that when women can join together, for exmapple, through community-based women's groups, they "suddenly" feel more powerful.
oriokot henry	if you are amoslim and you go to american embassy foer avisa you are not given is this not violation of rights
Deepa from India	Laure and others - Domestic Violence Law is yet to be passed in India -- they have been humming and hawing about it forever. As for Muslim women in my country who have been at the mercy of the Muslim Personal Law Board, some have formed a Women Muslim Personal Law Board. n and others - Domestic Violence is yet to be passed in India -- they have been humming and hawing about it forever. As for Muslim women in my country who have been at the mercy of the Muslim Personal Law Board, some have formed a Women Muslim Personal Law Board.
gladys	In Zambia too we have ha number of gender programmes for traditional courts and the judiciary in general. the traditional courts in zambia apply customary laws and the challemnge is to make the customary laws in line with human rights provisions.
Margaret	In Cameroon for example, we educate the women against widowhood rights but the fear the unknown and continue to accept things imposed on them.
Uzbekistan	In muslim countries the place of man is higher than woman. I mean the right of woman. And it causes difficulties. Women think if they complain or wants to be the head of the family it is a great sin. So a agree with Deepa
Loga	Deepa - In Mauritius we have Domestic violence law, Sex Discrimination Law, Child

	Protection Law, Constitution has been amended long time ago so that woman can act as jurors but this does not mean that gender violence is on the decrease. It is not only increasing but women being beaten up to death by their partners
birabwa	We need to have more women in positions of power, more women who can influence the national, regional and international policy frameworks, funding streams in order to support the critical areas that impact on rights such as education, employment
laure	i am from Cameroon and my email is salamah_adeline@yahoo.fr
oriokot henry	if we are to promote women's rights then they should first hamble them self and they should move slow but not the way they are moving some nolonger respect their men she cooks to day tomorrow aman in africa it will not work
Nyonang	Women's right involves all women in general! The Afgan women, the Iraqian women, Palestinian women, etc who are victims of sex abuse, corporal violence, torture, etc just to name a few. What assistance or strategies is the UN putting in place to stop this terrible action? What is the UN doing for these women to get their full rights as citizens?
gladys	It is true that sometimes the backlash to good laws is some e become even more violent, but this does not mean the law is bad and when it is enforced they get used.
yifaat susskind	I think the experience of countries like Colombia and a few others in Latin America show that a fairly progressive constitution/legislation does not gaurentee women's rights or prosecution for domestic violence. As Gladys said, the legal aspect is critical, but that is just one level. Fighting violence against women has to include working at community level at the same time as from teh "top down."
Deepa from India	Loga , we have women judges, politicians and lawyers but the Domestic Violence Bill is yet to be passed in Indian Parliament. Right now a woman can file it under the cruelty provision of the Indian Criminal Law.
oriokot henry	in uganda they talked about passing domestic bill but most men said they were nolonger going to have women stay with them what is this thing behind women that men do not like
charlotte Bunch	Have you discussed the violence that women experience because they are defending women's human rights? I think it is part of the increase in violence that we must look at. charlotte
gladys	As Birabwa says, we need a critical mass of women in decision making positions, especially parliaments so that good laws can be passed.
Uzbekistan	as a Muslim rule women consider sacred, bit in practice it is violated. Important thig is to teach people to be respect women.
Loga	Charlotte I was on the point of leaving when I saw your comments. How right you are. Men cannot accept that women are asking for their rights and this is part of the problem. They feel diminished.
oriokot henry	violence is increasing in africa because women have mixed rights and privilage if we can help educate them every thing will be ok
athaliah	I must log off now, and go home to attend to homework (mine and the kids)! Was good to chat. Good luck with the review. athaliah, Botswana.
Deepa from India	Nyongang , it is a very good point. When it comes to conflict areas in Asia and Africa, women's rights are not talked about especially when they comprise over 50% of the total population. There is no war crimes tribunal or riot tribunal fro women's cases. You'll hear UN talk about human right violations in general
yifaat susskind	Nyonang, I'm glad you mentioned women in the Middle East. I think their situation shows that, unfortunately, concern for women's rights is not just undermined within the family, but also within the international arena. In the middle east, rights seem to end where US interests begin. Iraqi women, for example, are experiencing alot of new human rights violations under US occupation and the US has disregarded their rights. When challenged, US authorities have basically said that the security issue is more important.

charlotte Bunch	yes there is now a campaign on women's human rights defenders that is trying to bring this issue more into the public so if others would like to link to that campaign - they can go onto www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org . Just wanted to bring it into the chat.
Margaret	Uzbekistan, Women have never wanted to be the heads of the family but wish to have dialogue with the husband and exercise her tarlets given by God. Reading Numbers 26 and 27, we see what the daughters of Zelopehad did, and their rights were given them.
Deepa from India	Pardon me Yifaat but Afghanistan and Iran are not in the Middle East or West Asia.
laure	in the north of my country, muslem woman are well respect. Generally the are not a domestic either in their houses or other houses, the husband use to take a domestic who is taking care of the house
oriokot henry	how can defending women work in acountry like uganda
gladys	Charlotte, i mentioned a bit about the backlash when there are laws in some cases. But it is very true that defenders of women's rights are prime targets for violence andd all sorts of harrassment. In Zambia for a example, those of us who work for women's rights were targeted for arrests. fortunately his made the others work even harder.
birabwa	Colleagues, I think it is still our right to look after our families. So we meet tomorrow, thanks for the lively dscussion
Deepa from India	And I would like to cite the Zaheera case in the Gujarat riots in India. the NGO which was discredited for trying to help.
charlotte Bunch	Actually in Uganda, there was a recent case of attacks on women who tried to bring the Vagina Monologues to town and now there is an attempt to get human rights organizations to see this as a free speech issue. Part of the problmem is that women's right to do things is not seen as real human rights - even in free speech and especially if it touches on sexuality
gladys	There are no quick fix answers and we know that we have to go on and on in ordre for rights to be protected. having instruments and laws is a threshold that must be accompanied by actions in all areas. Human rights are indivisible and inalienable. WE dont get tha as gifts from governments at all. The fight has to go on.
kubi	Thank you Gladys, Charlotte, Yifat and Athaliah for being great panelists. Thank you everyone for joining us. Please say which country you from before logging of. Don't forget to vote on the poll question. See you tomorrow, same time, same place. The theme for tomorrow is the Economy and sustainable development.
charlotte Bunch	gladys you are certainly right. does anyone know if women not in ny for csw are able to use the fact that Beijing is being reviewed here to get any attention this week to women's human rights issues?
Uzbekistan	Dear my cyber friends, I enjoyed todays chat. It is very interesting to share ideas very up to date topic. Meet you tomorrow. Thank you for all.
Margaret	I am from Cameroon, a pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.
gladys	The discussion yesterday shows that there is very little awareness. This is despite the fact that there was a campagin to cover beijing in all countries. I can only trust that the observance of international women's day will draw tention to the review and make people want to know what startegies for the coming period.
charlotte Bunch	If anyone wants to connect to some strategies around the world for the global week of action, go to www.BeijingandBeyond.org Sorry if I missed much of discussion as I am sick, but good to hear from people.I will try to get other staff from Center for Women's Global Leadership to join on other days. thanks to cyberdialogues for this
gladys	Thanks a lot. I enjoyed this chat. this is Gladys, a lawyer and gender activist from Zambiaand WILDAF.
Nyonang	I am from Cameroon and my email address is zainabsoummayyah@yahoo.com

Sally_Jean	hi everyone, Sally here from Women'sNet in Johannesburg, South Africa
Sayyora	Hi everybody, I am from Uzbekistan, Tashkent
Bea	my greatest worry, is for the woman to have greater power, that will enable her to eliminate all the obstacles that disturb the woman from fully taking part in all domain of the public and private life.
David	Hello Laura, Muslim women should be respected just like all other women in world. Unfortunately, I feel some laws, customs and practice in some countries are dicriminative.
su	hi am su ,from yaounde cameroon hi david, am in support to your respond that all women should be respected, this including the moslem woman. but since some cultures and laws and religious beliefs carries a lot of cultural values, we just need to accept them the way they are.