



# FEMNET's Monthly E-Bulletin

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Representatives from Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Central Africa who participated in the Pre-CSW60 Africa Regional Strategy Meeting and ICTs Training on 10th-12th February 2016, Nairobi, Kenya Photo Credit: [FEMNET](#)



From left-right: FEMNET's Executive Director, Dinah Musindarwezo, Saida Ali and Omoro C. Osendo during FEMNET's *Pre-CSW60 Africa Regional Strategy Meeting & ICTs Training* held from 10th-12th February 2016.

[Click to view more photos](#)

## 01. Your Voice

### **Policy Recommendations from NGO CSW/Africa to the 60th Commission on the Status of Women**

In readiness for deliberate and strategic contribution and participation at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for the Status of Women (#CSW60), FEMNET, as a member of the NGO CSW/Africa<sup>1</sup>, spearheaded the organization of a three day **Pre-CSW60 Africa Regional Strategy Meeting and ICTs Training** from 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2016. CSW60 will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York from 14-24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 under the priority theme **“Women’s Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development”**. It will be an opportune moment for African women to engage with other key actors on the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda, especially as provided for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, the resulting **common position and roadmap** from the 3-days meeting will be useful in engaging with African governments prior, during and after the CSW60 and highlights recommendations for policy actions in the following areas:-

- ✎ *Adequate, accessible and sustainable financing for gender equality to implement SDG 5 and other gender related targets in other goals.*
- ✎ *Address existing gaps between laws and practice to accelerate the implementation of progressive laws at national, regional and global levels to prevent and eliminate VAW.*
- ✎ *Strengthen evidence on gender equality to inform policies and actions aimed at achieving gender equality*
- ✎ *Guarantee the realization of women’s full and active enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms including their sexual and reproductive health rights without discrimination.*
- ✎ *Implementation of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) without compromising international human rights principles and national efforts to advance gender equality and women empowerment.*
- ✎ *Shrinking CSO space*
- ✎ *Peace and Security*
- ✎ *Unpaid Care Work*
- ✎ *Meaningful, full and effective participation in social, economic and political development*
- ✎ *Eradication of harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM/C,*

Follow twitter conversations and updates on [@FEMNETProg](#); [#CSW60](#); [#CSW60Africa](#); [#Agenda2030](#)

## 02. Regional Briefs

### **A New Push to Legalise Early Abortions in Sierra Leone**

It is a familiar story. Women’s rights campaigners marshal scientific evidence and maternal health data. International declarations and regional treaties are invoked. Civil society is mobilised; a draft bill is tabled. Then comes the backlash. In December, Sierra Leone’s parliament voted unanimously in favour of legislation that would legalise abortion at up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. Championed by President Ernest Bai Koroma’s wife, Sia Nyama Koroma, and strongly supported by Mr Koroma himself. Women’s rights campaigners hailed it as a landmark moment in the country’s history and a model for the region. But on January 6th 2016 Mr Koroma did something unexpected: he refused to give the bill his assent. [Read more](#)

### **Maasai Women are the New Solar Warriors of Africa**

Maasai often have to walk many kilometers just to charge their phones. But a new project spearheaded by [Green Energy Africa](#) has brought solar energy to 2,000 homes in Naiputa’s county alone, and put new power into the hands of women who sell affordable solar installations. Green Energy Africa promotes

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<sup>1</sup> Since March 2013 FEMNET and FAS- Femmes Africa Solidarite have been Co-chairs of the executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women for the African Region (NGO CSW/Africa). Others members of the committee include: Akina Mama Wa Africa (AMWA), AAWORD/AFARD, Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the advancement of Women EASSI, Servitas, and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF).

inclusive participation of women and youth in development through solar energy while bringing much needed energy to people living in Kenya's Kajiado and Makueni counties. [Read more](#)

### **The Zimbabwe Gender Commission Act is Now Law**

Zimbabwe Gender Commission Act (No. 7 of 2015) came into force on 12th February, the day it was gazetted. The act aims to provide for the establishment of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission to perform specified functions, including the investigation of and making of recommendations on the removal of barriers to the attainment of full gender equality; and to provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing. [Click here](#) to read the act.

### **Advancing Efforts to Make the End of AIDS a Reality in Ghana**

As Ghana starts its term as the newly elected Vice-Chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) for 2016, the President, John Dramani Mahama, underlined how increased advocacy, partnership and investment in the AIDS response will bring results that go beyond health. Such efforts will also improve broader gender, rights and development outcomes across the sustainable development agenda. [Read more](#)

### **South Sudan: The Deadly Consequences of Child Marriage**

Even before the start of the civil war in December 2013, UNICEF reported that 52 percent of all girls were married under the age of 18. Now, after two years of persistent fighting and violent attacks, the situation is getting worse, according to the organisation. *"One of the trends that we have seen in the past two years is an increasing number of girls forced into early marriage,"* said Ettie Higgins, UNICEF's deputy representative for South Sudan. [Read more](#)

### **Eight years on, Kenya Still Failing Women Raped in Election Violence**

Women said they were penetrated with guns, sticks, bottles and other objects. Many were raped in the presence of family members, including children. Some men and boys were also raped or forcibly circumcised or castrated, said the report, published on Monday. The attackers included members of Kenya's security forces as well as civilians and militia groups. [Read more](#)

### **Chad Close Down Protest over Girl's Gang-rape**

Protesters said the girl, named as Zouhouira, was kidnapped and gang-raped by five young men from the families of senior officers. Pupils from Zouhouira's high school and other protesters gathered outside her home and marched to the court to demand compensation for the girl. Singing the national anthem, they marched holding banners that read *"Justice for Zouhouira"* and *"We are all Zouhouira, our dignity is being denied"*. [Read more](#)

### **Why South African Mayor offers Virgin Scholarships**

Thubelihle Dlodlo is nervous about leaving home in Emcitsheni village in rural KwaZulu-Natal. The 18-year-old has won a prized scholarship, but there is a catch: she only qualifies for the funding if she keeps her virginity. *"Remaining a virgin is my only chance to get an education because my parents can't afford to take me to school,"* she says. To continue receiving her funding, Ms Dlodlo has to undergo regular virginity tests but she says she does not mind. *"Virginity testing is part of my culture, it is not an invasion of my privacy and I feel proud after I'm confirmed to be pure."* [Read more](#)

### **Kenya Signs Global Tax Deal to Crackdown on Multinationals**

Kenya has signed a global tax deal that will help to crackdown on multinationals keen on evading taxes and curtail the use of tax havens. Kenya's Ambassador to France Salma Ahmed signed the Convention in the presence of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Deputy Secretary General, Douglas Frantz committing to exchange of information that would help governments to collect revenue domestically. Kenya becomes the 12th African country to sign the Convention and the 94th jurisdiction to join it. [Read More](#)

### **African Union to send monitors to Burundi**

The African Union (AU) will send 200 human rights and military monitors to Burundi, South Africa's president said, after a trip to the country that is facing its worst crisis since a civil war ended a decade ago. "The government of Burundi has committed to the following: the government will continue the steps it has begun to open up space for free political activity by the people of Burundi and ensure the freedom of the media. The AU will deploy 100 human rights observers and 100 military monitors to Burundi to monitor the situation," Zuma said. [Read More`](#)

**General elections were held in Uganda on 18 February 2016 to elect the President, Parliament and local councils.** Click these links for some updates:

- [As it happened: Museveni wins 2016 election](#)
- [Ugandans cast their votes in 2016 general elections – in pictures](#)
- [Citing ‘Severe Irregularities,’ Ugandan Women Activists Demand Declaration of Results Forms from Electoral Commission](#)
- [Uganda Elections 2016 – Three Days of Grand Corruption](#)
- [Church queries President Museveni’s victory](#)



## **03. International Briefs**

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### **The Syria Peace Talks would have a Better Chance with One Key Addition: Women**

After nearly six years of conflict and three cycles of men posturing for peace across Vienna, Paris and Geneva, a disastrous pattern emerges: women are the first affected by war and the last included at crafting peace. This betrays logic – and reveals a profound failure to learn lessons from past conflicts, from the [Balkans to Rwanda to Afghanistan](#), from Colombia to Liberia to Northern Ireland: when [women are included](#) in the peace process, it’s more successful. [Read more](#)

### **El Niño is Causing Global Food Crisis, UN Warns**

Severe droughts and floods triggered by one of the strongest El Niño weather events ever recorded have left nearly 100 million people in southern Africa, Asia and Latin America facing food and water shortages and vulnerable to diseases including Zika, UN bodies, international aid agencies and governments have said. New figures from the UN’s World Food Programme say 40 million people in rural areas and 9 million in urban centres who live in the drought-affected areas such as Southern Africa, Guatemala and Honduras will need food assistance in the next year. [Read more](#)

### **Will a Woman Finally Head the United Nations?**

On 31 December 2016, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s term ends, and many people think it’s high time a woman took on the role. “To have a female UN leader would be a historic change,” Gillian Sorensen, the UN’s former assistant secretary-general, [told Elle magazine](#). “It would send an important message to the world, and it would embody the statement in the UN charter that refers to the deep commitment to the equality of women and men.” [Read more](#)

### **Frustrated Female Senators say Clinton is Victim of Sexism**

Women serving in the Senate say Hillary Clinton is being subjected to an unfair, sexist double standard on the campaign trail. “Many of we women feel that there’s a double standard. What’s being said about Hillary is what women have heard for centuries. You’re too loud, you’re too aggressive, and you’re too pushy. Why do you want the vote?” Senate Democratic women have raised their concerns about the public treatment of Clinton in private conversations with their colleagues, with lawmakers keeping close watch on her primary battle with Sen. Bernie Sanders. [Read more](#)

### **Discriminating Against Women Keeps Countries Poorer**

In 100 countries around the world, women are barred from doing certain work solely because they are women. More than 150 countries have at least one law that is discriminatory towards women. And only 18 countries are free of any law disadvantaging women. This is just the tip of the iceberg of legal barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. New World Bank Group research in the [Women, Business and the Law](#) 2016 report shows that in 32 countries women cannot apply for passports in the same way as men and in 18 countries they cannot get a job if their husbands feel it is not in the family's interest. In 59 countries, there are no laws against sexual harassment at work. [Read more](#)

### **Female Genital Cutting Common in Indonesia**

Female genital mutilation (FGM), an ancient tradition of cutting, scraping, piercing or nicking of genitals of young girls, was believed to be practised predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. But a recent [report](#) by the United National Children's Fund revealed that it is also common in Indonesia. Around 60 million women, or half of the women in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim majority, are estimated to have undergone FGM. [Read more](#)

### **Post-conflict in Colombia Uninvited: Women in Havana**

There are some factors that place the negotiating process of Havana as a model in relation to the participation of women in the peace talks and the opening of areas in which women can have an impact when planning post-conflict and peace construction. These factors are the actions performed by women to increase their influence in the peace talks; the presence of actors who can influence the decision making in the negotiations and who take on the role of women allies; and finally the formal mechanisms set to guarantee the participation of civil society. [Read more](#)

## **04. Vacancies**

### **The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) Associate Research Scientist**

**Deadline: Applications will be considered until the position is filled**

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is an African-led and Africa based international research institute engaged in interdisciplinary, evidence-based policy research. APHRC seeks to recruit an Associate Research Scientist to work in its Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health (PDRH) Program. Strong M&E skills are mandatory for this role. [Read more and apply](#)

## **05. Call for Action**

### **Submit Your Activity!**

**Deadline: 25 April 2016 23.59 GMT**

The search for Momentum for Change's 2016 Lighthouse Activities is on! Applications are being accepted from 19 February to 25 April 2016. Spearheaded by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Momentum for Change shines a light on the most innovative, scalable and replicable examples of what people around the world are doing to tackle climate change. [Watch the video](#). If you're leading a results-driven project that is successfully addressing climate change, we want to hear from you! [Read more](#)

### **Call for Registration: Women Deliver's 4th Global Conference 2016 in Denmark**

**Deadline: April 30, 2016**

Women Deliver's 4th Global Conference will be the largest gathering on girls' and women's health and rights in the last decade and one of the first major global conferences following the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus of the conference will be on how to implement the SDGs so they matter most for girls and women, with a specific focus on health – in particular maternal, sexual, and

reproductive health and rights – and on gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment. For more information [click here](#)

### Call for Participants: One Young World Environment Summit 2016 in USA

**Deadline: April 30, 2016**

One Young World is excited to announce a new series of in-depth Summits, each focusing on individual themes ranging from the environment to sustainable finance. Kicking off this series is the One Young World Environment Summit to take place on 19 – 21 May 2016 at the University of Arizona Biosphere 2. The Summit will feature speeches, breakout sessions and workshops inside Biosphere 2 – the world’s largest earth science laboratory. There will be a range of activities throughout the summit including a workshop on water scarcity that will occur in the desert area, whilst another breakout session focusing on deforestation will take place in the rainforest zone. For more information [click here](#)

## 06. Calendar of Events

### Launch of the SDGs Kenya Forum

**4th March 2016, Nairobi, Kenya**

FEMNET is collaborating with over 20 CSOs in Kenya, under the SDGs Kenya Forum to host a national dialogue between CSOs and key government officials so as to strengthen collaboration around the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other commitments. Engage on twitter [#SDGsKenya](#), [#LeaveNoOneBehind](#), [#2030Agenda](#), [#TheAfricaWeWant](#)

[Read More](#) and [@SDGsKenyaForum](#)



### United Nations Statistical Commission 47th Session (2016)

**March 8-11, 2016, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

The United Nations Statistics Division is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. Compiling and disseminating global statistical information, developing standards and norms for statistical activities, and supporting countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. The Division facilitates the coordination of international statistical activities and supports the functioning of the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex entity of the global statistical system. For more information about the 47<sup>th</sup> Session [Click here](#)

### 60th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW60)

**March 14-24, 2016, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

The [sixtieth session of the Commission](#) will take place from 14 to 24 March 2016. The Commission will address as its **priority theme:**

***'Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development'***. In addition, it will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session (2013) on ***'The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'***. The Commission will also discuss its multi-year programme of work. Stakeholders will organize many [side events](#) to draw attention to critical aspects of the work on gender equality. [Read more](#)



As with previous years, FEMNET will be represented by staff, members and partners and will as always endeavour to keep you posted on the happenings. You can follow [@FEMNETProg](#) on twitter hashtags ; [#CSW60](#); [#CSW60Africa](#); [#Agenda2030](#). We have created a dedicated listserve (CSW60Africa) for regular updating each other on CSW60. Should you wish to be included, send your email to [communication@femnet.or.ke](mailto:communication@femnet.or.ke).

## 07. Awards

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### **Call for nominations: the International Children's Peace Prize**

**Submission Deadline: March 14th, 2016.**

The International Children's Peace Prize is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously for children's rights. Each year's winner has, in his or her own way, demonstrated tremendous commitment to combating problems that millions of children face. The winner will receive the statuette 'Nkosi, which shows how a child sets the world in motion, a study grant, and a worldwide platform to promote his or her ideals to the benefit of children's rights. Furthermore, KidsRights will invest a project fund of €100,000 in projects that are closely connected to the winner's area of work, in the country of the winner. [Read more](#)

### **Call for Nominations: UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development**

**Submission Deadline: 30 April 2016**

The UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development honours outstanding projects by individuals, institutions and organizations related to ESD. The prize, which is funded by the Government of Japan, consists of three annual awards of USD 50,000 for each recipient. It was awarded for the first time by the Director-General of UNESCO in a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 5 November 2015. The Prize and award winners recognize the role of education in connecting the social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. [Read more](#)

## 08. Fellowships/ Scholarship Opportunities

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### **Call for Applications: 2016 JAUW INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**Deadline: March 31, 2016**

The Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) is accepting fellowship applications from women students/researchers to study or conduct research at any of the host institutions in Japan. The 2016 JAUW International Fellowship Program offers core funding to pursue the ongoing study/research. [Read more and apply here](#)

### **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for Developing Commonwealth Countries**

**Deadline: April 1, 2016**

UK Department for International Development (DFID) is inviting applicants to participate in Commonwealth Shared Scholarships for Master's and PhD study in the UK with the aim to contribute to the UK's international development aims and wider overseas interests, supporting excellence in UK higher education, and sustaining the principles of the Commonwealth. The purpose of Commonwealth Shared Scholarships is to contribute to development needs of Commonwealth countries by providing training for skilled and qualified professionals and academics that would not otherwise have been able to study in the UK. For more information [read here](#)

### **New Zealand Government Scholarships for Developing Countries, 2016-2017**

**Deadline: April 15, 2016**

New Zealand Government is offering scholarships for students starting full-time postgraduate degree programmes in 2016. Scholarships are available for national of African Commonwealth countries, Africa – non-Commonwealth countries, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean Commonwealth countries and Caribbean non-Commonwealth countries. For more information [read here](#)

## 09. Call for Papers/Submissions/Abstracts

**Call for Abstracts: FEMRITE@20- Rethinking African Literature**

**Submission Deadline: 30th March 2016**

**Conference Dates: 28th-30th July 2016**

FEMRITE – Uganda Women Writers Association invites abstracts for 15 – 20 minute presentations during the international conference to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The conference will be held at the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda from 28th-30th July 2016. The conference is one of FEMRITE’s core activities to celebrate her achievements, friendships, partnerships and challenges over the last 20 years. [Read more here](#)

## 10. E-RESOURCES

Click on these **online resources** that make a good read

- 🔗 [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Handbook](#)
- 🔗 [Misogyny on twitter](#)
- 🔗 [Building Effective Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategies](#)
- 🔗 [BAD BLOOD: Perceptions of children born of conflict-related sexual violence and women and girls associated with Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria](#)
- 🔗 [Radio Drama Series on Women, Peace and Security](#)

### **We would love to hear from you!**

Please send your contributions, comments and suggestions to:

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