Spring 2015 Courses on Gender

**Gender and Conflict**  
*Course Info*: IAFF 3180.11  
*Instructor*: Aisling Swaine | aislingswaine@gwu.edu  
Wednesday 3:30-6:00 pm

**Migration, Gender, and International Development**  
*Course Info*: IAFF 3183.11  
*Instructor*: Natacha Stevanovic-Fenn  
natachastev@gmail.com  
Tuesday 7:10-9:40 pm

**Women, War, and Peace**  
*Course Info*: IAFF 6118.10  
*Instructor*: Aisling Swaine | aislingswaine@gwu.edu  
Tuesday 7:10-9:00 pm

**Violence, Gender, and Humanitarian Assistance**  
*Course Info*: IAFF 6138.11  
*Instructor*: Beth Vann | bethvann@gwu.edu  
Tuesday 7:10-9:00 pm

**Gender, Tourism, and Development**  
*Course Info*: IAFF 6138.14  
*Instructor*: Jane Henrici | henrici@email.gwu.edu  
Thursday 5:10-7:00 pm

**Gender Advisor: Roles and Skills**  
*Course Info*: 1 credit, professional skills course (not yet listed)  
*Instructor*: TBD  
*Dates*: TBD

---

**DC Event Recap:**  
**Designing Global Measures for Women's Economic Empowerment**  
*By student contributor Laura Kilbury*

Many benefits are expected to ensue from programs for women. Professor Linda Scott from the University of Oxford addressed the challenges she has observed in trying to design programs and measurements for women's empowerment at the “Designing Global Measures for Women's Economic Empowerment” hosted by The World Bank Group Gender Team and SME Finance Forum. Professor Scott has been involved in
Global Gender Events

Live video teleconference on US-Pakistan Cross-Cultural Understanding through a University Partnership

*When:* Wednesday, November 19, 8:00-9:00 am  
*Who:* Global Gender Program  
*Where:* Lindner Commons

This is the third video teleconference between the Elliott School's Global Gender Program and the Gender and Development Studies Department of Lahore College for Women University in Lahore, Pakistan. The partnership is supported by a three-year award from the U.S. State Department.

Coffee, tea, muffins will be provided

Events

2014 Survey of the Afghan People

*When:* Tuesday, November 18, 9:30-11:30 am  
*Who:* Asia Foundation  
*Where:* 2301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC  
*Institute of Peace*

Speakers: David Arnold, Najla Ayubi, Zach Warren, Scott Smith

With the conclusion of the first democratic transition of power in the country’s history and the continuing drawdown of foreign troops, what do the people of Afghanistan think are the most critical issues facing the country? This survey, based on face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of nearly 9,300 Afghan citizens, reveals their views on security, national reconciliation, the economy, development and essential services, governance and political participation, corruption, justice, gender and many impressive efforts to create and evaluate support systems for female entrepreneurs. These experiences have given her a distinguished perspective on the state of affairs in women’s entrepreneurship support.

In her discussion, Professor Scott discussed the challenges of measuring the actual results of programs focused on women’s empowerment. For Scott, thinking critically about women’s entrepreneurship in developing and developed countries holds positive implications for family well-being, community viability, and national prosperity. Facilitating women’s entrepreneurship is a tactic for economic development as it produces a “ripple effect” that manifests in a greater trajectory than just focusing on men’s incomes. Scott supports this statement by pointing out that in the community, women invest their earnings in children and the community itself, which then produces a greater and more significant change.

To read more about this event click [here](#).

The Global Gender Program Welcomes a New Student Intern

![Image](image.jpg)

We are pleased to welcome Laura Kilbury as a new student intern for the Global Gender Program. Laura is a sophomore at George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs and concentrating in International Development. She is also active with the International Affairs Society, College Dems, and GW-UNICEF. She volunteers regularly at Mary’s House and tutors refugee girls through Catholic Charities. At GGP, she assists the staff with tasks, such as helping with Org Spotlight, attending events and...
equality and access to information.

**Double Jeopardy: The Intersection of Violence and HIV**

*When:* Tuesday, November 18, 5:30-7:30 pm  
*Who:* UNAIDS and Together for Girls  

In honor of World AIDS Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, UNAIDS and Together for Girls are pleased to host the photo exhibit and reception: "Double Jeopardy: The Intersection of Violence and HIV: Helping Young People Around the World Stay Safe and Healthy". RSVP by emailing Rebecca@togetherforgirls.org.

**The Women's Music Movement: Soundtracks of Recent Feminism**

*When:* Wednesday, November 19, 12:00-1:30 pm  
*Who:* The Global Women's Institute  
*Where:* GW Museum and Textile Museum, Myers Room

Join us for the November Installment of the GWI Faculty Research Luncheon series with Bonnie Morris of the Women's Studies department. This lively presentation will address 40 years of independent "women's music" concerts, recordings, and events that formed a dynamic part of the U.S. feminist and LGBT movements. Rare sound samples, press clips and album covers will be on display!

**Improving Menstrual Health and Hygiene: the Case for Inter-Sectoral Action on WASH**

*When:* Thursday, November 20, 9:00-10:00 am  
*Who:* Health Policy Project  
*Where:* Webinar

Improving access to safe water and sanitation services and improved hygiene practices (WASH) is critical to achieve sustainable health and development goals. Menstrual health and hygiene management (MHM), a critical component of WASH, has long remained taboo in most parts of the world and is often overlooked across sectors.

**Article of Note:**

Farming after the Fukushima Accident: A Feminist Political Ecology Analysis of Organic Agriculture

*by Aya Hirata Kimura and Yohei Katano.*  

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes experiences of organic farmers after the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear reactor accident. Specifically, we draw on feminist political ecology to analyze the divergent perceptions of radiation threats. Based on farmer interviews, we find that different interpretations resulted in social tensions on multiple levels, even among family members, particularly along gender lines. The paper links these local struggles to larger political issues. The political and economic elites emphasized control and normalcy in accordance with hegemonic masculinity, while chastising citizens who were concerned with radiation as irrational and hysterical. Existing studies of disasters have acknowledged their gendered impacts, but the analysis has tended to focus on women’s increased morbidity and mortality. Overall, our study suggests the utility of feminist political ecology in analyzing local risk interpretations and macro political dynamics from feminist perspectives. While gender difference in attitudes to radiation contamination is expected from the existing literature, this study suggests the need to examine how identities and socially constructed notions of masculinity/femininity mediate them. [not open access]

Click [here](#) to read more.
MHM has significant implications for girls’ and women’s health, education, livelihoods, their human rights, and the environment. Inadequate MHM means girls suffer from ill health (e.g., reproductive tract infections) and poor wellbeing; remain absent from school or discontinue their education all together on reaching puberty; and miss work and lose income. During this presentation, Dr. Arundati Muralidharan discusses how countries can overcome barriers to improved MHM through an inter-sectoral or coordinated response to address the hardware (i.e., infrastructure) and software (i.e., knowledge, attitudes, practices, social supports) components of MHM. These sectors include health, water and sanitation, education, women’s empowerment, and urban and rural development.

**USAID 2014 Transgender Day of Remembrance**

*When:* Thursday, November 20, 11:00-12:00 pm  
*Who:* USAID  
*Where:* 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC, Ronald Reagan Building, conference room 2.06 D/E

Speakers: Todd Larson, Susan Markham, Jaan Williams, Neil Levine

Join USAID to commemorate this year’s Transgender Day of Remembrance with a discussion that will focus on the intersections between gender and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities in political participation, particularly for transgender persons.

**Addressing Gender Based Violence and Maternal Health in Times of Crisis**

*When:* Thursday, November 20, 2:00-5:00 pm  
*Who:* Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*Where:* 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC, Woodrow Wilson Center

Speakers: Sandeep Bathala, Sarah Chynoweth, Ugochi Daniels, Janet Meyers, Melissa Sharer, Danaé van der Straten Ponthoz

**Org Spotlight: GirlForward**

GirlForward is an NGO in Chicago that focuses on empowering refugee girls ages 12-21 who have been resettled in the city from war-torn countries around the world, and who are now building new lives for themselves and their families in the United States. It is the only NGO in the country that works to empower and instill confidence in refugee girls. GirlForward provides the girls with mentorship, educational programs, and leadership opportunities through programs that focus on four themes: Wellness, Wisdom, Wallet and World.

The organization started in 2012 when the
Fierce Amazons and their warrior queens—Hippolyta, Antiope, and Penthesilea—are at the center in some of the most famous of Greek myths, and every great hero tangled with them including Hercules, Theseus, and Achilles. But were Amazons real?

Join author Adrienne Mayor as she discusses the stories of ancient women warriors—and the realities behind them. She tells how amazing new archaeological discoveries of battle-scared female skeletons buried with their weapons prove that women warriors were not merely figments of the Greek imagination. Combining classical myth and art, nomad traditions, and scientific archaeology, she reveals intimate, surprising details and original insights about the women known as Amazons.

_S-CAR Undergraduate Dialogue & Difference: Discussing Feminism_

_When:_ Thursday, November 20, 7:30-9:15 pm  
_Who:_ GMU School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution  
_Where:_ 3351 Fairfax Dr. Arlington, VA  
Fairfax Research 1, Room 163

_S-CAR's Dialogue and Difference Project brings together students, faculty, staff and community members to discuss current controversial and important issues._

_16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: US Launch of The Lancet Edition Dedicated to Violence Against Women and Girls_

_When:_ Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 am

_Who:_ The Global Women’s Institute, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the World Health Organization  
_Where:_ 805 21st St. NW, Washington DC  
Jack Morton Auditorium
The special edition is focused on the elimination of violence against women and girls, and includes five papers which cover the evidence base in prevention, the health sector response, the role of men and women in successful prevention efforts, practical lessons from experience on the ground, and call for specific actions to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Printed copies of the special edition, containing the papers and accompanying Comments, will be available at the launch. A light lunch beginning at noon will follow the event.

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: Global Launch of A Multisectoral Violence Against Women and Girls Resource Guide**

*When:* Wednesday, December 3, 2:00 pm  
*Who:* The Global Women’s Institute, the World Bank Group, and the Inter-American Development Bank  
*Where:* The World Bank Group J Building  
Room J B 1-080

The global launch of a new resource guide for integrating VAWG prevention and response across a range of development sectors.

**The Women of the Wars of the Roses**

*When:* Wednesday, December 3, 6:45-8:45 pm  
*Who:* Smithsonian  
*Where:* 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington DC  
S. Dillon Ripley Center

The Wars of the Roses is the name given to a series of 15th-century battles between the houses of York and Lancaster for the crown of England. It was a domestic drama, with the Plantagenet family locked in years of in-fighting over control of the country. The story usually focuses on the men who fought and died on the battlefield or survived to take the crown. But there is another story here. It is the story of wives and mothers and sisters—the women of the Wars of the Roses.

Essentially, this conflict was a personality-driven dynastic
battle, and some of the main personalities were queens and princesses. The royal rivalries were managed by seven remarkable women, who publicly and privately exerted the influence and wielded the power that shaped the conflict. Their stories are filled with intimacy and intrigue, with love and betrayal. Tudor and Renaissance scholar Carol Ann Lloyd Stanger introduces us to seven women who helped spin and shred the web of conspiracies that blanketed the English throne: Margaret of Burgundy, Marguerite of Anjou, Margaret Beaufort, Cecily and Anne Neville, Elizabeth Woodville, and Elizabeth of York.

Women Entrepreneur Revolution: Ready! Set! Launch!

*When:* Thursday, December 4, 12:00-1:30 pm  
*Who:* US Chamber of Commerce  
*Where:* 1615 H St. NW, Washington DC  
Hall of Flags

Speakers: Jenn Aubert, Halelly Azulay, Kimberly Wilson, Kassie Rempel

Are you ready to join the women entrepreneur revolution? Join CWB for a discussion with author and entrepreneur Jenn Aubert as she talks about the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. Aubert will interview fellow women entrepreneurs: Halelly Azulay, president of TalentGrow LLC; Kimberly Wilson, founder of Tranquil Space; and Kassie Rempel, owner of Lillybee.

Modern Times in North Korea: Scenes from its Founding Years, 1945-1950

*When:* Monday, December 15, 4:00-5:30 pm  
*Who:* Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
*Where:* 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC  
Moynihan Board Room, 6th Floor

North Korea is often portrayed in mainstream media as a backward place, a Stalinist relic without a history worth knowing. But during its founding years (1945-1950), North Korea experienced a radical social revolution when everyday life became the primary site of political struggle, including quite deliberately a feminist agenda. With historical comparisons to revolutions in the early 20th
century, Suzy Kim introduces her recent book through rarely seen archival photos, situating the North Korean revolution within the broader history of modernity.

**2014 SID-Washington Annual Gala Dinner Honoring Ambassador Melanne Verveer**

*When:* Wednesday, December 17, 5:30-9:00 pm  
*Who:* Society for International Development  
*Where:* 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW Washington, DC  
Washington Hilton Hotel

This year, Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, will receive the SID-Washington Award for Leadership in Development for her considerable achievements in international development.

Ambassador Verveer's contributions to the field are many, including her service as the first US Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues. She was also a major driver of incorporating gender equality and women’s empowerment into US development policy during the first term of the Obama administration at the State Department, and helped to redefine how we view development - empowering marginalized populations such as women, the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and ethnic/religious minorities.

**WILPF 2015 Conference**  
**Uniting a Global Movement of Women’s Power to Stop War**

*When:* Monday, April 27-Wednesday, April 29  
*Who:* WILPF International  
*Where:* World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands

100 years after over 1300 of WILPF’s founding women first came together in The Hague in protest of World War I, we still live in a world where women’s voices and experiences are excluded, bringing continued violence and war. We know now what we knew then, that only when we analyse conflict from a gender perspective, integrating disarmament, human rights, the environment, social justice, and the women, peace and security agenda holistically will we be able to eradicate the root causes of conflict.
In 2015, at our International Conference and by connecting, strengthening and celebrating the work of all women peacemakers across the world, WILPF will once again be as progressive in our security analysis and aim to establish new and radical approaches on how to stop and prevent wars and establish principles of permanent peace.

Opportunities

Jobs

Requests for Proposals: Women & Leadership Research Consultant
When: November 20
Who: American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Requirements: AAUW seeks a consultant to write a research report on gender and leadership. The consultant will bring together recent, peer-reviewed social science research from various fields and develop recommendations for women in different kinds of leadership. Please send a proposal (no more than five pages), a resume and a writing sample electronically to aauw-research@aauw.org.

Research Associate
When: November 21
Who: Public Religion Research Institute
Where: Washington DC

Program Officer, Initiative for Adolescent Girls' Rights
When: November 30
Who: NoVo Foundation
Where: New York

Gender and Development Specialist
When: December 1
Who: UNICEF
Where: New York

Local Field Monitors/data collectors, Mission Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism
When: December 1
Who: Social Impact
Where: Tanzania
Senior Fellow for Economics, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East
*When:* December 15
*Who:* Atlantic Council
*Where:* Washington, DC

Technical Advisor, Gender and Rural Livelihoods
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* International Rescue Committee
*Where:* New York, NY

Behavior Change Communication Gender Technical Coordinator SSQH
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* Pathfinder International
*Where:* Haiti, South

Big Data Analyst
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* CapTech
*Where:* Washington, DC (with the ability to work at CapTech's client locations)

Research Associate
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* The Israel Project
*Where:* Washington, DC

Director of Marketing
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* Mercatus Center
*Where:* Washington, DC

Director of Marketing Strategy
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* Generation Opportunity
*Where:* Washington, DC

Policy Advisor
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* HIAS
*Where:* Washington, DC

Client Solutions Manager
Deputy Chief of Party
When: Open until filled
Who: Population Services International
Where: Lusaka, Zambia

Grants Management
When: Open until filled
Who: Population Services International
Where: Washington, DC

Program Officer II
When: Open until filled
Who: Pathfinder International
Where: Washington, DC

GBVSS Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Technical Advisor
When: Open until filled
Who: World Vision: Zambia
Where: Lusaka, Zambia

Director, HIV and TB Programs
When: Open until filled
Who: Population Services International
Where: Washington, DC

Technical Advisor, Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH)
When: Open until filled
Who: Population Services International
Where: Washington, DC

Service Delivery Specialist, Women’s Protection and Empowerment
When: Open until filled
Who: IRC
Where: New York, NY

Associate Director, Prospect Research and Strategy
When: Open until filled
Who: Atlantic Council
Where: Washington, DC
Research Assistant, Arab-Israeli Programs
When: Open until filled
Who: United States Institute of Peace
Where: Washington, DC

Vice President, Public Policy and Governmental Affairs
When: Open until filled
Who: Organization for International Investment
Where: Washington, DC

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
When: Open until filled
Who: International Sector for Research on Women
Where: Washington, DC

Communications Manager
When: Open until filled
Who: Change.org
Where: San Francisco, CA; Washington, DC; or New York, NY

Director of Monitoring, Research, and Evaluation
When: Open until filled
Who: Women for Women International
Where: Washington, DC

Associate Director, Monitoring, Research, and Evaluation
When: Open until filled
Who: Women for Women International
Where: Kenya

Technical Advisor, Gender Based Violence
When: Open until filled
Who: International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Where: Amman, Jordan

Program Coordinator, Francophone West Africa
When: Open until filled
Who: International Foundation for Electoral Systems
Where: Washington, DC

Internships
When: Open until filled
Who: Change.org
Where: San Francisco, CA; Washington, DC; or New York, NY

When: Open until filled
Who: International Foundation for Electoral Systems
Where: Washington, DC
**Spring Development Intern**  
*Who:* IWPR  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* December 15

**Digital Assets Management Intern**  
*Who:* Population Action International  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* January 1

**Science Policy Fellowship**  
*Who:* IDA/Science and Technology Institute  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* January 30

**Intern**  
*Who:* Blue Star Strategies  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling

**East Asia - PRC Foreign Policy Internship**  
*Who:* Stimson Center  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling

**Spring Intern: Russian Studies**  
*Who:* American Enterprise Institute  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling

**Military Sexual Assault Policy and Survivor Support**  
*Who:* Protect our Defenders  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling

**Development and Engagement Intern**  
*Who:* Vital Voices  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling

**Latin America and the Caribbean Program Intern**  
*Who:* Vital Voices  
*Where:* Washington, DC  
*Deadline:* Rolling
Innovation and Strategic Investment Intern
Who: Vital Voices
Where: Washington, DC
Deadline: Rolling

Other Opportunities
Hollaback Survey
Hollaback! is dedicated to fighting street harassment. The following questions are being asked of people across the world to help inform their public policy agenda and to help men and women around the world who encounter street harassment.

East Africa Women's Mentoring Network
This is an online platform that will match, support, and guide a one-year relationship between a mentor and a mentee. We are calling upon women leaders who have worked in family planning and reproductive health as service providers, midwives, program managers, policy makers, teachers, advocates, and other relevant positions to support the aspirations of younger women. We are seeking mentees interested in learning from seasoned professionals and mentors with experience, wisdom, and enthusiasm.

VVLead Fellowship Program
Who: Vital Voices
Where: Worldwide
Deadline: November 23

Community Innovation Fellowship
Who: Regender
Where: Worldwide
Deadline: December 1

GWI Research Fellowship Program
Who: Global Women's Institute
Requirements: GWI affiliated faculty and post-doctoral students are encouraged to apply for funding to support future sponsored research grants that will help advance gender equality and the cause of women and girls both globally and locally.
Deadline: December 1
International Fellowships
Who: AAUW
Where: See website for more information, non-US citizens and permanent residents only, women only
Deadline: December 1

Call for Proposals: Critical Intersections--Conflict, Gender, and Power
Who: George Mason University, The Center for the Study of Gender
Where: GMU, Arlington Campus
Deadline: December 1

THINKING GENDER 2015 - Call for presentations: Power, Contested Knowledge, and Feminist Practices
Who: UCLA Center for the Study of Women
Where: Graduate students who are registered at US or international colleges or universities
Deadline: December 15

Career Development Grants
Who: AAUW
Where: See website for more information, US citizens and permanent residents only, women only
Deadline: December 15

Women Stop War: Essay Contest
Who: WILPF International
Where: Worldwide
Deadline: December 31

Call for Papers: Journal of City, Culture and Architecture
Who: MacroWorld
Where: Worldwide
Deadline: January 5

Selected Professions Fellowship
Who: AAUW
Where: See website for more information, US citizens and permanent residents only, women only
Deadline: January 10

Community Action Grants
Who: AAUW
Where: See website for more information, US citizens and
permanent residents only, women only

*Deadline:* January 15

**Call for Submissions: Special Issue on Gender and Leadership**
*Who:* Leadership Quarterly
*Where:* New York, NY
*Deadline:* March 31

**Call for Papers: Special Issue on Perpetrators**
*Who:* The Journal of Human Trafficking
*Where:* Worldwide
*Deadline:* April 3

**Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations (R21)**
*Who:* National Institutes of Health
*Where:* Worldwide
*Deadline:* May 8

**Dedicated Outreach Volunteer**
*Who:* Ten Thousand Villages
*Where:* Alexandria, VA
*Deadline:* Rolling

For more national and international job and internship opportunities, visit the Association for Women's Rights in Development's [job resource page](#) or the United Nations Jobs on Gender [Twitter](#).

**Resources**

**Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work, and Migration in the City of Mumbai.**  

This book challenges widespread notions of sex work in India by examining solicitation in three spaces within the city of Mumbai that are seldom placed within the same analytic frame—brothels, streets, and public day-wage labor markets, where sexual commerce may be solicited discretely alongside other income-generating activities. Shah argues that selling sexual services is one of a number
of ways women working as laborers may earn a living, demonstrating that sex work, like day labor, is a part of India’s vast informal economy. Here, various means of earning—legitimized or stigmatized, legal or illegal—overlap or exist in close proximity to one another, shaping a narrow field of livelihood options that women navigate daily.

The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan

An investigative journalist uncovers a hidden custom that will transform your understanding of what it means to grow up as a girl. In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. A bacha posh (literally translated from Dari as “dressed up like a boy”) is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. Jenny Nordberg constructs a powerful account of those secretly living on the other side of a deeply segregated society where women have limited rights and little freedom. *The Underground Girls of Kabul* is anchored by vivid characters: Azita, a female parliamentarian who sees no other choice but to turn her fourth daughter Mehran into a boy; Zahra, the tomboy teenager who struggles with puberty and refuses her parents’ attempts to turn her back into a girl; Shukria, now a married mother of three after living for twenty years as a man; and Nader, who prays with Shahed, the undercover female police officer, as they both remain in male disguise as adults.

Blog Notes

In South Sudan, Mothers Help Mothers Cope with the Challenges of HIV

*IntraHealth International*

In South Sudan—a country in which civil unrest and widespread famine have left many without access to health care or food—mother-to-mother support groups are helping
care or food—mother-to-mother support groups are helping prevent the spread of HIV while providing HIV-positive women with the emotional and social support they need.

“Most women interpret a positive HIV test as a death sentence,” says Anne Kinuthia, IntraHealth’s country director in South Sudan. “Many fear they will be abandoned or suffer violence from their husbands if they disclose their status. As a result, many become isolated. A strong support group made up of other women experiencing the same issues can make all the difference in how they care for themselves and their families.”

What It Feels Like For a Girl in Iraq

Noor, 17, lives in Baghdad

A 17-year-old Iraqi girl writes that in her culture, women and girls face constant degradation and humiliations, large and small, even at the hands of their own families. She certainly has. And they don’t even know – yet – that she’s gay.

As a person in Iraq, you learn from an early age how to become “lifeless” – absolutely numb with no feelings whatsoever. Everyone here has seen a dead body. Not a normal dead body, but a dead body that is missing some limbs due to some explosion, or one with half a skull because of a shooting. Or just seeing missing limbs scattered on the street.

That’s not the worst of it. It’s what we think when we see these things that are disturbing because no one thinks, “Oh my God, poor soul!” No, we think, “Ugh, now who is gonna clean all the blood from the street!”