Spring 2015 Courses on Gender

**Gender Advisor: Roles and Skills**
Course Info: IAFF 6503.27  
Instructor: Andrea Bertone | abertone@gwu.edu  
March 28-29 9:00-5:00

**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

**Events**

Private Violence, Public Concern: Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Humanitarian Settings

Article of Note: Beyond Access to Information—Understanding the Use of Information by Poor Female Mobile Users in Rural India  
by Devendra Dilip Potnis

Digital inclusion research has focused overwhelmingly on
When: Tuesday, January 20, 10:00am-12:00pm
Who: IRC and GWI
Where: 1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington DC
Human Rights Campaign

The International Rescue Committee and the George Washington University's Global Women's Institute, with the generous support from the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, invite you to a dynamic discussion for practitioners and policy-makers on what must be done to address intimate partner violence in humanitarian settings. Please join us to discuss the IRC's new research and findings on the scale, scope and severity of intimate partner violence during displacement and the solutions that women have proposed to improve their lives. Light breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by January 12th to WPE@rescue.org.

Out of Silence: A Play Based on Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign

Where: Tuesday, January 20, 6:00 pm
Who: Advocates for Youth
Where: 1501 14th St. NW, Washington DC
Studio Theater

Advocates for Youth's 1 in 3 campaign focuses on the personal stories of the many women who have had an abortion. In an effort to shatter the silence and de-stigmatize abortion care, the campaign will elevate the voices of hundreds of women with "Out of Silence". This groundbreaking new play will tell some of the stories Advocates collected during their campaign and delve into the crucial issue of abortion access and care.

Cities for CEDAW: From Global Policy to Local Action

When: Tuesday, January 20, 6:00-8:00 pm
Who: The United Nations Association of the USA, The UN Association of the National Capital Area Chapter and The US National Committee for UN Women
Where: 1750 Pennsylvania NW, Washington DC
United Nations Foundation

Speakers: Eleanor Holmes Norton, Muriel Bowser, David Grosso, Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Maggie Forster Schmitz, Chris Whatley

Cities for CEDAW is a national, grassroots effort to encourage city officials and leaders around the US to adopt ordinances and resolutions that recognize the principles of CEDAW at the local level.

DC for CEDAW is legislation soon to be introduced in the DC Council!! Please RSVP at membership@unausa.org.

To go to the article click here.

There is next to NO money being spent on supportive care for victims of #sexualviolence in the #Syria context buff.ly/17DGt0o
Human Trafficking Panel Presentation: The Situation in Northern Virginia and The Way Forward

When: Thursday, January 22, 5:00-7:00 pm  
Who: Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center  
Where: 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA  
Room 111, Founders Hall

Speakers: Kristen Fitzmorris, Bill Woolf, Steve Steinberg, Nes Parker, Sandy Saunders

TraCCC is pleased to commemorate Human Trafficking Awareness Month with a panel presentation featuring experts from multiple sectors. Speakers will present the current situation in the Northern Virginia area, how it is affected, and what can be done to address it. Discussions will include operations to mobilize grass roots awareness and prevention campaigns specific to sex trafficking in Northern Virginia, how law enforcement agencies and hospitality providers identify and respond to human trafficking, and more. Join TraCCC for a lively discussion on this local, national, and global issue.

HeForShe DC Launch

When: Monday, January 26, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Who: GWI and UN Women  
Where: 800 21st St. NW, Washington DC  
GW Marvin Center, #307

The Global Women's Institute is partnering with the National Capital Chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women to launch the HeForShe campaign in Washington, DC. HeForShe is a solidarity movement for gender equality developed by UN Women to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights. The event will feature Manuel Contreras and Emma Backe of the Global Women's Institute, Neil Irvin from Men Can Stop Rape, Oswaldo Montoya from Promundo, and GWSA President Nick Gumas. There will also be a special appearance from Orlando Dixon from The Voice.

Meet the Gender in Foreign Policy Discussion Group!

When: Tuesday, January 27, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Who: Young Professionals in Foreign Policy  
Where: 900 19th St. NW, Washington DC  
Elephant & Castle

Join us for a welcome happy hour and have a chance to meet the leadership of
Join us for a welcome happy hour and have a chance to meet the leadership of the brand new Discussion Group focused on Gender in Foreign Policy.

Meet us here, mingle with us at our monthly meetings! We are currently recruiting members that are interested in discussing gender-related foreign policy issues such as the kidnappings in Boko Haram, political quotas around the world, and the representation of women in foreign policy in general.

**Global Security and Gender: A Forum with Sweden’s Foreign Minister Margot Wallström**

*When:* Wednesday, January 28, 4:00pm-5:15pm  
*Who:* United States Institute of Peace  
*Where:* 2301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC

RSVP Now

Speakers: Minister Margot Wallström, Ambassador Catherine Russell, Ambassador Donald Steinberg, Ambassador Johnnie Carson

The new Swedish government has pledged to increase its focus on global women’s issues with what it describes as a feminist foreign policy. The U.S. Institute of Peace, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden, will host a forum with new Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström on diplomacy and gender equality in a challenging global security environment. The forum, followed by a panel discussion and a reception, will take place at the Institute on Wednesday, January 28.

The integration of gender perspectives as a core value in foreign policy is not just fundamental for establishing long-term peace and security; it is also crucial for reaching development goals and prosperity. Today’s security environment holds massive challenges for women and girls as a result of extremism, humanitarian crises, and conflict. At the same time, Beijing+20 and the post-2015 agenda provides an unprecedented opportunity to take a fresh look at how we can create a new, inclusive framework for global security and development.

In Sweden, Minister Wallström is reviewing how her nation’s foreign policy can be strengthened further with attention to gender perspectives. At the forum, Minister Wallström will present her government’s vision of how gender perspectives can inform foreign policy in the current security context.

Following her remarks, Minister Wallström will be joined by former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Ambassador Johnnie Carson, a USIP senior advisor, who will moderate a discussion with the Minister, as well as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Catherine Russell, and U.S. Ambassador Donald Steinberg (retired), a former deputy administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development who now serves as President and CEO of World Learning.
Bread for the World’s 2015 Hunger Report “When Women Flourish... We Can End Hunger”

*When:* Thursday, January 29, 9:00-10:30 am  
*Who:* The Washington International Trade Association  
*Where:* 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Speakers: David Beckmann, Devry Boughner Vorwerk, Rick Leach, Elise Young, Claude Fontheim

Please join us for a discussion of how international trade and development policies that empower women can contribute directly to ending hunger around the world.

As a deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches at the end of 2015, from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, to “people on the street” in Baku, Bogota, Bamako, and Bangkok, there are calls for the post-2015 development framework to be more ambitious—to set out to end extreme poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, and end preventable child deaths. Women and girls are essential to achieving this vision.

The Theory Behind the Approach: Women’s Economic Empowerment in Inclusive Market Systems Development

*When:* Thursday, January 29, 9:30-11:00 am  
*Who:* SEEP Network and UN Women  
*Where:* Webinar

Given the growing importance of inclusive market systems development and questions about how it can promote gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, the SEEP Network and UN Women have teamed up to bring you a learning series entitled "From Theory to Practice: Women’s Economic Empowerment in Inclusive Market Systems Development." The learning series will take place over the first half of 2015, bringing you the chance to closely engage with key experts on conceptual and practical issues around women’s economic empowerment in inclusive market systems

Championing Women Globally with Ambassador Cathy Russell

*When:* Wednesday, February 4, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm  
*Who:* Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies  
*Where:* 1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC  
Kenny-Herter Auditorium

This event will celebrate the extraordinary efforts of women who are advancing human rights and equality around the world.
**2015 WFPG MENTORING FAIRS**

*When:* Wednesday, February 4, 6:00-9:00 pm  
*Who:* Women's Foreign Policy Group  
*Where:* 800 21st St. NW, Washington DC  
Marvin Center, Grand Ballroom

The Women's Foreign Policy Group Annual Mentoring Fairs in Washington, DC and New York provide an opportunity for students and young professionals to meet with international affairs professionals and learn from their career experiences. Unlike a career fair, the focus is on entering and succeeding in international career fields, not just opportunities at particular companies. This year we are cosponsoring the events with The George Washington University and New York University.

Mentors are mid- to senior-level women and men working in international affairs who want to sit down with aspiring leaders to give career guidance and practical advice. Sectors include international development, NGOs, human rights, international law, international health, international business, diplomatic service, the UN, journalism, and communications.

For student and young professional registration click [here](#).  
To register as a mentor click [here](#).

**Nancy Duff Campbell, 2014 – 2015 Supreme Court Cases What to Expect?**

*When:* Thursday, February 5, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm  
*Who:* Woman's National Democratic Club  
*Where:* 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC

Come learn about the upcoming 2014-2015 Supreme Court case from Nancy Duff Campbell, a recognized expert on women's law and public policy issues—and founder and Co-President of the National Women's Law Center, one of the nation's preeminent women's rights organizations. Ms. Campbell has helped develop and implement key legislative initiatives and litigation protecting women's rights. She has been appointed to many Congressional commissions and committees working on family services, child support, custody, women in the services.

**Unless I Say Yes--Sexual Choices of Young Women and Men: An Interactive Workshop**

*When:* Thursday, February 5, 4:00-6:00 pm  
*Who:* Global Women's Institute  
*Where:* 800 21st St. NW, Washington DC  
Betts Theatre

This year's 12th Anniversary of the Bokamoso youths' residency at GW will
feature a cross-cultural workshop on sexual choices in adolescence. Admission is Free. Participating students and faculty will have the opportunity to experience the power of performance in illuminating relationship dynamics and sexual relations through cross-cultural perspectives. Bokamoso actors will be leading the workshop.

**Legal Responses to Sexual Violence**

*When:* Thursday, February 12, 6:00 pm  
*Who:* Center for the Study of Gender and Conflict  
*Where:* 3351 N Fairfax Dr. Arlington, VA  
Founder's Hall, Multipurpose Room

Speakers: Susan L. Burke, John Wilkinson, Dr. Susan Hirsch, Caroline Sarkis

The Center for the Study of Gender and Conflict is organizing a panel of experts to speak about the topic of legal responses to sexual violence, from a domestic and international perspective. The discussion will cover such topics as: sexual violence in the US military, the domestic prosecution of sexual violence cases, and establishing rape as a crime against humanity.

**Sex Matters: Update in Gender-Specific Patient Care**

*When:* Friday, February 13  
*Who:* Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine and Johns Hopkins  
*Where:* 733 North Broadway, Baltimore, MD  
Thomas B. Turner Building

This symposium aims to inform health care professionals to learn about gender and sex-differences in the presentation, perception and management of disease. The Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine is collaborating with the Johns Hopkins faculty to review some of the most common illnesses and the sex-specific manifestations and treatment of these illnesses. They plan symposia like this to underscore the need to increase research where gender is a significant variable and to develop and teach sex-specific strategies for the treatment of disease.

**Early Bird Registration for the 11th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference**

*When:* March 21-23  
*Who:* NYFLC  
*Where:* 300 Army Navy Dr. Arlington, VA  
Doubletree Inn

You won’t want to miss out on this year’s NYFLC, which will cover topics ranging from global women’s rights to reproductive justice to campus organizing tips, and events will feature campus activists, feminist and political leaders, and other public figures. You’ll have the chance to take action and inspired networking.
public figures. You'll have the chance to take action, get inspired, network with other activists, and even grab some feminist gear or explore the nation's capital. Early Bird rates are $25 for individuals and $20 per person for groups of five or more people. After Early Bird Registration closes, those rates will go up - so don't hesitate!

**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.

**6th FPR-UCLA Interdisciplinary Conference**

*When:* October 23-24  
*Who:* FPR  
*Where:* UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

**CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS:**  
Sari van Anders, Arthur Arnold, Tom Boellstorff, Lisa Diamond, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Daniel Fessler, Matthew Gutmann, Gilbert Herdt, Melissa Hines, Kathy Huang, Marcia Inhorn, Hillard Kaplan, Robert Lemelson, Michael Peletz, Sarah Richardson, James Rilling, Alice Wexler, Carol Worthman

**TOPICAL FOCUS:**  
Gender and related areas, from biological, cultural, and social or environmental perspectives.

EARLY Registration **ENDS** on June 30, 2015  
• Afterwards, LATE registration, with higher registration fees.
Jobs

MECap Monitoring and Evaluation Fellow for USAID
When: January 31, for the first cohort, future cohorts TBA
Who: Social Solutions International, Inc.
Where: Washington, DC and Overseas

US14-USA: Communications and Youth Advocacy Officer
When: February 3
Who: Together for Girls
Where: Washington, DC

Director of Programs
When: Open until filled
Who: Malala Fund
Where: New York, NY; London, UK

ENGAGE Project Director
When: Open until filled
Who: Girl Rising
Where: New York, NY

Country Manager
When: Open until filled
Who: Girl Rising
Where: New Delhi, India

Director of Girls and Women Integration
When: Open until filled
Who: Clinton Foundation
Where: New York, NY

Program Manager
When: Open until filled
Who: Girls Who Code
Where: New York, Chicago, Miami, Austin, Boston, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

Women’s Protection and Empowerment Senior Research Manager
When: Open until filled
Who: IRC
Where: DR Congo

Women’s Protection and Empowerment Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager
When: Open until filled
Who: IRC
Where: Juba, South Sudan

Associate Director, Social Behavior & Change
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* ACDI/VOCA
*Where:* Washington, DC

Regional Education Representative
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* FHI 360
*Where:* Dakar, Senegal

Technical Advisor, Gender
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* FHI 360
*Where:* Washington, DC

Temporary Data Manager/ Research Assistant
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* ICRW
*Where:* Washington, DC

Senior Technical Advisor, Reproductive Health
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* IRC
*Where:* New York, NY

Business Development Assistant
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* NCBA CLUSA
*Where:* Washington, DC

Budget Assistant
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* Jhpiego
*Where:* Washington, DC

Adolescent Girls Legal Defense Fund Program Manager
*When:* Open until filled
*Who:* Equality Now
*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**
When: Open until filled  
Who: BlueLabs  
Where: Washington, DC

**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

**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

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

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

Internships
Global Programs Internship
Who: Vital Voices
Where: Washington, DC
Deadline: January 30

Global Partnerships Internship
Who: Women Thrive Worldwide
Where: Washington, DC
Deadline: January 30

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

**Gender Integration and New Business Internship**  
Who: Banyan Global  
Where: Washington, DC  
Deadline: January 31

**Partners for Prevention Internship**  
Who: UNDP  
Where: Washington, DC  
Deadline: January 31

**Livelihoods Intern**  
Who: Pact  
Where: Washington, DC  
Deadline: Rolling

**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

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

**Other Opportunities**

**2015 Avon Communications Awards for Excellence**  
Who: Futures Without Violence  
Where: Worldwide  
Deadline: January 31

**Call for Papers: International Journal of Gender & Women’s Studies**  
Who: International Journal of Gender & Women’s Studies  
Where: editor@aripd.org  
Deadline: February 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

Call for abstracts - SVRI Forum 2015: Innovation and Intersections
Who: Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
Where: South Africa
Deadline: April 30

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

2nd Annual Mariam K. Chamberlain Dissertation Award
Who: Re:Gender
Where: United States
Deadline: May 22

6th FPR-UCLA Interdisciplinary Conference
Who: FPR
Where: UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Deadline: June 30

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.

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
"Crossing Lines", DVD and digital release

"Crossing Lines" is about an Indian American woman's struggle to stay connected to India after the loss of her father. Like most second-generation ethnic Americans, Indira Somani has struggled with identity issues, since her parents migrated to the U.S. in the 1960s. Being born and brought up in the U.S. Indira led an American life, but at home, her world was Indian because of her father's immense love for India and Indian culture. This film takes you on a journey to India, where Indira visits her father's extended family for the first time after his death. The film explores how Indira tries to stay connected to Indian culture and her extended family, despite the loss of her father. It is the story of how one daughter pays tribute to her father in all that he's taught her about India, Indian culture and family.

Risk for Coerced Sex Among Female Youth in Ghana: Roles of Family Context, School Enrollment And Relationship Experience
by Jeffrey B. Bingenheimer and Elizabeth Reed

CONTEXT: A better understanding is needed of the variables that may influence the risk of experiencing coerced sex among adolescent females in Sub-Saharan Africa.

METHODS: Data were collected from 700 female respondents who were interviewed in 2010 and 2012 waves of a longitudinal study of behavioral risk for HIV infection among youth aged 13–14 or 18–19 and living in two towns in southeastern Ghana. A series of logistic regression models examined the influences of household composition and wealth, four family process variables (behavioral control, relationship quality, financial support, conflict), school enrollment and relationship experience on females' risk of experiencing coerced sex.

The Boys-only Conference on Gender Equality
by Lucia Osborne-Crowley

This week, Iceland will host the world’s first "Barbershop Conference" – a United Nations gender equality conference specifically targeting the world's men.

It has been dubbed the Barbershop Conference in order to invoke the idea of a safe environment for men to discuss important issues – akin to a barber or locker room.

While women will be included in the conference, it aims exclusively to have a conversation with men in political, business and community leadership about how they can help solve gender equality problems the world over.

It focuses on the fact that it is those currently in positions of power (who are, of course, mostly male) who are best able play a significant role in increasing the number of women in those senior leadership positions, and thereby help to close the global gender gap.
The Power of Libya’s Female Arms Dealers
by Alaa Murabit

I am an arms dealer in Libya, but my weapons reduce violence and last longer than a bullet.

As the founder of the Voice of Libyan Women (VLW), a women’s rights organization focused on peace and security, the tools I use to drive change and create peace are rooted in diplomacy, cooperation, culture and history. In other words, what some people call “soft power.”

“Hard power,” on the other hand, refers to the use of surveillance, sanctions and military intervention to ensure international security. But in Libya, I’ve seen more progress on peace and security from the work of arms dealers like myself – women who wield weapons like dialogue, awareness, and education – than from the carriers of “hard” weapons. That’s because hard power solutions tend to focus on the short-term, whereas soft power fixes focus on the long-term.

Stop Marriage Bill? Is it really so harmful for the society?
Gender Matters India

Men’s rights groups are up in arms against the new Marriage Bill. Surely enough, 99 per cent do not know why they want to ‘stop marriage bill’. The bill seeks to amend the Hindu Marriage Act (1955) and the Special Marriage Act (1954) that provides for “irretrievable breakdown on marriage” as a ground for divorce as well as grants women the right to a share in the self-acquired property of their husbands.

The “irretrievable breakdown on marriage” clause is “gender-neutral” since even men would be able to move the court for it. Both parties have to live apart for at least three years before filing such a divorce petition. The need of this provision was direly felt because either party who does not want to marry can hold the other to ransom by simply denying consent for divorce.