Global Gender Program Event


When: Wednesday, February 25, 10:00-12:00 pm
Who: Global Gender Program,
Where: 1957 E St. NW, Washington DC
Linder Family Commons, 6th floor

Speakers to date: Commandant Jayne Lawlor, Irish Defence Forces Gender, Equality and Diversity Officer; Charlotte Isaksson, Gender Adviser Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, Women in International Security.

Moderator: Dr. Aisling Swaine, The George Washington University

The year 2015, marks the 15th Anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Followed by a series of six subsequent resolutions under the Security Council’s thematic agenda item women and peace and security (WPS), Resolution 1325 sets out a normative frame for the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality within and through the international arena of peace and security.

Since its passage, member states of the UN have adopted a range of practical strategies to advance
implementation of the resolution. This includes the development of national action plans to frame and move forward national implementation, incorporation of the provisions of the resolutions within wider national policies and by-laws and into de-centralised levels of planning.

One of the most challenging areas to advance implementation is where it is most needed – within military institutions. With a view to the 2015 anniversary and planned review of the implementation of Resolution 1325, the proposed event will bring together key experts involved in promoting the implementation of the WPS agenda to discuss what the gaps are, what works and what should be done going forward.

More details to follow.

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**Events**

**A 'Network Approach' to Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Introducing the Africa Regional SGBV Network**

*When:* Wednesday, February 4, 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
*Who:* Health Policy Project  
*Where:* Online

There is increasing interest in networks as a means of addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), in a coherent and effective manner - particularly in East and Southern Africa. The process of fostering collaborations between organizations with common interests and goals around SGBV, creating networks among them, and having them work in tandem to tackle specific aspects of the issue, has been referred to as a 'network approach.' This webinar focuses on a network approach developed by the Population Council to respond to SGBV in low-resource settings in the East and Southern Africa region. It describes the components

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**Article of Note:**

**The Political Economy of “Transnational Business Feminism”: Problematizing the Corporate-Led Gender Equality Agenda.**

by Adrienne Roberts

This article traces the emergence of a politico-economic project of “transnational business feminism” (TBF) over the past decade. This project – which is being developed by a coalition of states, financial institutions, the UN, corporations, NGOs and others – stresses the “business case” for gender equality by arguing that investments made in women can (and should be
of the approach and scale-up strategies.

**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](#).

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measured in terms of the cost savings to families and communities, as well as in terms of boosting corporate profitability and national competitiveness. This article uses a feminist historical materialist framework to argue that TBF is facilitating the further entrenchment of the power of corporations to create “expert” knowledges about both “gender” and “development.” Using the Nike-led “Girl Effect” campaign as an example, it is argued that TBF is promoting a naturalized and essentialized view of women and gender relations that ignores the historical and structural causes of poverty and gender-based inequality. It is also helping to reproduce the same neoliberal macroeconomic framework that has created and sustained gender-based and other forms of oppression via the global feminization of labor, the erosion of support for social reproduction and the splintering of feminist critiques of capitalism.

DOI: 10.1080/14616742.2013.849968 [not open access]

To go to the article click [here](#).

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**The White Ribbon Alliance:**  
Respectful
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.

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

*When:* Friday, February 6  
*Who:* United Nations  
*Where:* Worldwide

Maternity Care Charter--The Universal Rights of Childbearing Women.

Providing access to high-quality maternal healthcare—especially around the time of birth—is a critical, lifesaving issue for women and their newborns and a challenge for healthcare systems and providers. While many interventions have aimed to improve the availability of skilled birth care, less attention has been paid to addressing the quality of that care, and even less towards the widespread occurrences of disrespect and abuse (D&A) that many women encounter during facility-based childbirth. Reducing D&A in facility-based childbirth is a crucial step in delivering quality maternal care for all women and newborns, even though indicators for respectful care may not be explicitly included in quality of care indices. And while there is no evidence yet to directly link D&A with increased maternal mortality, research has shown that the mother’s fear of D&A may be a more powerful deterrent to the utilization of skilled birth care than either geographic or financial obstacles.

The issue of D&A is compounded by a lack of mechanisms in place to promote and protect legal and human rights and is further exacerbated by the many challenges faced by health systems, such as national shortages of midwives. Maternal services founded on the basic values of human rights are one potential solution to the existence of D&A in facility-based childbirth. As such, the White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), in partnership with
February 6th is the international recognized day of zero tolerance for female genital mutilation and is a day to raise awareness about the need to end this harmful practice.

**Gender-Based Violence in the DRC: A Status Report**

*When:* Friday, February 6, 12:30 pm  
*Who:* Women's Foreign Policy Group  
*Where:* 809 UN Plaza, New York, NY 12th Floor

Marcy Hersh joined Refugees International in 2012 as a Senior Advocate for women and girls’ rights. In this role, Hersh led field assessments to Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, South Sudan, DR Congo, Mali, and the Philippines, advocating that UN agencies, the US, and the EU recognize gender-based violence as a humanitarian issue and develop effective approaches to respond. In 2014, Hersh assumed the role of UN Representative for RI. In this capacity, she leads the organization’s UN advocacy efforts.

Hersh has significant field experience in emergency and protracted conflict settings in twenty countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia, including experience in working in complex environments and with traumatized populations. She has extensive experience in policy, advocacy, research, and program management on women’s empowerment, gender equality, protection, and the prevention of/response to gender-based violence. Prior to joining RI, Hersh worked for UNFPA in South Sudan and coordinated the national gender-based violence response as a sub-cluster coordinator. Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, she worked for UN Women, managing gender-based violence programming and mainstreaming women’s and girls’ protection throughout the humanitarian response.

Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

Check out the Charter [here](#).

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Melinda Gates @melindagates
Educating a girl has a huge ripple effect on her entire community: gates.ly/1CKmXev pic.twitter.com/03x0CrnHHh

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**USAID-funded Health Policy Project, convened a multisectoral community of concern and developed the groundbreaking “Respectful Maternity Care Charter: The Universal Rights of Childbearing Women.”**

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**DC Event Spotlight:**  
Global Security
When: Tuesday, February 10, 12:30-2:00 pm  
Who: Global Women’s Institute  
Where: 1818 H St. NW, Washington DC  
Preston Auditorium  

Join the World Bank and the Global Women’s Institute in celebration of One Billion Rising as they host a special performance. One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. The campaign, launched on Valentine’s Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. In 2015 people will come together to express their outrage and defiance in the face of the injustices that women and girls face around the world.

Gender-Based Violence in the DRC: A Status Report

When: Wednesday, February 11, 12:00 pm  
Who: Women’s Foreign Policy Group  
Where: 1615 M St. NW, Washington DC  
The Wilderness Society  

Marcy Hersh joined Refugees International in 2012 as a Senior Advocate for women and girls’ rights. In this role, Hersh led field assessments to Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, South Sudan, DR Congo, Mali, and the Philippines, advocating that UN agencies, the US, and the EU recognize gender-based violence as a humanitarian issue and develop effective approaches to respond. In 2014, Hersh assumed the role of UN Representative for RI. In this capacity, she leads the organization’s UN advocacy efforts.

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Space is limited. Advance registration is required. WFP Members: $25     Non-Members: $35

**I Am A Girl Highly Acclaimed & Award Winning Documentary**

*When:* Wednesday, February 11, 6:00-9:00 pm  
*Who:* UN Women National Capital Chapter  
*Where:* 2301 M St. NW, Washington DC  
West End Cinema  

The USNC - UN Women National Capital Chapter will host a screening of "I Am A Girl". Nominated for four Australian Academy Awards including Best Documentary and Best Director, I Am A Girl is an inspirational feature length documentary that depicts the stories of girls in six different countries and their lives as they demonstrate what it means to be a girl in the 21st century.

**Women in Saudi Arabia: A Feather in the Wind**

*When:* Thursday, February 12, 2:00-3:30 pm  
*Who:* National Endowment for Democracy  
*Where:* 1025 F St. NW, Suite 800, Washington DC  

Ever since his ascension to the Saudi throne in 2005, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz has been taking cautious steps in the field of women's rights. Most notably in 2013, he allowed for the admittance of thirty Saudi women into the Consultative (Shura) Council, which proposes some Saudi laws. Despite such steps, the lives of Saudi women remain constricted by the guardianship system, a set of laws that explicitly discriminate based on gender and infringe upon women's human rights. In her presentation, Maliha AlShehab will present a rejoinder to the narrative.
of Saudi reform by illuminating the ways in which the guardianship system affects women's rights to education, health, employment, and freedom of movement. She will offer recommendations for local and international action to redress the harmful effects of this system. Her presentation will be followed by comments by Ali Al-Ahmed.

**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.

Re:Gender Annual Benefit

When: Monday March 9,
Who: Re:Gender
Where: 583 Park Ave. New York, NY

This fun evening provides a meaningful way to support Re:Gender’s work and celebrate leaders from different sectors who are bringing us closer to a society in which all sexes, gender identities and sexualities are fully embraced.

Honorees: Mary Byron, Wendy Ettinger, The Honorable Shirley Franklin, Barbara Jordan, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, and Amy Ziering

Master of Ceremonies: Adaora Udoji

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, 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.

8th annual Summer School on Transitional Justice

When: Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26
Who: The Transitional Justice Institute (TJI)
Where: Ulster University, Belfast Lough, Northern Ireland

Transitional Justice theme on Gendering the Practices of Post-Conflict Resolution: Investigations, Reparations and Communal Repair

The Summer School will be held at the Jordanstown campus of the Ulster University, located on the north shore of Belfast Lough, Northern Ireland. The Summer School is a week-long residential course, consisting of a series of interactive lectures, workshops and roundtable discussions. It is aimed at both postgraduate students and practitioners working in the field of transitional justice and human rights.

The academic component of the summer school is also complemented by a social programme which provides the opportunity for participants to get to know a little about
the local area. A number of social events such as: a
murals tour in Belfast, film screenings and a Summer
School dinner at Belfast Castle are included in the
programme.

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.

**Opportunities**

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

**UNFPA Deputy Representative, New Delhi, India, Asia**
and the Pacific Region, ICS-12 (P-5)
*When:* February 4
*Who:* UNFPA
*Where:* Asia and Pacific

**Technical Advisor, Gender and Human Rights, Bangkok,**
**Thailand, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, ICS-12 (P-5)**
*When:* February 11  
*Who:* UNFPA  
*Where:* Asia and Pacific

**Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Specialist, Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar Country Office, ICS-10 (P-3)**
*When:* February 11  
*Who:* UNFPA  
*Where:* Asia and Pacific

**Programme Specialist, P3, Non-core Global Funds Management Unit**
*When:* February 17  
*Who:* UNFPA  
*Where:* Washington, DC

**Technical Advisor, RH, Cairo, P5**
*When:* February 18  
*Who:* UNFPA  
*Where:* Washington, DC

**Gender Specialist**
*When:* Open until filled  
*Who:* Banyan Global  
*Where:* Tajikistan

**Sexual and Reproductive Health Specialist**
*When:* Open until filled  
*Who:* ICRW  
*Where:* Washington, DC

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

**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, DC

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

Adolescent Girls Legal Defense Fund Program Manager
*When:* Open until filled  
*Who:* Equality Now  
*Where:* New York, NY

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*

**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
Various Summer Internships
Who: Institute for Women’s Policy Research
Where: Washington, DC
Deadline: February 28
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
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

8th Annual Summer School on Transitional Justice
Who: Transitional Justice Institute (TJI)
Where: Belfast, Northern Ireland
Deadline: March 13

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

Sexual Assault Survivor’s Group
Who: University Counseling Center
Where: University Counseling Center, Marvin Center
(Ground Floor)
When: Every Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm

This new group is for women who have experienced sexual assault. You may have faced unique struggles and challenges and you are not alone. Join the University Counseling Center to experience a safe, supportive, and confidential environment where you can share your experiences and learn healthy ways of coping.

This group combines a self-defense course and group counseling in order to empower women and allow for room to process and grow.

If you are interested in the group, please call the UCC at
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

The Touch: Reaching and Enrolling Uninsured Women and LGBT People

Across the United States, Raising Women’s Voices and our 28 regional coordinators used those approaches and more to reach and enroll uninsured women, LGBT people and their families during the first Open Enrollment period of the country’s new health insurance marketplaces. We did so in a wide variety of settings that presented special challenges – from urban neighborhoods in New Orleans, New York City, Pittsburgh and Chicago to rural towns in Maine, Montana, New Mexico and West Virginia.

CARE’s WE-MEASR Tool
The Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health Team (SRMH) at CARE USA is pleased to share a multidimensional quantitative survey tool, the WE-MEASR (Women's Empowerment-Multidimensional Evaluation of Agency, Social Capital & Relations). The WE-MEASR was designed for use with women and consists of 20 statistically reliable short scales and indices that measure women’s empowerment in domains critical to sexual, reproductive, and maternal health.

Blog Notes

Women-and-LGBT-friendly marketplaces

The Affordable Care Act is already increasing the number of women and LGBT people with health coverage. But we must work to ensure that coverage is affordable and non-discriminatory, covers the services we need and provides quality care.

Realizing the promise of the ACA for diverse women and our families will require active engagement of women’s health advocates in influencing ACA implementation at both the federal and state levels. One key component of this work is advocacy for “women-and-LGBT-friendly” policies and procedures in the new marketplaces. Some of these marketplaces are run by states, others by the federal government, and a third group is operated as federal-state partnerships.

The Right to Connect

Women’s voices converge from across the globe to demand digital inclusion for all.

For many years, whenever Precious Meshi Nkeih wanted to use the Internet, she had to walk to the nearest cyber café and hand over the contents of her wallet to the attendant. She would browse the web until inevitably her money ran out and the computer abruptly cut her session
The access challenges Nkeih faced in Cameroon are acutely felt by others around the world. Expense is the greatest barrier to online access for many women, while others yearn for a safe space to get online. Literacy levels prevent some women from taking full advantage of digital tools, while others fear the prying eyes of authoritative regimes. One woman might confront threats from an online stranger. Another might meet disapproval from her own family members. For some, the accumulation of responsibilities and expectations at home leave little time for online pursuits.

Why does it matter? Online access may appear to be a luxury—but for millions of women worldwide it is a lifeline to employment, healthcare, and a platform to advocate for their needs.