

The Status of Women & Girls in Africa and the rest of the World

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Inspiring Change: Empowering

Women's Futures in Africa

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Overview

1. Remarks
2. Historical Reverence
 - *The fight for Gender Equality & Women Empowerment after the 1995 Beijing Conference*
3. The Status of Women and Girls
 - *Progress Report (since 1995)*
4. What's required for Capacity building?
 - Empowering the futures of Women in Africa
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The Historical Reverence

At the 4th World Conference on Women in September 1995, Hillary Clinton – then First Lady of the U.S. (now U.S. Presidential Candidate) delivered the keynote address saying “Let it be known that.... ”

Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights.

Hillary Clinton



*In September 1995, the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** was enacted – approximately 20 years ago.*

In Beijing, delegates from 189 nations agreed to a Platform for Action that called for the “full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life.”



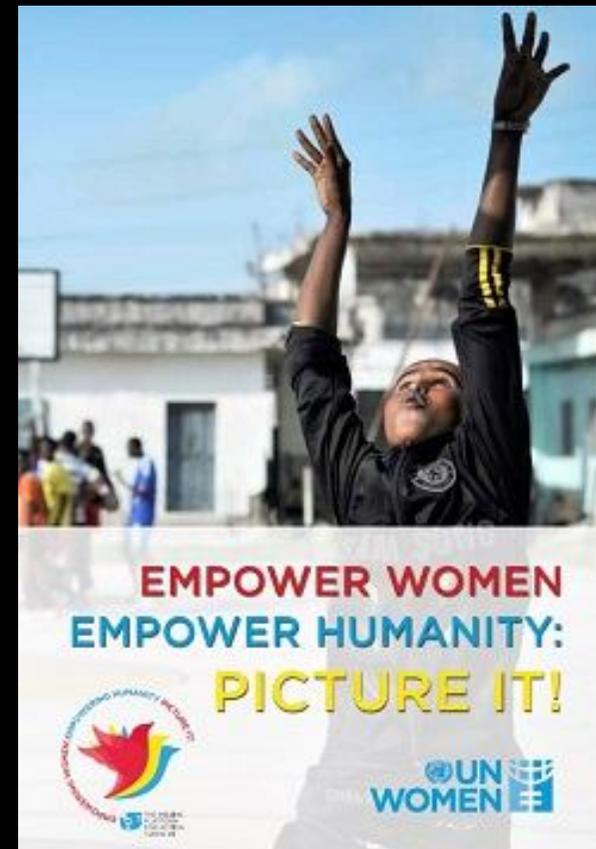
UN WOMEN/RYAN BROWN

The **Platform for Action** provided 12 key areas for advancing women's rights:

1. Women and the environment
2. **Women in power and decision-making**
3. **The Girl Child**
4. Women and the economy
5. **Women and poverty**
6. **Violence against women**
7. Human Rights of women
8. **Education and training of women**
9. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
10. **Women and health**
11. Women and the media
12. Women and armed conflict

Empower Women. Empower Humanity

- *According to the UN Women, the Beijing **Platform for Action** “imagines a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work.”*



Progress Report
(...since 1995)

Progress Report

- On March 09, 2015 - the Clinton Foundation released a **Data Driven Analysis of Gender Equality** and progress made since 1995.



Progress since 1995...

Actions	Across the Globe:	In Sub-Saharan Africa:
1. Women & Childbirth	45% less likely to die from pregnancy complications.	35% less likely
2. Women & Environment	Each year 4 million die of unsafe cooking	Accounts for the majority
2. Equal Pay	The workforce gender gap hasn't changed in 20 years	Same. Women hold 1 in 5 paid jobs in non-agricultural sectors.
3. Sexual Abuse	1 in 3 women suffers physical or sexual violence.	same
4. Women in Leadership Roles	Few women in leadership positions.	same
5. Political Equality	Steady growth, but Women are still underrepresented in political positions.	same
6. Women's rights	There are constitutions and laws that protect women's rights – a growth of +95% from 79% enacted in 1995.	same

Gender-related Development Index (GDI)

- o *GDI measures the Human Development cost of Gender inequality – the higher the GDI value the more disparities exists between men and women.*

Table 5: Gender-related development index (GDI)

HDI rank	Country	Female to male ratio of HDI, 2013	GDI rank ^b	HDI value, female, 2013	HDI value, male, 2013	Life expectancy at birth, female, 2013	Life expectancy at birth, male, 2013	Mean years of schooling, female, 2002-2012 ^c
Very High Human Development								
1	Norway	0.997	5	0.940	0.943	83.6	79.4	12.7
2	Australia	0.975	40	0.920	0.944	84.8	80.3	12.5
3	Switzerland	0.953	76	0.895	0.939	84.9	80.2	11.5
4	Netherlands	0.968	51	0.899	0.929	82.9	79.1	11.6
5	United States	0.995	7	0.911	0.915	81.3	76.5	13.0
6	Germany	0.962	61	0.892	0.928	83.1	78.3	12.6
7	New Zealand	0.971	47	0.896	0.923	83.0	79.2	12.5
8	Canada	0.986	24	0.893	0.906	83.6	79.3	12.3
9	Singapore	0.967	52	0.878	0.908	84.7	79.8	9.7 ^d
10	Denmark	0.989	17	0.895	0.906	81.5	77.3	11.9
11	Ireland	0.965	56	0.881	0.913	82.9	78.6	11.7
12	Sweden	1.004	6	0.898	0.894	83.9	79.7	11.8 ^d
13	Iceland	0.982	30	0.883	0.899	83.9	80.3	10.8
14	United Kingdom	0.993	13	0.887	0.894	82.5	78.6	12.8
15	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.969	49	0.874	0.902	86.4	80.4	9.8
15	Korea (Republic of)	0.940	85	0.860	0.915	84.8	78.1	11.1
17	Japan	0.951	79	0.863	0.907	87.0	80.1	11.2

Capacity Building:

Empowering the Futures of African Women

1. Improve Access to Land Ownership & Equitable Financial Services for Women Farmers.
2. Increase access to Education & Job Training.
3. Empower Her & Invest in Women Entrepreneurship.

“Individual Development is personal, you cannot develop people – they have to be willing to develop themselves, but you can serve as catalyst of their development by providing support and enhancements.” **Kanayo F. Nwanze**

President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Next steps: **Inspiring Change** in Africa

- **Change in attitude of gender roles**
 - *Women are compliments of their male counterparts and not their competition and that women are effective leaders.*
- **Change in attitude towards historical values**
 - *Respect the roles of our female ancestors, but try to transform the old ideology to modern times to meet the needs of women and their families.*
- **Change in attitude in thinking its not up to me**
 - *We cannot achieve this goal without the support of our men*
 - *for the fight for Gender Equality is a universal fight.*
 - *United we stand - as we insist that gender equality and women empowerment are the normal and expected way of life.*

“Change is coming. Change has to come” said the UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the 2015 Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Nations Headquarter in New York.

Thank You..