

Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) Geneva 3-5 November 2014



- Beijing 1995 – 17,000 participants & 30,000 activists for 4th World Conference on Women, including 189 governments
- 12 pillars agreed
- 5 yearly reviews
- 20 years review at the CSW 59 in March 2015, first one organised by UN Women
- Decision to consult more for this review i.e. Bottom up NOT top down
- This was regional preview for our region (ECE region)
- Only 11 out of 29 ‘countries’ from SIGBI included in this region – England, Scotland, Wales, NI, Anguilla and Turks & Caicos as British Protectorates, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, Republic of Ireland, Malta;
- Other countries from SIGBI will be covered in a meeting in Bangkok and one in Addis Ababa

12 Pillars of the BPfA



- Women and the Environment
- Women in Power and Decision Making
- The Girl Child
- Women and the Economy
- Women and Poverty
- Violence Against Women
- The Human Rights of Women
- Education and Training of Women
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
- Women and Health
- Women and the Media
- Women and Armed Conflict

Emerging Issues:

1. Migration and Women
2. Science, Technology and Innovation for the Advancement of Women
3. Older Women
4. Men and Boys for Gender Equality

- The UK government has reported BUT prior to consulting NGOs/ CSOs;
- Short anonymous survey - https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_57kvWXZiQIezOpD available
- NGO CSW Alliance has compiled a commentary - SB, PB, JH and me – at <http://www.nawo.org.uk/csw/csw-alliance/beijing-20/>
- Emerging issues:
 - Asylum Aid – Charter for Women – endorse or not? <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Charter.pdf>;
 - STEM - club activity here;
 - Older women;
 - Equality and equity;

Albania (SIE)	Estonia (SIE)	Liechtenstein (SIE)	Serbia
Andorra	Finland (SIE)	Lithuania (SIE)	Slovenia
Armenia (SIE)	France (SIE)	Luxembourg (SIE)	Slovakia (SIE)
Austria (SIE)	Georgia (SIE)	Malta (SIGBI)	Spain (SIE)
Azerbaijan	Germany (SIE)	Moldova (SIE)	Sweden (SIE)
Belarus	Greece (SIE)	Monaco (SIE)	Switzerland (SIE)
Belgium (SIE)	Hungary (SIE)	Montenegro	Tajikistan
Bosnia & Herzegovina (SIE)	Iceland (SIE)	Netherlands (SIE)	FYR of Macedonia
Bulgaria (SIE)	Ireland (SIGBI)	Norway (SIE)	Turkey (SIE)
Canada (SIA)	Israel (SIE)	Poland (SIE)	Turkmenistan
Croatia (SIE)	Italy (SIE)	Portugal (SIE)	Ukraine (SIE)
Cyprus (SIE)	Kazakhstan	Romania (SIE)	UK (SIGBI)
Czech Republic (SIE)	Kyrgyzstan	Russian Federation (SIE)	USA (SIA)
Denmark (SIE)	Latvia (SIE)	San Marino (SIE)	Uzbekistan

700 delegates (<20 men)
350 Organisations/groups
56 Countries

SI Delegation

- SI - President Ann Garvie
- SI - President Elect Yvonne Simpson
- SIE – President Ulla Madsen
- SISWP - President Carolyn Hudson
- SIA – Linda and Paula from California
- SIGBI – Kay Richmond
- UN Reps – Wilfrida Hendrickx, Sabine Kinzer, ...

- The SIA has linked with SIE for this review;
- supported by Francesca Williams and Deborah Thomas from SI HQ
- Also UN reps to GVA, Vienna, Paris, NYC

SI's asks

- Ensuring that safe, (high) quality, accessible and affordable education is (and must be) available to women and girls;
- More action must be taken to end violence committed against women and girls;
- Lack of women's access to resources, capabilities, and decision-making processes at all levels must be addressed;
- That data collected on all objectives and indicators should be disaggregated by sex;

Soroptimist International's Agreed Goals are:

1. Soroptimist International will improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and/or enabling opportunities.
2. Soroptimist International will be a global voice for increasing access to education and leadership for women and girls.

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- Women in Power and Decision Making
- The Girl Child
- Women and the Economy
- Women and Poverty
- **Violence Against Women**
- The Human Rights of Women
- Education and Training of Women
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
- **Women and Health**
- Women and the Media
- Women and Armed Conflict



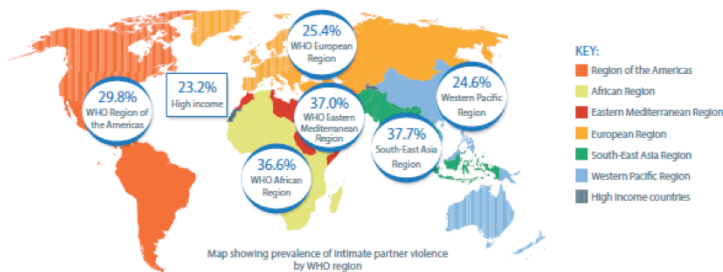
Emerging Issues:

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- The highlighted pillars are those whose round table discussions I attended. Other SI people attended the others. We agreed to cover all between us.

PREVALENCE → http://who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/VAW_infographic.pdf?ua=1

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



HEALTH IMPACT: Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

Mental Health

TWICE
as likely to experience depression

ALMOST TWICE
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Sexual and Reproductive Health

16%
more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

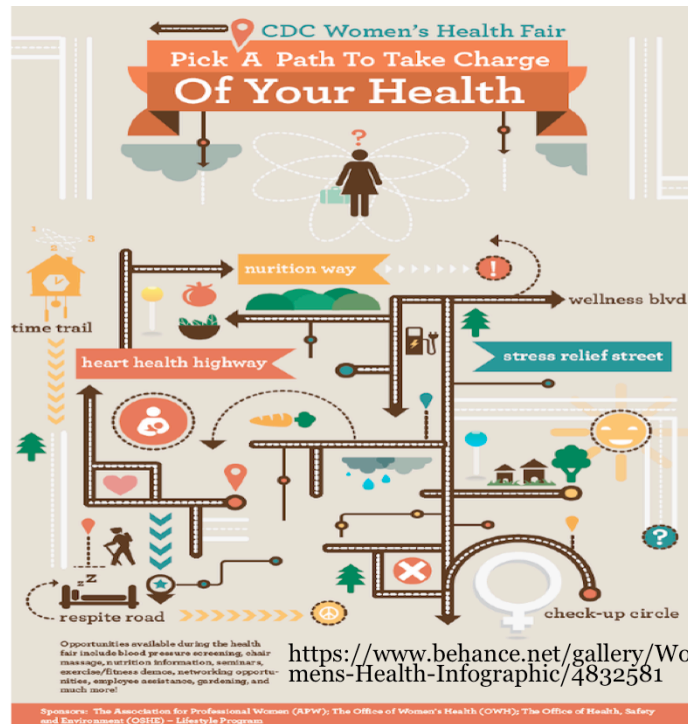
1.5 TIMES
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Death and Injury

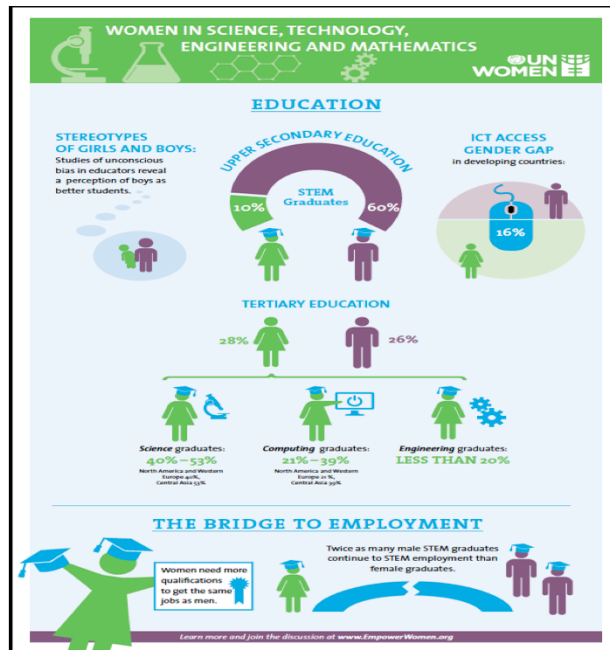
42%
of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

38%
of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners

- SI's position:
 - Prioritise and adequately resource policies, programmes, and interventions with education, empowerment, and enabling opportunities at their core, not just for victims/survivors or perpetrators, but for all;
 - Strengthen legal frameworks and systems of justice to be responsive to the unique needs, experiences and perspectives of women and girls, and, where necessary, enact and enforce new laws to prevent, prosecute and punish all cases of violence committed against women and girls;
 - Ensure that violence committed against women and girls is not labeled "private", and therefore out of the reach of the state and/or community; and
 - Ensures meaningful, respectful, and human rights based approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls.
- This is, of course, UKPAC's focus.



- Sexual and Reproductive Health;
- Drugs and Health;
- Mental Health - said to be causative connection with MI, STROKE, Diabetes melitis, Breast Cancer but ?chicken and egg?
- Maternal Health;
 - Overall Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) DOWN 47% worldwide
 - Abortion access reduced e.g. USA and MMR raised
 - In Low Income Countries and Middle Income Countries, MMR>300 times and Neonatal >14 that in developing countries
- Digital Health
 - More apps and SMS to give personal control through communication, collaboration, coordination
 - Wearable devices such as watches, spectacles. T-shirts
 - Recommend raise Drs' awareness of VAW, gender specific healthcare needs
 - women exiting sex trade & VAW situations demonstrate more trauma than soldiers leaving combat
 - Austerity politics has led to decreased care



<http://www.empowerwomen.org/~documents/2014/03/19/16/21/infographic-women-in-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics>

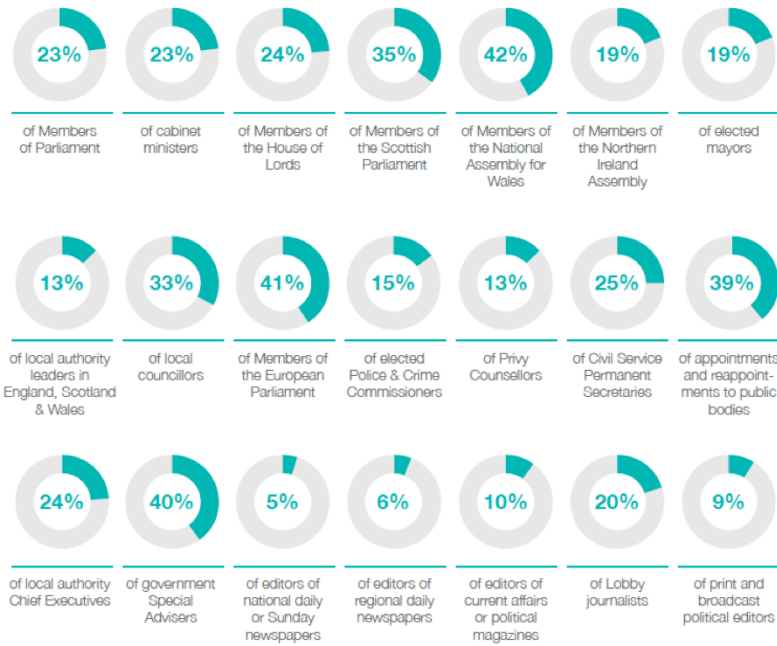
www.itu.int/itu-d/youth

- Disappointing in that mostly about ICT
- Cannot function without gender equality
- UN IT Unit achieved - >1m women trained from bottom of pyramid so can participate in economy; Girls in ICT Day events 4th April each year
- Jobs unfilled because of lack of skills, shortfall of 2 million
- More jobs require ICT skills so more training needed - 90% jobs will need ICT skills in the future
- Gender diverse Companies do better including financially
- Challenges are male dominated culture, low influence and visibility, work/life conflict, differential in pay
- Women leave employment at twice the rate of men
- Conditions which help to make a difference - Child care and elder care leave
- We need collection of gender disaggregated data, standardised definitions, sharing of information to improve the picture
- Governments less positive than private in gender balance, in general
- RUSSIA - Mat leave 1.5 yrs paid for but can increase to 3 yrs then have to return at same level so gap means lower career expectations and progression
- Need to develop network of women leaders
- I made point about SI career fairs and skirting science.

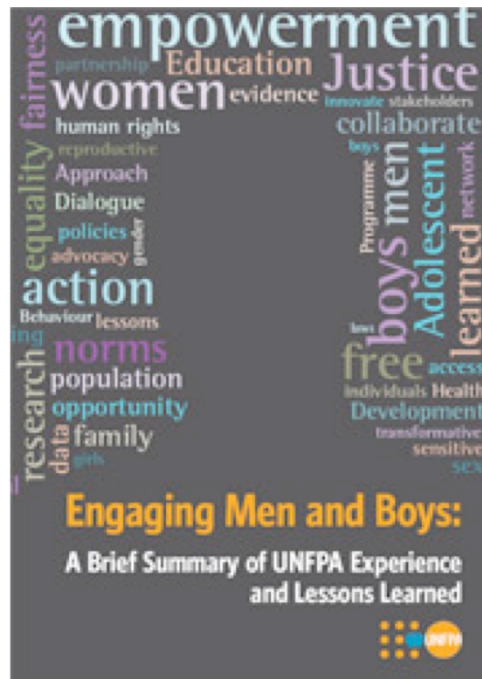


- Positive: *The media is an invaluable tool that can be used to promote awareness of issues that face women.*
- Negative: *The media can exacerbate the presence of gender stereotyping through its presentation of women.*
- Need to recruit younger people and listen to their perspectives - they are the future

Women are currently: <http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Sex-and-Power-2014.pdf>



Evidence of imbalance in the UK – Hansard Society publication



<https://www.unfpa.org/public/home/publications/pid/135>
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- The UNFPA has published a useful summary of its experience and the lessons learned
- All aware of white ribbon campaign
- **Istanbul convention brought up in many places - UK has signed but not ratified – need to lobby for it to do so;**
 - Thought to be a better instrument than CEDAW by Rashida Manjoo.
- Partnership and cooperation only way to solve problems - men and women must share problems on all sides of gender
- Relationship education NOT sex education needed in schools

BPfA via CSW to SDGs

- Gender is a cross- cutting issue

BUT

- There is a separate goal – No. 5 - Achieve gender equality and Empower all women and girls
- MDGS are for developing countries

BUT

- SDGs for all.....UK also needs to pay attention and comply:
 - VAW in all its forms:
 - Sexual Violence, such as rape and sexual assault;
 - b) Trafficking;
 - c) Domestic Violence;
 - d) Female Genital Mutilation and it's prevention;
 - e) Femicide, including honour killings and;
 - f) Sexual Harassment.
 - STOP IT NOW!

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- Some countries want 5th World Conference on the BPfA
- We must resist because it would lead to dilution of its provisions - mostly RC countries opposing ones such as sexual health rights; include Hungary, Poland and Malta.
- VAWSIN is the UKPAC focus - <http://www.ukpac.org.uk/topics> .

Key Conclusions

EVERY WOMAN, EVERY RIGHT, EVERY MINUTE

Everyone is responsible: time is now

1. Women rights are human rights; accountability & resource
2. VAW & conflict; building a culture of peace
3. Poverty, economics & social development: money matters;
4. Participation & Decision-Making, Shifting Power;
5. Environment & Climate Justice; People & Planet;
6. Human Rights & Migrant Women; together in solidarity;
7. Women & health; wellbeing for all;
8. Girls, ageing & intergenerational justice; building a common future;
9. Education, Science, Technology, & Innovation; transformation for all;
10. Media & communications; breaking stereotypes.

Act, advance, achieve women's rights ¹⁴