



## Network

### The UN Women's Newsletter

**Volume No. 22, Issue 1 - January-February-March-April 2021**

**Letter from the Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We bring you with pleasure the first edition of the Network newsletter for 2021. The first quarter is a momentous time for the UN community, as it brings the decisive Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 65, the commemoration of the International Women's Day, and UN Women's flagship initiative, the global gathering to take urgent action and accountability for gender equality - *Generation Equality Forum-GEF*, – all in March 2021.



As Covid-19 pandemic continues to leave its impact around the world, it has created a shadow pandemic, deepening pre-existing inequalities that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and increasing violence against women worldwide. The activities of UN Women during this quarter brings attention to this rising violence in its generation equality initiative, the CSW and the IWD events.

We begin our coverage with news on the Gender Equality Forum (GEF) which kicked off in Mexico City from 29 to 31 March concluding with the unveiling of an Action Coalition blueprint and of the new catalytic commitments for gender equality. These have set the stage to pass the Forum's torch to its next step in Paris on 30 June, which will be a major commitment-making opportunity for all advocates to advance women's empowerment and undergo transformative change.

The CSW 65th session from 15-26 March 2021 was held under the theme "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".. It culminated with the adoption by UN Member States of the Agreed Conclusions, which recognized the need to significantly accelerate the pace of progress to ensure women's full participation and leadership at all of decision-making levels

The International Women's Day, in commemoration of '*Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum*' showed among other findings that at the current rate of progress, gender parity would not be reached in the highest positions of power before 2150!

Other news presents the launch of UN Women and UNV's new Young Women Leaders Initiative to the new World Health Organization report. The study shows how violence against women remains devastatingly pervasive, with girls becoming victims at an early age.

In addition, an open-access online training programme on gender equality was launched by UN Women and the World Bank, focusing on the inclusion of gender equality across the transport sector.

Also featured is news on how the International Olympics Committee (IOC) has taken a leadership role in UN Women Sports for Generation Equality Initiative and how UNDP is calling for temporary basic income for women hit hard by COVID-19 fallout.

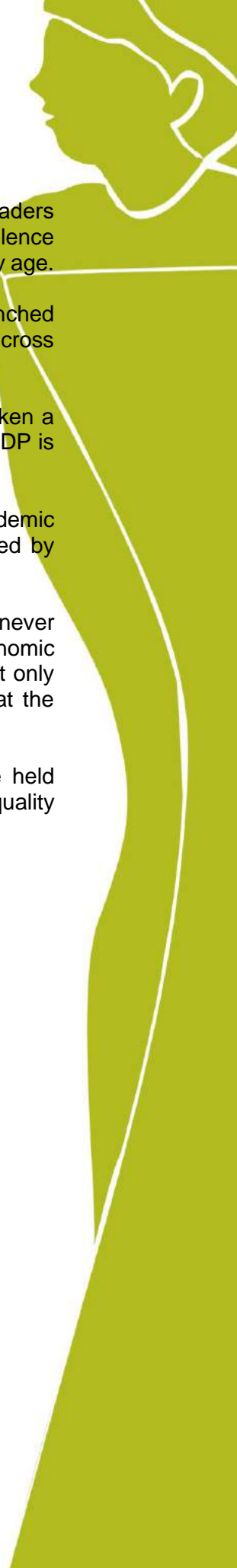
In recommended readings, we include- a report by the EU on "The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU" and a research released by Catalyst on how Remote-Work Options Can Boost Productivity and Curb Burnout.

These continue to be challenging times with COVID-19 already testing us in ways never previously experienced, and which has quickly developed into an emotional and economic crisis. We must take advantage of these tough times and focus on a reset, and not only survive the coronavirus, but emerge renewed, with women as a powerful force at the centre of recovery.

The Decade for Action for achieving gender equality has kicked off and we are held accountable. We must take the necessary steps to take action to achieve gender equality and bring women's rights at the core of our actions to realise the SDGs.

In solidarity,

Aparna Mehrotra  
Director, UN system Coordination Division  
UN Women



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### ***Congratulations to***

**Joanna Wronecka** of Poland on her appointment by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as his Special Coordinator for Lebanon. with the United Nations Office of the Special Coordinator for Lebanon.



Ms. Wronecka brings over 25 years of experience in diplomacy, international security and Middle East affairs, serving since 2017 as the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations, including during Poland's tenure on the Security Council (2018-2019), and as Under-Secretary of State for Arab and African countries, development cooperation and Polish-United Nations relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland (2015-2017).



**Usha Rao-Monari** of India on her appointment by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme. As Senior Adviser to Blackstone's Infrastructure Group, Ms. Rao-Monari is an investment professional with almost 30 years of investment experience, particularly in the infrastructure area. She previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Global Water Development Partners. She currently serves on the boards of a number of organizations in the field of sustainable development and has held a number of Board and advisory positions in the areas of water, natural capital, biodiversity and environment.

## Gender at the United Nations



### Activism and commitments to accelerate gender equality mark conclusion of the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City

On 3 March, the countdown to the Generation Equality Forum – a milestone event for global action and investment in gender equality – was announced jointly by UN Women and co-hosts, the Government of Mexico, and the Government of France, in a partnership with civil society and youth organizations. The Forum kicked off in Mexico City from 29 to 31 March and will culminate in Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2021. This landmark event served to catalyze urgent action for the achievement of gender equality and to promote the human rights of women and girls. The Mexico Forum inspired the drive for urgent action which will culminate in the announcement of trail-blazing gender equality commitments and investments at the closing event in Paris.

The Generation Equality Forum Mexico concluded with the unveiling of an Action Coalition blueprint and of new catalytic commitments for gender equality. These set the stage to pass the Forum's torch to its next step in Paris on 30 June, which will be a major commitment-making moment. Youth and civil society leaders also launched a 2026 vision and a common feminist pathway. This progress was made possible by a vibrant intergenerational coalition of actors representing governments, civil society, feminist and youth organizations, the private sector, philanthropy, and international organizations. Youth and feminist movements help drive the call to action.

The Forum in Mexico City, 29-31 March, engaged an estimated 10,000 people, including over 250 speakers from 85 countries to reinvigorate action and movements for gender equality. Reflecting the spirit to involve a new generation, nearly half the participants were under 30 years old. The meeting took place amid growing concerns that COVID-19 has exacerbated a "gender equality crisis", making action and investment in women's rights

critical. A quarter century after the landmark Beijing Conference and Platform for Action, the Forum aimed to re-ignite efforts for full implementation.



The Generation Equality Forum is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the close partnership of civil society. The Forum is a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality. It seeks to celebrate the power of women's rights activism, feminist solidarity and youth leadership to achieve transformative change. It takes place at a critical moment. As the impacts of COVID-19 threaten to roll back existing gains for women's rights, it provided an opportunity to put gender equality at the heart of the building back better agenda.

More info at:

<https://forum.generationequality.org/>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-generation-equality-forum-mexico>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-generation-equality-forum-in-mexico-city-closes>



## UN’s largest gathering on women’s rights delivers robust blueprint on strengthening women’s leadership and participation in public life

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women- the UN’s largest annual gathering on gender equality and women’s empowerment- took place from 15 to 26 March 2021 in New York. In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, CSW65 took place in a hybrid format with mostly virtual meetings. The 65<sup>th</sup> session was held under the theme “*Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*”.

The meeting, acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as racism, stigmatization and xenophobia. Yet, recent data show that women have been mostly absent from COVID-19 government task forces around the world – women make up only 24 percent of the 225 task force members examined across 137 countries.

The two-week-long gathering ended with the adoption by UN Member States of the Agreed Conclusions, its main outcome document, which recognized the need to significantly accelerate the pace of progress to ensure women’s full participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making in executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and the public sector. It also recognized that temporary special measures, such as quotas, and increased political will are needed as an enabling pathway to this goal. The Agreed Conclusions made strong recommendations for concrete measures, which can enable women’s role in decision-making.



The CSW 65 also served as an important link to the Generation Equality Forum, which was held soon after the CSW event. Newly released data by UN Women has shown that progress to achieve gender equality in public life and decision-making has been too slow. Women make up 25 per cent of parliamentarians globally, and only three countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament. Less than one per cent of parliamentarians are women under 30 years of age. Whereas women make up only 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators and 6 per cent of signatories in formal peace processes. Additionally, in 2020, only 7.4 per cent of Fortune 500 companies were run by women. At the current rate of progress, it will take another 130 years to reach gender equality at the highest positions of power.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session.

Information on the over 100 official side-events can be found [here](#).

More info at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-csw65-delivers-blueprint-on-womens-leadership-and-participation-in-public-life>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021/session-outcomes>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>



**International Women's Day, commemoration - 8 March 2021**

## ***Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world***

This year's International Women's Day comes as the world continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its staggering impacts on women – from being pushed into poverty, to loss of jobs as the informal economy shrinks, to an alarming spike in domestic violence and the unpaid care burden—it also highlighted the pressing need for the 2021 Generation Equality Forum.

The UN's official commemoration event '*Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum*' was held virtually this year from New York. The event gathered powerful voices from around the globe to discuss women in leadership and how to achieve an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum. UN Secretary General António Guterres addressed the event along with Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and other leading speakers.

The Observance was hosted by Sophia Pierre Antoine, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Officer at International Organization for Migration (IOM) HQ and Former Board Co-Chair of FRIDA Young Feminist Fund.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world", revealed that only three countries in the world have 50 per cent or more women in parliament. Globally 119 countries have never had a woman leader as a Head of State or Government. At the current rate of progress, gender parity would not be reached in parliaments before 2063, in ministerial positions before 2077 and in the highest positions of power before 2150.

[See more at:](#)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-international-womens-day>





## UN Women Executive Board convenes First Regular Session of 2021

The UN Women Executive Board convened for this year's First Regular Session from 15 to 16 February 2021, remotely via the Zoom Platform.

The President of the Executive Board, H.E. Alie Kabba, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, opened the Session. UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, delivered opening remarks, which included updates on the COVID-19 response, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279, the QCPR, UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and the Generation Equality Forum.

Over the two days, UN Women presented:

An overview on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting, including UN Women's follow-up to recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board.

A briefing on the preparations for the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, including a presentation of the draft framing document for UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

Presentations on the corporate evaluation of UN-Women's support to UNSCR 1325 national action plans on women, peace and security and the Effectiveness and Efficiency Assessment of UN Women Flagship Programme Initiatives and Thematic Priorities of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021, including their management perspective and response amongst other agenda items

See at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/announcer-executive-board-first-regular-session-2021>

## UN Women and UNV launch new Young Women Leaders Initiative

***UN Women and UNV launch the new Young Women Leaders Initiative to create professional opportunities for leaders of tomorrow and further enhance diversity in UN Women.***

UN Women, in partnership with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, announced the UN Women "Young Women Leaders" (YWL) initiative in January 2021 to commence in April 2021. The YWL initiative engaged a diverse cohort of young women from the Global South who are committed to gender equality and women's empowerment and to the mission and work of the United Nations. This allowed the sharing of experiences among young leaders from diverse backgrounds across UN Women and further enhance diversity in UN Women's personnel.

As part of the Young Women Leaders initiative, UN Women and UNV recruited the first cohort of 10 young, talented and dedicated women to serve at UN Women's headquarters as UN Youth Volunteers. While participating in a structured professional development programme, the YWL participants are mentored by leaders in their respective fields of expertise. They will have the opportunity to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and become part of a network of young leaders at UN Women.

See at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/news-un-women-and-unv-launch-new-young-women-leaders-initiative>

## Gender around the world

### **G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council membership announced**

The UK government, which holds the Presidency of the G7 (Group of Seven) this year, has published the full list of members for its newly created Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC). The GEAC was created in order to ensure that the G7 puts women at the center of their "build back better" agenda following the COVID-19 crisis.

The Council is comprised of 19 members selected from each of the G7 countries and beyond. Members are committed to democracy and women's empowerment, and many are drawn from the realm of science, technology, engineering, and medicine.

The Council will publish an independent report with recommendations for how the G7 can ensure that women are at the heart of recovery efforts.

The council will build on work done by former G7 presidencies and will champion the core principles of freedom, opportunity and dignity for women and girls around the world. It will produce an independent report and set out recommendations on how the G7 should work together to ensure that women across the globe are at the forefront of our pandemic recovery as we build back better.

See at:

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/GEAC/2021-launch.html>

## Women in politics: New data shows growth but also setbacks



Despite increases in the number of women at the highest levels of political power, widespread gender inequalities persist, according to the 2021 edition of the IPU–UN Women "Women in politics map".

The IPU-UN Women map presents new data for women in executive, government, and parliamentary positions as of 1 January 2021. The data shows all-time highs for the number of countries with women Heads of State and/or Heads of Government, as well as for the global share of women ministers.

See more at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-women-in-politics-new-data-shows-growth-but-also-setbacks>

## Devastatingly pervasive: 1 in 3 women globally experience violence

### *Younger women among those most at risk: WHO*

Violence against women remains devastatingly pervasive and starts alarmingly young, as shown from new data provided by WHO and its partners. Across their lifetime, 1 in 3 women, around 736 million, are subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner – a number that has remained largely unchanged over the past decade.

This violence starts early: 1 in 4 young women (aged 15-24 years) who have been in a relationship will have already experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-twenties.

This report presents data from the largest ever study of the prevalence of violence against women, conducted by WHO on behalf of a special working group of the United Nations. Based on data from 2000 to 2018, it updates previous estimates released in 2013. While the numbers reveal already alarmingly high rates of violence against women and girls, they do not reflect the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

World Health Organisation and partners warn that the COVID-19 pandemic has further increased women's exposure to violence, as a result of measures such as lockdowns and disruptions to vital support services.

“Violence against women is endemic in every country and culture, causing harm to millions of women and their families, and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General**. “But unlike COVID-19, violence against women cannot be stopped with a vaccine. We can only fight it with deep-rooted and sustained efforts – by governments, communities and individuals – to change harmful attitudes, improve access to opportunities and services for women and girls, and foster healthy and mutually respectful relationships.”

Intimate partner violence is by far the most prevalent form of violence against women globally (affecting around 641 million). However, 6 per cent of women globally report being sexually assaulted by someone other than their husband or partner. Given the high levels of stigma and under-reporting of sexual abuse, the true figure is likely to be significantly higher.

The report, *Global, regional and national estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women* was developed by WHO and the UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) for the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data.

See more at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>

## UN Women and World Bank launch course on gender equality in transportation

*Open-access online training programme empowers users to apply solutions to gender inequality and raise awareness*

The new course, Gender Equality in Transportation, moves us away from ‘gender-blind’ transport planning, which does not consider the mobility needs of its diverse range of users, particularly women and girls. It also looks at strategies that planners can use to address the difficulties women face in getting jobs and climbing the career ladder in transport, a sector dominated by men.

The course highlights the importance of approaching transport through a gender lens. It proposes practical solutions for enhancing inclusion and equality across the sector, balancing questions on ‘why’ this is vital with operational questions on ‘how’ we can do this. The new training course also offers examples of concrete interventions designed to support the shift toward greater gender equality in transport.

This course was jointly prepared by the UN Women Training Centre, UN Women’s Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative, and the World Bank’s Transport Global Practice and Open Learning Campus.

See more at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/news-un-women-and-world-bank-launch-course-on-gender-equality-in-transportation>

## ASEAN, Canada and UN Women jointly launch a 5-year programme to advance Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Canada and UN Women jointly launched on 26 February a 5-year programme to expand and strengthen women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery in South-East Asia.

The CAD 8.5 million (USD 6.36 million) programme, “Empowering women for sustainable peace: preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in ASEAN”, is funded by Global Affairs Canada with the support of UN Women as a lead UN partner.

“Canada is proud to launch this flagship initiative that uses the women, peace and security approach to promote inclusive and sustainable peace and security in the region, while addressing the systemic gender inequality,” said H.E. Diedrah Kelly, Canada’s Ambassador to ASEAN.

ASEAN has made important strides to advance women, peace and security agenda, including the adoption of the first 'Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN' in 2017, the launch of the ASEAN Women's Peace Registry in 2018, and convening the first ASEAN Symposium on Women, Peace and Security in 2019 and the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Strengthening Women's role for Sustainable Peace and Security in 2020.

See more at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/press-release-asean-canada-and-un-women-launch-joint-programme>

## Africa Europe Women Leaders Network announced on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021

On the occasion of this year's International Women's Day, [the Africa Europe Foundation](#) is announcing the launch of the first **Africa Europe Women Leaders Network**.

The Africa Europe Women Leaders Network (WLN) brings together leading personalities from the neighbouring continents to transform dialogue into action in the face of the world's most pressing issues from the climate emergency to the urgent health challenges, sharing also the mission of International Women's Day 2021 "to achieve an equal future in a Covid-19 world".

As an initiative which aims to unlock new opportunities for action through an enhanced Africa-Europe partnership, the WLN will meet on average once a month under the Chatham House Rule allowing informal and trusted discussions to tackle diverging and converging perspectives across critical areas of inter-regional dialogue.

See more at:

<https://www.friendsofeurope.org/insights/africa-europe-womens-leadership-network-announced-on-the-occasion-of-international-womens-day-2021/>

## Covid-19 derails gender equality gains

In the lead up to International Women's Day on 8 March, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) released new findings on the impact of the coronavirus crisis on gender equality in Europe. From job losses and reduced working hours to spikes in domestic violence and overwhelmed counsellors, the effects of the pandemic have hit women the hardest, announces the report.

See more at:

<https://eige.europa.eu/news/covid-19-derails-gender-equality-gains>

## IOC takes leadership role in UN Women Sports for Generation Equality Initiative

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has taken a leadership role in the UN Women Sports for Generation Equality Initiative, which aims to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through sport. The Initiative was launched on 9 April by UN Women in partnership with the IOC.

This Initiative seeks more outfits involved in the sports movement to join the Initiative to accelerate progress on a set of common principles and aligned objectives that will harness the power of sport in making gender equality a reality within and through sport.

“Sport is one of the most powerful platforms for promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls,” said IOC.

“At the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 this summer, we will have reached gender balance, with 48.8 per cent women competing. We will also have full gender representation across all 206 teams and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team competing. Additionally, the IOC has changed the rules to allow one male and one female athlete to jointly carry their flag during the Opening Ceremony and encourages all National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to make use of this opportunity”, Bach stressed. “The newly launched UN Women Sports for Generation Equality Initiative shows the important role sport can play to highlight gender equality,

See more at:

<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-takes-leadership-role-in-un-women-sports-for-generation-equality-initiative>

## In your interest

### UN Development Programme urges temporary basic income for women hit hard by COVID-19 fallout

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) findings released on March 4, 2021, ahead of International Women’s Day - A temporary basic income (TBI) for poor women in developing countries can help millions of them cope with the effects of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

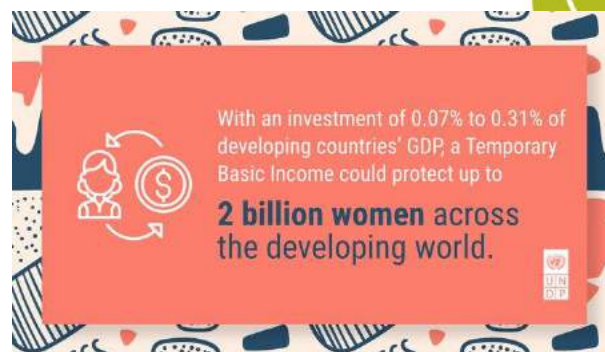


The large-scale TBI scheme proposed by UNDP in a policy brief showed that a monthly investment of 0.07-0.31 per cent of a developing countries' gross domestic product (GDP) could provide reliable financial security to 613 million working-aged women living in poverty.

“The benefits of such a meaningful investment could not only help women and their families absorb the shock of the pandemic, but also empower women to make independent decisions about money, livelihoods and life choices,” said Achim Steiner, UNDP administrator.

Women have been hit harder than men by the pandemic, losing income and leaving the labour market at a greater rate. This vulnerability is due to gender inequality.

The amount is equivalent to \$51 billion purchase power parity – the amount of money needed to purchase a basket of goods, factoring in different currency exchange rates across countries.



See more at:

<https://www.undp.org/press-releases/undp-calls-temporary-basic-income-help-worlds-poorest-women-cope-effects-covid-19>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1086362>

## Suggested Readings

### The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU

This study offers a preliminary overview of the measures undertaken across the EU to support victims of violence during the Covid-19 outbreak (from March until the end of September 2020), identifies examples of promising practices and provides initial recommendations for the EU and Member States on how to better support victims during the pandemic, as well as in other potential crises.

See at:

<https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>





## Governments need to address the gender gap in retirement savings arrangements-OECD Report

The gender pension gap, or the difference in retirement income that men and women receive, averages 26% across OECD countries. This inequality is the result of many interconnected and complicated factors relating to society, employment, childcare, education, and individual bias. While retirement savings arrangements cannot correct all of these factors, their design should at least avoid increasing inequalities, and at best reduce the impact that existing inequalities can have on the retirement benefits that women will receive.



[Towards Improved Retirement Savings Outcomes for Women](https://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/private-pensions/governments-need-to-address-the-gender-gap-in-retirement-savings-arrangements.htm) analyses why the gender pension gap exists and outlines clear policy actions to ensure that the design of funded and private retirement savings arrangements will help to reduce the gender pension gap.

Access at:

<https://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/private-pensions/governments-need-to-address-the-gender-gap-in-retirement-savings-arrangements.htm>

## Remote-Work Options Can Boost Productivity and Curb Burnout – New Report released by Catalyst

A recent Catalyst research finds that access to remote work makes a difference for employee well-being, productivity, innovation, and inclusion.

The pandemic accelerated the availability of remote-work access sooner than many prognosticators and employers anticipated. But we should regard remote work as more than a solution to a one-time crisis. In fact, remote work is the way of the future, as many employees now say they prefer working remotely at least some of the time. Organizations have good reason to embrace remote work; As part of our Equity in the Future of Work research series, Catalyst surveyed 7,487 employees across the globe. Our data shows that when employees who have access to remote-work options—including flexible work location, distributed teams, and/or virtual work/telework/working from home—are compared with employees lacking these options, their access is linked to innovation, work engagement, organizational commitment and inclusion.

Access at:

<https://www.catalyst.org/reports/remote-work-burnout-productivity/>

## Women Are Better Leaders During a Crisis

Findings of a research released by the Harvard Business Review

According to an analysis of 360-degree assessments conducted between March and June of this year, women were rated by those who work with them – Harvard Business Review

A recent study by the Harvard Business Review found that women are more likely than men to be resilient and leaders in the face of adversity. The data for the analysis was pulled from assessments of over 60,000 leaders (22,603 women and 40,187 men). The research looked at similar data gathered during the first phase of the Covid-19 crisis to see if these ratings had changed.



Between March and June of this year, 454 men and 366 women were assessed on their leadership effectiveness using an Extraordinary Leader 360-degree assessment. Consistent with our pre-pandemic analysis, it was found that women were rated significantly more positively than men. Comparing the overall leadership effectiveness ratings of men versus women, once again women were rated as more effective leaders. The gap between men and women in the pandemic is even larger than previously measured, possibly indicating that women tend to perform better in a crisis.

Access at:

<https://hbr.org/2020/12/research-women-are-better-leaders-during-a-crisis>

## Report on UN Woman Global Response to Covid-19

A global programme, which informs this report, provides a framework for the UN Women response from the global to local levels: [Gender-Responsive Prevention and Management the COVID-19 Pandemic: from Emergency Response to Recovery and Resilience](#).



[of](#)

View online/download

- [Publication \(PDF, 317KB\)](#)

See at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/02/report-on-the-un-women-global-response-to-covid-19#view>

## A Training Manual: Women in preventing and countering violent extremism

This training manual is designed by UN Women for actors involved in P/CVE in Europe and Central Asia, including state officials, members of non-governmental organizations, community activists, staff of UN agencies, international and regional organizations, to help them understand violent extremism. Preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) is more effective, sustainable and meaningful if it includes the participation and perspectives of women.

See at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/02/a-training-manual-women-in-preventing-and-countering-violent-extremism>

## Websites

### Women's Power Index

*Find out where women around the world wield political power—and why it matters.*

Created by Council on Foreign Relations - CFR's Women and Foreign Policy program, the Women's Power Index ranks 193 UN member states on their progress toward gender parity in political participation. It analyzes the proportion of women who serve as heads of state or government, in cabinets, in national legislatures, as candidates for national legislatures, and in local government bodies, and visualizes the gender gap in political representation.

See at:

<https://www.cfr.org/article/womens-power-index>

## UN Women Info

### *Employment opportunities*

You can find a monthly list of vacancy announcements at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/employment>

You can read Network online at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/coordination-resources>

Network—The UN Women’s Newsletter

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