

UNICEF
and
The Graduate Program in International Affairs
at The New School

5th Annual International Conference

Adolescent Girls – Cornerstone of Society:
Building Evidence and Policies for Inclusive
Societies



April 26-28, 2010

Theresa Lang Student Center, Arnhold Hall
55 West 13th Street, 2nd Floor,
New York, NY 10011

Visit the Conference Website: www.equityforchildren.org



THE NEW SCHOOL
A UNIVERSITY

UNICEF-GPIA 5th International Conference 2010

Adolescent Girls – Cornerstone of Society: Building Evidence and Policies for Inclusive Societies The New School, Theresa Lang Center, 55 W. 13th Street, NYC **April 26-28, 2010**

WHAT: The aim of the conference is to inform thinking and practices around key issues and trends related to adolescent girls. Recent years have seen a growing interest in the topic of adolescent girls as a strategic group in addressing poverty alleviation and gender equality. While the experiences gained through years of programmes in promoting protective environments in schools, working to eliminate harmful traditional practices, and addressing sexual abuse has provided a growing evidence base, there has not yet been sufficient empirical evidence or knowledge generated to drive effective and innovative policies. The 5th International Conference organized by the Graduate Program in International Affairs at the New School and UNICEF will review current global trends and ideas regarding adolescent girls, explore ways to fill the knowledge gaps and showcase lessons learned and good practices for effective and strategic policymaking.

WHY: Strategic investments in girls' social protection, health, education, and livelihood skills promote social justice and are essential for achieving internationally agreed upon development goals, human rights norms and other global commitments. Understanding and addressing the needs of adolescent girls is key to ensuring the fulfillment and protection of their rights, as they face the specific challenges of marginalization, inaccessibility to resources, and invisibility.

Much of the current discussion about adolescent girls revolves around sexual and reproductive health issues such as early marriage, sex trafficking, genital mutilation, early pregnancy, and rape. While these remain critical issues, a broader conceptual framework is needed that would seek to understand development issues from their perspective: how girls experience these issues, how their lives are lived. A literature review prepared for this conference identified gaps not only in hard evidence and data on the situation of adolescent girls, but also lack of substantive discussion around key issues of 21 century examining the impact of globalization, economic crises, demographic transitions, technology and innovations, and climate change on their lives. Positioning adolescent girls at a center of research and policy agenda, the conference sets out to fill some of those gaps, while also looking at the underlying causes of gender-differentiated outcomes.

PAST CONFERENCES: The GPIA-UNICEF international conferences, held at The New School in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008 have covered a wide range of topics researched and presented by more than 200 experts from nearly 50 countries around the world. The main thrust of debates is structured around policies for enhancing child rights and policies/programs for children and families wellbeing.

Conference Team

Alberto Minujin
Conference Director
minujina@newschool.edu

Mima Perisic
UNICEF Focal Point
mperisic@unicef.org

Louise Moreira Daniels
Conference Coordinator
adolescentgirlsconference2010@yahoo.com

Marina Komarecki
UNICEF Focal Point
mkomarecki@unicef.org

Christine Doumet
Conference Assistant Coordinator

Anita Wahi
Assistant

Emma Saloranta
Assistant

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 1: MONDAY, April 26, 2010

8:30 am -9:30 am **Registration**

9:30 am – 9:50 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative (via video)

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Milano, The New School for Management and Urban Policy

Elizabeth Gibbons, Deputy Director, Policy and Practice, UNICEF HQ

Alberto Minujin, Conference Director, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School

9:50 am – 11:30 am **SESSION 1 – Girls Empowered**

9:50 am – 10:00 am Presentation: *Strengthening Healthy Resistance and Courage in Girls*
Carol Gilligan, New York University

Chair: **Carol Gilligan**, New York University

Commentator: **Gary Barker**, ICRW and Men Engage Alliance

Paper 1: Helen Chendi, UNICEF Cameroon

Preparing Leaders of Tomorrow: Adolescent Girls as Junior Mayors and Councilors in Municipal Councils in Cameroon

Paper 2: Neera Kewalramani, Bhavishya Alliance, India

Girls Gaining Ground (A multi-sectoral adolescent girl empowerment project): Empowerment of disadvantaged adolescent girls through multi-sectoral partnership

Paper 3: Sepideh Yousefzadeh and Mahsa Shekarloo, Maastricht University

Adolescent girls in Iran: Becoming a citizen of the Islamic State at the intersection of gender and youth

Paper 4: Stephanie Baric and Peter Cronin, CARE USA

Where the boys are: Engaging young adolescent boys in support of girls' leadership

Questions and Answers

11:30 am – 11:40 am

Break

11:40 am – 1:20 pm **SESSION 2 – Realizing the Rights of Girls: New Approaches and Research**

11:40 am – 11:50 am Presentation: ***Human Rights of Adolescent Girls***
Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, CEDAW Expert

Chair: **Maria Regina Tavares da Silva**, CEDAW Expert
Commentator: **Mayra Buvinic**, World Bank

Paper 1: Richard Olson, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Johannesburg
Reconceptualizing the risk and vulnerability of adolescent girls in high HIV prevalence countries

Paper 2: Carol Underwood, Joanna Skinner, Hilary Schwandt, and Assana Magombo, Johns Hopkins University
Community perspectives on vulnerable adolescent girls: Qualitative findings from Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique

Paper 3: Sarah Norton-Staal, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi
Foundation for improved protection and policy: The ongoing CDC research on violence against children in the region

Paper 4: Lucienne Maas, Save the Children, Yemen, Linda Sabarini, Save the Children Jordan, Larry Dershem, Save the Children Georgia, and Sita Conklin, Save the Children Egypt, and Sabah Badri, Save the Children Yemen
“Strengthening the Cornerstone:” Building on the foundation of positive asset development of adolescent girls in Yemen

Questions and Answers

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm **Lunch Break**
Showcasing: “‘I have something to tell you:’ Voices of Liberian girls”

2:20 pm – 5:20 pm **Panel 1: Using Evidence and Data to Make Adolescent Girls Visible and Actionable**

Moderator: **Judith Bruce**, Population Council

Panelists:

- **Attila Hancioglu** and Claudia Cappa, UNICEF HQ, *Data on adolescents in International Household Survey Programmes: The cases of MICS and DHS*
- **Janine Cocker** and Sara Nicholls, CIDA, *Building a better base: Advancing the girls' agenda through inclusive and evidence-based research and policy development*
- **Emmily Kamwendo**, UNFPA Malawi, *The role of social research in identifying socially excluded sects of society: A case of the Youth Programming Coverage Exercise in Malawi*
- **Lama Hassoun**, Harvard University, Pierre Ngom and Liv Elin Indreiten, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, *Impact of living arrangements on education and health of unmarried adolescent girls in the Middle East and North Africa*
- **Marni Sommer**, Columbia University, *Utilizing participatory and quantitative methods for effective menstrual-hygiene related policy and programming*
- **Eva Molyneux**, Alyson Warhurst, and Rebecca Jackson, Maplecroft, *Girls discovered: Global maps of adolescent girls*

- **Trine Lunde**, World Bank, *The Adolescent Girls Initiative: Why impact evaluation matters*
- **Martha Brady**, Population Council, *Adolescent girls' protection strategies in urban Zambia: What they are and what they might be*

Questions and Answers

5:20 pm – 5:40 pm **Break**
Showcasing “Girls around the world talk about their lives and rights”

5:40 pm – 6:30 pm **Keynote Address:** “The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the adolescent girl question”

Marta Mauras, Member of the Commission on the Rights of the Child
 Introduced by **Alberto Minujin**, The New School

Questions and Answers

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm **Reception**



DAY 2: TUESDAY, April 27, 2010

8:30 am – 9:30 am **Registration**

9:30 am – 11:00 am **SESSION 3 – Adolescent Girls and the Global Economy**

9:30 am – 9:40 am Presentation: *Adolescent Girls and the Macroeconomy*
Caren Grown, American University

Chair: **Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, The New School
 Commentator: **Caren Grown**, American University

Paper 1: Keetie Roelen, Maastricht University
Girls in transition – how to build evidence and gain insight?

Paper 2: Ronald Mendoza, Marina Komarecki, and Sheila Murthy, UNICEF HQ
When the global crisis hits the youth bulge: Challenges and opportunities for (female) youth employment

Paper 3: Berk Özler, World Bank, Sarah Baird, George Washington University, and Craig McIntosh, UC San Diego

Can conditional cash transfers for schooling be made directly to adolescent girls?

Paper 4: Gabriela Sanchez-Soto, Brown University

The role of US migration and remittances on the educational attainment of adolescents in Mexico

Questions and Answers

11:00 am – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am – 12:50 pm

SESSION 4 – Opportunities of Technology and Innovations

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Presentation: *Subtle and strong ways ICT can change girls' lives*

Christopher Hoadley, New York University

Chair: **Christopher Hoadley**, New York University

Commentator: **Christopher Fabian**, UNICEF HQ

Paper 1: Sarah Stevenson and Keshet Bachan, Plan International, Nikki van der Gaag, Independent Consultant, and Luiz Rossi, Child Protection Partnership

Adolescent girls online: Dangers and opportunities in "Cyber Space"

Paper 2: Osama Abdou, Mohamed I. Fahmy Menza, and Areeg Hegazi, CARE Egypt

Creating windows of opportunity through ICT: Lessons from adolescent girls programming in Egypt

Paper 3: Olena Sakovych, Riitta Poutiainen, Anja Teltschik and Olga Balakireva, UNICEF Ukraine

Adolescent female sex workers in Ukraine – Reaching adolescent girls sex workers via mobile phones

Paper 4: Mário Volpi, UNICEF Brazil

ICT and media education: Empowering pregnant adolescent girls

Questions and Answers

12:50 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Girls in Haiti: Context, Climate and Change - A Discussion with Girls from Haiti

Moderator: **Christine Norton**, UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office, Panama City

Introduction: **Nadine Perrault**, UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office

Protecting the Rights of Girls in Haiti: Before and After the Quake

Video: "**Haitian Voices: Three Girls' Stories**"

Thomas Nybo, UNICEF Consultant Filmmaker

Voices of Haitian Girls: **Josephine Denis** and **Gaetane Garcon**, *My experience of the quake and Haiti, my hopes*

Questions & Answers

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Coffee Break

3:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Panel 2: Lessons Learned – How to Keep Girls at the Center

Moderator: **Tamara Kreinin**, UN Foundation

Showcase of film “Biruh Tesfa (Bright Future)”

Panelists:

- **Sarah Bouchie** and Margaret Meagher Gabriel, CARE International, *Social change for adolescent girls: Leveraging the evidence of participatory and quantitative research*
- **KS Murthy**, Bhavishya Alliance, India, *Girls Gaining Ground*
- **Mohamed Ag Ayoya**, Jai Ghanekar, Victor M. Aguayo, UNICEF India, *Scaling up nutrition intervention for adolescent girls: From a model programme to a state-wide programme*
- **Sajeda Amin**, Population Council, *Adapting Programs for Context and Scale: Population Council’s experience with Safe Spaces Initiatives*
- **Emily Teitsworth**, Public Health Institute, *Adolescent Girl Advocacy and Leadership Initiative (AGALI)*

Questions and Answers



DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, April 28, 2010

9:30 am – 11:00 am

SESSION 5- Gender Analyses of Emerging Trends

9:30 am – 9:40 am

Presentation: ***Will Global Climate Change Negotiations Advance Gender Equality?***

Tracy Raczek, UNIFEM HQ

9:40 am – 9:50 am

Presentation: ***Youth, gender and climate change: Moving from impacts to agency***

Thomas Tanner, Institute of Development Studies

Chair: **Michael Cohen**, The New School

Paper 1: Ummey Qulsum Nipun, Save the Children, USA- Bangladesh Country Office

Capacity building of adolescent girls through addressing their responsibility at grassroots level to fight against disaster and

climate change: A Case Study from a coastal area of Bangladesh

Paper 2: Claudio Santibanez and Ivana Calle, UNICEF Bolivia

For better social protection of migrants' children's rights in Bolivia: An overview of the situation of adolescent girls affected by migration and related policy recommendations

Paper 3: Mary Racelis and Angelito S. Nunag, Ateneo de Manila University

Gender role advantages for urban poor adolescent girls in globalizing Manila

Questions and Answers

11:15 am – 12:45 pm **Panel 3 – Looking Ahead: Strategic Partnerships for the Future of Adolescent Girls**

Moderator: **Elizabeth Gibbons**, UNICEF HQ

Panelists:

- **Kathy Bushkin Calvin**, Chief Executive Officer, UN Foundation
- **Elizabeth Scharpf**, Founder, Sustainable Health Enterprises (SHE)
- **Santhosh Ramdoss**, Program Manager, BRAC USA
- **Gabriella Morris**, President, Prudential Foundation
- **Sharon D'Agostino**, VP Worldwide Corporate Contributions & Community Relations, Johnson&Johnson
- **Christelle Boulanger**, Projects Coordinator, Barcelona Football Club Foundation
- **Astrid Helle Ajamay**, Deputy Director General, and Head of the Ministry's UN section, MFA Norway

Questions and Answers

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Coffee Break

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Keynote Address: “*Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*”

Nicholas Kristof, *New York Times* Columnist

Introduced by **Alberto Minujin**, The New School

Questions and Answers

2:00 pm – 2:10 pm

FINAL REMARKS

Richard Morgan, UNICEF HQ

Book Signing: Nicholas Kristof, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*
