

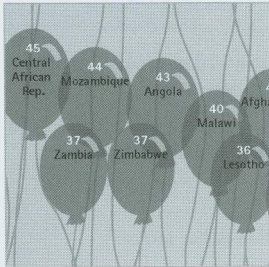
Contents

Introduction

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Part One: Women in the World

12



1 States Against Discrimination

14

Most of the world's governments are committed, on paper, to full equality for women.

2 The State of Women

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There is no easy way to compare the status of women around the world; nonetheless there are ways of shedding light on women's status and quality of life.

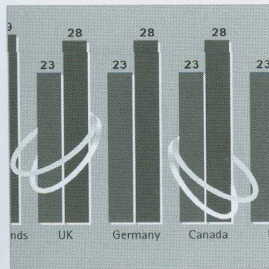
3 In Their Place

18

Women everywhere face *de facto* restrictions on their presence, dress, and private and public behavior. But in many countries, "keeping women in their place" is a literal undertaking.

Part Two: Families

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4 Households

22

The nature of families and of households is undergoing quite extraordinary changes. Both are smaller; more are headed by women, and more people live alone.

5 Marriage and Divorce

24

Most women and men in the world spend most of their lives married. However, the nature of marriage varies widely from place to place, and between men and women.

6 Lesbian Rights

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Some governments are slowly responding to pressure to offer protection and recognition for lesbian and gay rights.

7 Domestic Violence

28

For millions of women, the home is the most dangerous place they could be.

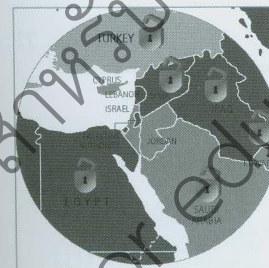
8 Murder

30

Violence against women often escalates when the woman tries to leave an abusive relationship — this is when violent partners are most likely to turn to murder.

Part Three: Birthrights

32



9 Motherhood

34

Women are having fewer children than did their mothers and grandmothers.

10 Contraception

36

Access to reliable contraceptives is a powerful force in advancing women's liberation and autonomy.

11 Abortion

38

There are about 25 million legal abortions in the world each year, and another 20 million unsafe and illegal abortions.

12 Maternal Mortality

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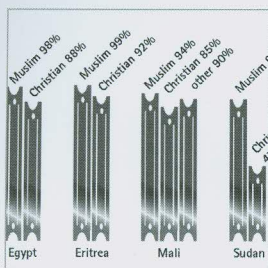
Each year, about 200 million women become pregnant; over half a million will die as a result.

13 Son Preference

42

A cultural preference for sons over daughters is almost universal. In some places, this preference is acted out in ways that produce demographic distortion.

Part Four: Body Politics



14 Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, with over 1.5 million new cases diagnosed each year.

15 HIV/AIDS

Over 30 million adults in the world are HIV infected. Seventy percent of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa. More than half are women.

16 Sports

Notions of “appropriate” masculinity and femininity are deeply embedded within, and structured by, participation in sports.

17 Beauty

International beauty contents promote and export a white, Western standard of beauty. Globalization is accelerating the adoption of these standards around the world.

18 Under the Knife

An estimated 130 million girls and women in the world have undergone genital cutting; each year, another 2 million join their ranks.

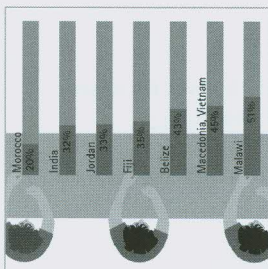
19 Global Sex Trafficking

Women’s bodies are commodities in the global sex trade, a multi-billion dollar industry.

20 Rape

Women everywhere live under the threat of rape – often a threat greatest in their own homes and from men they know.

Part Five: Work



21 Working for Wages

Increasingly women are working outside the home for pay, but they are typically paid less than men for their labour.

22 Workplaces

Typically women are employed in different occupations from men, and are over-represented in a limited number of occupations.

23 Unequal Opportunities

Women everywhere have to balance “family” and “work” demands in ways that men seldom do. In most countries, they get little help doing so.

24 Fieldwork

The world’s agricultural labour force is shrinking but women make up 40 percent of the labour force that remains.

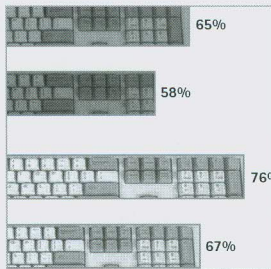
25 Unpaid Work

The unpaid labor of sustaining families and households represents a substantial part of daily work that is usually overlooked in official accounts.

26 Migration

Economic globalization is accelerating the flow of migrant labor. About 200 million workers and their dependents work in countries outside their own.

Part Six: To Have and To Have Not



27 Water

The lack of safe water and sanitation affects billions of people worldwide.

28 Literacy

Nearly a billion people in the world are illiterate, about two-thirds of whom are women.

29 School

More girls are in primary school than ever before, but still in lower proportions than boys.

30 Higher Education

More women are going on to higher education, although in most countries it is still a preserve of the elite.

31 Wired Women

The internet is a powerful agent of social change but race, age, gender and class digital divides are found everywhere.

32 Property

The majority of the world's women do not equally own, inherit, or control property, land and wealth.

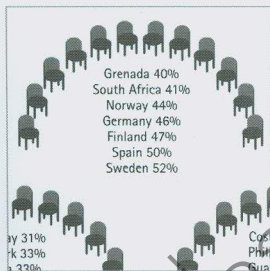
33 Poverty

Most of the world's population is poor. Women are the majority of the world's poor. The poorest of the poor are women.

34 Debt

Women are the "shock-absorbers" of economic crises, bearing the brunt of government cut-backs in spending on social and health services.

Part Seven: Power



35 The Vote

In most countries, men gained the right to vote before women did. Almost everywhere, voting rights for women were resisted, sometimes fiercely.

36 Women in Government

Overall, the countries with the highest numbers of women in elected office are those that actively enforce policies promoting gender equality.

37 Seats of Power

An increasing number of countries and political parties ensure that women are now visible as candidates and in national legislatures.

38 Crisis Zones

Women bear specific burdens in regions fractured by wars, insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, famine, and economic collapse.

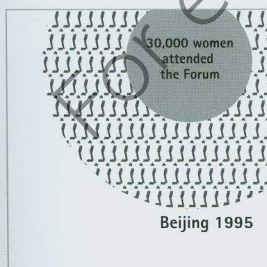
39 Women in the Military

Military service is traditionally the preserve of men – and they have fought hard to keep it that way.

40 Feminist Organizing

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

Part Eight: World Tables



Demography and Health

School, Work, Power

Sources

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