



EDITORIAL

This month, MEWC participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence by launching the MEWC blog for 16 days. We featured different posts from women in Africa, African women abroad, and the MEWC team. The campaigns theme this year was "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women." We posted articles ranging in topics from sexual violence in conflict, to small arms in the home. Each of these articles publicized issues that affect women on the ground, issues that we may not have known about. The main purpose of the launching the 16 Days of Activism Blog was to provide women a platform to share their stories and ideas. Successfully, we highlighted the stories of 11 women with an aim to raise awareness of the fight against gender-based violence.

Emily Elizabeth-Anne Meyer & The MEWC Team

TOP WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY NEWS

[AFRICA: THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE – WOMEN A PEACEMAKERS](#)

Source: Radio Netherlands Worldwide Africa

"We have to act now, we've no time to lose! Elections will be held in six months' time and otherwise, we'll be forgotten," says activist Salwa Saad Bugaighis. She's fighting for women's rights in post-Gaddafi Libya. She's hoping the Netherlands can help.

[SUDAN: WOMEN-LED PEACE A REALITY](#)

Source: women_ews

The South Sudan International Engagement Conference will bring together a number of governments to outline the development priorities for this fledgling nation. For the first time at such an event, a delegation of South Sudanese women from civil society will be recognized as official participants and formally invited to contribute to the vision of the future of their country.

TOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NEWS

[EGYPT: MASS MARCH BY CAIRO WOMEN IN PROTEST OVER ABUSE BY SOLDIERS](#)

Source: The New York Times

Several thousand women demanding the end of military rule marched through downtown Cairo on Tuesday evening in an extraordinary expression of anger over images of soldiers beating, stripping and kicking female demonstrators in Tahrir Square.

[ANGOLA: APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW DEEMED A PARLIAMENTARY MILESTONE](#)

Source: AngolaPress

The approval of the Law on Domestic Violence is considered as undeniable milestone of the functioning of the National Assembly during 2011, due to its importance of combating this evil in the society.

TOP POLITICAL PARTICIPATION NEWS

[NIGERIA: 2012 – ADAMAWA FEMALE GUBER CANDIDATE KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN](#)

Source: Leadership

Hajiya Zainab Konchi, the only female candidate in the 2012 Adamawa governorship election, has kicked off her campaign with a call on the people of Adamawa not to sell their votes.

[TUNISIA: ENNAHDA PUT FOCUS ON GENDER EQUALITY](#)

Source: Mail&Guardian

The Islamist party that won Tunisia's first post-revolution election said on Tuesday it would elevate a decades-old gender equality statute to a basic law.

TOP ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT NEWS

[UGANDA: REMARKABLE PARTNERSHIP HELPS UGANDA SOLVE FOOD SECURITY ISSUES](#)

Source: Voice of Africa

Uganda has experienced steady economic growth compared to many other African nations. But the country is experiencing something of a twofold, evolving food security crisis. A remarkable partnership between one Ugandan community and a young American nurse is helping to overcome local food security problems.

[TANZANIA: EMPOWERING WOMEN REDUCES GRASS ROOT POVERTY](#)

Source: Daily News

The ongoing national efforts to reduce poverty can only transform into reality if women are empowered with knowledge and skills.

TOP HIV/AIDS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

[TANZANIA: WOMEN IN DESPAIR FIND FRESH HOPE](#)

Source: The Citizen

Rukia Shabiby's shy but cheerful disposition belies an existence seared with pain, embarrassment and isolation. Two-thirds of her 39 years have been spent in a state of despair. At age 13, living in Zanzibar, she was married and became pregnant.

ZAMBIA: WOMEN CARRY LOAD OF HIGH HIV RATES

Source: Women E-News

Zambia has one of the world's worst cases of HIV, and women and girls suffer a higher rate of infection. Health activists say harmful cultural practices – such as the myth that having sex with a virgin can cure AIDS – must be targeted by prevention programmers. Zambia has one of the world's worst cases of HIV, and women and girls suffer a higher rate of infection. Health activists say harmful cultural practices – such as the myth that having sex with a virgin can cure AIDS – must be targeted by prevention programmers.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

KENYA: GENDER TARGET IN SCHOOLS ALMOST MET

Source: Daily Trust

The government is well on the way to achieving gender parity at primary school level, Education Minister Prof Sam Ongeri has said. Of the 776,214 candidates that sat the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams last year, 51.6 per cent were boys and 48.4 per cent were girls.

MADAGASCAR: LEGAL AID CLINICS HELP RURAL WOMEN

Source: IRIN

Legal aid clinics are playing an important role during Madagascar's current political and economic crisis, especially for poverty-hit rural women who are under-served by the country's ailing judicial system.

GENERAL

AFRICA: RURAL WOMEN MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD IN DURBAN

Source: IRIN

While heads of state and negotiators gathered behind closed doors at the 17th conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, more than 500 women from across Africa arrived by the busload at the nearby University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) chanting and singing.

NIGERIA: PROTESTING WOMEN BLOCK ACCESS ROAD TO GAS PLANT

Source: Vanguard

More than 500 women from Edo community in Esit Eket Local Government of Akwa Ibom on Wednesday blocked the access road to the gas plant under construction by Septa Energy.

FEATURED RESOURCES

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS RESPONSE – EPIDEMIC UPDATE AND HEALTH SECTOR PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Source: ReliefWeb

Global progress in both preventing and treating HIV emphasizes the benefits of sustaining investment in HIV/AIDS over the longer term. The latest report by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UNAIDS "Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Response" indicates that increased access to HIV services resulted in a 15% reduction of new infections

over the past decade and a 22% decline in AIDS-related deaths in the last five years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[ACCOUNTABILITY NOW!](#)

Source: AIDS Accountability and Ford Foundation

Date: 07 December 2011

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

As part of the *Monitoring the MPOA* project AIDS Accountability International (AAI) is committed to increasing the dialogue around accountability and improving the response to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs in Africa. Thus, AAI and Ford Foundation are hosting an evening event at the 16th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA).