



In this issue:

- ⇒ 2016 Graduation
- ⇒ UNU-GEST lecture series
- ⇒ Launch of the 2015 HDR
- ⇒ International conference
- ⇒ Highlights from social media
- ⇒ Wikigender University
- ⇒ Alumni activities

The United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) celebrated the graduation of 15 fellows with a post-graduate diploma in international gender studies in May. The fellows came from six different countries; four men and eleven women from Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Palestine (West Bank), South Africa and Uganda. The graduating class is the largest since the beginning of the programme and it is the fourth cohort after it became a part of the United Nations University in 2013.

At the graduation ceremony, several distinguished guests addressed the fellows including Mr. Stefán Haukur Jóhannesson, Permanent Secretary of State, as well as Mr. Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, Dean of the School of Humanities and Mrs. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the former President of Iceland and Patroness of UNU-GEST. On this occasion Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of UNU-GEST, accounted for the activities of the programme in the past year and Mr. Daniel Amponsah from Ghana spoke on behalf of the graduating fellows on their experiences during their stay in Iceland.



Useful links:

- [UNU-GEST website](#)
- [2015 UNU-GEST newsletter](#)
- [Studying in Iceland](#)
- [Pictures from field trips](#)

Follow us!

UNU-GEST is on Twitter [@unugest](#) and on [Facebook](#)



Mrs. Finnbogadóttir delivered the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Award for the best final assignment, this year received by Ms. Stella Tereka from Uganda for her project: 'Enhancing Women Farmers' Adaptive Capacity to Cope with Climate Change in Kamuli ct'. She was supervised by Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson, Director General at the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources and associate professor at the University of Iceland.

The UNU-GEST team wishes the fellows all the best with future endeavours. Congratulations to Stella and all 2016 alumni!



UNU-GEST LECTURE SERIES

This year's UNU-GEST lecture series, established with the aim of disseminating and sharing knowledge within the field of gender equality and development, included talks from a variation of disciplines, focusing on cultural politics and female empowerment, peace-keeping and building processes, victimisation and agency, gender and climate change and invisibility of gender data within global data collection. Eight international speakers from different fields contributed to the 2016's lecture series, included were the following events :

Gender Specifics: A Hidden View from Kuwait (January 2016)

(Mai Al-Nakib, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Kuwait University)

Prof. Al-Nakib's research addresses a wide range of issues linked to cultural politics in the Middle East—from Arab feminisms to the ethical question of Palestinians in Kuwait. These issues were discussed in relation to her award-winning collection of short stories, *The Hidden Light of Objects*, and her presentation was followed by reading and discussion.

Twice Abused Bodies and the Question of Agency (February 2016)

(Dr. Giti Chandra, part-time lecturer at UNU-GEST)

In her talk titled *Twice Abused Bodies and the Question of Agency*, Dr. Chandra discussed the ways in which women's bodies are inscribed in cultures across the globe, which make certain kinds of violence against those bodies imaginable and possible.

Men of the World ... and what to do about them: resistance, responsibilities and responses (March 2016)

(Dr. Jeff Hearn, Guest Research Professor at Örebro University, Sweden)

Prof. Jeff Hearn's current research focuses are on gender, sexuality, violence, men, organizations and transnational processes. In his lecture, Prof. Hearn addressed some of the implications of globalisation and transnational social processes across multiple arenas, such as global economy, migration, and ICTs, for assessing the changing state of critical studies of men and masculinities.

Making women invisible: What gets counted, counts (April 2016)

(Prof. Joni Seager, Chair of the Global Studies Department at Bentley University, USA)

Dr. Seager is a feminist geographer and has achieved international acclaim for her work in feminist environmental policy analysis, the environmental costs of militaries and militarism, and gender and climate change. Seager's lecture discussed the absence of specifics of women's lives and gender relations in official international 'statistical regimes' that provide virtually no gender-disaggregated data at any scale from local to global.

LAUNCH OF THE 2015 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT IN ICELAND

UNU-GEST welcomed Dr. Selim Jahan, editor-in-chief of the '2015 Human Development Report (HDR): Work for Human Development', to launch the report in Iceland at an open seminar at the National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík on February 18. The Icelandic Minister of Housing and Social Affairs, Ms. Eygló Harðardóttir, gave the opening remarks and panellists included Dr. Katrín Ólafsdóttir, assistant professor at School of Business at the University of Reykjavík, Drífa Snædal, general secretary of the Federation of General and Special workers in Iceland and Dr. Kolbeinn Stefánsson, specialist at Statistics Iceland.

The 2015 Human Development Report explored how work can enhance human development, given that the world of work is changing fast and that substantial human development challenges remain. The report encourages governments to look beyond the formal sector and to consider the many kinds of work — such as unpaid care, voluntary or creative work — which also improve the well-being of people and societies. The 2015 HDR makes the point that the link between work and human development is not automatic and proper policies and strategies are needed to ensure mutual positive synergies of work and human development.



Special thanks:



Thomas J. Wilkinson joined UNU-GEST in April as an intern. His internship is a part of his studies in Gendering Practices at the University of Gothenberg. He has contributed to all aspects of UNU-GEST work, ranging from daily administration to field trips and research. He has been an exceptionally valuable member of the UNU-GEST team during this time.



Ms. Marta Birna Baldursdóttir (MPA) left UNU-GEST in March to pursue the role of expert within the department of public management and reform at the Icelandic Ministry of Finance. The UNU-GEST team thanks Marta for her invaluable contributions to the programme and wishes the best in her new endeavours.



Ms. Alison Hendra, an exchange student of Philosophy and Sustainability Studies from Concordia University volunteered on the UNU-GEST programme until May. UNU-GEST is thankful for her time devoted to the development of the programme's alumni strategy.





UNSCR 1325

Inclusive Peace

women, peace & security post 2015

Inclusive Peace: Women, Peace and Security post 2015

The international conference *Inclusive Peace: Women, Peace and Security Post 2015* was held on 14-15 April at the National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík. The conference addressed the progress and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, and was organised by United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) and EDDA – Research Center at the University of Iceland, with support from the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss progress of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and to highlight the obstacles that still limit its implementation. The opening panel of the conference was comprised of Marriët Schuurman, Ambassador NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, Prof. Cynthia Enloe, Clark University, Dr. Kristian Berg Harpviken, Director of Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) and Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Ambassador for Human Rights at Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mrs. Lilja Alfreðsdóttir, Foreign Minister of Iceland, gave the opening address.

The conference explored three key themes. First, it examined the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, gender awareness in conflict prevention and early warning systems. Speakers included Dr. Georgina Holmes, Research fellow at University of Reading in England, Prof. Laura Khoury, Birzeit University in Palestine and Dr. Katherine Wright, Research fellow at University of Surrey in England. The first session concluded with talks by Dr. Kristian Berg Harpviken and Dr. Henri Myrntinen, Head of Gender and Peace-building at International Alert in England.

The second session focused on the participation of women in peace processes, paying special attention to mechanisms designed to increase the number of women at all levels of decision-making institutions and to strengthen partnerships with local women's organisations. Cynthia Enloe began the session, followed by talks by Marilou McPhedran, Director at the Institute of International Women's Rights at University of Winnipeg in the United States, Ortrun Merkle, UNU-MERIT fellow and Fatima Hossaini, independent researcher and GEST alumni.

Finally, the third session addressed women's roles and participation in conflict transformation as setting the stage for a just and gender-sensitive foundation for peace, particularly in the realms of transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction. Marriët Schuurman opened the session, followed by Dr. Marsha Henry, Deputy Director of LSE's Centre for Women, Peace and Security, Dr. Rebekka Friedman, Lecturer at King's College London, and Jessica Bombasaro-Brady, independent researcher.



Lilja Alfreðsdóttir, Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, gives the opening address at Inclusive Peace.



UNU-GEST alumni, Fatima Hossaini addressed local participation in peace council in Afghanistan.

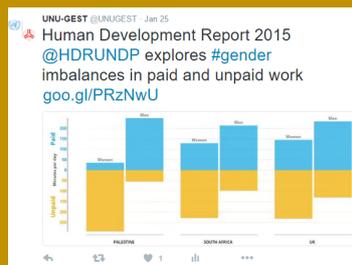


Marriët Schuurman, Ambassador and NATO SGSR for WPS took part in the opening panel of Inclusive Peace — women, peace and security post 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



2016 fellows visited Alþingi in January, the national parliament of Iceland, where they met Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.



UNU-GEST hosted the launch of the Human Development Report 2015 in Iceland 18 February.



UNU-GEST Fellows celebrate finishing the 2016 Gender-Responsive Budgeting Course under the supervision of Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer.





2015 ALUMNA ATTENDS WOMEN DELIVER

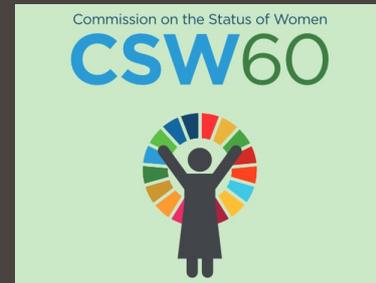
Shaista de Araújo, 2015 UNU-GEST alumna from Mozambique, attended the 2016 triennial [Women Deliver Conference](#) during 16-19 May in Copenhagen, Denmark as a beneficiary of the Women Deliver Committee's scholarship grant, accepting just 30 out of over 5,000 applicants. The 4th Global Conference was the largest gathering on girls' and women's health and rights in the last decade and almost 6,000 people from 169 countries participated. Ms. de Araújo writes: "The conference atmosphere was so positive; people shared ideas, established partnerships, and discussed theories of implementations. This experience reminds me of the importance of the foundation knowledge that I had in UNU-GEST, and here I am again, renewing and strategically following up the connections, ideas and projects to give and continue to believe in a better world for women, girls, men and boys".



2015 ALUMNI AT CSW60 IN NEW YORK



Victor Maulidi and Limbani Phiri, 2015 UNU-GEST alumni, attended the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) held 14-24 March in New York. The 2016 Commission addressed the theme of 'Women's Empowerment and its link to sustainable development'. Victor Maulidi represented the NGO Gender Coordination Network and Limbani Phiri attended under the umbrella of the Men for Gender Equality Now – Malawi Chapter. They described the forum as an opportunity to engage and contribute to discourses on sustainability goals, environmental initiatives, gender equality and empowerment, in line with what was taught during the GEST Programme.



IVAN TITOSSE (2015) PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR OF RESILIM-O

Mr. Ivan Titosse, gender equality activist and 2015 UNU-GEST alumnus, now holds the position of Project Coordinator of RESILIM-O (Resilience in Limpopo Basin-Olifants). The program aims to reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems through improved transboundary governance and management of natural resources, focusing on community based development with women's empowerment as a cross-cutting issue.

Mr. Titosse claims "most of the required skills in project management and climate change and gender, I acquired in the UNU-GEST modules *Practical Tools for Gender Sensitive Projects*, and *Gender, Climate Change and the Environment*." He is interested in pursuing further studies on gender and resilience, based on his UNU-GEST knowledge foundation.

The UNU-GEST team congratulates Ivan and all alumni on their success and endeavours towards gender equality!



When you attend the UNU-GEST programme, you don't only make friends for life; you also become a member of a valuable network of professionals that we want to make the most of. To be actively involved in alumni work can be an enriching experience, beneficial and fun.

2016 ALUMNI ARTICLES ON WIKIGENDER



In joint partnership between Wikigender University and UNU-GEST, seven alumni wrote articles that have been published through the Wikigender University Programme website.

As a part of the 2016 United Nations University Gender Equality Studies Training programme, fellows had the opportunity to participate in the programme. This is a partnership between UNU-GEST and Wikigender University, an online platform for shared research, data and solutions to advance gender equality, which involved writing articles on key topics which are uploaded and shared on the Wikigender platform. As part of the 2016 edition of the Wikigender University Programme, fellows contributed to the website with articles focused within their fields of expertise. The alumni's articles are titled:

- Women in leadership positions in Uganda by Atim Harriet Obong
- Women's entrepreneurship in Ghana by Daniel Amposah
- Girls' education in Uganda by Wamundu Muzamil
- Women's agricultural employment in Uganda by Stella Tereka
- Women and Family Planning in Mozambique by Amélia Olga André Zawangoni
- Gender, HIV/AIDS and food security in Malawi by Nthamy Mbeye
- Women's Access to Employment in the Media in Malawi by Roselyn Dalitso Makhambera



UNU-GEST has been forming an alumni strategy which will be introduced to the former fellows of the programme this fall.

