

Gender and Development

Peace Corps Kenya
July 2004

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We just want to give a shout out to all the volunteers who sent in applications for the PEPFAR scholarship. We are well aware how hard you all worked and how emotional the whole process was. Trust us. It was even harder on our end!

“I have to interview an orphan at 3, but maybe we could get some beers afterward.”
Anonymous PCV

PEPFAR Scholarship Madness!!
By Annie Greene

Thanks to all of you in the volunteer community who took the time and effort to interview applicants for the PEPFAR Scholarship. And, thanks to each of you who sat through the exhausting, yet exhilarating!!! process of actually selecting the students to be awarded. It was not an easy process, but it was definitely a learning process. The team of volunteers (Allison Jennings, Tina Lemburg, Colin Gershon, Alison Keyser, Darcy White, Chris Austin, Rosalind Lwin, Amy Yates, Jennifer Morris, and Annie Greene), and also some additional help from Kate Dorsch, Tory Ervin, and Rick and Myriah Satterfield--successfully sorted, reviewed, discussed, and assessed all of the applications that we received from Peace Corps Volunteers. For anyone who interviewed kids for this application, I think you deserve a very big hug. As a team, we were able to at least try and discuss some of the unbelievable situations that many of these HIV/AIDS orphans are in--and for most of us, I think I can say that we were thankful to be able to share our experiences.

The weeklong scholarship selection process (or longer for some) took place at the Peace Corps Office, where we reviewed close to 2,000 applications. About 420 students have been selected to receive the PEPFAR Scholarship. We recognized the need to require more detailed information on the application in the future with regards to fee structure, grade reports, and interview notes. Don't worry--we will do our best to revise the application so that we aren't running back and forth looking for more information in the final stages.

The entire application process, with input from PCVs, has also alerted us to the desperate situation that thousands of orphaned children in Kenya are facing with regards to education. I am

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Poetry Corner

Editors Note:

This section will feature poetry on gender issues from Kenyan teenagers (or PCVs!), and we welcome new submissions.

Emancipate the Girl Child

Jacklyn Nkoyo

Maasai Girls Secondary School

Form 3

Born by the same mother,
Given the same maternal love
I ask this simple query
Why don't we have gender equality in our society?

It's not our fault as lasses
To be born the way we are
We did not apply for that
That we were born girls and women

Cocksure I stand
To coddle the oppressed sex
Belligerent I am
To intensify all women

Baloney you may think I talk
Bonkers you may think I am
I do not give a damn about it
For it's even out of my domain

What difference does she have from a boy
She works the same way he does
She can even work more than the way he does
She's a far much better worker than he is

In the fields of politics
We have Charity Ngilu and her comrades
In the fields of education and studies
We have Professor Wangari Mathai

Doesn't this prove that they can make it?
Can't they do what men can?
I demur that we are a weaker sex
I'm not bumbled but it's a fact.

I call out for bulwarks
To emancipate the girl child
To exploit her capabilities
And release the bottled up talent the girl child has
Lest all give gender equality
Coddle all women

Why Me?

Jacklyn Nkoyo

Why me Lord?
Why me?
I'm floundered for speechless I am.
I'm foisted to so many things.
I'm not a filly.
Filthy filth filly
Don't try to make me one
As tears flow down my cheeks
Flustered I'm made
By my father and clan elders
Simply because he is rich or famous
They fob me to a man thrice my age
Foes they all become to me
With the venereal diseases
Although I'm flaccid
I don't want to fizzle out
Although you are flippant
And fling me with no mercy
I'm not going to flinch
Flamboyant I am
And say no to your wills
Don't bring down my flair
Of putting on a white cotton lab coat
Hanging a stethoscope round my neck
And performing a surgery
A flair of flying an aeroplane
And driving the most expensive cars
I'm not flimsy as you think
For you will flak on me
I'm not flippant about my life
The reason for my argument
Do not flail me
I'm strong enough today
Let me continue schooling
Let me have my rights
And stop your greedy desires
Of selling me for cheap dowry
I'm human, not a source of wealth
I'm not cheap staff as you think
I refuse to be barter traded on
Exchanged for a bunch of printed papers
Exchanged for a head of cattle
Exchanged for a flock of sheep
I refuse to be a commodity for sale
And after all this
I'll become the focal point
Of the whole society in general
I say no to early marriage
Let's all join hands and fight
Fight this succumbing maniac

Take Our Daughters to Work

The Results Are In!

Western Region

By Debbie Phillips

Twas the night before Wednesday,
When all through the house;
A lizard fell splat on my table,
As my cat chewed on a mouse.

Then Wednesday May the 19th
Was the big exciting day.
Start of Western TODTW
Done in our own special way.

We gathered in Kisumu
Along with our nominees
To learn about planning,
Goal setting, and career opportunities.

Eight PCVs, including myself-
Karen Yantis, Amy Lint, Chrissy Brennan,
Kim Theisen, Annie Greene, Rachel
McNary,
And of course don't forget Miss Stephanie
Kanan.

After Wednesday's introductions,
The girls were ready for adventure.
They set off with their host mothers
For a taste of their career ventures.

On Saturday they returned,
For a day of workshops and fun.
We drew our goals and made a plan,
Then questioned mothers till twas time to
run.

Off to Lake Victoria - the Kisumu Beach
Resort
Where in spite of hippos and a few small
waves,
The girls' happy songs
Proved they were quite brave.

That night was Mamba hotel,
And our own make-shift talent show.
Where we sure had some song birds.
Whose girl? - I don't know.

And with that we retired,
To our snug little beds.
Thanks to Classic Guest House
For the mosquito nets over our heads.

But most of all thanks to Kristen and
Stephenie.

Who leave Western GAD members
With some mighty big shoes to fill.
Believe me, we'll miss you come
December!

P.S. And a special (not painful to read)
note of thanks to all the GAD vets out
west who did so much to make Western
TODTW (and all of GAD for that matter) a
success - Kristen Sutara, Stephenie
Jennerman, Karen Yantis, Barbara Burch,
Jennifer Morris, and of course, Colin
Gershon. Thank You!

Central Region

by Amy Yates

Now that the new regime is comfortably
installed, we can tell the truth about the
old GAD members. And here's the first bit
of gossip: Leah Westra kicks ass! As the
only central member of the old
committee, Leah single-handedly
organized an amazing event (with a bit of
help from indentured servants i.e. new
and retired members).

Mothers and daughters came together at
Methodist Guest House on 26 May for a
pleasant dinner meeting. The mothers
were truly inspirational – from a dairy
cooperative worker, to an ad exec, to an
employee of Kenya Brewers. They were
all fantastic.

The girls stayed with their mothers for
two days before returning to Methodist
Guest House for an all-day conference
and sleepover (minus the actual sleep).

We began with a little experience sharing.
Questions were posted around the room
for mothers and daughters to answer.
When asked what food they most
enjoyed, the responses ranged from
chicken and chips to ugali and Malta
Guinness. (That must have been the
brewer's daughter.) And while one
daughter thought her most interesting
conversation concerned fighting AIDS and
eradicating poverty, another was more
interested in artificial insemination in
dairy animals. Their experiences obviously
ran the gamut!

After chai, one of the mothers, Mary
Onyango, gave a talk on goal-setting.
Mary was trained as an accountant until
she survived breast-cancer several years
ago. Now she is an activist promoting
awareness throughout Kenya. She is so
knowledgeable that doctors have asked
her to speak at conferences.

Next, three members of Population
Services International came to talk about
living with HIV. One man and two women
in their mid-20's shared their stories and
experiences, and the talk had such an
impact that two mothers also spoke out,
disclosing their HIV positive status.

After lunch, we had a talk by two
university freshmen, sharing their stories
about campus life. The young ladies even
stayed to participate in games with
mothers and daughters led by
motivational activist Gathecha Kamau.

Gathecha and his assistants set up
several indoor and outdoor games
designed to teach life lessons and get the
girls laughing. He succeeded in doing
both!

Finally, there was the talent show. By the
end of the day, the girls were starting to
come out of their shells a bit. (Well, Zippy
never had a shell, and we're pretty sure
she'll be president of the world before
she's 30.)

Luke Davenport and Brian (Striper)
Theroux warmed the crowd up with a
hilarious "Whose Line is it Anyway?" gag.
David Griffith and Tina Lemburg charmed
us with amazing feats that can only be
called "magic". And though all the
volunteers tried to achieve Goal #2 by
sharing the Electric Slide and the Chicken
Dance, the girls were not terribly
impressed.

The students, in turn, shared poems and
songs with such vigor we could hardly
believe these were the same bashful
teenagers we'd brought to the big city a
few days earlier.

(Continued on next page)

GAD AUCTION BY AMY YATES

(Central TODTW, continued)

The best talent, though, must have been Leah Westra's condom demonstration and fun-filled fact session. She spoke with such fluidity that we knew her condom experience far surpassed us all. Oops. Condom DEMONSTRATION experience, I mean.

Thanks to our predecessors for making us aim high next year! Sarcastic aside: Maybe then, my girl will get sponsored. (See her poetry, page 3.)

Coast Region

By Deb Ensor

Editor's Note: (Are you sick of these yet?) Apparently, the Coast's "Take Our Daughters to Lamu" Event was such a success that the reporter never returned. Joking, joking.

Unfortunately, our new Coast rep lives so far into the bush that she doesn't get cell coverage, and e-mail is only a distant fantasy. Though she promised to write an article about the event, we've decided to cut her a little slack this time.

As our chair suggested earlier, though, this editor runs a tight ship. Next time, heads will roll.

GAD held its semi-annual auction in Naivasha for the new training group on July 17. Current members Ros Lwin, Allison Jennings, and yours truly attended. In addition, Kristen Sutara from the old regime served as receipt maker, money counter, and general strong-arm. We also got loads of help from Lisa Carlock who lives in some unpronounceable place near Tanzania and Lonnie Stimac, high stakes bidder and beader extraordinaire. We want to give special thanks to Rick and Myriah Satterfield, who gave us tireless assistance in the auction and with PEPFAR scholarships. They are now honorary GAD members.

We began setting up Friday evening. After several hours of picking through boxes, we all had a newfound appreciation for Goodwill workers. We are grateful for all of the donations, but it sure would help if people WASHED things first. Achoo! The night was marked mainly by the comment, "Who would donate something like this?" However, some of these gems made for fabulous door prizes. Nothing says Gender and Development like a crotchless fishnet body suit. Thanks, anonymous donor!

Between Ros and Allison's flair for design and Kristen's "mitumba" idea, we created a visually stunning display of clothes, household items, and personal care products. Not only did the trainees get some pretty snazzy stuff, but trainers and staff walked out with armloads of bargains. In the end, we collected more than 50,000 shilling!

We have had discussions with Simon, and would like to begin offering the auction at IST as well as PST to increase our profits. We rely on the volunteer community to continue sending donations to their regional offices. Don't wait until you COS! Dig out anything you're not using now and bring it in.

We'd like to ask all volunteers donating items to please place them in sealed boxes labeled for the auction. We've had problems recently with valuable items disappearing or being sold in regional offices. Protect your precious items (and your crotchless body suits) from theft by letting a GAD member know if you've donated something of value.

Nipe Picha

By Rosalind Lwin

The word on the pothole-studded street is that all three of this year's Take Our Daughters to Work Events were a success. For all those who participated, please give yourselves a pat on the ass (if someone from your local matatu stage has not already). In order to ensure that upcoming Gender and Development Events can live up to the hype, the GAD committee brainstormed several fund-raising ideas. The thought of embossing female condoms with the Peace Corps logo was intriguing, however, we decided that calendars and postcards are more likely to be proudly displayed by people of all religions.

The creative talents of the Peace Corps community have not gone unnoticed. We'd like to invite all of you to submit photos and/or artwork that would be suitable for GAD calendars and postcards. Ideally, the images selected would somehow be related to gender

Development, but we are willing to sell out and accept any image that has a mass market-appeal. So if you are a HOT volunteer that would like to submit a photo of yourself wearing nothing but your Chacos and a smile...feel free.

Please send all images, name of artist and/or photographer, information regarding subject(s), and care instructions, by September 15, to:

rosalindlwin@yahoo.com

or

Rosalind Lwin, KITI, P.O. Box 280, Nakuru

Or

Rosalind Lwin, c/o U.S. Peace Corps, Nairobi Regional Office

Any questions, complaints, and comments worth at least 5/= can be directed to Rosalind at: 0721 370 117

Disclaimers:

- All images become the shared property of GAD and the artist/photographer.
- GAD will take special care in handling all submissions but we cannot be held responsible for any damage done to the originals by underpaid Kenyan postal workers.
- Original submission(s) will be returned to your regional office upon completion of use.
- GAD is extremely grateful for any and all creative contributions but will be unable to give you "Kitu Kidogo" for your submission.
- GAD cannot guarantee that all submissions will be utilized this year. (Especially if you are not quite as "hot" as you think you are.)

The Gender Insensitive Match Game

The battle of the sexes has been raging since the dawn of (wo)man, and a lot of verbal bashing has taken place on both sides – some of it funny, much of it frightening. Can you match the quote with the person who said it? Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. *I wish men had boobs because I like the feel of them.*
 2. *Most women are one man away from welfare.*
 3. *Feminism was established to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream of society.*
 4. *Men who are unjustly accused of rape can sometimes gain from the experience.*
 5. *To call a man an animal is to flatter him; he's a machine, a walking dildo.*
 6. *If combat means living in a ditch, females have biological problems staying in a ditch for 30 days because they get infections...males are biologically driven to go out and hunt giraffes.*
 7. *Men in the pro-choice movement are either men trapped in women's bodies...or younger guys who are like camp followers looking for easy sex.*
 8. *All men are rapists, and that's all they are.*
 9. *I can look at a chick who's a little out of shape and if she turns me on, I won't hesitate to date her. If she's a good f*** she can weigh 150 pounds, I don't care.*
 10. *Most of the feminists need a man to tell them what time of day it is and to lead them home.*
 11. *95% of women's experiences are about being a victim. Or about being an underdog, and having to survive...women didn't go to Vietnam and blow things up. They are not Rambo.*
 12. *I found one man in a thousand that I could respect, but not one woman.*
 13. *Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.*
 14. *The feminist agenda...is about a socialist, anti-family, political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians.*
 15. *Women should be obscene and not heard.*
- a. Timothy Leary
 - b. Pat Robertson, 700 Club
 - c. Gloria Steinem, feminist author
 - d. Rush Limbaugh
 - e. Arnold Schwarzenegger, current governor of California
 - f. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House
 - g. Baby Spice
 - h. Groucho Marx
 - i. Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 7:28
 - j. Catherine Comin, Assistant Dean, Vassar College
 - k. Bob Dornan, former representative, California
 - l. Valerie Solanas, founder of SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men)
 - m. Jerry Falwell
 - n. Marilyn French, author and advisor to Al Gore's presidential campaign
 - o. Jodie Foster

Disclaimer

The Gender and Development committee does not endorse any of the above quotes, nor does it encourage anger or violence against the speakers. Except Newt Gingrich. That guy's an ass.

Call for Submissions: If you would like to see a gender issue covered or would like to write about one yourself, we gratefully welcome ideas. This is a not a feminist newsletter. Our goal is to provide information combined with humor on ALL topics regarding gender in Africa, including men's issues, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender topics. Submit to Amy Yates (ae Yates@yahoo.com).

Answers: 1g 2c 3d 4f 5l 6f 7k 8n 9e 10m 11o 12i 13a 14b 15h

Gender Issues in the News

Minister Pledges Probe of Slavery Claims

The Nation (Nairobi)

June 17, 2004

Samuel Siringi
Nairobi

The Government is to investigate claims of sex slavery in Kenya.

Cabinet minister Linah Jebii Kilimo yesterday appealed to the public to volunteer information on abused children and women.

The Nation reported yesterday that Kenya had been placed on an international "watch list", quoting a US government report. It said Kenya was a "country of origin, destination and transit " for people smuggled across borders for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

The State Department report claimed that among the victims were rural children trafficked into urban centres and coastal resorts. Sex tourism was becoming common along the coast, it added.

Belonging to the "watch list" means a country could face US sanctions if it did not take steps to stop human trafficking.

Mrs Kilimo said: "It could be true there are cases of child smuggling, but it's probably done in the pretext of using the children to work in the house or as relatives who stay with the abusers."

It was a crime, she said, to use children as sex slaves or for labour "and the law will take its course once we apprehend the culprits."

Answering questions from journalists after presiding over this year's Day of the African Child celebrations at St Michael Primary School, Nairobi, the minister said Aids orphans were some of the most abused children.

Child slavery, sales, prostitution and trafficking were some of the African child's major challenges, she added.

Mrs Kilimo also condemned abortion as violence against children, saying: "I urge the communities to

work closely with mothers to ensure they do not abort." Earlier, in a memorandum to the minister, Children's Parliament urged the Government to enact tough legislation against abortion. They also wanted an end to child abuse, including defilement.

They called for additional classrooms because schools were congested due to the free education programme. New classrooms, they said, should be part of the plan to put up 150,000 homes a year.

Unicef country representative Heimo Laakkonen urged the Government to find ways of enrolling the 1.5 million children yet to take advantage of the free schooling.

He urged school management committees to be proactive in following up the out-of-school children in their communities.

"Where families are negligent or absent, the community has a responsibility to step make sure that the children go to school," he said.

The theme of this year's celebrations was: The African Child and the Family.

UNICEF Unveils Child-to-Child Survey to Get All Children in School

United Nations Children's Fund (New York)

PRESS RELEASE

June 15, 2004

Addis Ababa

With 121 Million Out of School, Schoolmates Start to Ask Questions

In honour of the Day of the African Child, UNICEF today officially launched a child-powered, global project to account for children not in school in order to accelerate the enrolment of all girls as well as all boys.

For the project, called the Child-to-Child Survey, teams of school children interview out-of-school children to find out the particular reasons why they are not enrolled. An estimated 121 million children are out of school worldwide. The majority of these children are girls.

As children report the results of their findings, they will call on their communities and governments to take action and place education at the top of their agendas. The effort is one part of UNICEF's multi-partner strategy to reach the goal of Education For All.

"We want this project to start a chain reaction, whereby the children and their teachers will not only identify those out of school but will also commit to getting them enrolled and helping them succeed," UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said. "The chain reaction will go on to involve communities, parents, government ministries and external partners in local and national drives to achieve education for all."

The Day of the African Child this year focuses on the theme of 'The Family.' Achieving educational parity for girls will have far-reaching, positive effects, including ensuring that families will be healthier and stronger, not only for today, but also for future generations. Bellamy said the world must remember the importance of educating every child.

"Educated mothers and fathers are the foundation of healthy, strong families and societies," said Bellamy. "With more than 24 million children out of school in Africa, we must consider this a critical situation and act with the urgency that it merits."

Presenting initial survey results to Bellamy, children in the Ethiopian capital said that poverty, early marriage, and abduction of girls are all part of the problem.

Ethiopia is one of 25 countries participating in UNICEF's girls' education campaign: '25 by 2005', which aims at making sure girls and boys have an equal opportunity to obtain a primary and secondary education in 25 countries by the year 2005.

In addition to children, the Child-to-Child Survey is mobilizing governments and other partners, such as the Global Movement for Children and its members, like the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Several other countries in Africa are launching their own Child-to-Child Surveys, including Kenya, Malawi, and Chad. In the coming months, other countries, including Zambia and Sudan will roll out their own versions of the CTC. Plans are underway to take the CTC campaign globally, starting later in the year with South Asia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Battered, bruised - and male

February 27, 2004

By Barbara Cole and Staff Reporter

Source: The Star

No longer inconceivable, the rise in South Africa of reported cases of domestic violence against men is worrying counselling services.

They say men of all races are taking a hammering on the home front, being starved of food, used as punching bags and stabbed - when they're not subjected to psychological and emotional abuse.

The trend is so worrying that the Family and Marriage Association of South Africa (Famsa) is to launch its first support group for abused males next month.

Statistics on male abuse in the country are not available because many victims do not come forward and no resources have been provided to help them. But international figures suggest that in 100 domestic violence situations, about 40 cases will involve violence by women against men.

Another South African counselling service, Oasis, reported having dealt with more than 50 cases over the past year.

"It's a big problem," says Themba Mkhize, a senior counsellor with Famsa in Durban.

The problem of abuse against men has been "going on for years", he explains, but has remained a taboo subject. "Men have just remained silent."

But more men are now beginning to come forward to reveal the horrors of their treatment at the hands of their partners, he says.

Generally, when they contact Famsa to seek help, the men will initially decline to give the reason for their approach, merely saying they have "a problem".

Eventually, the real story of their abuse comes out.

Famsa and Mkhize want more victims to break their silence and seek help. They are calling on men in abusive relationships to effectively fight back and seek treatment.

Mkhize adds that counsellors present at the special support group being formed in Durban are male too,

"and I know that will make victims feel more comfortable talking about their problems.

"Later we will also target the women perpetrators to change their mindsets," he says.

Counsellors believe the problem of under-reporting is particularly acute in South Africa because of its patriarchal and macho society, where men fear being ridiculed.

Also, they feel they will not be believed because the impact of their abuse is less apparent - the actual physical damage inflicted by men is so much greater than the actual physical harm inflicted by women.



The stigma attached to being a male victim of domestic violence is so strong that it even extends to police and health professionals.

But the dynamic is the same as in man-on-woman abuse. Mkhize says that, just like women, abused men feel guilty, believing they are to blame and that somehow they have done something to deserve their bad treatment.

"Eventually the continuing abuse almost becomes normal to them," he says.

International experts agree, saying men don't seek help for the same reasons as women - they feel shame, they have low self-worth, they deny the seriousness of the problem, they are prepared to endure the situation because of their partner's "good points". They also stay in abusive relationships to protect their children.

Editor's Note: Statistics on violence against men vary widely. A study by the British Home Office claims that men are just as likely to be assaulted but far less likely to incur injuries or be subjected to repeated acts of violence. The US Department of Justice figures estimate that females are 5-10 times more likely to experience domestic violence than men.

In same-sex relationships, domestic violence occurs with the same statistical frequency. As of 1995, between 50,000 and 100,000 lesbian women and as many as 500,000 gay men were battered each year in the US.

Our Solution to Evan's Word Game:
PORN-PORT-PART-PAST-CAST-CASH

PEPFAR
(continued from page 1)

thankful that we were given the opportunity to really try and see some progress at the ground level through the help of volunteers. With the money that will continue for the next four years from PEPFAR, I am certain that hundreds of more students will be assisted in the completion of their education.

You are probably wondering--what about the applicants who were not selected? The applications are all being held at the Peace Corps office so that they can be reviewed again for the next selection process. Due to the expectations that many volunteers instilled among students, the committee thought that it was vital for us to re-consider those who weren't selected for next year's round.

As of today, we are still unsure as to the exact date that the funds will be released to the schools, and we are also unsure of the process that will occur. I was hoping to be able to release all of that information in this newsletter, but we will know very soon. Be patient. Nice time.