Women are living longer but continue to be victims of gender discrimination, UN

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At the launch of the report, World's Women 2015, today (20 Oct) in New York, Keiko Osaki Tomita, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch and Social Affairs, said that as a result of an increase in women's enrolment in higher education "the first age of marriage has increased everywhere."

Tomita said "education is a key factor to push the age of marriage higher."

However, she noted "in certain regions in the world like South Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa, child marriage is still prevalent, it's being exercised. And that, unfortunately, is possible that preventing girls enrol in higher education and also preventing the development, physical development, of the girls."

Francesca Grum, Chief of the Social and Housing Statistics Section spoke of honour killings and homicides related to intimate partners. Grum said that some "66 percent of these types of victims, are women, when we know that the share of women in all types of homicides is only 20 percent."

Lenni Montiel, who is Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development said that in Latin America "there is more participation in public office positions, both in executive positions as in parliaments or in the justice sector."

Nevertheless, he noted, women in Latin America are "still suffering from deep inequalities in terms of poverty, in terms of violence against women and girls, and definitely in terms of inequality in pay for equal work."

With regard to inheritance laws, Grum said "we have data for 120 developing countries, and maybe in a third of countries we have laws discriminating against women in terms of inheritance rights. There is another 50 percent of countries with customary laws..."
discriminating against women, and so at the end we only have maybe 20 percent of countries where women and men have the same inheritance rights."

Coming on the heels of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this new set of data on women and girls worldwide brings into sharp perspective the need for gender equality outlined in Goal 5.

Life expectancy has continued to rise, reaching 72 years for women and 68 for men, globally. Worldwide, the number of maternal deaths declined by 45 percent between 1990 and 2013. Although they continue to marry a few years earlier than men, women’s age at marriage has also increased, reflecting higher education levels, later entry into the labour force, as well as increased economic independence.

Enrolment of children in primary education is nearly universal today. The gender gap has narrowed and once they have enrolled in school, girls perform better than boys through primary education in two thirds of country.

However in some developing countries the disparities against girls are stark. Today, 58 million children of primary school age are out of school worldwide. More than half of them are girls and nearly three quarters live in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Although the vast majority of the world’s youth is currently literate, nearly two thirds of the world’s illiterate adults are women, a proportion unchanged for the last 20 years.

STORY: UN / WORLD’S WOMEN REPORT
SOURCE: UNICEF-UNICEF
RESTRICTIONS: NONE
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH / SPANISH / NATS

DATELINE: 20 OCTOBER 2015, NEW YORK CITY / RECENT

SHOTLIST:

RECENT-NEW YORK CITY

1. Wide shot, exterior, United Nations Headquarters

20 OCTOBER 2015, NEW YORK CITY

2. Wide shot, dais
3. Med shot, photographers

SOUNDBITE (English) Keiko Osaki Tomita, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch and Social Affairs:

"The first age of marriage has increased everywhere, and partly because women’s enrolment in higher education has increased. So, certainly education is a key factor to push the age of marriage higher. However, the report also pointed out in certain regions in the world like South Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa, child marriage is still prevalent, it's being exercised. And that, unfortunately, is possible that preventing girls enrol in higher education and also preventing the development, physical development, of the girls."

4. Med shot, reporters

5. SOUNDBITE (English) Francesca Grum, Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section:

"The victims of homicides related to intimate partners and family related, I am sure that the honour killings are included. What is striking is that two out of three victims, so we are talking 60, 66 percent of these type of victims, are women, when we know that the share of women in all types of homicides is only 20 percent."

6. Med shot, reporters

7. SOUNDBITE (Spanish) Lenni Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development:

"There is more participation in public office positions, both in executive positions as in parliaments or in the justice sector. Nevertheless, we have to admit that the position of women in Latin America is still suffering from deep inequalities in terms of poverty, in terms of violence against women and girls, and definitely in terms of inequality in pay for equal work."

8. Med shot, reporters

9. SOUNDBITE (English) Francesca Grum, Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section:
"We have data for 120 developing countries, and maybe in a third of countries we have laws discriminating against women in terms of inheritance rights. There is another 50 percent of countries with customary laws discriminating against women, and so at the end we only have maybe 20 percent of countries where women and men have the same inheritance rights."

10. Wide shot, end of presser

DURATION: 02:42

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