

# UN report: Women living longer, better educated than in the past

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## New York (dpa) - Women worldwide live longer, are more independent and enjoy more opportunities than they did two decades ago, though some still suffer violence and wage gaps compared to men, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday.

According to the UN's World Women's Report 2015, the average life expectancy for women is now 72 years, compared to 68 for men two decades earlier.

The death rate for mothers in child birth declined 45 per cent between 1990 and 2013, falling from 380 deaths per 100,000 births to 210. More women are marrying at an older age comports with results showing that they are better educated and are a larger part of the work force.

Still, the report found that child marriage remains a problem, affecting 26 per cent of all women under 18 worldwide, down from 31 per cent two decades ago.

The employment opportunity gap between women and men remains substantial, and closing that gap by 2030 is one of the UN's goals.

The report found that 77 per cent of men work, while only 50 per cent of the world's women are employed, and they are more likely to earn 70 to 90 per cent what men do on average.

While literacy is on the rise throughout the globe, the report says women account for two thirds of the world's illiterate. That proportion has increased over the last two decades.

Violence against women remains a grave problem, with about a third of the world's women experiencing violence at some point in their lives. In the past two decades, the victims of violence ever report it.

The report, the sixth of its kind issued since 1995, follows the UN's recent adoption of its Sustainable Development Goals, which "will aim to end poverty and promote prosperity and well-being for all women and girls by 2030."

"We cannot achieve our 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development without full and equal rights for half of the world's population, in law and in practice," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at a recent event on gender equality organised on the margins of the Sustainable Development Summit.

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