



Because They Are Girls Facts and Sources

The trafficking in human beings is a heinous crime claiming up to 27 million men, women and children as slaves. Our deep concern on this issue is that 98% of sex slaves are female, and that each year the demand is for younger girls. However, trafficking is only one of a constellation of issues that plague women and girls, leaving them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation simply because they are female.

Gendercide

- At least 160 million girls who would otherwise be alive are "missing", mostly in China and India as a result of sex-selective abortions, infanticide or neglect. (New York Times. 2011)

Honor Killings

- Throughout the world, perhaps as many as 5,000 women and girls a year are murdered by members of their own families, many of them for the "dishonour" of having been raped, often by a member of their own extended family. ("State of the World's Population 2000." United Nations.)

Child Marriage

- Child marriage is widespread in many developing countries, numbering more than 60 million worldwide. In some countries, half of the girls are married before they turn 18, thus increasing their likelihood of maternal mortality. (International Center for Research on Women. 2011). 100 million additional girls will marry over the next decade. (International Center for Research on Women. 2011)

Premature Motherhood

- Girls younger are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s. Pregnancy is the leading cause of death worldwide for women ages 15 to 19. (International Center for Research on Women. 2011)

Malnutrition

- Women make up a little over half of the world's population, but they account for over 60 percent of the world's hungry. ("Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger,." Report of the Secretary General. July 2007. World Food Program.)

Illiteracy

- Women account for nearly two-thirds of the 776 million illiterate adults in the world. (United Nations. "Unifem Annual Report 2008-2009.")

Female Genital Mutilation

- It is estimated that 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are living with the consequences of female genital mutilation, and 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk every year, leaving many subject to infection, infertility and/or permanent injury (“Fast Facts: statistics on violence against women and girls.” Virtual Knowledge Center to End Violence Against Women and Girls. 2011)
- Consequences of female genital mutilation can include excessive bleeding, problems urinating, childbirth complications and stillbirths. (Worth, Robert F. “Tiny Voices Defy Child Marriage in Yemen.” New York Times. June 29, 2008)

Work

- Women perform 66 percent of the world’s work, produce 50 percent of the food, but earn 10 percent of the income and own 1 percent of the property. (UNICEF. “Gender Equality – The Big Picture.” 2007.)

AIDS

- Of 33.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS, 15.9 million are women. (World Health Organization. “Global Summary of the World Aids Epidemic.” 2009)
- In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 60 percent of all adults living with HIV are women. (UNWomen. “Facts & Figures on HIV & AIDS.” 2008)

Physical Abuse

- Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. (“Violence Against Women Worldwide.” UN Women © 2011)

Rape

- It is estimated that worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. (“Facts & Figures on VAW.” UNWomen. Referred to by María José Alcalá. State of World Population 2005. The Promise of Equality: Gender Equity, Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA. 2005)

War

- Women and girls are targeted as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instill fear in, punish, disperse and/or forcibly relocate members of a community/ethnic group. (“Facts & Figures on Peace & Security.” UNWomen. 2011)

Poverty

- Women make up 70 percent of the world’s poor. (“Women, Poverty & Economics.” UNWomen. 2011)

Human Trafficking

- Up to 27 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution around the world; 98 percent of sex slaves and 80 percent of transnational victims are women and girls. (“Trafficking in Persons Report 2011.” United States Department of State)