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Jill Sheffield Named One of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century

Women Deliver Founder and President Jill Sheffield was selected as one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century by Women's eNews, an award-winning nonprofit news service covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy. The list honors outstanding leaders that are committed to improving the lives of girls and women, each one insisting on equality and justice for women and girls. Sheffield was presented with an award for her life-long commitment to enabling women to plan their fertility and making childbirth safe. This year's group includes leaders who are working globally and locally to ensure that women's rights are human rights. (womendeliver.org)

Rising Women Education not Matched by Higher Education Leadership

Rising incomes and a more youthful population in many countries in South Asia have led to a huge increase in women students. Yet this has not been matched by growth in the number of women in leadership roles at universities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Most women academics and higher education managers "end up in senior positions more by 'accident' than by conscious and deliberate career choice", said Ismail Badat, the British Council's South Asia regional manager for higher education. "But one feature that women share is that men dominate institutions of higher education," according to a new British Council report *Dangerous Demographics: Women, leadership and the looming crisis in higher education*, released last week at the "Going Global" conference in Miami. (University World News)

More Women Sit on the UN Security Council, but What Does It Mean?

As increasing numbers of women embark on careers as diplomats, the United Nations headquarters in New York is slowly but surely undergoing a big change in

demographics: the female-to-male ratio of diplomats is becoming — dare it be possible — more balanced. Of the UN's 193 member countries, about 30 women currently represent their nations as permanent representatives, a record of 15 percent. This Group of 30, as they are nicknamed in UN circles, may not appear seismic, but at the world body, a male bastion since its start in 1945, it is a meaningful number. As more women have been assigned to the UN as ambassadors for their countries, they have become a larger presence on the Security Council, the UN's most important body. Of the 15 council members, five are now women, representing Argentina, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria and the United States. (Passblue)

Population

Population Strain in South Asia

Poverty is a problem in South Asia due to the population strain on limited land and other resources, and weak economic development caused by faulty government policies and corruption. All of the countries of South Asia have rapidly growing populations, which have put tremendous strain on available land and other resources. Bangladesh's situation appears to be the most desperate. Bangladesh is the second most densely populated country in the world (Singapore is first). Bangladesh has an average of 950 persons per square kilometer. More than 60% of its people are farmers. The most important industries are textiles and the processing of agricultural products. (Center for Educational Technologies®)

U.S. Lawmakers Fight to Repeal the 'Unfair' Abortion Ban On Peace Corps Volunteers

If a Peace Corps volunteer needs an abortion for whatever reason — even in extreme cases, like if her pregnancy resulted from rape or if her pregnancy is potentially life-threatening — she'll have to foot the bill herself. That's because Congress imposes a total ban on abortion coverage for the volunteers in the government program. Now, reproductive rights advocates are fighting to change that policy, which the people who serve in the Peace Corps call "punitive and unfair." Peace Corps volunteers are launching a coordinated lobbying effort this week to urge Congress to repeal the unreasonably harsh restrictions on their abortion coverage. They're traveling to Capitol Hill to ask lawmakers to support the Peace Corps Equity Act, a piece of legislation introduced by the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) last year that's about to be reintroduced by his colleagues. (Thinkprogress)

Leadership

IMF Opens Dialogue with Gulf Parliamentarians

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides a forum for parliamentarians from member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates—to exchange views on the Fund's role and the economic issues facing the region. Held during April 28-29 in Kuwait City, the two-day seminar aimed to foster greater understanding of the IMF's role and familiarize participants with the macroeconomic analysis and policy tools underpinning its core policy consultations and programs, says IMF. "Outreach to parliamentarians is

important because they have a role to play in discussing economic legislations in their countries,” says Raja Almarzoqi, advisor in the IMF’s Middle East Department. The dialogue with them provides an opportunity to learn more about their views and concerns, explain the IMF policy advice, and discuss policy trade-offs their countries face,”. (IMF)

ADB May Directly Fund NGOs, CSOs

The recently released mid-term review of “2020 Strategy,” the Asian Development Bank’s long-term blueprint for its development efforts in Asia-Pacific, mentions partnerships not only as one of its 10 strategic priorities for the region, but also as one of the five “drivers of change” in the future. Partnerships include cofinancing with other multilateral banks and development partners, collaboration with the private sector through PPPs, and knowledge-sharing between bilateral institutions and aid experts — but is this only for other lending and multilateral institutions, governments and the private sector? Chris Morris, head of ADB’s NGO and civil society department, believes that financing and partnership opportunities with NGOs and CSOs can be a new and exciting opportunity for the Manila-based institution to leverage its operations and even resources — which ADB has not explored deeply enough yet. (Devex)

Up Coming Meeting

- Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict 10-13 June 2014 at ExCel London.
- Harvard Course on SRHR Litigation 3-5 November 2014 Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
- 2014 Global Women's Leadership Forum, 26—27 July, in Gold Coast, Australia.
- The 4th annual Nexus Global Youth Summit in New York City 23-26 July, 2014
- The One Young World Summit for 2014, Dublin, Ireland 15 - 19 October 2014
- 5th Population, Health, Environment (PHE) Conference Baguio City Philippines, 20 – 22 May 2014

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Message for Leaders

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