



ISSUE IN FOCUS

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CELEBRATING WOMEN AND GIRLS

March 10, 2015



March 8 is International Women's History Day and the United States dedicates the month of March as Women's History Month. This edition of *Issue in Focus* provides a sampling of electronic resources that highlight contributions to the development and advancement of women and girls who, in turn, contribute significantly to their societies and to global development. All the electronic resources are accessible from any Internet-ready computer or hand-held device. There are books, periodicals, DVDs and electronic databases on this and other topics available at the [Lincoln Corners](#) across Malaysia for the public to access free of charge.

U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

[Presidential Proclamation -- Women's History Month 2015](#)

White House

Throughout history, extraordinary women have fought tirelessly to broaden our democracy's reach and help perfect our Union. Through protest and activism, generations of women have appealed to the values at the heart of our Nation and fought to give meaning to the idea that we are all created equal. As today's women and girls reach for new heights, they stand on the shoulders of all those who have come before and carry forward their legacy of proud achievement.

[Obama, First Lady on 'Let Girls Learn' Initiative](#)

IIP Digital

Mrs. Obama: "So with the help of many of you in this room, and in collaboration with the Peace Corps, I am thrilled to announce that as part of Let Girls Learn, we're going to be launching a new community-focused girls' education initiative across the globe. This effort will draw on the talent and energy of the nearly 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in more than 60 countries.

And I want to emphasize that these programs will be community-generated and community-led. They'll be based on solutions devised by local leaders, families and,

yes, even the girls themselves. And you can learn more about these projects and how to support these efforts at LetGirlsLearn.PeaceCorps.gov.”

[Secretary John Kerry on International Women’s Day](#) **Department of State**

Secretary Kerry: “I’d like to propose a different headline, a different narrative. While their work may not always make the front pages, women are confronting our most pressing global issues. At great personal risk, they are fighting poverty, discrimination, and violence so that their families, communities, and countries can have better lives.

As Secretary of State, I see the power of women every day in every country that I visit -- from Afghanistan, where they are creating opportunities for the next generation, to Liberia, where President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is building the foundation of democracy.”

[Girls Deserve to Learn – Without Exceptions – USAID Officer Says](#) **IIP Digital**

Globally, enormous progress has been made in closing the gender gap in primary education over the last 20 years. In most of the world today, a similar percentage of girls and boys attend primary schools. Yet disparities endure — there are around 3.6 million more girls out of school compared to boys around the world — in total, that’s 62 million girls who are not realizing their full potential. Women still comprise the majority (two-thirds) of the illiterate. In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, obtaining an education remains particularly tough for women and girls. The World Bank estimates that half of the out-of-school girls in the world live in sub-Saharan Africa and one quarter of them live in South Asia.

OTHER LINKS

[Nobel Lecture by Malala Yousafzai \(Video\)](#)

[Expanding Opportunity for All: Ensuring Equal Pay for Women and Promoting the Women’s Economic Agenda](#)

[Educating Women and Girls](#)

[Power Plays – Celebrating Women’s Achievements](#)

[Why Invest in Women? \(USAID Infographic\)](#)

[Enterprising Women, Thriving Societies](#)

[Share America: Theme-Women & Girls](#)

[Library of Congress: Women’s History Month](#)

[The White House Council on Women and Girls](#)



UN International Women's Day

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