

UK GAD Network Activities Report April 2009-March 2010



PICTURE: Red Zao woman embroidering a shirt at the weekly market in Sapa, Lao Cai province, northern Vietnam. Image from World Bank photos - Flickr.


1. Introduction	3
2. GADN Membership	4
3. Members' Meetings	5
4. Changes in the UK GADN Secretariat.....	7
5. GADN Secretariat and Steering Group.....	8
6. GADN Communications	8
7. GADN and UK Department for International Development (DFID)	9
8. Campaigning/Advocacy Work.....	10
9. Violence Against Women	11
10. UK GADN Engagement with Women In Development Europe:	12
11. Other activities.....	12
12. Conclusion and thanks	13

1. Introduction

The UK Gender & Development Network (UK GADN) is a diverse membership network of leading practitioners, academics and consultants working on gender and development issues in the UK. Since its foundation in 1985, GADN has allowed gender and development practitioners a means to share information and expertise, lobbying government and international bodies, and advise national and international policies and practices. Through publications, research and campaigning tools commissioned by the network, GADN advocates on key gender and development issues that feed into government and institutional policy and practice. GADN members work in partnership with development and advocacy organisations throughout the world. GADN research has also disseminated information, campaigns and research to partners and networks in the south, ensuring that critiques of international development institutions, international agreements and processes are widely read by southern NGOs working directly to address poverty, women's empowerment and gender equality. In addition, GADN is the UK national platform for Women in Development Europe (WIDE), based in Brussels.

The past year, 2009 – 2010, has been a challenging but rewarding year for UK GADN. We have moved offices, registered as limited company, launched a new website, given four responses to green and white papers on international development, held four successful members meetings, campaigned at political party conferences, published in national newspapers....the list goes on!

This activities report outlines our work over the last year. Over 2009-2010, GADN has taken on a number of internal changes to enhance member capacity, while continuing to respond to numerous pressing issues across the field of gender and development. Along with the successes of the past year come more exciting opportunities in 2010-11, and we are very much looking forward to it.



Jessica Woodroffe
Chair, UK Gender and Development Network

2. GADN Membership

The network is made up of a range of organisations who believe ensuring women's rights and gender equality is central to international development. A variety of academics, consultants, students and other interested individuals who are not listed here also comprise GADN membership. The organisations and individuals that make up the GADN membership fluctuate and because of the financial situation globally, some members have been unable to renew their membership. However we are delighted to have some new members join us, including WaterAid and Amnesty International UK.

UK GADN members that joined or renewed throughout 2009-10 included the following organisations:

ActionAid
Amnesty International (new)
BRIDGE/IDS
CAFOD
ChildHope
Christian Aid
Development Planning Unit (new)
Eaves Housing (new)
NAWO
NFWI
One World Action
Oxfam
PANOS
Plan
Save the Children
Tearfund
UNIFEM
Village Aid (new)
WaterAid (new)
WILPF
Womankind Worldwide
Women for Women International (new)

3. Members' Meetings

GADN members meet quarterly to discuss and share information on current gender and development issues, research and expertise. Members' meetings provide vital networking and advocacy opportunities, as well as enable members to share their experiences and make a real difference to gender and development issues. The GADN also provides an informal but important support structure for gender professionals working in an increasingly difficult development environment. During 2009-10, the network held **four** members' meetings:

Violence against Women in a Development Context - A UK GADN International Women's Day event

On 12 March 2009, the UK GADN took the opportunity on International Women's day to support members' partners from the Global South in discussing their work on violence against women. Plan showcased a video on female genital cutting, and ActionAid partner Reverend Christiana Sutton Koroma discussed her involvement in working on VAW in Sierra Leone especially in the context of HIV/AIDs and being part of the Parliamentary Task Force that developed a national HIV and AIDS Law. CAWN partners shared their experiences in tackling violence against women and their initiatives to influence policy and decision-makers for better and more sustainable services, policies and institutions. Sara Elizabeth Avilez Tome drew on her experience as a lawyer and Maria Amalia Reyes Cartagena shared her thoughts on working with local women through different Self Help Groups, and empowers them to take leading roles in improving social behavior in their communities.

Reproductive Rights: How far have we come? Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in the context of the International Conference of Populations and Development

Hosted by Marie Stopes International on 4 June 2009, this meeting looked at the ICPD and the recent changes in sexual and reproductive health trend globally. Speakers included:

- Marianne Hasselgrave, Chair of the UK Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Working Group in the ICPD
- Anne Quesney, Head of Advocacy, Marie Stopes International
- Erica Nelson, Knowledge Manager Research and Metrics Team, Marie Stopes International



Why Girls? Working with Girls in a Development Context

Hosted near Plan UK offices on Tuesday 22 September 2009, the UK Gender and Development Network in association with Plan UK, were delighted bring together members to discuss the importance of working with girls in the development context.

The meeting examined how 'working with girls' can be used as a specific lens of analysis to reveal particular discriminations girls face due to their sex and age. This meeting allowed participants to think about 'gender' as a category that can hide certain intersections of discrimination/multiple vulnerabilities. It also encouraged exploration of how a specific analytical lens can facilitate targeted and effective interventions.



UK GENDER &
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



Plan
Because I am a girl

UK GAD Network Meeting

Tuesday 22 September 2009

14:00-17:00 (15:40-17:00 GADN members only)

Venue: Our Lady of Hal RC Church, 165 Arlington Road, Camden, London, NW1 7EX

Speakers included

- Paul Spray (DfID) – introducing the new DfID / Nike Foundation partnership: The 'Girls Hub'
- Therese Mahon (Water Aid) – insights into Water Aid's work with adolescent girls, hygiene and sanitation
- Feyi Rodway (consultant with Plan UK) – girls as a critical lens of analysing discrimination and presenting Plan's new report on girls in the global economy
- Fiona Mavhinga – Speaking with experience of CAMFED projects



Having Faith! Working on Gender and Development with faith-based organisations

On 12 November 2009, Tearfund hosted UK GADN members and a full line up of speakers to discuss the opportunities and challenges of working on gender and women's rights with faith-based development organisations.

Speakers included:

- Revd Rachel Carnegie, Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International Development
- Peter Grant – International Director - Tearfund
- Amanda Marshall - Programme Advice and Support - Tearfund
- Nida Kirmani - Researcher working for the Religions and Development Programme and Islamic Relief
- Tanya Haque - Gender Advisor - CAFOD
- Rachel Aston – Head of Social Policy - Mother's Union
- Jeffery Jonkers - Secure Livelihood Programme - Christian Aid

This was an exciting and full discussion that opened up many interesting questions and started dialogue on an issue the UK GADN has not yet dealt with.

4. Changes in the UK GADN Secretariat

2009-10 was an exciting year for the UK GADN as it left its long-term host Womankind Worldwide to move to international development organisation One World Action where it is now currently being hosted. Zohra Khan, Women's Rights Officer for One World Action took over the role of Chair of the UK GADN, and the UK GADN are grateful both Zohra and other staff at One World Action for their support during the move as well as the process of becoming a legal entity.

In July 2009 the UK GADN was incorporated as a limited company which will allow it to act more independently of its hosts and take full control of its finances. This new legal status will also help the UK GADN continue to fundraise for its activities next year.

Zohra Khan resigned as Chair in July 2009 and the UK GADN are grateful to Steering Group members, Ceri Hayes and Alyson Brody, who acted as Interim-Chairs until the new Chair, Jessica Woodroffe, was appointed. The UK GADN enters the new financial year under the guidance of Jessica, who has excellent experience in the development and women's rights sector through work in Christian Aid, Action Aid, and The Fawcett Society.

UK GADN Steering Group

Over the year the UK GADN was led and supported by a number of experienced and dedicated individuals from the development sector as part of the UK GADN including:

ActionAid: Laura Turquet, Kate Bishop and Zohra Moosa

BRIDGE/IDS: Alyson Brody

Christian Aid: Cecilia Lazarte

Independent Consultant: Helen Derbyshire, Jessica Woodroffe

Oxfam GB: Fiona Gell and Ines Symth

One World Action: Zohra Khan, Carolina Gottardo and Emily Esplen

Plan UK: Keshet Bachan –

WaterAid Samantha French -

Womankind Worldwide: Ceri Hayes and Rachel Carter

The UK GADN would also like to thank the volunteers who have supported it over the last year including: Veronique Dion, Marjorie Henderson, Maria Rengifo, Uzma Osinibi and Monica Mukerjee. Their work has been a vital backbone to the continuing of the network.

5. GADN Secretariat and Steering Group

As usual the UK GADN Steering Group met throughout the year to decide on the strategic direction of the network including heading up working groups and supporting the network 's strategy and planning process for 2010-11. The SG met on:

- 27 January 2009
- 14 May 2009
- 26 November 2009
- 4 February 2010

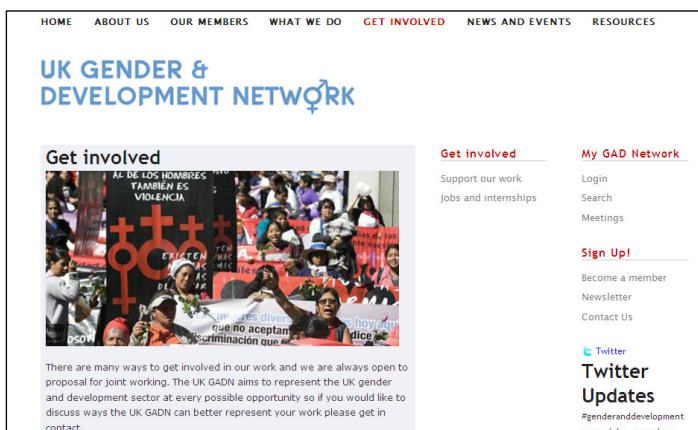
In October 2009, the steering group were joined by former Chair, Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith, who facilitated the SG to think about the vision, mission and aims of the UK GADN and to produce the basis for a strong and lasting work plan. The creation of the UK GADN strategy is still ongoing with the plan going out for member consultation in January 2010.

6. GADN Communications

The UK GADN Information Round-Up

In 2009-10, GADN regularly communicated across its network primarily through its twice-monthly newsletter (Information Round Up). In addition, GADN updated its online presence, most notably through the launch of a new website and starting a Twitter account.

Either once or twice a month, the Information Round Up provides updates about the network and the Steering Group. The newsletter also provides information about the latest advocacy and training opportunities and remains an easy way to post members' activities via a responsive central administration.



UK GADN Website



In December 2009, the UK GADN launched its new website, designed to be more user-friendly and more easily updated to enable better communication between the secretariat, its members and the general public. The website has the capacity to have an online UK GADN membership section where eventually members will be able to discuss and share information, updates and challenges they face in promoting gender and

women's rights within development.

Alongside the new website, GADN also began a Twitter account, which aims to help the network stay aware of current news, publish immediate feedback on policies, and interact with other organizations, members, and groups.

7. GADN and UK Department for International Development (DFID)

The UK GADN aims to win political commitment from HMG to promote gender equality and women's rights in international development policy and our objectives are to

- To win commitments from whichever party forms the new government in 2010.
- To influence HMG directly by advocating for gender equality and women's rights To influence HMG indirectly by ensuring that UK INGOs and networks advocate for gender equality and women's rights
- To persuade HMG to advocate for specific improvements in international institutions to advance gender equality and women's rights.

Throughout 2009-10, the UK GADN maintained its close working relationship with DFID, holding the last of the series of roundtables on violence against women (see below), responding to the draft and final papers on their white paper for international development and meeting with staff from the Equity and Rights Team in DFID to ensure the UK GADN are well placed to support DFID in its effort to mainstream gender and women's rights throughout its work.

GADN/DFID Roundtable on Violence Against Women

On 23 April 2009, the GADN and DFID hosted a joint roundtable on violence against women at the DFID office, Palace Street. GADN was delighted to be joined by over 30 participants as well as some stimulating speakers. The opening remarks were given by Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Development. We also heard from Miranda Monroe and Kemi Willims from DFID, Aine Doody (Irish Aid), Sofia Dohmen (SIDA, Sweden), DFID Rights & Equity Team and Osnat Lubrani (Director, UNIFEM, Brussels) as well as some excellent presentations from GAD Network members on their current work on VAW. This was the last in a series of roundtables being held jointly with DFID and GADN.

GADN meeting with DFID White Paper Consultation Team

On Monday 27 April 2009, GADN members and colleagues met with the DFID Team working on the consultation document: **Eliminating World Poverty – Assuring our Common Future**. Around 20 participants discussed the importance of a gender perspective in the main themes of the consultation: development in the current financial crisis, climate change, development in conflict and fragile states and reform of international institutions. A GADN response was drawn up from the comments in this meeting and circulated to GADN members in June 2009.

UK GADN Responds to DFID consultation document Eliminating Poverty – Building Our Common Future Following the successful engagement of the UK GADN in the drafting of the White Paper, the UK GADN drew up a full response to the final White Paper. Specifically we commented that:

- We strongly welcome DFID's commitment to tackle the inequalities faced by women. However we are concerned that these commitments do not go far enough in recognising that women's empowerment and gender equality are key drivers for ending poverty.

- We are concerned that despite the inclusion of women and girls throughout the White Paper, DFID still currently lacks concrete targets and dedicated funding on women's rights and gender equality.
- Moreover, any commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment must be backed up with gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation and preceded by gendered planning processes including gender impact assessments.
- The GADN believe that DFID already have many of the tools to ensure that gender equality remains central to its work, including the Gender Equality Action Plan and commitment to the MDGs. However, these tools will only be effective if backed up by resources for building and sustaining leadership, staff capacity and systems of accountability for gender equality policy commitments in DFID *and* in its partner governments.

This was sent to Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State for International Development in August 2009.

8. Campaigning/Advocacy Work

UK GADN Responds to Conservative Green Paper: One World Conservatism

In September 2009, the UK GADN wrote to Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Shadow Secretary-of-State for International Development responding to the Conservatives vision for international development laid out in their Green Paper, 'One World Conservatism'. Whilst the GADN welcomes the party's commitments to increase aid by 0.7% and to maintain a separate Department for International Development (DFID), the network noted its concern about the scarce reference to women throughout this document. In particular, there is a lack of gender analysis on any of the substantive issues discussed in the paper, including security, economic growth, climate change and governance.

UK GADN at the Conservative Party Conference

2009-10 was also a year of gearing up for the possibility of a general election in May 2010. In order to kick off our engagement with the political parties, UK GADN members One World Action, Womankind, Plan and ActionAid worked together on a successful event at the Conservative Party Conference. The event '*Empowering Women to End Poverty*' held on 7 October 2009, engaged a variety of individuals from across the sector and political spectrum to encourage the Conservative party in to mainstream gender in their green paper on international development.

UK GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Empowering Women to End Poverty
A Reception
Wednesday 7 October
5-5:45pm, Manchester Central Exchange,
Auditorium Lower Foyer

The UK Gender & Development Network (GADN) — made up of leading practitioners, academics and consultants — advocates for greater attention to gender equality within international development.

Why women and girls?

- 70% of the 1.5 billion people living on less than a dollar a day are women and girls
- 1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime
- 62 million girls don't attend primary school
- Sustainable and effective development is not possible without the empowerment of women.

What the Conservative Party can do

The GADN wants the Conservative Party to make the empowerment of women — and achieving gender equality — central to their manifesto commitments on international development.

Specifically, the GADN calls for urgent action to:

- Prioritise the empowerment of women as vital to progress on all the Millennium Development Goals
- Tackle violence against women and girls as a central development issue
- Promote the political participation of women, and increase accountability to women in governance structures
- Champion the empowerment of women and girls at the international level, including through the work of the UN

WOMANKIND | Plan | ONE WORLD ACTION | actionaid | www.gadnetwork.org.uk

UK GADN Meets with Andrew Mitchell MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development

On 26 October 2009, members of the GADN steering group met with Andrew Mitchell MP to discuss women's rights and gender equality in international development. The meeting focused on the GADN's response to the **Conservative Green Paper on International Development** and the GADN steering Group have agreed to submit a further more detailed response to the Green Paper. These responses were on the Conservative Green Paper, development indicators and violence against women were sent in January 20-10 and are available to view on the **UK GADN Website**.

UK GADN drafts manifesto for UK General Election

The UK GADN is drafting a manifesto of key pledges we will be calling from all the political parties. In the run up to a probably general election in May 2010, the UK GADN demands that all political parties commit to mainstreaming gender equality and women's rights in their development strategies. All GADN members will be consulted on the strategy.

UN Gender Entity - UK GADN's Involvement

Over the year the network has been heavily involved in the EU campaign to ensure the new UN gender entity reflects the needs and desires of the world's women and the global women's sector. The UK GADN have been working closely with the EU GEAR campaign, taking part in a number of lobbying and advocacy actions including briefing DFID and the EU working group on UK gender and development sector concerns about the process, lobbying for a fair and just remit and funding for the entity and engaging with the Minister for Women, Harriet Harman MP on this issue. The UK GADN have also been passing on information to its members about how it can become more involved and UK liaison from the GEAR campaign, Simon Chase, to speak at our April meeting.

9. Violence Against Women

UK GADN and DFID host joint Roundtable on Violence against Women – 22 April 2009

The UK GADN also had a strong focus on VAW in 2009-10. The year started off with the final of our three roundtables coordinated with DFID. The first two, which took place in 2008, discussed gender and women's rights in aid effectiveness and climate change. The final roundtable on violence against women occurred at DFID offices, 1 Palace Street. The Roundtable was opened by a keynote speech from Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for DFID, who spoke passionately about the importance of eliminating VAW in DFID's work and development in general. Other speakers included:

- Zohra Khan, UK GADN Chair
- Kemi Williams, Senior Gender and Equity Adviser, DFID
- Osnat Lubrani (Director, UNIFEM, Brussels)
- Aine Doody (Irish Aid)
- Sofia Dohmen (SIDA, Sweden)

The roundtable was hugely successful and attended by individuals from across the development and gender and development sector. The success of the roundtable led to a **UK GADN Working Group on VAW** being set up and headed by the steering group. The working group started to put together some of the best practice examples from the UK GADN members, a report which will be published in 2010. They were also responsible for putting together a call from across the UK women's sector during the **16 days of activism on violence against women** in a public letter published in The Independent newspaper, on 25 November 2009. The letter read:

Women in danger around the world.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown wrote: "The truth is that all nations would prefer it if women went back indoors again." (23 November) The sad reality is that "indoors" is exactly where many women around the world are least safe.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread abuses of human rights, affecting one in three women globally. It is not only a major cause of death and disability, but it is also a leading factor in global poverty. Violence prevents women and girls from escaping poverty by limiting their choices and ability to access education, earn money or participate in political and public life.

Physical and sexual violence is routinely used in many countries to intimidate and control women and girls as well as their families and communities, both in conflict and in "peaceful" societies. Yet violence perpetrated against women and girls continues to be invisible and unacknowledged as a pressing global issue. The international community's silence means that this global scandal goes unchallenged.

Today (25 November) is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Ending violence against women worldwide requires leadership from committed governments like the UK's. As a signatory of all the relevant international conventions and fresh from publishing its first violence against women strategy, it is time for the British government to put violence against women and girls at the heart of its international agenda, by making it a foreign policy priority.

SIGNED: Jessica Woodroffe, UK Gender and Development Network; Claire Melamed, ActionAid UK; Marie Staunton, Plan UK; Southall Black Sisters; Janet Veitch, End Violence Against Women; Sue Turrell, Womankind Worldwide; Graham Bennett, One World Action; Geoffrey Dennis, CARE International UK; Peter Grant, Tearfund; Vivianne Hayes, Women's Resource Centre

10. UK GADN Engagement with Women In Development Europe:

As usual the UK GADN engaged with the European Network for organisations working on gender and development, WIDE, for which the UK GADN acts as a UK platform. Representatives from the UK GADN attended the annual conference "WE CARE! Feminist responses to the Care Crises" in June 2009 at the University of Basel, attended the training on capacity building for networks in March 2009, was part of the CEDAW working group that WIDE coordinates and attended the steering group meeting December 2009.

11. Other activities

UK GAD Network Attends Women and Financial Crisis Workshop at Oxfam UK

On the 15 and 16 September 2009, the UK GAD Network took part in the workshop, 'Gender and the Economic Crisis,' held at Oxfam. The workshop brought together twenty-five practitioners, economists, and academics from a variety of development and research organisations to present learning and experiences on the impact of the crisis on gender equality and women's rights. The workshop was organised by Oxfam GB and *Gender & Development* journal as part of a wider learning project on the gendered impacts of the crisis.

UK GADN meets with human rights award winners!

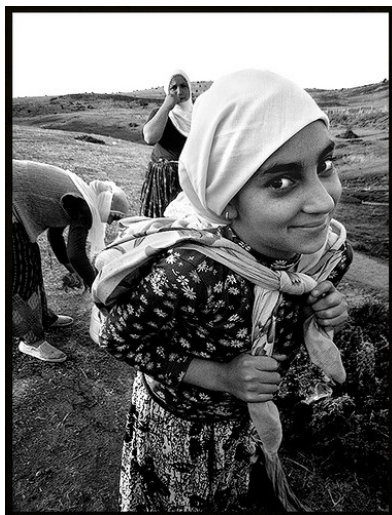
On 8 December 2009, GADN met with the International Service Human Rights Awards Winners for Human Rights Defenders of the Rights of Women and Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare. In its seventh year, the Human Rights Awards recognise the achievements of organisations and individuals around the world who work at a grassroots level to promote human rights and change the things that cause people to be excluded, impoverished or disempowered. This year's winners from Brazil were Fatima Cristina da Silva of the Extractivist Women's Secretariat (EWS) and Jorge Lyra da Fonseca of Instituto PAPAI. Jorge and Fatima presented their work and answered questions about the successes and challenges they have faced while working in Brazilian grassroots politics. EWS aims to defend the rights and interests of women working in the extractivist reserves of the Amazon forest. Instituto PAPAI works to engage men and boys on issues of gender inequality and masculinity.

12. Conclusion and thanks

Overall, the UK Gender and Development Network has had a busy and exciting year. We are thankful to our all our members who pay membership fees and those organisations who have given us core funding: ActionAid UK and Oxfam GB. Without their support the UK GADN would struggle to function.

We are also grateful to our hosts, One World Action and Womankind Worldwide, who have shown their hospitality and commitment to women's rights through the hosting of the network.

The UK GADN would also like to thank all the steering group members and volunteers who have given up time from their work to drive the network forward as well as those members who have been involved in supporting membership meetings, inputted to policy responses, given feedback to events and publications and generally contributed to the strength and diversity of the network.



PICTURE: Girl working with her family in Eastern Turkey—image from Flickr **Noborders**