



Seminar

*The Economic Rights of **the Girl Child***

*Hosted by: The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Plan Norway and
the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights*

Date: 24. September 2009

Time: 0900- 1700

Place: The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights,
Cort Adelersgate 30, Oslo, Norway.



Background

In much of the world, discrimination permeates each stage of a girl's life, at home, at school and at work. Girls have less opportunity to be educated, are more at risk of gender-based violence, and face greater risks of economic and sexual exploitation. As they have less control of sexual decisions two-thirds of 15 -19 year olds newly infected with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa are girls. Within the poorest and most marginalised communities, and

in times of insecurity and disaster, girls have little chance of escaping the cycle of poverty, discrimination and exploitation in which they find themselves. The distinct lack of progress by girls, if it continues, will in fact prevent the world's governments from meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Even before the current financial downturn, the past 30 years of globalisation and economic growth have had an uneven impact on girls and young women.

By economic rights we refer to those rights which directly impact on the current economic situation or profile of girls. i.e., protecting or improving access to productive resources or income and the conditions of such access. Thus human rights relating to land and property as well as rights to work, decent working conditions and social security are highly relevant. Ensuring rights to land and property are essential for securing food, housing and an adequate standard of living, especially for women and girls living in rural areas and informal urban areas. Paid work and effective access to social security can have markedly different effects for young women, depending on the context and the nature of the work. However, protection of girl's land rights or access to social security is poorly developed in many countries although there are some notable positive practices.

The symposium on the economic rights of the girl child aims to increase awareness of the economic rights of girls, in particular land and inheritance rights. Further, the aim is to strengthen the commitment to place girls' economic rights on the international agenda, including discussion of future MDG goal-setting and a proposed international complaints mechanism. The conference also aspires is to increase the awareness on alternative means of alleviating girls' economic situation to become income holders.

A preliminary agenda is annexed.





Seminar Programme

9.00 - 9:30	Opening Session	Welcome and objectives: Helen Bjørnøy, National Director, Plan Norway and Malcolm Langford, Research Fellow, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
9:30-11:00	SESSION 1: Girls, Rights and Livelihoods Moderator: Elin Saga Kjørholt, Director, Norwegian National Institution for Human Rights	KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: The Economic Rights of Girls in Context Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Children and Equality Girls' rights to social security Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty Land Rights, Legal Pluralism and Inheritance Seodi White, Director of Women and the Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust and Member, 'Because I am a Girl' Advisory Panel" COMMENT Leading the family: results of longitudinal studies of girl-headed households Sidsel Roalkvam, Senior Researcher, SUM, University of Oslo, Coordinator LEVE Network
11:00-11.30	Coffee	
11:30-12:30	SESSION 2: Land and inheritance rights Moderator: Fredrik Arthur, Equality Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	The Watchdog Groups Model: Mobilising Engagement with Customary Law Violet Shivutse, Groots Kenya Struggling for inheritance rights: Bhe v. Magistrate Khayelitsha- Constitutional Court of South Africa Nonkuleko Bhe, successful child litigant and Hoodah Abrahams-Fayker, Attorney, Women's Legal Centre



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12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	SESSION 3: Income generation <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Bård Anders Andreassen,</i> <i>Professor,</i> <i>Norwegian Centre for Human Rights</i>	Income generation: beyond child labour? Dan Banik, Associate Professor, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo Programming support for girl's livelihoods Madhuwanti Tuladhar, child rights and gender advisor, Plan Nepal Comment: The girl mother and her unborn child: linking the right to adequate food with other economic and social rights- an intergenerational perspective Wenche Barth Eide, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, University of Oslo; Co-Director International Project on the Right to Food in Development (IPRFD)
14:30-15:00	Coffee	
15:00-16:30	SESSION 4: Human rights tools <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Ida Eline Engh,</i> <i>Senior Programme Coordinator, Plan Norway</i>	Human rights approaches and economic rights of girls Daniel Seymour, Gender and Rights Unit, UNICEF Linking economic and protection rights of the girl-child Ann-Kristin Vervik, International Representative in the NGO Advisory Council for the follow-up of the UN Study on Violence Against Children International complaint rights Sevda Clark and Malcolm Langford, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights Closing Address Sarita Skagnes, author of "Just a daughter"

