



Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Every Millennium Development Goal is a “women’s goal.” Societies where women are more equal stand a much greater chance of achieving the MDGs by 2015. MDG 3 reaffirms gender equality and empowerment of women as essential ingredients of achieving all the other MDGs.



MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Targets

1 Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Quick Facts

- * Poverty is a major barrier to education, especially among older girls
- * In 2008, there were 96 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in primary school, and 95 girls for every 100 boys in secondary school in developing regions.
- * Statistics show that as the economic crisis worsens, violence against women increases.
- * In July 2, 2010, UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" was born and will be headed by Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile.



feminist task force

The Feminist Task Force (FTF) was launched in 2005 when leaders of international women’s rights groups gathered in New York City for the UN Commission on the Status of Women annual meetings. The global launch marked the start of a new alliance aimed at ending poverty among women and putting gender equality at the core of poverty eradication. Established under the umbrella of the **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)** the Feminist Task Force focuses on raising awareness around women’s issues and calling for “**Gender Equality to End Poverty**”.

Ten years ago, when the Millennium Declaration outlined the eight MDGs, many women’s organizations viewed them as “minimalist development goals”; as simply watered-down commitments of the internationally agreed development goals of the UN conferences of the 1990’s. Since then, reports indicate mixed progress, with the new crises worsening the feminization of poverty.

Now, with only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, the UN MDG 2010 Review Summit in September provides an opportunity to critique the progress of governments in fulfilling the MDGs, and also offers women’s organizations the time to emphasize once again the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women in achieving all the MDGs and sustainable human development.

Women’s groups will critically assess how the MDGs have or have not served women, and examine the impact on women of interconnected crises – financial/economic, climate change, food, maternal mortality – and how they have exacerbated living conditions for women and thrown millions back into poverty.

