



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

June 2025; Vol. 20. No. 06

Achieving Global Health

Imagine students in developing and developed countries simultaneously reviewing the same medical education and learning from each other. That is e-learning at its best in an Internet Classroom, and with this goal WHEC and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations (UN) launched this e-Learning Platform, on 24 October 2002. Advancing sustainable development for the last two decades and promoting United Nations 2030 Agenda, WHEC has a unique role to play in strengthening the health and educational systems, in rich and poor countries alike. Our special focus is on Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

All over the world people have one common and the strongest wish and desire – that their children are educated by well trained teachers, from the finest schools, colleges and universities to achieve a prosperous future. This is a timeless and ageless wish and desire. Our faculty is from the best universities of America. Our [WHEC Global Health Line \(WGHL\)](#) is serving in 227 countries and territories, about 14 million subscribers every year. It is available in six official languages of the UN.

Technologies and innovation in teaching, learning and healthcare are creating exciting new opportunities, to accelerate progress towards *education-for-all* and *health-for-all*, in every country, rich and poor countries alike. Despite progress in ensuring opportunities for girls, women and minorities in **STEMM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical) fields, this segment of population continues to be systematically underrepresented as users and leaders in STEMM. Aims of our Initiatives are:

- To establish collaboration with programs in low- and middle-income countries, to accelerate SDGs 3, 4, and 5, in association with the developed countries, of mutual benefit and mutual respect.
- To catalyze collaborative networks – cutting across disciplines, sectors and borders.
- To place public-health on the top of the agenda.
- To seek science and technology-based solutions to development challenges.
- To disseminate and provide access to evidence-based research and to develop initiatives in Health & Education, worldwide.
- To plan, promote and implement best practices in both developed and developing countries, for SDGs 3, 4, 5.

Advocacy Projects / Programs of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) address these issues by reinforcing the coordination among key international organizations and national actors working on education and healthcare policies, by bringing more coordinated support to UN Member States. Equally important, the global WHEC's initiatives in Education & Health (<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>), support authorities at country level to elaborate strategies, which will strengthen national education system and healthcare policies, and the teaching and learning components of national education sector and health-sector plans.

We believe, on this path efforts never go to waste, and there is no failure. Join the Initiative! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Global Health – Our Responsibility, too.

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

What is Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Strategy on e-Health and e-Government? Is UN Member State's Commitment necessary?

WHEC's LINK Access Project – Special Focus on Reproductive Health: WHEC's strategy on e-Health and e-Government focuses on strengthening health and education system in countries; fostering public-private partnerships in information and communication technologies, research, and development for health and education. WHEC supports capacity building for e-Health and e-Governments applications worldwide and look forward to development and the use of norms and standards. Proceeding in this way, strengthening capacity, preserving cultural integrity and increasing the access to such technologies, for those who need it most, must remain the goal.

Reversal in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 4, 5 progress caused by COVID-19 have heightened the urgency for scaled-up action. It has increased the necessity to work across sectors, from health, immunization, nutrition to skills for work, climate action, and respond to the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Government commitment is necessary – long-term government commitment based on a strategic plan is a pre-requisite for the successful implementation, of Internet Classrooms in Health and Education, in every country – rich and poor alike. This commitment may be in form of:

1. A long-term plan that is binding on all parties at all times;
2. Sustainable finance;
3. Support for pilot projects/programs and their conversion to regular programs as soon as they prove successful;
4. Involvement of health authorities at national, state and district levels.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) aims to contribute to the future of Education, Learning Skills and Universal Health Coverage. With multiple digital solutions, like our (Learning, Innovating, Networking for Knowledge) **LINK Access Project**, (<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/LINK-Access-Project.pdf>) there is new focus on learning and building competencies, bringing lifelong opportunities. WHEC serves and offers high-tech environments, providing learning opportunities for leaders, educators, researchers, and health-workers in 227 countries and territories. And it has been instrumental in developing syllabus and curriculums, for the Continuing Medical Education (CME).

In order to achieve the SDGs, we need to ensure that full and equal access to, and participation in science for girls, women and minorities. WHEC has recently accepted Membership of SDG Publishers Compact / United Nations Global Compact.

We must implement comprehensive and inclusive policies, change our way of thinking, and prioritize efforts to eliminate poverty and bridge the digital divide. It is crucial for governments to integrate social, economic, and environmental policies to promote social justice. If we wish to leave no one behind, we must ensure that we give voice and decent-work to all.

Our brief History - <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Our-Brief-History.pdf>

Join the movement!



WHEC Participation @ WHA78, Geneva, Switzerland

World Health Assembly 78 (WHA78)

<https://www.who.int/about/governance/world-health-assembly/seventy-eighth>

United Nations Foundation, WHA78, Side Events

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.unfoundation.org/2025/05/WHA78-Public-Side-Event-Calendar_5_18.pdf

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) Sponsor, Side Event

Health and Education: The Best Building Blocks for Sustainable Development

21 May 2025, 16:00 – 17:15 CEST; Virtual Side Event

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/wha.php3>

Announcement / Invitation / Flyer

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Flyer-Side-Event-78th-WHA.pdf>

Concept Note

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Side-Event-78th-WHA-Geneva-May-21st-Concept-Note.pdf>

YouTube Video Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_9naOJGv90

WHEC Participation @ UN Headquarters, NY: May 2025

Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (STI)

The 10th Multistakeholder Forum on STI was held from Wednesday 7 May, to Thursday 8th May 2025. The theme for the STI Forum 2025 was: Advancing Sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based, science and technology solutions and innovations for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind.

WHEC Virtual Side Event; ID: V-07; 7 May 2025

Emerging Health Technologies and Health Development

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/sti.php3>



United Nations at a glance

Rwanda became UN Member State on 18 September 1962



Rwanda, officially the **Republic of Rwanda**, is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, where the African Great Lakes region and Southeast Africa converge. Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Capital: Kigali; Official languages: Kinyarwanda, French, English and Swahili; Religion: Christianity 94%; Population (2024): 14,300,291; Area: 26,338 km²; currency: Rwandan franc.

Modern human settlement of what is now Rwanda dates from, at the latest, the last glacial period, in the Neolithic period around 8,000 BC, on in the long period humid period which followed, up to around 3,000 BC. The Berlin Conference of 1884 assigned the territory to German Empire, who declared to be part of German East Africa. Belgian forces invaded Rwanda and Burundi in 1916, during World War I, and later in 1922, they started to rule both Rwanda and Burundi as a League of Nations mandate. Belgium continued to rule Ruanda-Urundi (of which Rwanda formed the northern part) as a UN trust territory after the World War II, with mandate to oversee eventual independence. In 2009, Rwanda joined the Commonwealth of Nations although the country was never part of the British Empire.



Provinces of Rwanda

The present borders drawn from 2006 aimed at decentralizing power and removing associations with the old system and the genocide. These are Northern Province, Southern Province, Eastern Province, Western Province and the Municipality of Kigali in the center.

Rwanda is a de facto one-party state, ruled by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and its leader Paul Kagame continuously since the end of the civil war in 1994.

Rwanda's legal system is largely based on German and Belgian civil law systems and customary law. Rwanda has low corruption levels relative to most other African countries; in 2014, Transparency International ranked Rwanda as the 5th cleanest out of 47 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and 55th cleanest out of 175 in the world.

Rwanda's economy suffered heavily during the 1994 genocide, with widespread loss of life, failure to maintain infrastructure, looting, and neglect of important cash crops. Rwanda is a country of few natural resources; the economy is based mostly on subsistence agriculture by local farmers using simple tools. Rwanda's mining industry is an important contributor, generating US \$93 million in 2008. Minerals mined include cassiterite, wolframite, gold, and coltan, which is used in the manufacture of electronic and communication devices such as mobile phones. Tourism is one of the fastest growing economic resources and has become the country's leading foreign exchange earner.

Rwanda was ranked 103rd in the Global Innovation Index in 2023.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/rwanda-13964>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Rwanda



Eliminating Hepatitis

7+ million people aged 15 years and older tested for hepatitis C; 60,000 treated.

5 million people tested for hepatitis B; 7,000 on lifelong treatment.

7+ million people vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Part of Rwanda's comprehensive strategy to eliminate hepatitis, an inflammation of liver (cirrhosis) or even liver cancer, is known as a silent killer because people often experience no obvious symptoms, until the infection causes serious health problems.

Rwanda is one of seven worldwide that are assessed and selected in 2018 by WHO to pilot the validation of viral hepatitis elimination as a public health threat. Rwanda has transformed its prevention, treatment and care of hepatitis, achieving all its national targets. This includes the screening of over 7 million people aged 15 and older, initiating 60,000 people on treatment and reducing the prevalence of hepatitis C infection to less than 1%. Rwanda is on track to reach its own target of achieving elimination of Hepatitis C by 2024, surpassing the WHO's 2030 target deadline. Rapid test results are available in 20 minutes and the government also negotiated a 20-fold reduction in drug procurement costs to offer free treatment to all patients.

Fight Against Malaria

Over the past 7 years, Rwanda has significantly reduced the burden of malaria, with the infection rate dropping from 409 cases per 1,000 people in 2016 to just 76 cases per 1,000 people in 2022. Malaria deaths also fell by more than 89% over the same period. Community health workers have been integral to the country's efforts to combat the disease. Partnering with WHO, the country has trained 30,000 community health workers to provide comprehensive malaria treatment at home, saving hundreds of lives in the process. In 2022, 55% of all recorded cases were diagnosed and treated by community health workers, compared with 15% in 2016.

This approach of community case management has worked in tandem with other interventions. This includes the distribution of more than 6 million bed nets, with one net for every 2 households. A ration of at least one net for every 2 household members is considered typically sufficient to achieve universal coverage in a population. In addition, indoor residual spraying has been scaled up from 3 to 12 districts which usually present the highest burden of malaria cases. The program intends to sustain the capacity of community health workers. The country will enhance operational research and digitalize data on malaria cases at village and household levels, addressing the lack of aggregated data at this level.

Reducing Cervical Cancer

This year, the country choose to draw attention to cervical cancer, emphasizing the importance of early detection to save the lives of mothers and young women n Rwanda. The prevention of disease is possible through vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), together with screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions. Early diagnosis is crucial so that treatment can be provided. The Kigali community and Rwanda as a whole, remains steadfast in the commitment to ending the disproportionate negative impact of cervical cancer on women and young girls. With the continued efforts of WHO and other partners, the journey to defeat this disease is well underway.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/rwa/>



Rwanda became Member of UNESCO in 1962



Nyungwe National Park

This serial property represents an important area for rainforest conservation in Central Africa. The property is home to intact forests and peat bogs, moors, thickets and grasslands, providing habitats to a highly diverse flora and fauna. The park also contains the most significant natural habitats for a number of species found nowhere else in the world including the globally threatened Eastern Chimpanzee, Golden monkey and the critically endangered hissing Horseshoe Bat. There are also 12 mammal and seven bird species that are globally threatened, and with 317 species of birds recorded, Nyungwe National Park is one of the most important sites for bird conservation in Africa.



Remembering the Genocide against the Tutsi

In 2023, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee added four genocide memorial sites in Rwanda to the list of World Heritage sites: Nyamata, Murambi, Bisesero and Gisozi, where the Kigali Genocide Memorial is located. In two days around 10,000 Tutsi were murdered in a church, 14 – 15 April 1994. Thirty years on, victims are still being located. Around 50,000 victims of Genocide against the Tutsi are buried here, including people murdered in the church and surrounding area. The Kigali Genocide Memorial is

the final resting-place of 250,000 people murdered across Rwanda's capital city during the Genocide against the Tutsi.



Could Lake Kivu Erupt?

Life on the Edge: Geoscientists probe one of the World's most volatile regions. On the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda live almost 1 million people who have been drawn to an area blessed with fertile soils and clean water brimming with fish – but this bounty comes at a price.

The 2021 eruption released tons of sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide, both of which are acidic gases. Since May 2002, Mount Nyiragongo's permanent lava lake has been emitting up to 5,357 tons of sulfur dioxide daily into the atmosphere. Projects are on the way with the aim to stimulate the dispersion of the volcanic gas being released daily by the volcano. The team will also stimulate a scenario whereby carbon dioxide and methane are dispersed in the event of a limnic eruption of Lake Kivu.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/rw>

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

.....Continued Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training of the vulnerable, including persons and families, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appropriation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries.
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states.

To be Continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Smart Classrooms and Education Outcomes

Evidence from Rwanda

In this study, authors explore the impact of a smart classroom (SCM) program on student performance in science subjects in a high-stakes national exam for middle-high school students in Rwanda. To do this, authors leverage plausibly exogenous variations in program exposure induced by the staggered implementation of the program across schools and students. Overall, the study finds a positive effect of the program on student performance.

Specifically, the result show that the SCM program has positive and significant effects on student performance in physics, biology, and geography, albeit small in magnitude. The study, however, did not reveal any effects on mathematics and chemistry. Authors find larger effects in government-aided schools, for girls, and for younger students. The results also indicate that while classroom technology can enhance learning, such effects may only be realized after a long exposure period.

The Ministry of Education in Rwanda introduced the SCM program in 2016 and started rolling it out in lower secondary schools around the country in 2017. Each school receives 51 computers per class, either for two classes if the school has two classrooms available (hence 100 students' and two teachers' computers), or for one class if the school only has one room available. The computers are connected to the internet and installed with informational material to aid with class preparation. The use of technology in class is likely to change class interaction; hence smart classrooms are likely to impact on student learning through changes in instruction that can either be a cause of class disruption or may trigger efficiency in learning.

Rwanda has a 3-6-3-3 basic education system, comprising 3 years of pre-primary (Kinder-Garten) school, 6 years of primary school and 6 years of secondary school. Secondary schooling is divided into two 3 years of lower/ordinary level and 3 years of upper/advanced level. Following the implementation of universal primary education in Rwanda since 2003, the government provides free and compulsory education in all public schools up to the end of secondary education.

The study findings show heterogenous effects of the program on learning outcomes in STEM subjects. It showed that smart classrooms are more beneficial for students who are exposed at a relatively early age. In addition, the findings provide suggestive evidence that such programs can actually be a channel to reducing the existing gender gaps in learning. Finally, the study finds that the effect is more pronounced among government-aided schools, suggesting that the role of public-private partnership in human capital development.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Aimable Nsabimana, Muthoni Nganga, and Christine Niyizamwiitira; Sponsors: United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development. The Institute began operations in 1985 in Helsinki, Finland, as the first research and training center of the United Nations University. Today it is a unique blend of think tank, research institute, and UN agency—providing a range of services from policy advice to governments as well as freely available original research.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, May 2025

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Malaria during Pregnancy;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsidp/Malaria-During-Pregnancy.pdf>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Managing von Willebrand Disease in Women;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gyn/gyn036.php3>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

**Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization)
PMNCH Member**

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



From Editor's Desk

WHEC Projects under Development

Global Health: Non-Communicable Diseases



Risks associated with premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries have declined. As a result of these achievements, global life expectancy at birth has increased from 67 years in 2000 to 73 years in 2019. These positive outcomes are attributed to several factors such as enhanced access to essential health services and reduced exposure to health risks such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and child under nutrition.

The Global Guardian of Public Health

The United Nations, since its inception, has been actively involved in promoting and protecting health worldwide. Leading that effort within the UN System is the World Health Organization (WHO), whose constitution <https://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd47/EN/constitution-en.pdf> came into force on 7 April 1948 = a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

In 1948, WHO took the responsibility for the International Classification of Diseases, which has become the international standard for defining and reporting diseases and health conditions. Since its creation WHO has contributed to many holistic achievements in global public health. Some of them are:

- **Antibiotics:** (1950) The great era of discovery of present-day antibiotics begins, and WHO begins advancing countries on their responsible use.

- **Polio:** (1988) The Global Polio Eradication Initiative 1988 is established at a time when polio paralyzed more than 350,000 people a year. Since then, polio cases have decreased by more than 99% because of immunization against the disease worldwide.
- **Smallpox:** (1979) Following an ambitious 12-year global vaccination campaign led by WHO, smallpox is eradicated.
- **Tuberculosis:** (1995) The strategy for reducing the toll of tuberculosis (TB) is launched. At the end of 2013, more than 37 million lives had been saved through TB diagnosis and treatment under this strategy.
- **AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria:** (2001) The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a new partnership and funding mechanism initially hosted by WHO, is created in collaboration with other UN agencies and major donors.
- **Children's mortality:** (2006) The number of children who die before their 5th birthday declines below 10 million for the first time in recent history.
- **Heart Disease, Diabetes, Cancer:** (2012) For the first time WHO Member States set global targets to prevent and control health disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung disease and other NCDs.
- **Ebola Virus Outbreak:** (2014) The biggest outbreak of Ebola virus disease ever experienced in the world strikes West Africa. The HO Secretariat activates an unprecedented response to the outbreak, deploying thousands of experts and medical equipment; mobilizing foreign medical teams and coordinating creation of mobile laboratories and treatment centers. In 2016 WHO announces zero cases of Ebola in West Africa, but warns that flare-ups of the disease are likely to continue and that countries in the region need to remain vigilant and prepared.

Monitoring Health for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

While the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) focus on a narrow set of disease-specific health targets for 2015, the SDGs look to 2030 and are far broader in scope. World Health Statistics 2023, WHO's Annual snapshot of the world's health, states that:

- Expansion of access to essential health services has slowed compared to pre-2015 gains, and there has been no significant progress in reducing financial hardship due to healthcare costs.
- Inequalities persist, with disadvantaged populations having lower levels of access to health and related services but higher levels of exposure to health risks and higher levels of associated mortality.
- People living in less-resourced settings continue have less access to a wide range of services, from the assistance of skilled health personnel during childbirth to clean cooking fuels and technology.
- Inequalities impede progress in responding to global crises, as shown during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Immunization coverage, which was previously increasing against diseases such as measles, human papillomavirus (HPV), diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, declined after coronavirus epidemic.
- Similarly, the previously decreasing trend in malaria and TB incidence has been reversed. In addition, fewer people are being treated for neglected tropical diseases.
- The coronavirus pandemic has exposed inequalities in access to COVID-19 vaccines, with populations in low- and middle-income countries and those with lower educational levels less likely to have received the vaccine.
- NCDs cause almost three-quarters of all deaths annually, and if this trend continues, it is estimated that NCD-related deaths will account for about 86% of all diseases globally by WHO's 100th anniversary in 2048.
- The United Nations forecasts that global annual deaths will reach almost 90 million in 2048, and 77 million of these deaths will be caused by NCDs. This represents an increase of nearly 90% in absolute numbers compared to 2019.

Join our efforts

What are Human Rights?



Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, and any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discriminations.

International Human Rights Law

International human rights law lays down the obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

One of the great achievements of United Nations is the creation of a comprehensive body of human rights law – a universal and internationally protected code to which all nations can subscribe and all people aspire. The United Nations has defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It has also established mechanisms to promote and protect these rights and to assist states in carrying out their responsibilities.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force in 1976. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Covenant by its States parties. Its Optional Protocol entered into force in 2013. The human rights that the Covenant seeks to promote and protect include:

- The right to work in just and favorable conditions;
- The right to social protection, to an adequate standard of living and to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental well-being;
- The right to education and the employment of benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress.

Civil and Political Rights

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its First Optional Protocol entered into force in 1976 and the Second Optional Protocol came into force in 1991. The Human Rights Committee monitors the implementation of this multilateral treaty and its Optional Protocols.

The Covenant deals with such rights as freedom of movement; equality before the law; the right to a fair trial and presumption of innocence; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; peaceful assembly; freedom of association; participation in public affairs and election; and protection of minority rights. It prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life; torture, cruel and degrading treatment or punishment; slavery and forced labor; arbitrary arrest or detention; arbitrary interference with privacy; war propaganda; discrimination; and advocacy of racial or religious hatred.

Human Rights is a cross-cutting theme in all UN policies and programs in the key areas of peace and security, development, humanitarian assistance, and economic and social affairs. As a result, virtually every UN body and specialized agency is involved to some degree in the protection of human rights.

Fragmentary Blue

Why make so much of fragmentary blue
In here and there a bird, or butterfly,
Or flower, or wearing-stone, or open-eye,
When heaven presents in sheets the solid hue?

Since earth is earth, perhaps, not heaven (as yet) –
Though some savants make earth include the sky;
And blue so far above us comes so high,
It only gives our wish for blue a whet!

- Robert Frost (1874 – 1963) American poet. Though he is now acknowledged as one of the greatest modern poets, Robert Frost's poetic character remains elusive.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

