



WHEC Update

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

December 2024; Vol. 19. No. 12

A Grand Collaboration

Happy Holidays from us all @ WHEC

As 2024 draws to a close, and as **WHEC Update**, celebrated its 18th anniversary this year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to you for your loyal readership and for continuing to follow Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) efforts in promoting sustainable development goals (SDGs) for all.

The vast inequalities and dangers more than violate the rights and imperil the futures of individual children. They perpetuate intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and inequality that determine the stability of societies and even the security of nations everywhere.

We have made some progress, real progress: many nations now have legislation to prohibit physical, mental and sexual violence and support victims; campaigns are raising awareness of the negative impact of violence; and bullying, sexual violence and harmful practices against women and children are being tackled. We also have more successful projects and programs to tackle violence against women and children. But much more need to be done. We must work urgently for that noble vision of eliminating extreme poverty and achieving education- and health-for-all. I wish it would become a reality in the world.

Since the birth of the United Nations (UN), the goals of multilateral disarmament and arms limitation have been central to the Organizations' efforts to maintain international peace and security. The UN has given highest priority to reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons, destroying chemical weapons, and strengthening the prohibition of biological weapons – all of which pose the dreadful threats to humankind. While these objectives have remained constant over the years, the scope of deliberations and negotiations has changed as political realities and the international situation has evolved.

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), continues to support efforts of the UN; and stands up against the instruments that threaten the economic and social fabric of societies, and kill and mutilate civilians, all too many of whom are women, older people and children. There is also wider recognition that all types of weapons impact women, men, boys and girls differently.

WHEC is also focusing on the impact of new information, telecommunications technologies and other emerging technologies on international security and development. Through global efforts, several multilateral treaties and instruments have been established with the aim of regulating, restricting, or eliminating certain weapons. WHEC will continue to support these efforts.

Since the earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of work or economic opportunities, to join a family, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. **To help and support the migrants is our duty and WHEC will continue to make their lives better.**

Happy Holidays from us all at the WHEC; and the best wishes for the New Year!

A Time for Global Ceasefire

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

What is preventive diplomacy and preventive disarmament? Are there any strategies to prevent disputes from escalating into war?

Peace and Security: We all want it. We all need it. And we all should work together to achieve it.

The main strategies to prevent disputes from escalating into war, and to prevent recurrence of conflict, are preventive diplomacy and preventive disarmament.

Preventive diplomacy refers to action taken to prevent disputes from arising or escalating into conflicts, and to limit the spread of conflicts as they arise. It may take the form of mediation, conciliation or negotiation. Early warning is an essential component of prevention, and the UN carefully monitors developments around the world to detect threats to international peace and security, thereby enabling the Security Council and the Secretary-General to carry out preventive action. Envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General are engaged in mediation and preventive diplomacy throughout the world. In some trouble spots, the mere presence of a skilled envoy can prevent the escalation of tension. These envoys often cooperate with regional organizations.

Preventive Disarmament – complementing preventive diplomacy is preventive disarmament, which seeks to reduce the number of small arms in conflict-prone regions. Destroying yesterday's weapons prevents their use in tomorrow's wars.

Preventing Genocide and Responsibility to Protect – Prevention requires apportioning responsibility and promoting collaboration between the concerned States (nations) and the international community. The duty to prevent and halt genocide and mass atrocities lies first and foremost with the State (nation), but the international community has a role that cannot be blocked by the invocation of sovereignty. Sovereignty no longer exclusively protects States (countries) from foreign interference. It is a change of responsibility where States (countries) are accountable for the welfare of their people. This principle is enshrined in article 1 of the Genocide Convention and embodied in the principle of "sovereignty as responsibility" and in the concept of the Responsibility to Protect.

The Rule of Law – Promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels is at the heart of the UN's mission. Establishing respect for the rule of law is fundamental to achieving a durable peace in the aftermath of conflict, to the effective protection of human rights, and to sustained economic progress and development. The principle that everyone – from the individual to the State itself – is accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, is a fundamental concept which drives much of the UN's work. The main UN organs, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, play essential roles in supporting Member States to strengthen the rule of law, as do many UN's entities.

Responsibility for the overall coordination of rule of law work by the UN System rests with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and supported by the Rule of Law Unit. Members of the Group are the principals of 20 UN entities engaged in supporting Member States to strengthen the rule of law. Providing support from headquarters to rule of law activities at the National Level, the Secretary-General designated the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the point global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations.

In contemporary conflicts 90% of casualties are civilians, mostly women and children. Women in war-torn societies can face specific and devastating forms of sexual violence, which are sometimes deployed systematically to achieve military or political objectives.



Learning Life Lessons Series

For Teachers and Students

A Quarterly Series for *WHEC Update*

TOOLS for CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER II – IMPROVING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

WHAT IS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EI)?

It is the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically. **EI is the key to both personal and professional success.** It is an array of skills and characteristics that drive leadership performance. It is as important as IQ (intelligent quotient) for success, including in academic, professional, social, and international aspects of one's life. EI is a skill that can be taught and cultivated, and outlines methods of incorporating emotional skills in school curriculum.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT GUIDE FOR EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EI)

- Label your child's Emotions; both positive and negative.
- Show empathy – Validate their feelings and show empathy.
- Model appropriate ways to express feelings: The best way to teach your child how to express feelings is by modeling these skills yourself.
- Teach healthy coping skills; Knowing how to calm themselves down, cheer themselves up, or face their fears can be complicated for a young child. Encourage your child to get active and take control of their emotions in a health manner.
- Teach your child anger-management skills. Anger rules should be centered around behaving respectfully toward others. Also teach problem-solving skills so children learn to recognize that they can solve problems. A trained professional can rule out any underlying mental health problems and can offer assistance in creating a behavioral management.
- Develop problem-solving skills. When your child makes a mistake, work through what could have been done differently and what your child can do to resolve any lingering issues. Try to act as a coach, rather than the actual problem-solver

Emotional Intelligence is an ongoing goal. Make it an ongoing conversation. With your ongoing support and guidance, your child can develop the EI and mental strength they will need to be successful in life.

EI is an asset and helps to achieve:

- High EI is linked to high IQ;
- Better relationships;
- Childhood EI is linked to higher success during adulthood; and
- Improved mental health.

SUGGESTED READING:

Learning Life Lessons Series: Part I; available at:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh016.php3>

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Entire Series is available @ <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/>



United Nations at a Glance

Portugal became UN Member State on 14 December 1955



Portugal, officially the **Portuguese Republic**, is a country located on the Iberian Peninsula, in Southwestern Europe, and whose territory also includes the macaronesian archipelagos of the Azores, Madeira, and the Savage Islands. Lisbon is the capital and the largest city by population. Official language: Portuguese; Religion: 85% Christianity, 14% no religion. Spain is the sole country to have land border with Portugal. Area total: 92,225.2 km² (35,608.3 sq. mi); Population 10,467,336 (2022). Currency: Euro; Government: Unitary semi-Presidential constitutional republic. The

word *Portugal* derives from the combined Roman-Celtic place name *Portus Cale*, a settlement where present day's conurbation of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia stand, along the banks of River Douro, in the north of what is now Portugal. In 1348 and 1349 Portugal, like the rest of the Europe, was devastated by the Black Death. In 1373, Portugal made an alliance with England, which is one of the oldest standing alliances in the world.



At the height of European colonialism in the 19th century, Portugal had already lost its territory in South America and all but a few bases in Asia. Luanda, Benguela, Bissau, Laurencu Marques, Porto Amboim and the Island Mozambique were among the oldest Portuguese-founded port cities in its African territories. 1910 Portuguese republic revolution abolished the monarchy and installed a republic government in Portugal, causing the royal family flee to the exile in London, England.

The new republic has many problems. Portugal had 45 different governments in just 15 years. During WWI (1914-1918) Portugal helped allies fight the Central Powers, however war hurt its weak economy. Portugal remained neutral in WWII. From the 1940s, to the 1960s, Portugal was a founding member of NATO, OECD, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In 1986, Portugal, along with Spain, joint the European Economic Community (EEC) that later became the European Union (EU).

Economic disruption and an unstainable growth in government debt during the financial crisis of 2007 – 2008 led the country to negotiate in 2011 with the IMF and the EU, through the European Financial Mechanism (EFSM) and the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), a loan to help the country stabilize its finances. The exclusive economic zone, a sea zone over which the Portuguese have special rights in exploration and use of marine resources, covers an area of 1,727,408 km² (666,956 sq. mi). This is the 3rd largest exclusive economic zone of the EU and the 20th largest of the world. Portugal is located in the Mediterranean Basin, the 3rd most diverse hotspot of flora in the world. It is the second country in Europe with the highest number of threatened animal and plant species.

A member state of UN since 1955, Portugal is also a founding member of NATO (1949), OECD (1961) and EFTA (1960) and a member of EU (1993). Mr. Antonio Guterres, who is the United Nations current Secretary-General, has served as the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002. Administratively, Portugal is divided into 308 municipalities, which after a reform in 2013 are subdivided into 3,092 civil parishes. Withing the EU NUTS system, Portugal is divided into 7 regions: the Azores, Alentejo, Algarve, Centro, Lisboa, Madeira, and Notre.

Portugal is a developed and a high-income country. Although modest, economic growth is expected to proceed in 2023 and 2024, while inflation is forecast to continue decreasing to 5.1%. Agriculture in Portugal is based on small to medium-sized family-owned dispersed units. Forestry also plays an important role in economic development.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/portugal-9274>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Portugal



Health Situation

Considerable health improvements can be seen in recent decades. The life expectancy at birth has improved dramatically over the past 25 years. impressive progress has taken place in perinatal and infant mortality rates, which were the highest of the EU 15 countries in 1980 but were better than the EU average starting in 2017 and continuing now with the positive trend. Since the mid-2000s, the main causes of death have been diseases of the circulatory systems, cerebrovascular disease and malignant neoplasms. The mortality rates for some key causes of death under the age of 65 have decreased since 2000; as has the rate of death due to motor vehicle accidents. The 5-year survival rate for cancers detected at early stages have improved over the past 10 years. The lifestyle risk factors causing the high-level disease burden are harmful use of alcohol, use of tobacco, insufficient physical activity and unhealthy diet. A growing challenge is the increasing prevalence of obesity, especially among children. There are large health inequalities in health status. Men bear the burden of deaths that occur at earlier ages, for example, from suicide, motor vehicle accidents, and HIV/AIDS. The incidence of vaccine-preventable illness has been kept at low levels due to the historical high levels of immunization coverage.

Health Policies and Systems

The National Health Services (NHS) is a universal and tax-financed system. All residents in Portugal have access to healthcare provided by NHS. One-fifth of a quarter of the population enjoys a second layer of health insurance coverage through specific health subsystems and voluntary health insurance. Health services are delivered by both public and private providers. Public provision is predominant in primary care and hospital care, with a gate-keeping system in place. Pharmaceutical products, diagnostic technologies and private practice by physicians constitute the bulk of private healthcare provision. In Portugal, in the context of pursuing equitable and comprehensive healthcare, and against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, ageing populations, increase in non-communicable diseases – the continuous introduction of new premium priced medicines and other health technologies are of particular concern. Controlling pharmaceutical expenditure is likely to remain a focus among EU countries including Portugal, and to mitigate such pressures, further development of systems and processes to optimize use of medicines and health technologies are necessary.

Cooperation for Health

The cooperation of WHO, as the specialized agency of UN for health is identified as essential for the foreign policy and diplomatic action in Global Health. there are a series of mechanisms of cooperation between Portugal and WHO including: The Biennial Collaborative Agreements (BCA) since 2006, the implementation and evaluation of the National Health Plan, and its extension to 2030. With technical assistance from the WHO the Portuguese Government has taken commendable steps to improve nutrition and prevent obesity with the launch of its new Integrated strategy for the Promotion of Health Ageing in 2017. The Strategy contains a suite of measures agreed by an inter-ministerial working group. It is closely aligned with the recommendations contained in the WHO European Food and Nutrition Action Plan, as well as in the EU Action Plan on Childhood obesity. This is the first time such a “health in all policies” approach has been taken to the topic of nutrition in Portugal – an approach which incorporates health into policies across sectors, to improve population health and health equity.

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

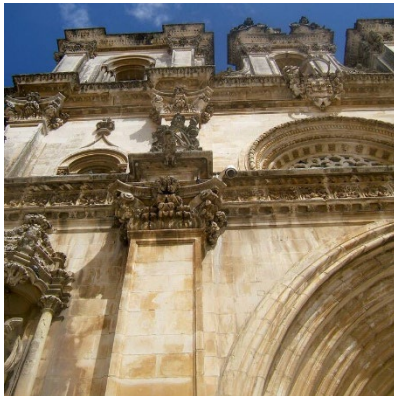


Portugal is UNESCO Member since 1974



Alto Douro Wine Region

Wine has been produced by traditional landholders in the Alto Douro region for some 2,000 years. Since the 18th century, its main product, port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution. The river Douro and its principal tributaries, the Varosa, Corgo, Tavora, Torto and Pinhao, form the backbone of the mountain landscape, which is protected from the harsh Atlantic winds by the Marao and Montemuro mountains, has been transformed by steeply sloping vineyards that cover some 24,600 ha. Throughout the centuries, row upon row of terraces have been built according to different techniques. The earliest, employed during the pre-phylloxera era (pre-1860), was that of *socalcos*, narrow and irregular terraces buttressed by wall of schistous stone, which require continuous maintenance on which only 1 or 2 rows of vines could be planted.



Monastery of Alcobaça

The Monastery of Santa Maria d' Alcobaça, north of Lisbon, was founded in the 12th century by King Alfonso I. Its size, the purity of its architectural style, the beauty of the materials and the care with which it was built make this a masterpiece of Cistercian Gothic art. In the 13th century, while the monastery church, laid out similarly to Pontigny Abbey in Burgundy (France), and the magnificent monastic buildings were under construction, the monastery's intellectual and political influence had already spread throughout the western part the Iberian Peninsula. It was a center of study and religious doctrine – the kingdom's most important monastic school was located withing its premises. The ultimate symbol of this privileged relationship with the Portuguese monarchy can be found in the famous tombs of Ines de Castro and Dom Pedro (Peter I). The stylistic quality of the sculptured ornaments, despite have been mutilated by Napoleon's troops in 1810-1811, is surpassed by the compelling symbolism of the iconography, which evokes human destiny, death, and the Christian hope of eternal life.



Transforming Education in Portugal

Complementing the youth engagement efforts, the Portuguese Ministry of Education also made significant strides in digital competency and technology integration. Ucha revealed that every student in public schools now possesses a device, ensuring equitable digital tools and facilitating connectivity with teachers and other learners. This investment is not confined to hardware alone; it encompasses a comprehensive training program to empower teachers with the necessary skills to facilitate online learning and assessment. The multifaceted approach underscores Portugal's belief in the transformative power of education and the vital role that students play in building a brighter future.

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

Education-for-All and Health-for-all

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

.....Continued

Follow-up and Review

47. Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming fifteen years. To support accountability in our citizens, we will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level.

48. Indicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision making. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. We are committed to developing broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product (GDP).

A Call for Action to Change Our World

49. Seventy years ago, an earlier generation of world leaders came together to create the United Nations. From the ashes of war and division they fashioned this Organization and the values of peace, dialogue and international cooperation which underpin it. The supreme embodiment of those values is the Charter of the United Nations.

50. Today we are also taking a decision of great historic significance. We resolve to build a better future for all people, including the millions who have been denied the chance to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. We can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet. The world will be better placed in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives.

51. What we are announcing today – an Agenda for global action for the next fifteen years – is a charter for people and planet in the twenty first century. Children and young women and men are critical agents of change and will find the new Goals a platform to channel their infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world.

52. “We the Peoples” are the celebrated opening words of the UN Charter. It is “We the Peoples” who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as Parliaments, the UN system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and private sectors, the scientific and academic community – and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. **It is and Agenda of the people, by the people, and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success.**

To be continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Health, Development, and Institutional Factors

The Mozambique case

Mozambique is still one of the poorest countries and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world. It became independent in 1975 after around five centuries of Portuguese colonization. To look at the topic of health in Mozambique, it is first necessary to understand the concepts of health and social determinants of health. This means that a person might not be sick in the normal opinion of people (i.e. not suffering from fever, diarrhea, cough, or headache and going to work every day) and even not enjoy good health.

The history of the health services in Mozambique encompasses four different periods:

1. The period prior to the Independence of Mozambique (1975);
2. The period immediately after the Independence (1975 – 1980);
3. The period from 1980 to 1993;
4. The period from 1993 to the present day.

The central aim of this text is to show the impact institutions have on the performance of the health sector in Mozambique. The text shows that the social determinants of health, institutions play a central role in the performance of the Mozambican health sector – and, through it, economic and social development – particularly for the poorer and more vulnerable, such as children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly. It is also argued that the deficiencies and inefficiencies of the operation of the health sector in Mozambique are largely the result of the fact that the institutions with influence on the health sector are controlled by a minority of privileged population. Finally, it is argued that the most important institution measures for improving the state of health of Mozambicans are the revision of the Constitution of the Republic, the strengthening of the National Health System (particularly the National Health Service) and the reduction of poverty and economic and social inequality.

All of the above make it possible to conclude that the institutions – understood as the rules of the game (formal or informal) created jointly by the state and by citizens and that they are expected to be followed by the political, economic and social players – play an important role in the performance of the health sector, and through this, the economic and social development of Mozambique.

If there is really a desire to improve the provision of healthcare to all Mozambicans, changes absolutely must be made in the institutions with influence on health sector. The most important institutional measures are the revision of the Constitution of Republic, the strengthening of the National Health System (particularly the National Health Service) and the reduction of poverty and economic and social inequality.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Paulo Ivo Garrido; 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, November 2024

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Psycho-Oncology Services for Gynecologic Cancers;**
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh014.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.
2. **Sickle Cell Disease and Pregnancy;**
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/obsmd019.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

Promoting Rule of Law Issues – A Vision For The Rule of Law



In 1945, the UN was created on three pillars: International peace and security, Human rights, and Development. Almost seventy-five years later, the complex political, social and economic transformation of modern society has brought us challenges and opportunities which require a collective response which must be guided by the rule of law, as it is the foundation of friendly and equitable relations between states and the base of fair societies.

The rule of law is fundamental to international peace and security and political stability; to achieve economic and social progress and development; and to protect people's rights and fundamental freedoms. It is foundational to people's access to public services, curbing corruption, restraining the abuse of power, and to establishing the social contract between people and the state. Rule of law and development are strongly interlinked, and strengthened rule of law-based society should be considered as an outcome of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, particular **Goal 16** <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/sdg-16/> is an enabling goal for Member States to generate national-level policy changes that advance progress towards other SDGs. The development of inclusive and accountable justice systems and rule of law reforms will provide quality services to people and build trust in the legitimacy of their government. This approach should respond to the needs of individuals and groups and their meaningful participation from the outset, paying particular attention to those historically marginalized and at risk of being left behind. It includes prevention of serious violations of human rights, achieving credible accountability for those responsible at national and

international levels and empowering individuals and communities to make use of justice mechanisms to protect their fundamental human rights.

Rule of law issues includes emerging and critical issues such as the proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence; preventing radicalization/violent extremism; climate change and the environment impacting on the security and livelihoods of people; and the complexities of artificial intelligence and cybercrime. Now is the time for a collective new push for peace and reconciliation. GLOBAL CEASEFIRE. Let us focus on global social and economic issues, and get together on the true fight. Let us create opportunities for life-saving aid, open windows for diplomacy and bring hope to people suffering in conflict zones who are particularly vulnerable to the various diseases and starvation. The world needs a global ceasefire to stop all “hot” conflicts. At the same time, we must do everything to avoid a new Cold War.

Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC) and Its New Vision for SDG Goal 16

This vision is built upon the central tenet that, while we support States to strengthen their rule of law institutions, people must be at the center of these efforts. Member States should fulfill their obligation to promote universal respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the UN, and international human rights law. To better respond to developing and diversifying needs, such as those related to the triple planetary crisis and new technologies, the WHEC’s efforts must be more forward-looking, while building upon the support and capacity-building programs it has traditionally provided.



THE WAY FORWARD

WHEC will integrate the following elements into its work:

1. We will recognize the fundamental importance of the rule of law as the basis for multilateral cooperation and political dialogue, in accordance with the UN Charter, and as a central tenet of all the work done.
2. Rule of law support will have a people-centered focus, pursuing an inclusive and rights-respecting approach to delivering justice at all levels, including for current and future generations.
3. Rule of law programming will always include the promotion of gender equality and will prioritize the rights of women, girls, boys to meet their individual needs and ensure their meaningful participation.
4. UN Rule of Law programs and WHEC’s participation in it will give due regard to new and evolving issues, as prioritized by Member States, including but not limited to the development, deployment and responsible use of technologies, a global economy that works for all and a healthy planet.
5. Support will continue to Member States, upon their request, in the national implementation of their respective international obligations and national and regional rule of law initiatives.
6. At the field level, rule of law initiatives must be appropriate to country’s context and be led by national counterparts.
7. It will be a priority to work with all stakeholders to ensure that adequate, predictable and sustained funding is available for rule of law initiatives.
8. We will ensure that our system-wide engagement is under the rule of law. In this regard. To ensure that this new vision is prioritized and considered in strategic planning and policy discussions.
9. The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law will enhance its headquarters coordination role for assistance to the field, while UN common position papers will provide a common posture for our engagement.
10. We will look forward to incorporate this new vision into their planning frameworks.

The vision of the WHEC is a peaceful, prosperous, and just world, governed by the rule of law and human rights, with people at center. Join the Effort!



2024 WHEC Annual Highlights

We thank our writers/editors, physician board and the contributors for making this initiative a success. We look forward to your continued support.

A good quality education is the foundation of health and well-being. For people to lead healthy and productive lives, they need knowledge to prevent sickness and diseases. Education is catalyst for development and a health intervention in its own right. Education develops skills, values and attitudes that enable citizens to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, make informed decisions, and respond to local and global challenges. WHEC's goal is to support the contribution of national education sectors for ending HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in adolescents, and promoting better health and well-being for all children and young people. This NGO is committed to strengthening the links between education and health, reflecting growing international recognition that a more comprehensive approach to school health and coordinated action across sectors is needed. Our Editorial Board has decided to compile these 8 Reviews/Practice Bulletins in 2025:

Newborn Care Section:

1. Newborns
2. Newborn care;

Obstetrics Section:

3. Postpartum care;
4. Infectious Disease in Pregnancy.

Focus on Mental Health Section:

5. Minding Mental Health in Adolescents
6. Gun Violence and Safety.

Gynecology:

7. Pediatric and Adolescent Care.

Healthcare Policies and Women's Health Section:

8. Addressing Racism in Medicine:

WHEC Participation with United Nations: Year 2024

Side Events

1. 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum; Virtual Side Event; 30 January 2024
2. 62nd Session for Commission for Social Development, Side Event (Virtual); 6 February 2024
Side Event and summary published by UNSDN; SDG Learning
<https://social.desa.un.org/sdn/towards-education-and-health-for-all>
3. 57th Session Commission on Population and Development (CPD); 01 May 2024
4. 9th Multistakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum; ID: V-08; 09 May 2024
5. 2024 HLPF (High-Level Political Forum), Virtual Side Event; 9 July 2024

Details: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sideevents.php3>

UN Documents / Publications

1. 62nd Commission for Social Development (CSocD) Session: E/CN.5/2024/NGO/30
2. 68th Commission on Status of Women (CSW) Session: E/CN.6/2024/NGO/87
3. 23rd Committee on Public Administration (CEPA); *Agenda item 6: Effective Governance for SDGs*
4. 57th Commission on Population and Development (CPD): E/CN.9/2024/NGO/9
5. 9th Multi-Stakeholder Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Forum; **Science-Policy-Brief**, SDG16 Available @: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/publications.php3>

We welcome you all to contribute and share your opinions. Please contact Dr. Rita Luthra, at rita@womenshealthsection.com if you wish to contribute and/or get involved in this project.

Education-for-All and Health-for-All



In The News

UN's Work and Mission: MORE VITAL THAN EVER!



In a world grappling with increasing complex crises ranging from poverty and inequality to the Climate Change emergency, the UN remains at the forefront of the global response, determined to set humanity on a path to peace, and prosperity.

Nowhere are the needs greater than in the midst of emergencies.

The UN also mobilized a record \$300 billion in humanitarian aid from donor globally, enabling life-saving programs in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and many other crisis hotspots. Peace is at the heart of the UN. Peacekeeper teams deploy a wide range of tools to prevent, mitigate manage, and resolve conflicts, while protecting the people affected by them. The commitment of UN staff members shone through in their dedication to addressing global crisis and setting on a new path to peace, stability and prosperity.

UN Belongs to You!

How can the UN support young people pushing for a more sustainable future for all? Young people are an integral part of growing network of local and global voices uniting around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which promise a more just, equitable and “greener” world by 2030 deadline.

A Seat at the Table

As strong advocates for climate action and social justice, they have a key role in efforts to achieve sustainable development that benefits both people and the planet. With young people comprising more than 60% of the global population, and some 70% of all city dwellers, they are both city innovators and the leaders of tomorrow. UN entities in Spain are encouraged to invite youth representatives from different sectors to participate the dialogue.

Knowledge is necessary. And decision-makers should create more programs that help young people gain confidence. More inter-generational spaces need to be established to find common solutions, while dedicated spaces must be created to incorporate youth opinions in political debates. Youth should gain a deep understanding of the world, and of environmental, social and economic sustainability, as well as the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap for the future. This training should be mainstreamed across all the educational levels – from kindergarten to university.

UN belongs to Youth

Today's young people have social media platforms at their disposal, and while these can be great communications tools, she warned that they can cause people to have a narrow view of things, instead of seeing the wider world and multiple perspectives. Youth themselves must make the UN their own, and reshape it. Democracy belongs to the young, but lately many do not vote, meaning they are not represented. Fight for democracy and safeguard youth rights.

The United Nations will never stop fighting for a better future.

[UN's work and mission 'more vital than ever': Guterres | UN News](#)

Art & Science

Art that touches our soul

WHEN WE ALL BELIEVE by Rose O'Neil



Rose O'Neil (1874 – 1944) was an American cartoonist, illustrator, artist, and writer. Raised in rural Nebraska, she exhibited an interest in the arts at an early age, and sought a career as an illustrator in New York City.

Her Kewpie cartoons, which made their debut in a 1909 issue of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, were later manufactured as bisque, composition and celluloid dolls.

This chromolithograph of O'Neil, titled "When We All Believe," depicts many children gathered around Santa Claus and his bag of toys, and was published

in the 2 December 1903, issue of *Puck*.

She rose to fame for her creation of the popular comic strip characters, **Kewpies**, in 1909, and was also the first published female cartoonist in the United States. O'Neil also wrote several novels and books of poetry, and was active in the women's suffrage movement. She has been included into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Illustration Credit: Rose O'Neil; restored by Adam Cuerden

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

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