

DAY 12: December 6th

Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change

Leading Academics have warned that "A new obstacle has emerged in the battle for female equality, in the form of climate change. Global warming will inflict far more suffering on women than men, because they are more vulnerable to the floods, droughts and diseases that are expected to increase as the climate changes". (Tom Bawden, *Env. Editor, Independent.co.uk* – Nov. 2015)

Aregash's Story

"A woman's life is hard, and climate change is making it harder," says Aregash, a 32-year-old Ethiopian woman who lives with her six children in a small farming community. "Because of changing rainfall patterns, crop yields are suffering, and my family doesn't have enough food. We used to get 500 to 600 kilos per harvest, but now we can barely get 100. It has never been like this. The only way we can raise our kids is from the land and if it fails to produce, there isn't enough to feed them..." (adapted from 'Weathering Change' *Population International: Healthy Families, Healthy Planet*)

Questions

What are your thoughts as you read this story?

In what ways might your lifestyle be contributing to climate change?

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<https://www.google.ie/search?q=pixabay.com+free+images++flooding>

Global Facts

- By 2050 the number of people fleeing the impacts of climate change could reach 150 million. 80% of climate refugees will be women and children.
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/women-impacted-by-climate-change/blog/59194/>
- Five times more women die from natural disasters than men. Cultural constraints on women's mobility and lack of assets put them at a financial disadvantage and more vulnerable to disasters.
(Ghalia Fayad blog, *Greenpeace* 2017)
- Climate change and natural disasters have many negative impacts on women e.g. they are often exposed to gender-based violence.
(CEDAW, Feb. 2016)

"We will not solve the climate crisis or embark on a new pathway to sustainable development, if we don't fully engage the 50% of the world's population which are women."

Mary Robinson, 2015 CIDSE Conference, Rome

At **COP23** Gender Day in November the first **Gender Action Plan** was announced. It aims to increase women's participation in all UNFCCC processes.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/announcement-first-ever-gender-action-plan-on-climate-action-adopted>

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN acknowledges the link between achieving **Gender Equality** and implementing the SDGs, especially **#13**

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Target: 13. b Promote mechanisms for ... effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries... including focusing on women, youth...and marginalised communities.

Laudato Si: "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it." LS 23



tracts4free.wordpress.com

Action:

Read about the link between climate change and conflict <https://eifoundation.org/secure-international-protection-for-climate-refugees-1>

Campaign for EU leaders to stand up for the rights of climate refugees
<https://eifoundation.org/news-media/2017/eu-leaders-must-recognise-the-rights-of-climate-refugees>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See:

http://mercyworld.org/mercy_global_action/vi-ew-post.cfm?id=899

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