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Contents:

Amnesty International reports & statements

News articles

- Children
- Death Penalty
- Food Security and Poverty
- Health Services
- Health Workers
- HIV and AIDS
- Malaria, TB and Other Diseases
- Mental Health
- Prisons
- Refugees and Migrants
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Torture
- Violence against Women
- Women's Rights

Conferences/Courses

Publications

Amnesty International reports & statements:

26 March: Sri-Lanka: Tens of thousands of people, trapped in 'safe zones' in the north eastern Wanni region are at increased risk from the escalation in attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan Armed Forces.

<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/sri-lanka-thousands-civilians-under-attack-fighting-intensifies-2009032-0>

24 March: International: Amnesty International today revealed that more people were executed in Asia than in any other part of the world in 2008 because China carried out more executions than the rest of the world put together. By contrast, in Europe only one country continues to use the death penalty: Belarus.

<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/death-penalty-2390-executions-2008-worldwide-72-cent-china-20090324>

20 March: China: With the deaths of at least six detainees so far this year, China's detention system is under mounting pressure to reform.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/feature-stories/chinas-detention-system-under-pressure-after-inmate-deaths-20090320>

19 March: Serbia/Kosovo: Ten years after the war in Kosovo the majority of those responsible for the enforced disappearance and abduction of ethnic Albanians and Serbs have still not faced justice, Amnesty International said.
<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/serbiakosovo-wounds-still-open-10-years-after-start-war-over-kosovo-2009>

18 March: Cameroon: Amnesty International today urged Pope Benedict XVI to express the importance of eradicating discrimination based on sexual orientation, as he visits Cameroon on his first trip to Africa.
<http://amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/cameroon-pope-should-reiterate-commitment-ending-criminalization-homosex>

17 March: Syria: The Syrian writer Habib Saleh has been sentenced to three years in prison for criticizing the country's government in a series of articles published on the internet.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/syrian-activist-jailed-three-years-20090317>

13 March: Afghanistan: Freedom of expression in Afghanistan is under increasing threat, with journalists and media workers now vulnerable to violence and intimidation by both the government and anti-government forces.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/freedom-expression-afghanistan-faces-increasing-threats-20090313>

13 March: Azerbaijan: The Azerbaijani authorities are being urged to resolve the cases of three young men, two of whom have already been detained for four years.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/azerbaijan-urged-release-three-young-men-after-unfair-trial-20090313>

13 March: Iraq: Iraq's Justice Minister has been urged to stop the execution of 128 prisoners on death row, amid reports that the authorities plan to start executing them in batches of 20 from this week.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/iraq-urged-stop-execution-128-prisoners-death-row-20090313>

13 March: Malaysia: The Malaysian government should stop persecuting six bloggers charged today for comments criticizing a Malaysian Sultan, Amnesty International said.
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/malaysia-stop-prosecution-bloggers-charged-insulting-sultan-20090313>

Children:

Brazil: The case of a nine-year-old girl who was raped and impregnated by her stepfather has revived the debate in Brazil on sexual violence, the need to reform the abortion law, and the shortcomings of the health system when it comes to dealing with the few cases in which abortion is legal. *IPS* (13 March): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46105>

Burkina Faso: Population experts say more child marriages means a higher population rate, in a country of 14 million where the rate is already at three percent, according to the most recent government census in 2006. *IRIN News* (16 March): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83505>

Israel: Physicians for Human Rights appealed to Israel's Supreme Court to include all children, regardless of status, in the National Health Insurance Law, allowing them free treatment. *IRIN News* (25 March): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83610>

Rwanda: During a week long campaign launched today by the Minister of Health, children and women across Rwanda will be reached with a package of key life-saving interventions to protect them from preventable illnesses. *UNICEF* (24 March):

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_48853.html

Sudan: The Ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan, backed by UNICEF and other partners, today unveiled a further effort to reduce child and maternal mortality with the launch of the Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) in Eastern Equatorial state that will eventually roll to the other nine states of Southern Sudan. *UNICEF* (20 March):

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_48835.html

Wales: The number of suicidal children ringing the Child Line helpline has seen a four-fold increase in the past five years, it was revealed. *Wales Online* (23 March):

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2009/03/23/our-children-in-wales-are-crying-out-for-help-91466-23208632/>

Death Penalty:

Indonesia: Nineteen people have been executed since President Yudhoyono took over in 2004, compared to a total of just four executions under his predecessors Megawati Sukarnoputri and Abdurrahman Wahid, rights group impartial says. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (17 March):

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/indonesia-increases-use-of-death-penalty-20090317-90gg.html>

USA: The New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in the US State. *BBC News* (19 March):

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7951972.stm>

Food Security and Poverty:

Afghanistan: The battle to contain the growing political and military turmoil in Afghanistan may be temporarily overshadowed by an impending threat to millions of people in that strife-torn country: food shortages and starvation. *IPS* (24 March): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46253>

Chad: Aid agencies in Chad are preparing for a possible influx of tens of thousands of refugees from Darfur as fears grow that Sudan's expulsion of major relief organisations will worsen the humanitarian crisis there. *Reuters* (15 March):

<http://af.reuters.com/article/chadNews/idAFLE62913720090314>

Myanmar: The positive aspects of the Cyclone Nargis response in the Ayeyarwady Delta have yet to translate into better access or more funds for aid operations in the rest of Myanmar, where needs are great and often unmet, according to aid workers. *IRIN News* (19 March):

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83543>

Health Services:

Pakistan: Tharparakar District, Sindh Province, southern Pakistan, is one of the least developed districts in the country, but a new health initiative is providing a glimmer of hope to local people.

IRIN News (18 March): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83525>

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe's public health sector has been in a state of collapse for months; government laboratories equipped to run drug sensitivity tests are not functioning, and most of the experienced laboratory technicians have left the country or moved into the private sector. *IRIN Plus News* (24 March): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83603>

Health Workers:

South Africa: Despite a health crisis in the Free State caused by a funding shortage, the provincial health department has granted 160 health workers who are members of the ANC-aligned National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) paid leave for six months to do election campaigning for the ANC. *All Africa* (18 March): <http://allafrica.com/stories/200903180700.html>

HIV and AIDS:

Africa: Political leaders, activists, scientists and even Catholic bishops all joined in the chorus of criticism against the stance taken by Pope Benedict with respect to the use of condoms to curb the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa. *IPS* (23 March): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46239>

Asia-Middle East: Asian women are increasingly under threat of HIV infection as "they often migrate under unsafe conditions, are targets of sexual exploitation and violence, and are highly vulnerable to factors that lead to HIV infections. *IRIN Plus News* (16 March): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83477>

Cambodia: A report released on Monday by the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia found that 40,587 women in the country underwent HIV tests in 2008 - up from 38,660 who were tested in 2007. *Medical News Today* (20 March): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/143044.php>

Caribbean: The Caribbean Coalition on Women, Girls and AIDS pledged to address all aspects of female vulnerability to HIV -- including violence against women -- and cited growing concerns that current HIV/AIDS strategies are not adequately addressing their needs. *Kaiser Network* (16 March): http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=57489

Goa: According to the Goa State AIDS Control Society, 26,737 people underwent an HIV test in 2008, while until January 2009 around 2,348 people have undertaken testing. *The Navhind Times* (13 March): <http://www.navhindtimes.com/story.php?story=2009031310>

International: One in four tuberculosis deaths in the world is HIV-related, twice as many as previously thought, according to a new report by the World Health Organisation. *IRIN Plus News* (24 March): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83625>

Nigeria: Dutch customs officials have seized a consignment of generic antiretroviral (ARV) bound for Nigeria raising the health risk to HIV-positive people in need of the life-prolonging medication. *IRIN Plus News* (13 March): <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83459>

South Africa: AIDS is killing so many politicians in southern Africa that their deaths are threatening the ability of governments to function properly, Kondwani Chirambo, the lead author of a new study on deaths among local councillors in South Africa, said. *Health 24* (17 March): http://www.health24.com/news/HIV_AIDS/1-920,50096.asp

South Africa: It is estimated one-third of the people living with HIV, are also infected with tuberculosis. Health officials say this dual epidemic is one of the most significant challenges facing modern medicine. Now, South Africa is home to a new research facility looking for new ways of treating the diseases. *Voice of America* (19 March): <http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-03-19-voa18.cfm>

Malaria, TB and Other Diseases:

Afghanistan: President Hamid Karzai has kicked off a United Nations-backed polio vaccination drive targeting some 7.7 million children in Afghanistan. *UN News Centre* (16 March): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30191&Cr=Polio&Cr1=>

Bolivia: Dengue fever has claimed 24 lives so far this year in Bolivia, in what experts are calling the worst epidemic in the country's history. The mosquito-borne disease has spread fast due to high summer temperatures combined with rainfall, a weak public health system and poor collection of garbage. *IPS* (24 March): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46249>

Kenya: Cholera has killed at least 22 people and infected some 660 in different parts of the country since late 2008, according to a senior health official. *IRIN News* (19 December): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83539>

Malawi: Malawi does not have accurate statistics that define the extent of tuberculosis (TB) cases within its borders, and there are fears that only half of those infected with the disease are able to access testing and treatment. *IPS* (24 March): <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46241>

Mozambique: With resources stretched thin, aid agencies struggling to contain a cholera outbreak across all but one of Mozambique's 10 provinces hope the approaching end of the rainy season will bring some relief. *IRIN News* (25 March): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83638>

Tajikistan/USA: The U.S. Ambassador Tracey Ann Jacobson and Deputy Minister of Health Sohibnazar Rakhmonov held a press conference on the prevention and control of tuberculosis and the joint steps that have been taken by the Government of Tajikistan and the U.S. Government to protect people from this infectious disease. *The Central Asia News* (19 March): <http://en.ca-news.org/news/36381>

Mental health:

Australia: Almost half of Australians have suffered from some form of mental health disorder at some stage in their life, a new research reveals. *ABC News* (19 March): <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/26/2527408.htm?section=justin>

UK: The House of Common's 'Health Inequalities' select committee's report published on Sunday found that 'the health needs of mental health patients are almost entirely ignored by specialist mental health services'. *Black Mental Health* (16 March): http://www.blackmentalhealth.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=554&Itemid=117

Prisons:

International: The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined United Nations colleagues today in calling for the release of the 19 staff members of the world body detained or missing around the

globe. *UN News Centre* (25 March):
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30285&Cr=un+staff&Cr1=>

Maldives: Adam Zahir was chief of police in the Maldives until last year, where he was in charge of the department accused of human rights abuses such as political imprisonments and torture. *BBC News* (24 March): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7959410.stm>

Refugees and Migrants:

Burma: Antonio Guterres, chief of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), wrapped up his assessment of the plight of one of the world's most suppressed and controversial Rohingya refugees. The survey mission, which began on March 7 and ended on 12, included a visit to Naypyidaw and Sittwe. *The Asian Tribune* (18 March):
<http://www.asiantribune.com/?q=node/16168>

Germany: Germany's plans to resettle 2,500 Iraqi refugees has begun with a young couple who flew out of Jordan with a son who needs urgent medical treatment for a heart defect, the United Nations refugee agency announced. *UN News Centre* (17 March):
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30202&Cr=iraq&Cr1=refugee>

Sudan: The loss of expertise following the expulsion or closure of 16 aid agencies cannot be replaced in the short run and has exacerbated the plight of displaced people in Darfur, the UN warned. *IRIN News* (25 March): <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83635>

USA: The medical care system in US immigration detention is dangerously inadequate, with unique consequences for women, and improving health care for immigration detainees should be a top priority for the new administration. *Human Rights Watch* (17 March):
<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/03/17/us-immigration-detention-neglects-health>

Sexual and Reproductive Rights:

Northern Ireland: The Department of Health has, for the first time, published guidance to health professionals in Northern Ireland on terminating pregnancy. *BBC News* (20 March):
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/7954077.stm

Pakistan: Every hour, three women die due to pregnancy-related complications while every year, more than 30,000 women die in Pakistan making the maternal mortality rate of 340/100,000 pregnancies. *Daily Times – Pakistan* (19 March):
http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C03%5C19%5Cstory_19-3-2009_pg12_13

Philippines: Thousands of Filipino women continue to die due to complications related to childbirth, according to health specialists. A study by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the State of the World Population 2008, states that 230 women die for every 100,000 live births, compared with 110 in Thailand, 62 in Malaysia and 14 in Singapore. *IRIN News* (24 March):
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83609>

Timor-Leste: A call for more lenient abortion legislation in this predominantly Catholic country is renewing friction between the Church and pro-abortion activists. *IRIN News* (18 March):
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83526>

Torture:

Bangladesh: The government of Bangladesh should take urgent steps to ensure that those detained in connection with the massacre of 74 people at the Dhaka headquarters of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), the country's paramilitary border guards, on 25 February 2009, are not subjected to retribution, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and other mistreatment. *Human Rights Watch* (24 March): <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/03/25/bangladesh-investigate-torture-allegations>

UK: The government yesterday bowed to growing pressure over allegations of Britain's complicity in torture by promising to draw up and publish new guidelines for the security and intelligence agencies when they are involved in interrogating detainees abroad. *The Guardian* (19 March): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/mar/19/mi5-terror-interrogations>

Violence against women:

Israel: Israel's ex-president Moshe Katsav has been formally charged with several counts of rape, sexual harassment and an indecent act, the justice ministry says. *The Sydney Morning Herald* (18 March): <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/israel-expresident-indicted-for-rape-20090319-93i0.html>

South Africa: Gangs of South African men are raping lesbians in the belief it will "cure" the women's sexual orientation, an aid agency said Friday. NGO ActionAid said in a report titled "Hate Crimes: the rise of corrective rape in South Africa" lesbians were increasingly at risk of rape, particularly in South African townships where homosexuality is largely taboo. *Reuters* (13 March): <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE52C3MN20090313>

UK: A specialist unit set up by Scotland Yard to investigate sexual assaults has been severely criticised for failing to properly manage a rape allegation by a 15-year-old girl. *The Times Online* (18 March): <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article5925524.ece>

Women's Rights:

Afghanistan: While the Afghan constitution - written after the fall of the Taleban in 2001 - enshrines equal rights for men and women, much of the country remains conservatively entrenched. *BBC News* (19 March): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/7942819.stm

Egypt: Young Egyptian women are using blogs and online radio stations to beat the censors and to fight for equality. *BBC News* (19 March): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b28r_uFMWMw

Iraq: With the illiteracy rate among Iraqi women twice as high as that of men and women making up only 18 per cent of the country's labour force, a United Nations conference that opened in Baghdad today is seeking ways to improve the situation of women in the fledgling democracy. *UN News Centre* (19 March): <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30236&Cr=iraq&Cr1=>

Conferences/Courses:

Conference: Reducing Health Inequalities. What Do We Really Know About Successful Strategies? 8–9 May 2009, School of Public Health, University of Bielefeld, and Hertie School of Governance, Berlin.

In highly developed countries, the widening differences in socioeconomic status which enhance inequalities in health outcomes are a growing problem. The result is a loss of educational and economic competences in large parts of the population which reduces the economic prosperity of

the whole country. Therefore, tackling health inequalities and implementing health equity strategies are the main objectives of public health policy in welfare states around the globe. The conference will focus on the comparative analysis of public health strategies in different states. For further information visit: http://www.hertie-school.org/binaries/addon/1085_rhi.pdf

The Global Health Program in Action - 2009 Summer Executive Course

5 - 19 June 2009, Geneva

Diplomacy is undergoing profound changes in the 21st century – and global health is one of the areas in which this is most manifested. The negotiation processes that shape and manage the global policy environment for health are increasingly not only conducted between public health experts representing health ministries of nation states but include many other major players at the national level and in the global arena. These include new philanthropies and public-private partnerships. As health moves beyond its purely technical realm to become an ever more critical element in foreign policy, security policy and trade agreements, new skills are needed to negotiate global regimes and international agreements and treaties and to maintain relations with a wide range of actors. The summer course will focus on health diplomacy as it relates to health issues that cross national boundaries and are global in nature, will discuss the challenges it faces and how they have been addressed by different groups and at different levels of governance.

Deadline to apply - 1st April 2009!

For further information see: <http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/executive/training-workshops/global-health-diplomacy.html>

Publications:

Please note that subscriptions may be required to access some of these publications.

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Burke SC, Oomen-Early JS, Rager RC, “Latina Women's Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence: A Grounded Theory Approach”, *Family Violence, Prevention and Health Practice*. Available at <http://endabuse.org/health/ejournal/2009/02/latina-womens-experiences-with-intimate-partner-violence-a-grounded-theory-approach/>

Gil-González D, Ruiz-Cantero MT, Alvarez-Dardet C, “How political epidemiology research can address why the millennium development goals have not been achieved: developing a research agenda”, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, Volume 63, Number 4, April 2009. Available online at: <http://jech.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/63/4/278>

Human Rights Watch, “Barred from Treatment: Punishment of Drug Users in New York State Prisons”, 24 March 2009. Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/03/24/barred-treatment-0>

Human Rights Watch, “Detained and Dismissed: Women’s Struggles to Obtain Health Care in United States Immigration Detention”, 17 March 2009. Available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/03/16/detained-and-dismissed>

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Id21 insights, "Making Health Markets Work for Poor People", id21 insights 76, March 2009. Available online at: www.id21.org/insights/insights76/index.html

Marmot MG and Bell R, "Action on Health Disparities in the United States", Commission on Social Determinants of Health, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 301 No. 11, 18 March 2009. Available online at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/301/11/1169?etoc#REF-JC090020-1>

Nasrullah M, Haqqi S, Cummings KJ, "The epidemiological patterns of honour killing of women in Pakistan", *European Journal of Public Health* 2009, 19(2):193-197. Available online at: <http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/ckp021>

Nishiura H, Wilson N, Baker MG, "Quarantine for pandemic influenza control at the borders of small island nations", *BMC Infectious Diseases* 2009, 9:27, doi:10.1186/1471-2334-9-27. Available online at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/9/27/abstract>

Ooms G, "From the Global AIDS Response towards Global Health?" A discussion paper for the H el ene de Beir foundation and the International Civil Society Support group. High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. January 2009. Available at: [http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/pdf/IHP%20Update%2013/Taskforce/taskforce/090101_Ooms_Global_Health_Discussion_Paper%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/pdf/IHP%20Update%2013/Taskforce/taskforce/090101_Ooms_Global_Health_Discussion_Paper%20(2).pdf)

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, "'III Morals': Grave Violations of the Right to Health during the Israeli Assault on Gaza", March 2009. Available online at: <http://www.phr.org.il/phr/article.asp?articleid=702&catid=55&pcat=-1&lang=ENG>

Platt RW, Zeitlin J, "Challenges in measuring changes in health and social indicators over time", *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, Volume 63, Number, April 2009. Available online at: <http://jech.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/63/4/267>

Salvi V, "Child marriage in India: a tradition with alarming implications", *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 10 March 2009. Available Online at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60452-9/fulltext#article_upsell](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60452-9/fulltext#article_upsell)

Schmid G, Williams B, Garcia-Calleja J, Miller C, Segar E, Southworth M, Tonyan D, Wacloff J and Scott J, "The unexplored story of HIV and ageing". *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2009;87:162-162. doi: 10.2471/BLT.09.064030. Available online at: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/3/09-064030/en/print.html>

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Tsounta E, "Universal Health Care 101: Lessons for the Eastern Caribbean and Beyond", IMF Working Paper No. 09/61, March 2009. Available online at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2009/wp0961.pdf>

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