

The SPEAK-UP Jean Monnet Module – a.a. 2021-2022  
*Spreading women's Empowerment and Active citizenship values to enhance Union Policies combating gender discrimination and violence in a globalised world*

# Globalization and Gender Implications (6 hours)



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

**10th March 2023**

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# Lectures structure

Definition of globalisation and its implications from a gender perspective

Identification of forms of gender discrimination and violence in globalisation processes

Analysis of strategies and processes to combat gender discrimination and violence towards a new model of social development

# Module schedule

9th March 2023

12.00-14.00 : Presentation of objectives and themes of the lectures

Definition of globalisation and its characterising aspects  
through the lens of gender

16th March 2023

10.00-12.00 : Strategies and processes to counter gender  
discrimination and violence towards a sustainable development  
model

# Today lecture schedule

10th March 2023

11,15-12,00: Summary of the previous lesson  
Insights and case studies about gender implication of the globalization

12,00-12,10: Questions and Comments

12,10-12,50: Forms of gender discrimination and violence in globalization processes

12,50-13,00: Summary of the main themes  
Questions and Comments

# Summary of the previous lesson

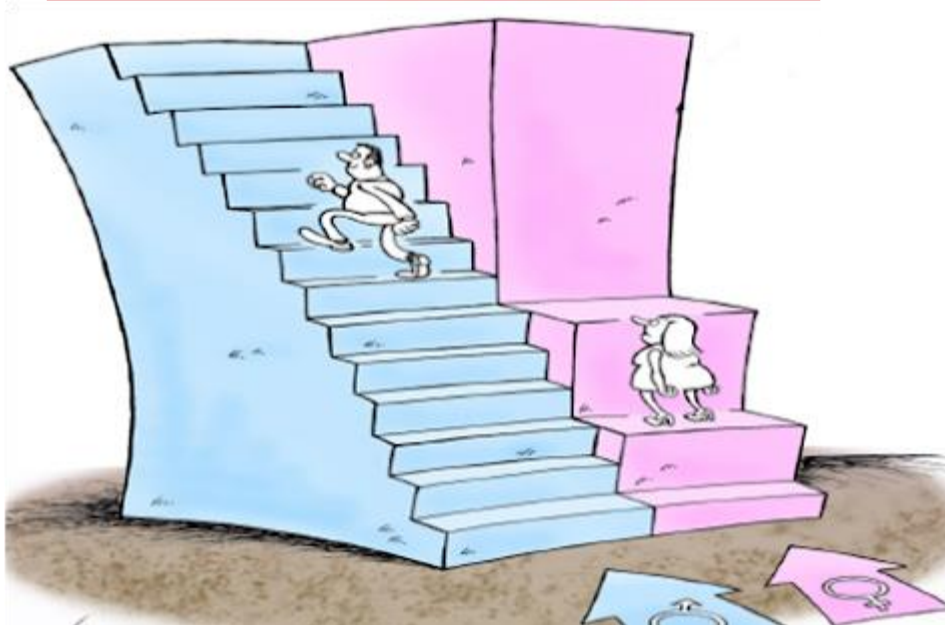
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- globalisation as an **outcome of the transformation process** induced by modernity in its opened by industrialisation, when the means and techniques induced by it have projected times, spaces and relations of social life beyond the traditional boundaries of society, the physical ones of a city or state and the symbolic ones delineated by administrative borders
- the world is compressed **into unified spaces, times and relations with a consciousness of the unity of the world** where the system of differences, that society is, is sometimes seen as an added value, sometimes neutralised or even repressed, turning differences into inequalities
- **positive and negative aspects of the gender implication of globalisation** are intertwined and in too many cases used by politics to simplify complexity and by power to reserve access to or possession of resources fundamental to society for only a few, while globalisation is dependent upon women's unpaid reproductive work and gender wage inequality

Let's  
Recap

# Looking at globalisation processes through the lens of gender: the keywords “differences” and “inequalities”

**Social differences** are constitutive of all kinds of societies and classify individuals according to **social categories and causes** - *ascribed*, i.e. received at birth, and *acquired*, i.e. constructed along the life course - to the extent that society is composed of individuals and groups that differ from one another and can be defined as a *system of differences* (Gallino)



**Inequality** can be defined as **differential access to or possession of specific resources and opportunities** (economic, political, cultural, symbolic) often related to *ascribed* (women earn less - gender pay gap - or *acquired* (those with higher education have higher income) **social differences**



**Task n. 1 – 5 minutes**

**Describe your identity in order:**

- biological sex (anatomical and physiological)
- gender (with reference to the society you were born and live in)
- Traits of your identity that have been turned into inequalities with differential access to or possession of specific resources and opportunities compared to those of other persons (not only gender, of course, but also age, nationality etc.)

# How can we read globalisation through the lens of gender?



In the global dimension the **power actors** are more and more **movements and groups** and less the individuals, damaging women when the collective issues are not in favor of their rights.

To achieve a share agreement on the weaker gender identities (women and LGBT+) issues, starting from their persistent risk of social exclusion, **is not enough the growing independence** that the post-Modern economy facilitates in some degrees to them



# Globalization implications for the gender relations

Twofold and intertwined, not merely positive and negative

Gender is still considered a crucial factor for enforcing those **power structures** that try to adapt themselves to the current cultural changes, in the **Global North** as in the **Global South**: in the **economic** and **political** structures (female leadership lack, gender pay gap, work-life balance, exploitation, unemployment), in the **cultural** and **social representations** (violence against women; restore of the traditional family structures, gender equality as a development sustainable goal)

Gender seems to misplace its meaning among the **young's** - due to their socialization in a more apparently balanced society - and for those **power structures that neutralize each attempt to a cultural recognition of the social diversity**

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These are the emerging issues for social scientists, possibly exploring more and more adequate methodological tools



**Does globalization have an overall positive or negative impact on the lives of women?**





**Task n. 3 – 5 minutes**

**Describe** a social fact, a character, an artistic work, a historical event, a cultural sign or your experience that describes what relationship there is between globalisation and gender identities

The optimistic school (but  
with some reserves)

The integration of **national  
economies with global economy**  
will improve the situation of all  
citizens, including **women**





## The critical school

Globalization will further increase **existing inequalities** and will lead to **new ones**



## Part Two

Forms of gender discrimination and violence in globalisation processes



**EQUAL POSITIONS  
WITH  
EQUAL PAY**

**Globalization as dis-empowering of women**

**The strategic function of the “globalized woman” within the broader project of globalization is the execution of unpaid and underpaid labour**

**the ‘globalized women’ is the voluntary worker who helps to absorb the shocks of social cutbacks and structural adjustment**



# Ecofeminism

The feminist critique of the **capitalism-patriarchy nexus**: its distinctiveness lies in the inclusion of nature in the category of the exploited

The exploitation of nature is intimately linked to **western attitude** and **male domination** toward women and other **vulnerable groups**





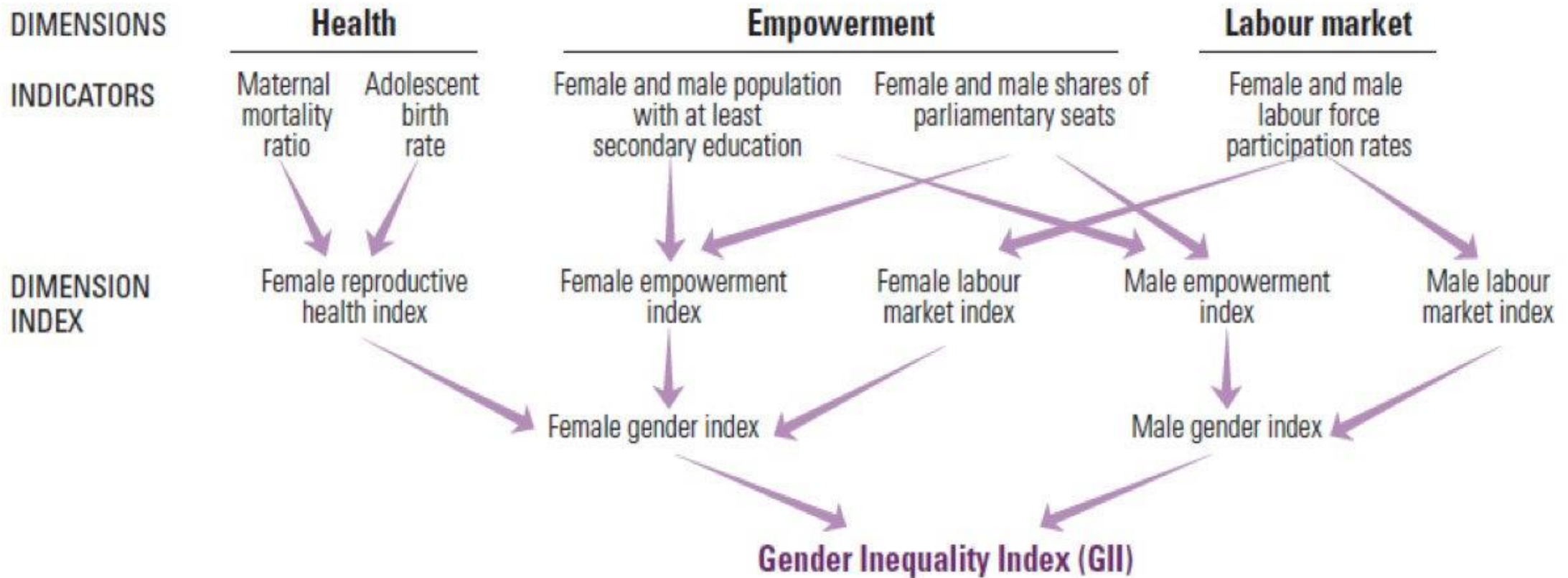
## Vandana Shiva in this TEDex (2010)

**Vandana Shiva** is a philosopher, environmental activist, eco-feminist and author of several books. Dr Shiva, is author of over 300 papers in leading scientific and technical journals and participated in the nonviolent Chipko movement during the 1970s.

The movement, some of whose main participants were women, adopted the approach of **forming human circles around trees to prevent their felling**. She is one of the leaders of the International Forum on Globalization

<https://youtu.be/ER5ZZk5atIE>

# The Gender Inequality Index (GII)





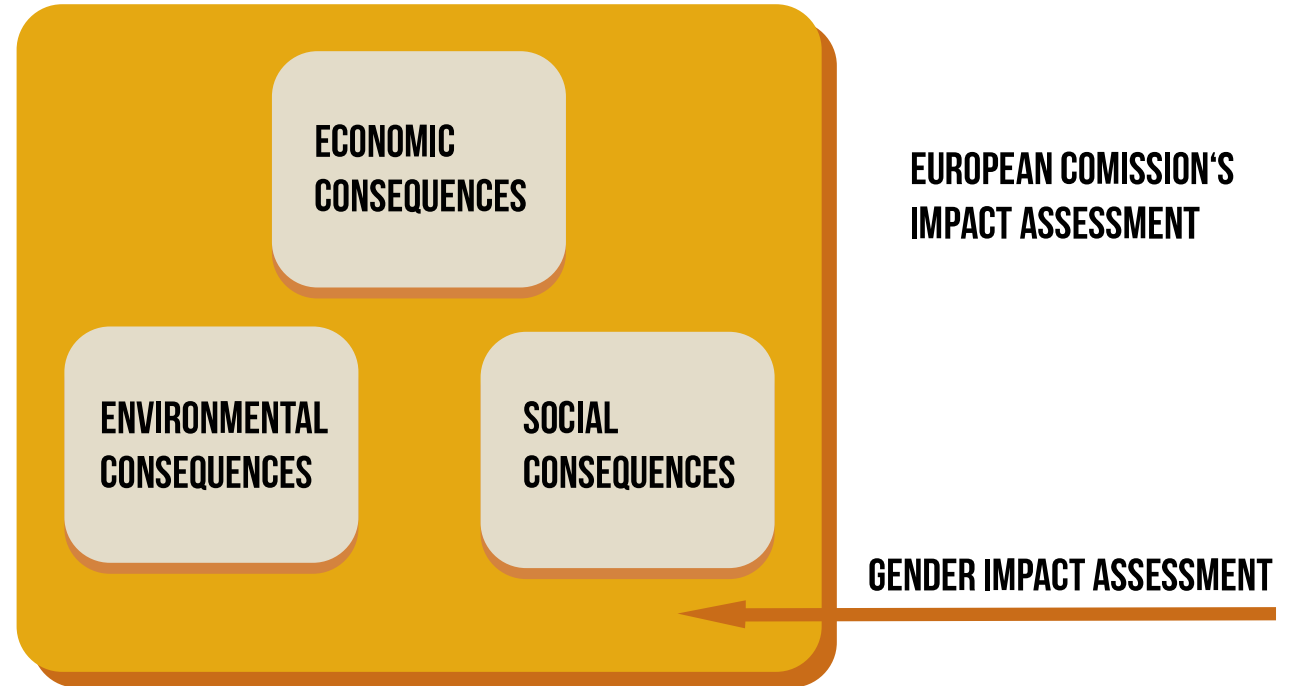
### Task n. 3

Read about the **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** data from the 2020 Report and look at the data for your country. Then write a short commentary note about:

- how do you evaluate this index? Can it effectively identify forms of gender discrimination?
- Among the dimensions and phenomena it measures, are there any you would remove? What other dimensions, if any, would you add?

# Monitoring the gender impact of change

At the policy level, the impact of globalization on women and gender relations **continues to be neglected nationally and internationally**. Entities of the United Nations system are taking steps to **integrate the goals of macro-economic with those of social development**

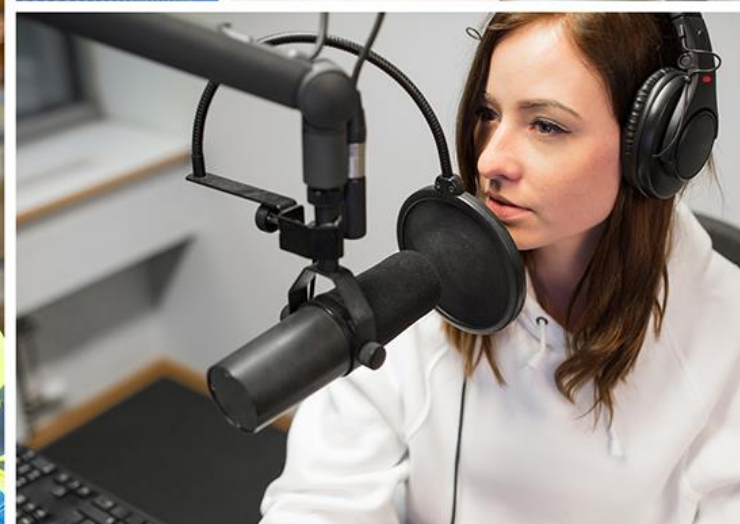
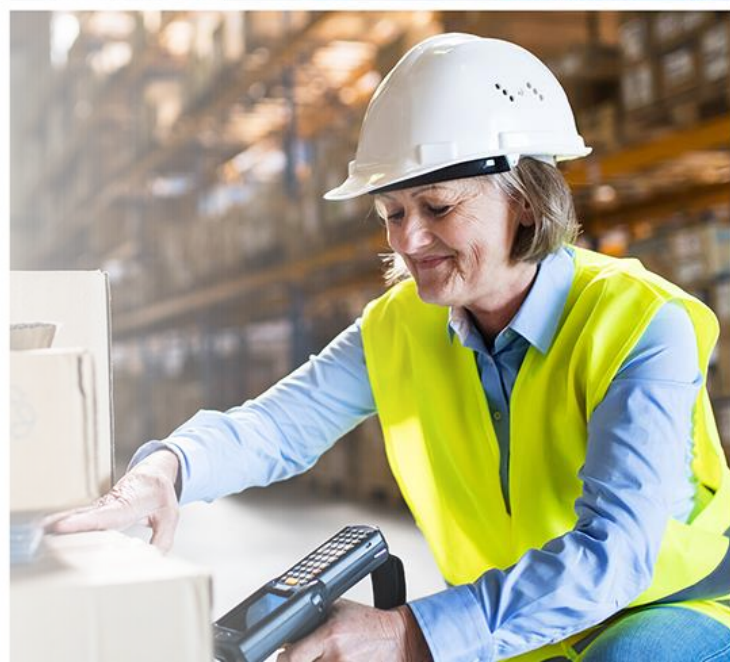
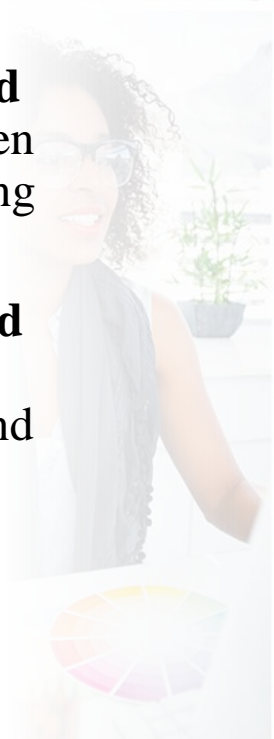
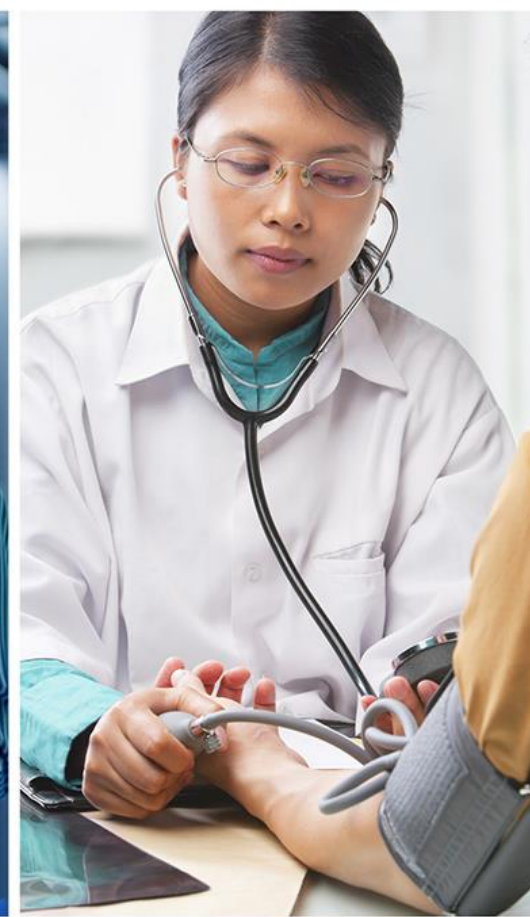


# Globalization effects on gender: labour market

The extension of the market can have both **positive** and **negative effects** for women's situation and gender relations.

Positive effects may include **increased employment opportunities** for women in non-traditional sectors, thus enabling them to earn and control income.

Negative effects can include **increased exploitation and dependency** on direct engagement with the market, and particularly on the vagaries of the market.



# Globalization effects on gender: trade in services

Trade policies affect **employment, production, distribution and consumption patterns, cultural values, social relations and the environment**, all of which engage and affect women as well as men

Increases in world trade, particularly in the services, has increased the **involvement of women** in the various occupations and professions of the services sector.



# Globalization effects on gender: governance

Globalization is generating an **unprecedented understanding that economic and social rights** are part of the international human rights discourse

Similarly, the growing force of international women's movement and their influence over the **intergovernmental processes** are empowering women and **creating space for women's organizations** at the national and local levels to grow



# Globalization effects on gender: poverty

The limits on the State's ability to provide **social protection, provisioning of needs and human capital investments** has become more strained

This poses a major challenge to **poverty eradication programmes** and the efforts to respond to the needs of the less visible segments of the population, especially women and children, in responding to their right to basic services and development of their capabilities

A woman wearing a pink headscarf is looking off to the side. She is holding a large black banner with white, hand-painted text. The text on the banner reads "POVERTY HAS A".

POVERTY  
HAS A



# Globalization effects on gender: migration

Globalization has created **labour demand patterns** which inherently favour short-term, temporary employment

As a result, a **short-term contracted labour migration** appears to be on the rise with distinct gender differentiated consequences

Women, whose labour has low opportunity cost in the market and who are socially considered to be flexible labour, are entering into **new labour engagements more so than ever before**



# Globalization effects on gender: technological change

Due to the expanding reach of new communication technologies the use of technology for **the empowerment of women has been impressive**

For example, many women world-wide are making effective use of Internet and e-mail for development purposes such as networking, advocacy, dissemination and exchange of information, and creative e-commerce initiatives designed to help **local artisans and producers market their products globally**

Nevertheless, it must be recognized that **millions of the world's poorest women and men still do not have access to these facilities**

## The Women Who Changed The Tech World

Hedy Lamarr



Annie Easley



Mary Wilkes



Adele Goldberg



Radia Perlman



Katherine Johnson



Karen Sparck-Jones



Elizabeth Fein



# UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**WE ARE 25!**



## **THIRD PART**

### **Strategies and processes to counter gender discrimination and violence towards a sustainable development model**

# Starting from the meaning of gender discrimination and violence

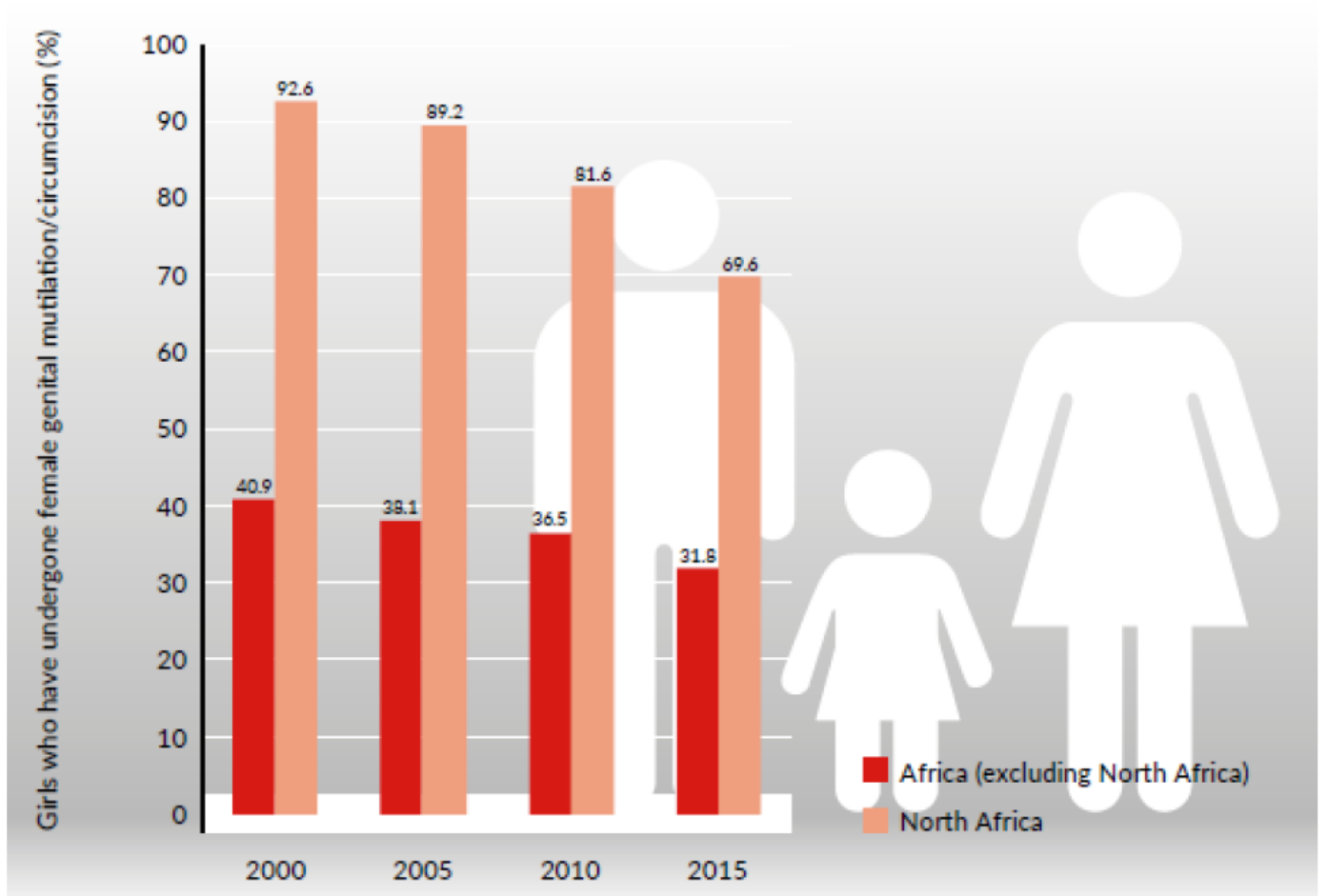
- **Gender-based violence** = as a **multifaceted phenomenon** that encompasses physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. It is manifested in **different forms** including physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partners or non-partners; femicide; child, early and forced marriage; female genital mutilation (FGM); trafficking; 'honour' crimes; sexual harassment; gender-biased sex selection; and cyber violence

- **Gender discrimination** = Women and girls **disproportionately experience violence**, as in most contexts they tend to have less power, fewer resources, lower income and education levels than their male counterparts



# Proportion of girls aged 15-19 years in Africa who have undergone female genital mutilation 2000-2015

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# What and how changes the gender discrimination and violence



extreme usability of and increasing global access to the Internet



new types of warfare



rising in the numbers of female militants or contributors to violence



swift development of legal frameworks for identifying, demanding responsibility for, and penalizing gender violence

# The cultural approach of analysis

Patriarchal processes understood in this manner are so much part of our global reality that **they have mitigated our ability to discern and read this “violence”**

Consequently, violence against women is often perceived as **normative**, and even necessary, in the everyday lives of both men and women in international cultural contexts because **women are involved in the perpetration of violence, even against other women**





#### Task n. 4 Examplng patriarchy

Specify in your example

- **who** acts according to the values of patriarchy
- **towards whom** the actions of those who act according to patriarchy are directed
- how are the actions of patriarchy judged by **others**: are they accepted and considered natural, or are they contested?



# An analytical approach: the intersectionality

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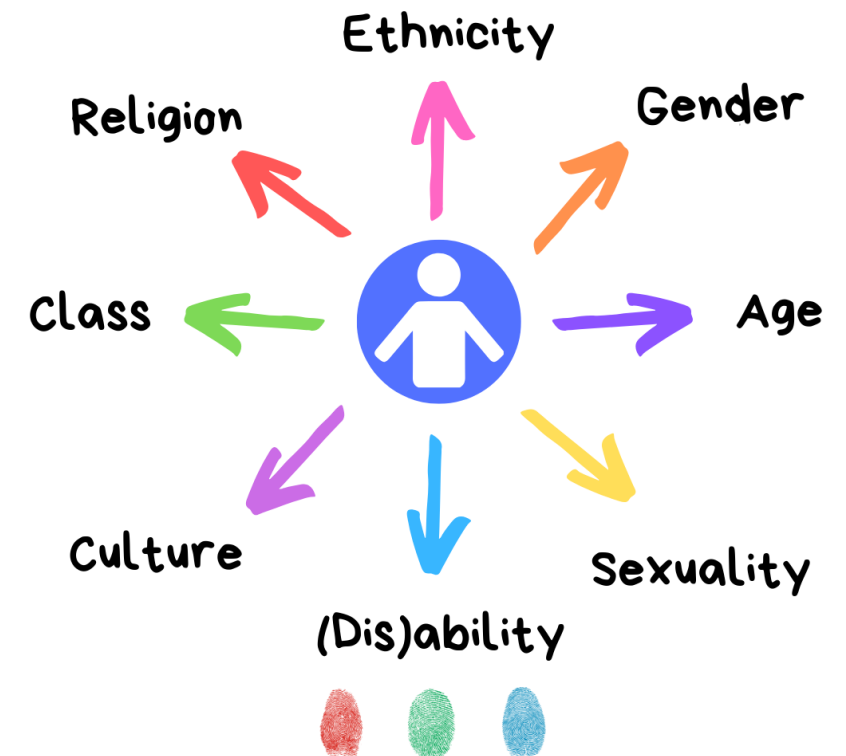
Framework for understanding how aspects of a person's **social and political identities** combine to create **different modes of discrimination and privilege**

Intersectionality identifies **multiple factors of advantage and disadvantage**, including **gender, sex, ethnicity**.

These **intersecting and overlapping social identities** may be both empowering and oppressing (Kimberlé Crenshaw, 1989)

Approach of analysis of **how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society**, differently from the **analytical systems** that treat each axis of oppression in isolation

In this framework for instance discrimination against black women could not be explained as a simple combination of misogyny and racism but **something more complicated**



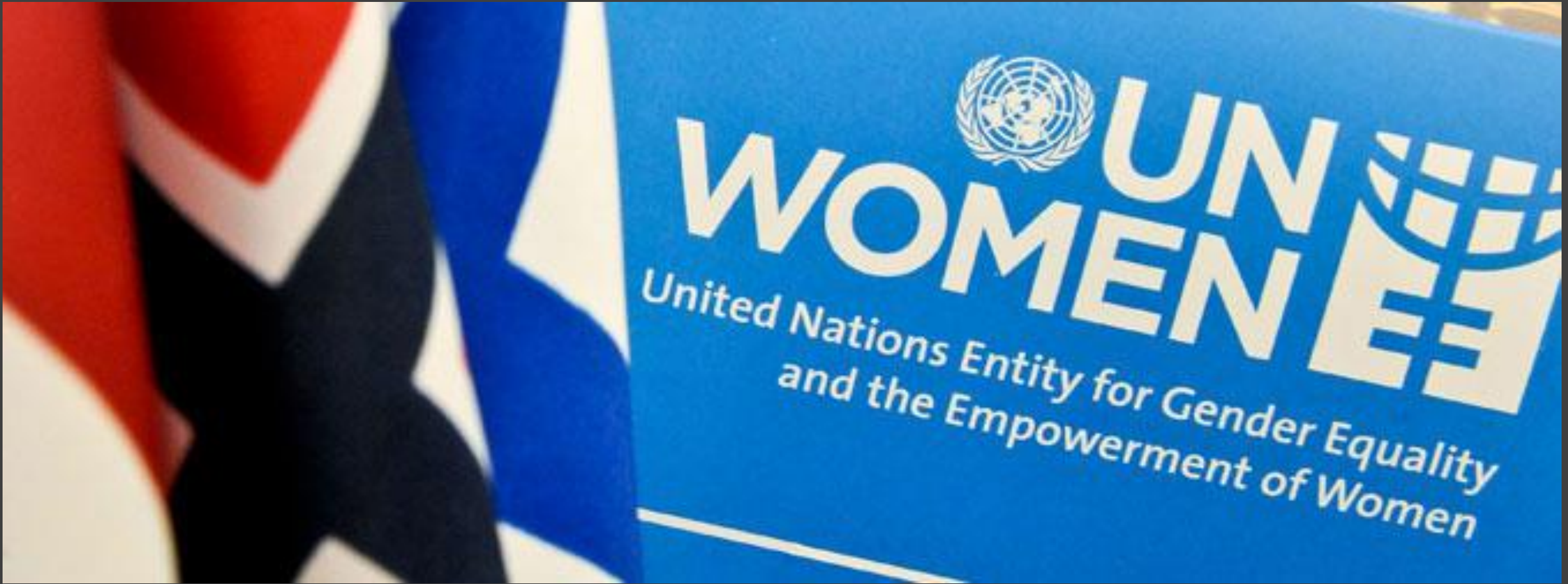
# Strategies and processes to combat gender discrimination and violence (1)



Contemporary feminist groups and women's organizations remain **rooted in local issues**, on the other hand they also engage in **information exchange, mutual support**, and a combination of **action towards the realization of their goals of equality and empowerment for women on an increasingly supra-national level**

Some examples

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) (<http://www.awid.org>)
- Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091029172850/http://www.wluml.org/>)
- [Women Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace](#) (WLP)
- [Center for Women's Global Leadership](#) (CWGL)



**Strategies and processes to combat gender discrimination and violence (2)**

**Transnational events** also played a key role in **facilitating interaction and communication** among feminist organizations: the World Conferences on Women convened by the United Nations in the last quarter of the twentieth century gave opening spaces for different feminists from over the world



# Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### Goal 5: Gender equality

Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also crucial to accelerating sustainable development. It has been proven time and again, that empowering women and girls has a multiplier effect, and helps drive up economic growth and development across the board.

Since 2000, UNDP, together with our UN partners and the rest of the global community, has made gender equality central to our work. We have seen remarkable progress since then. More girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago, and most regions have reached gender parity in primary education. Women now make up to 41 percent of paid workers outside of agriculture, compared to 35 percent in 1990.

The SDGs aim to build on these achievements to ensure that there is an end to discrimination against women and girls everywhere. There are still huge inequalities in the labour market in some regions, with women systematically denied equal access to jobs. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office, all remain huge barriers.

Affording women equal rights to economic resources such as land and property are vital targets to realizing this goal. So is ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging women leaders will help strengthen policies and legislation for greater gender equality

# How to face gender discrimination and violence?

constrains individuals' ability to participate in public life

has severe consequences for their health, including mental and reproductive health and HIV

increased health-care needs

diminishes human capital formation

lack of legal systems and legislative provisions to criminalize violence against women

second-generation consequences

decreases economic production

costs associated with long-term emotional effects,

even when legislation is in place, implementation lags behind and impunity prevails in many situations

discriminatory laws that exacerbate women's vulnerability to violence

gaps in data and statistics obscure the gravity of the problem

justice systems and legal services are not necessarily accessible and responsive



## Tackling Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence

*Equality Bodies' Contribution*

# Response measures to tackle gender-based violence

- **primary prevention** include building women's economic independence; working with both men and women to strengthen equal and respectful relationships; shifting social norms through, for instance, mutually reinforcing group education, training and community mobilization; and parenting programmes. Protection involves ensuring safe spaces and introduction of sanctions through laws, regulations and other legal mechanisms to enforce compliance and punitive measures for perpetrators
- **early intervention** focuses on individuals and groups with a high risk of perpetration or victimization through, for example, psycho-educational programmes for children who have been exposed to violence
- **response measures** are aimed at building systemic, organizational and community capacity to respond to violence and strengthen multisectoral support to those who have been affected by violence. These include legislative and procedural reforms to strengthen access to justice for survivors, and workplace policies such as paid leave provisions and co-worker sensitivity trainings



# Vasundhara Biodiversity, the Hindustan Way

Celebrating  
4 billion years of Vasundhara's evolution 10000 years of India's biodiversity based  
ecological civilisation 30 years of Navdanya's service in biodiversity conservation for food,  
health & nutrition. 4th to 5th September, 2021 At Navdanya Biodiversity Conservation Farm  
[www.navdanya.net](http://www.navdanya.net)



**Women sustainability saviours?**





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

**For questions and comments: [mariella.nocenzi@uniroma1.it](mailto:mariella.nocenzi@uniroma1.it)**

**For documents and sources:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xte9CFaFM10gbbyIv241f\\_fc3HhcFn95?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xte9CFaFM10gbbyIv241f_fc3HhcFn95?usp=sharing)