



Pan African Campaign To
End Forced 'Marriage'
of Under Age Children



Africa Coalition On Maternal,
Newborn & Child Health

Advancing Multi-sectoral Policy & Investment for Girls, Women, & Children's Health

2015 African Union Heads of State Summit: – (Theme) “Year of Women’s’ Empowerment and Development in Africa”

2015 Africa Scorecard on Violence Against Women & Girls - Highlighting Male & Female Attitudes to Gender Based Violence - Including Adolescents

Violence Against Women & Girls Scorecard			Violence Against Women & Girls Scorecard			Violence Against Women & Girls Scorecard			Violence Against Women & Girls Scorecard		
1. Percentage of Boys & Men 15-49 Yrs. Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife (2005-2013)			2. Percentage of Girls & Women 15-49 Yrs. Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife (2005 – 2013)			3. Percentage of Adolescent Boys 15-19 Yrs. Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife (2005-2012)			4. Percentage of Adolescent Girls 15-19 Yrs. Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife (2005 – 2012)		
For At Least One of the Specified Reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) 'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations.			For At Least One of the Specified Reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) 'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations.			For At Least One of the Specified Reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) 'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations.			For At Least One of the Specified Reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) 'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations.		
Ranking	Country	Justification Of Wife Beating By Boys / Men 15 - 49 Yrs.	Ranking	Country	Justification Of Wife Beating By Girls/Women 15 - 49 Yrs.	Ranking	Country	Justification Of Wife Beating By Adolescent Boys	Ranking	Country	Justification Of Wife Beating By Adolescent Girls
1	Central African Rep.	75%	1	Guinea	92%	1	Central African Rep.	87%	1	Mali	83%
2	Guinea	66%	2	Mali	87%	2	Burundi	56%	Joint 2	Central African Rep.	79%
3	Congo	62%	3	Central African Rep.	80%	3	Zambia	55%	Joint 2	Guinea	79%
4	Equa. Guinea	52%	4	South Sudan	79%	Joint 4	Kenya	54%	3	Congo	76%
5	Zambia	49%	Joint 5	D.R. Congo	76%	Joint 4	Lesotho	54%	4	Somalia	75%
6	Lesotho	48%	Joint 5	Somalia	76%	5	Uganda	52%	Joint 5	Burundi	74%
7	Madagascar	46%	6	Gambia	75%	Joint 6	Cote d'Ivoire	51%	Joint 5	Gambia	74%
Joint 8	Ethiopia	45%	Joint 7	Congo	73%	Joint 6	Ethiopia	51%	Joint 6	D.R. Congo	72%
Joint 8	Eritrea	45%	Joint 7	Burundi	73%	7	Zimbabwe	48%	Joint 6	South Sudan	72%
Joint 9	Burundi	44%	Joint 7	Sierra Leone	73%	8	Gabon	47%	7	Eritrea	70%
Joint 9	Kenya	44%	Joint 8	Algeria	68%	9	Namibia	44%	8	Niger	68%
Joint 9	Uganda	44%	Joint 8	Ethiopia	68%	10	Cameroon	43%	9	Algeria	66%
10	Cote d'Ivoire	42%	9	Morocco	64%	11	Burkina Faso	40%	Joint 10	Ethiopia	64%
11	Namibia	41%	Joint 10	Chad	62%	12	Tanzania	39%	Joint 10	Morocco	64%

Justification of Gender Based Violence Boys & Men 15-49 Yrs.			Justification of Gender Based Violence Girls & Women 15-49 Yrs.			Justification of Gender Based Violence Adolescent Boys 15 – 19 Yrs.			Justification of Gender Based Violence Adolescent Girls 15 – 19 Yrs.		
12	Gabon	40%	Joint 10	Zambia	62%	Joint 13	Ghana	37%	11	Sierra Leone	63%
13	Cameroon	39%	Joint 11	Niger	60%	Joint 13	Liberia	37%	12	Uganda	62%
14	Tanzania	38%	Joint 11	Senegal	60%	14	Rwanda	35%	Joint 13	Senegal	61%
Joint 15	Burkina Faso	34%	12	Liberia	59%	15	Swaziland	34%	Joint 13	Zambia	61%
Joint 15	Zimbabwe	34%	13	Uganda	58%	16	Madagascar	33%	14	Chad	59%
16	Liberia	30%	14	Rwanda	56%	17	Senegal	31%	15	Gabon	58%
17	Niger	27%	15	Tanzania	54%	18	Sao Tome & Principe	25%	16	Kenya	57%
18	Ghana	26%	Joint 16	Kenya	53%	19	Cape Verde	24%	17	Rwanda	56%
Joint 19	Rwanda	25%	Joint 16	Equa. Guinea	53%	20	Malawi	21%	18	Ghana	53%
Joint 19	Senegal	25%	17	Eritrea	51%	21	Mozambique	20%	Joint 19	Sudan	52%
Joint 19	Nigeria	25%	18	Gabon	50%	22	Benin	12%	Joint 19	Tanzania	52%
20	Swaziland	23%	19	Cote d'Ivoire	48%		Algeria	N/Av	20	Cote d'Ivoire	51%
21	Sao Tome & Principe	22%	Joint 20	Cameroon	47%		Angola	N/Av	Joint 21	Cameroon	50%
22	Mozambique	20%	Joint 20	Sudan	47%		Botswana	N/Av	Joint 21	Egypt	50%
23	Comoros	17%	21	Madagascar	45%		Chad	N/Av	Joint 22	Lesotho	48%
24	Cape Verde	16%	Joint 22	Burkina Faso	44%		Comoros	N/Av	Joint 22	Liberia	48%
25	Benin	15%	Joint 22	Ghana	44%		Congo	N/Av	Joint 22	Zimbabwe	48%
26	Malawi	13%	23	Togo	43%		D.R. Congo	N/Av	23	Swaziland	42%
	Algeria	N/Av	Joint 24	Guinea.Bissau	40%		Djibouti	N/Av	Joint 24	Benin	41%
	Angola	N/Av	Joint 24	Zimbabwe	40%		Egypt	N/Av	Joint 24	Nigeria	41%
	Botswana	N/Av	Joint 25	Egypt	39%		Equa. Guinea	N/Av	Joint 24	Togo	41%
	Chad	N/Av	Joint 25	Comoros	39%		Eritrea	N/Av	Joint 25	Burkina Faso	39%
	D.R. Congo	N/Av	26	Mauritania	38%		Gambia	N/Av	Joint 25	Guinea-Bissau	39%
	Djibouti	N/Av	27	Lesotho	37%		Guinea	N/Av	26	Namibia	38%
	Egypt	N/Av	Joint 28	Nigeria	35%		Guinea-Bissau	N/Av	27	Mauritania	36%
	Gambia	N/Av	Joint 28	Namibia	35%		Libya	N/Av	28	Madagascar	35%
	Guinea-Bissau	N/Av	29	Tunisia	30%		Mali	N/Av	29	Tunisia	27%
	Libya	N/Av	30	Swaziland	28%		Mauritania	N/Av	30	Mozambique	24%
	Mali	N/Av	31	Mozambique	23%		Mauritius	N/Av	Joint 31	Cape Verde	23%
	Mauritania	N/Av	32	Sao Tome & Principe	20%		Morocco	N/Av	Joint 31	Sao Tome & Principe	23%
	Mauritius	N/Av	33	Cape Verde	17%		Niger	N/Av	32	Malawi	16%
	Morocco	N/Av	34	Benin	16%		Nigeria	N/Av		Angola	N/Av
	Seychelles	N/Av	35	Malawi	13%		Seychelles	N/Av		Botswana	N/Av
	Sierra Leone	N/Av		Angola	N/Av		Sierra Leone	N/Av		Comoros	N/Av
	Somalia	N/Av		Botswana	N/Av		Somalia	N/Av		Djibouti	N/Av
	South Africa	N/Av		Djibouti	N/Av		South Africa	N/Av		Equa. Guinea	N/Av
	South Sudan	N/Av		Libya	N/Av		South Sudan	N/Av		Libya	N/Av
	Sudan	N/Av		Mauritius	N/Av		Sudan	N/Av		Mauritius	N/Av
	Togo	N/Av		Seychelles	N/Av		Togo	N/Av		Seychelles	N/Av
	Tunisia	N/Av		South Africa	N/Av		Tunisia	N/Av		South Africa	N/Av

2015 African Union Heads of State Summit: – (Theme) “Year of Women’s’ Empowerment and Development in Africa”

2015 Africa Factsheet on Violence Against Women & Girls - Highlighting Male & Female Attitudes to Gender Based Violence - Including Adolescents

Summary Research Findings & Trends At A Glance

Overall, the scorecard and research findings highlight – that 20 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; 15 years of Millennium Development Goals; 10 years after the entering into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights - on the Rights of Women in Africa; and half way through the AU African Women’s Decade 2010-2020:

- Violence against girls and women - **the most stark, blatant, brutal, unambiguous and disempowering manifestation of gender inequality** - has not been eradicated in Africa – but rather is currently at **epidemic proportions, is institutionalised, and profoundly entrenched**.
- In a deeply worrying sign for the future - current data underlines that **violence against women and girls in Africa - is now as deeply ingrained amongst African adolescent boys, as it is in adult men.**
- Even more disturbingly for gender equality, women’s health, human security and development - **higher percentages of African girls and women in more countries - have been negatively socialised and indoctrinated to accept and justify violence** against (themselves) as normal and acceptable.
- The **institutionalised indoctrination and socialisation of millions of African girls and women to accept violence against themselves as normal** – significantly driven by wide spread - state sanctioned or state tolerated - abuse and exploitation of minors through underage and forced ‘marriages’ amongst other reasons - **represents great danger to women’s citizenship, constitutional and human rights, and also to Africa’s wider and long term sustainable development.**
- Specifically, **failure of majority of African governments to uphold citizenship rights, human security and human development of girls and women** - leaving them exposed to epidemic levels of institutional violence **is undermining African and global development goals** for Girl Child Education; HIV, Reproductive, Sexual, Maternal - and Child - Health, Cervical Cancer, and Mental Health of Women amongst other health issues – and further undermining Economic Empowerment, Political Representation, and overall Poverty Reduction.
- It is unacceptable, that millions of underage girls, and adult women **are routinely abused, exploited and subjected to servitude reinforced by violence, including sexual violence,** without recourse to justice, leading to impunity for perpetrators.

Percentage of Boys & Men 15-49 Years Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife - for any of the following reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) ‘Argues’ With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations.

- From the countries for which data is available **over a quarter - between 25% and 75% of MALES (boys and men 15 to 49 years old) in 25 African countries** - believe that it is justifiable for men to beat their wives for the reasons outlined above.
- In total of the countries for which data is available, there are **14 non-African countries globally – in which over a quarter (over 25%) of MALES justify gender-based violence** for the reasons above.
- The **four African countries where over half of MALES (50% or more) justify gender based violence** are: **Central African Republic 75%; Guinea 66%; Congo 62%; Equatorial Guinea 52%.**

- The joint top ten African countries (13 in all) with the **highest MALE justification of gender based violence** are: Central African Republic 75%; Guinea 66%; Congo 62%; Equatorial Guinea 52%; Zambia 49%; Lesotho 48%; Madagascar 46%; Ethiopia 45%; Eritrea 45%; Burundi 44%; Kenya 44%; Uganda 44%; and Cote d'Ivoire 42%.
- Four African countries are in the **global joint top ten countries with the highest MALE justification of gender based violence**; Timor-Leste 81%; Central African Republic 75%; Tuvalu 73%; Guinea 66%; Solomon Islands 65%; Congo 62%; Uzbekistan 61%; Kiribati 60%; Vanuatu 60%; Marshall Islands 58%; Uzbekistan 58%; and Equatorial Guinea 52%.

Percentage of Girls & Women 15-49 Years Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife - for any of the following reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2)'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations

- From the countries for which data is available **over a quarter** - between 25% and 92% of **FEMALES** (girls and women 15 to 49 years old) **in 42 African countries** - believe that it is justifiable for men to beat their wives for the reasons outlined above.
- In total, of the countries for which data is available, there are **28 non-African countries globally in which over a quarter (over 25%) of FEMALES accept / justify gender-based violence** for the given reasons.
- The joint **25 African countries where over half of FEMALES (50% or more) justify gender based violence** are: Guinea 92%; Mali 87%; Central African Republic 80%; South Sudan 79%; D.R. Congo 76%; Somalia 76%; Gambia 75%; Congo 73%; Burundi 73%; Sierra Leone 73%; Algeria 68%; Ethiopia 68%; Morocco 64%; Chad 62%; Zambia 62%; Niger 60%; Senegal 60%; Liberia 59%; Uganda 58%; Rwanda 56%; Tanzania 54%; Kenya 53%; Equatorial Guinea 53%; Eritrea 51%; and Gabon 50%.
- The joint top ten African countries (15 in all) with the **highest FEMALE justification of gender based violence** are: Guinea 92%; Mali 87%; Central African Republic 80%; South Sudan 79%; D.R. Congo 76%; Somalia 76%; Gambia 75%; Congo 73%; Burundi 73%; Sierra Leone 73%; Algeria 68%; Ethiopia 68%; Morocco 64%; Chad 62%; Zambia 62%;
- Ten African countries dominate the **global joint top ten countries (16 in all) with the highest FEMALE justification of gender based violence**: Guinea 92%; Afghanistan 90%; Mali 87%; Timor-Leste 86%; Central African Republic 80%; South Sudan 79%; D.R. Congo 76%; Kiribati 76%; Somalia 76%; Gambia 75%; Congo 73%; Burundi 73%; Sierra Leone 73%; Jordan 70%; Tuvalu 70%; Uzbekistan 70%

Percentage of Adolescent Boys 15-19 Years Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife - for any of the following reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2)'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations

- From the countries for which data is available **over a quarter** - between 25% and 87% of **ADOLESCENT MALES** (15 to 19 years old) - **in 21 African countries** - believe that it is justifiable for men to beat their wives for the reasons outlined above.
- In total, of the countries for which data is available, there are **16 non-African countries globally in which over a quarter (over 25%) of ADOLESCENT MALES justify gender-based violence** for the given reasons.
- The joint **eight African countries where over half of ADOLESCENT MALES (50% or more) justify gender based violence** are: Central African Republic 87%; Burundi 56%; Zambia 55%; Kenya 54%; Lesotho 54%; Uganda 52%; Cote d'Ivoire 51%; and Ethiopia 51%.
- The joint top ten African countries (12 in all) with the **highest ADOLESCENT MALE justification of gender based violence** are: Central African Republic 87%; Burundi 56%; Zambia 55%; Kenya 54%; Lesotho 54%; Uganda 52%; Cote d'Ivoire 51%; Ethiopia 51%; Zimbabwe 48%; Gabon 47%; Namibia 44%; and Cameroon 43%.

- **Four African countries are in the global joint top ten countries with the highest ADOLESCENT MALE justification** of gender based violence; **Central African Republic** 87%; Tuvalu 83%; Solomon Islands 73%; Timor-Leste 72%; Marshall Islands 71%; Kiribati 65%; Azerbaijan 63%; India 57%; **Burundi** 56%; **Zambia** 55%;

Percentage of Adolescent Girls 15-19 Years Who Consider A Husband Justified In Hitting/Beating His Wife - for any of the following reasons: (1) Burning the Food; (2) 'Argues' With Him; (3) Goes Out Without Telling Him; (4) Neglects the Children; Or (5) Refuses Sexual Relations

- From the countries for which data is available **over a quarter - between 25% and 83% of ADOLESCENT FEMALES 15 to 19 years old - in at least 41 African countries** - believe that it is justifiable for men to beat their wives for the reasons outlined above.
- In total, of the countries for which data is available, there are **23 non-African countries globally in which over 25% (a quarter) of ADOLESCENT FEMALES accept/ justify gender-based violence** for the given reasons.
- The joint **28 African countries where over half of ADOLESCENT FEMALES (50% or more) justify gender based violence** are: **Mali** 83%; **Central African Republic** 79%; **Guinea** 79%; **Congo** 76%; **Somalia** 75%; **Burundi** 74%; **Gambia** 74%; **D.R. Congo** 72%; **South Sudan** 72%; **Eritrea** 70%; **Niger** 68%; **Algeria** 66%; **Ethiopia** 64%; **Morocco** 64%; **Sierra Leone** 63%; **Uganda** 62%; **Senegal** 61%; **Zambia** 61%; **Chad** 59%; **Gabon** 58%; **Kenya** 57%; **Rwanda** 56%; **Ghana** 53%; **Sudan** 52%; **Tanzania** 52%; **Cote d'Ivoire** 51%; **Cameroon** 50%; and **Egypt** 50%.
- **The joint top ten African countries (14 in all) with the highest ADOLESCENT FEMALE justification of gender based violence are:** **Mali** 83%; **Central African Republic** 79%; **Guinea** 79%; **Congo** 76%; **Somalia** 75%; **Burundi** 74%; **Gambia** 74%; **D.R. Congo** 72%; **South Sudan** 72%; **Eritrea** 70%; **Niger** 68%; **Algeria** 66%; **Ethiopia** 64%; **Morocco** 64%;
- 7 African countries dominate the **global joint top ten countries with the highest ADOLESCENT FEMALES justification of gender based violence**; Jordan 91%; Tajikistan 85%; Afghanistan 84%; **Mali** 83%; Timor-Leste 81%; **Central African Republic** 79%; **Guinea** 79%; Kiribati 77%; **Congo** 76%; **Somalia** 75%; **Burundi** 74%; **Gambia** 74%;

Key Recommendations

1. Zero Tolerance - for Male Justification of / Institutional Toleration of Gender Based Violence & Discrimination:

The new Africa 2063 Development Goals, Global Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and Beijing+ 20 Review - **must have as an overall goal zero tolerance for male justification and institutional toleration of gender based violence** - including (policy enabled and budgeted for) multisectoral national level milestone targets on:

- Ensuring human rights and gender equality awareness / education - for boys and men - through schools, national and local governments, workplace and community; private sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs on same; and mass media.
- Ensuring (for all serving law enforcement officers) law enforcement training / education and reform on gender equality and women's rights – Institutionalising same in curriculum of all law enforcement training institutions; establishment of specialised gender based violence units with minimum 50% female composition; and overall recruitment of more women officers and leadership reflective of population balance;
- Urgent gender equality, and women's human rights education for armed forces, to eradicate official military gender based violence in conflict, especially sexual violence;
- Ensuring comprehensive measurable constitutional, citizenship, legislative and justice sector review – aimed at eliminating all enshrined forms of institutionalised discrimination against girls and women;
- Reduction and elimination of negative stereotypes and portrayal of girls and women in the media – especially stereotypes that justify gender based violence.

2. Supportive Reduction to Zero - of Percentage of Girls & Women Negatively Socialised to Justify/Accept Gender Based Violence as Normal:

The new Africa 2063 Development Goals, Global Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and Beijing+ 20 Review - ***must have as an overall goal the reduction to zero - of percentage of girls and women negatively socialised to justify and accept gender based violence as normal*** - including (policy enabled, and budgeted for) multisectoral national level milestone targets especially on:

- Ensuring human rights and gender equality awareness / education for girls and women, including through schools, national and local governments, workplace and community; private sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs on same; and mass media;
- Improved investment in girl child / women's formal education;
- Ensuring equitable policy and investment for girls and women's health;
- Improved government and private sector investment in women's economic empowerment;
- Ensuring equitable political representation at all levels of governance (***including where necessary transitional 50/50 quota systems*** to ensure a more level playing field);
- Establishment of specific national and community based emergency reporting phone numbers, safe houses, and law enforcement protection - aimed at protecting girl children from abuse, exploitation and negative cultural practices - especially forced and underage 'marriages'.

3. Establishment / Strengthening of Independent National Gender Equality and Women's Rights Commissions – for Domestication of Protocol to the African Charter - On the Rights of Women In Africa, and Related Conventions.

To operationalize and monitor 1 and 2 above at national levels – urgent formation in 2015 (Year of Women's Empowerment and Development) of Independent National Gender Equality and Women's Rights Commissions supported by legislation and budget (similar to National AIDS Commissions established in recognition of the HIV & AIDS epidemic). **A key role of the Commissions will be to ensure full domestication, promotion and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter On Human and Peoples' Rights On the Rights of Women In Africa** – in force since 2005 – and currently signed and ratified by 36 African countries; the Beijing Platform for Action; and related conventions.

Where such Commissions may already exist their mandate should be strengthened to include full domestic **implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter On Human and Peoples' Rights On the Rights of Women In Africa – including full participation of representatives of independent women's organisations** – and enabling legislation and budgets to monitor, investigate, educate, promote, protect, report and rectify policy and practice undermining gender equality in government, private sector, and the community.

4. Special African Commission for Promotion of Girls and Women's Human Security and Development; Gender Equality & Women's Rights

At the Africa / global level, **formation of a special African Commission for Promotion of Girls and Women's Human Security and Development; Gender Equality and Women's Rights** – with power to issue independent annual or bi-annual reports to be presented to AU Summits; and with actionable recommendations implemented through Ministers of Justice, Gender, Youth, Education, Health, and Economic Development; and Parliaments.

Main sources for study summarized in publication: A Statistical Snapshot of Violence Against Adolescent Girls (UNICEF 2014); Africa, Health, Human & Social Development Information Service (Afri-Dev.Info); Hidden in Plain Sight, A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children UNICEF Report – 2014; UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS); Global School-based Student Health Surveys (GSHS); Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study; Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects - 2012 Revision; World Health Organisation Factsheet No 239 2014; WHO Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women 2013; WHO Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014.

*To find out more about Afri-Dev.Info publications please contact email: [publications\[at\]afri-dev.info](mailto:publications[at]afri-dev.info)
For partnerships, support or general information please contact email: [contactus\[at\]afri-dev.info](mailto:contactus[at]afri-dev.info)*

Africa Office: 14 Akintan St. Ogba, Lagos , Nigeria +23412910907
Intl. Office: 175 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1X 8UE, UK

Produced with kind partnership and support of Norad – The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

The publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Norad