



WHEC Update

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

August 2023; Vol. 18. No. 08

Leadership Development Series

What does a good leader look like? Even if you can't be a leader, you can at least LOOK like one! Every four years, Americans vote to elect a president. Since 1960, these elections have been preceded by widely televised debates. Presidential candidates spend somewhere between 120 million to 210 million on the presidential campaigns and spend 90 minutes or so discussing issues, responding to questions, and trying to "look presidential." Looking like a leader in "these beauty contests" is viewed by the candidates and their staff as critical to a campaign's success. The eventual losses by Richard Nixon (1960), Gerald Ford (1976), Michael Dukakis (1988), and Al Gore (2000) have often been attributed to their inability to project the leadership traits, that the television audience was looking for, in their next president. Voters seem to look for certain 'leadership' traits in their presidents – such as determinedness, decisiveness, and trustworthiness – and they use debates as an important indicator of whether candidates have those traits.

The message here is somewhat Machiavellian: Even if you can't be a leader, you can attempt to shape the perception that you are smart, personable, decisive, verbally adept, aggressive, hard-working and consistent in your statements and actions. Will this be guaranteed leadership success? No one can predict; but if you can successfully project these traits, you will increase the likelihood that your bosses, colleagues, and employees will view you as someone – who is an effective leader.

Despite all the studies that have been done trying to find out what makes an effective leader, the fact remains that there is still a great deal about this topic that we do not understand. For instance, there seem to be very few, if any traits that continually differentiate leaders from non-leaders. And there is a lot of conflicting evidence that makes it hard to generalize from. But here is an interesting twist: While leadership researchers may have difficulty in agreeing on what makes a leader, the average person on the street does not seem to have that problem. Lay people (including managers and senior executives) have little difficulty describing what they *think leaders look like*.

People regularly identify effective leaders as having common traits such as intelligence, outgoing personalities, strong verbal skills, aggressiveness, and sincerity. In addition, effective leaders are generally thought to be consistent or unwavering in their decisions. Debates among US presidential candidates and assessments of the performance of U.S. presidents provide illustrative examples.

So what can we conclude? When selecting people for leadership positions, be careful not to place too much emphasis on their experiences. Experience, per se, is not a very good predictor of effectiveness. Just because a candidate has 10 years of previous leadership experience is not assurance that his or her experience will transfer to a new situation. What is relevant is the quality of previous experience and the relevance of that experience to the new situation that the leader will face. Most of us accept that commonsense notion, that experience is a valuable, even necessary, component for effective leadership. Some inexperienced leaders have been outstandingly successful, while many experienced leaders have been outstanding failures. Among the most highly regarded former U.S. Presidents, are Abraham Lincoln and Harry Truman, who had very little previous leadership experience, while highly experienced Herbert Hoover and Franklin Pierce were among the least successful.

Share your thoughts and point of view with us on **WHEC Global Health Line (WGHL)** ... Create an account.

Leadership Traits

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How to reduce work-life conflicts? Is there such a thing as a “Good Job”?

The Truth about Managing Conflicts: Employees are increasingly recognizing that work is squeezing-out personal lives, and they are not happy about it. For example, recent studies suggest that employees want jobs that give them flexibility in their work schedules, so they can better manage their work-life conflicts. In addition, the next generation of employees is likely to show similar concerns. A majority of college and university students say that attaining a balance between personal life and work is a primary career goal. They want “a life” as well as a job! Managers who don’t help their people achieve work-life balance will find it increasingly hard to attract and retain the most capable and motivated employees.

So, as a manager what can you do to help your employees who are experiencing work-life conflicts? The overlying answer is: Give employees flexibility and options. The most obvious examples include providing employees with flexible work hours, telecommuting, paid leave time, and on-site support services like child-care and fitness centers. But other option that can make life easier for employees include job sharing, summer day camps for children, elder-care referral services, drycleaning pickup and delivery, on-site car maintenance, help in finding jobs for spouses and partners, and free income-tax and legal information advisory services.

Many high-tech firms are setting the pace in helping employees with work-life obligations. For instance, Intel has opened satellite offices around the San Francisco Bay area, to accommodate employees who don’t want to come into the head office. Cisco Systems has opened a \$10 million child-care center that can accommodate up to 440 children. SAS institute provides top-quality day care to employee’s children for only \$250 a month. It also has a free on-site medical clinic, and provides 12 holidays a year plus a paid week off between Christmas and New Year’s. Abode Systems has introduced telecommuting. And 3Com provides employees with concierge services to handle chores such as drycleaning, getting movie and theater tickets, and gift shopping.

Another research-based insight that can help you in the employees’ attitude toward their jobs are strongly influenced by social cues provided by others with whom they interact. Consistent with the previous recognition that there are no objective standards by which people assess the quality of jobs, employees also are susceptible to external influences. Coworkers, supervisors, friends, family members, and customers can shape an employee’s attitude toward a job by the things they say or do. Most of the time co-workers consistently, bad-mouth their jobs and they say the job is boring, that having to clock in and out proved management didn’t trust them, and that supervisor never listened to their opinions.

Blanket efforts to make jobs challenging and interesting are likely to fail. As a manager, you can help positively shape an employee’s perceptions by such subtle actions as commenting on the existence or absence of job features such as difficulty; challenge, and autonomy. And you should give as much as much, or more attention to employees’ perceptions of their jobs as to the actual characteristics of those jobs. Not everyone wants a challenging job. In spite of all the attention focused by the media, academics, and social media on human potential and the needs of the individuals, there is no evidence to support that the vast majority of workers want a challenging jobs. Some individuals, prefer highly complex and challenging jobs; others prosper in simple routinized work. And for many people, work is something that will never excite or challenge them. And they don’t expect to find their growth opportunities at work. Work is merely something that they have to do to pay their bills. They can find challenges outside of work on the golf course, fishing, drinking at a local pub with their friends, with their family and the like.

Four job design actions that will make employees more productive: 1) Combine tasks; 2) Establish client relationships; 3) Expand job vertically; and 4) Open feedback channels.



United Nations at a Glance

Permanent Mission of Nepal at the United Nations



Nepal, formerly the **Federated Democratic Republic of Nepal**, is a landlocked country, in South Asia. It is mainly situated in the Himalayas, but also includes parts of Indo-Gangetic Plain, bordering Tibet of China to the north, and India in the south, west and east, while it is narrowly separated from Bangladesh by Siliguri Corridor, and from Bhutan by the Indian state of Sikkim. Capital: Kathmandu; Official languages: Nepali; Religions: 81.3% Hinduism, 9% Buddhism, 4.4% Islam, 1.4% Christianity, rest all others; Government: Federal parliamentary republic; Population: 30,666,598 (2022); Area: 147,516 km² (56,956 sq. mi).

The name “Nepal” is first recorded in texts from the Vedic period of the Indian subcontinent, the era in ancient Nepal when Hinduism was founded, the predominant religion of the country. In the middle of first millennium BC, Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Lumbini in Southern Nepal. Parts of northern Nepal were intertwined with the culture of Tibet.

The Shah dynasty established the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and later formed the alliance with the British Empire, under its Rana dynasty of premiers. The country was never colonized but served as a buffer state between Imperial China and British India. Parliamentary democracy was introduced in 1951 but was twice suspended by Nepalese monarchs, in 1960 and 2005. The Nepalese Civil War in the 1990s and early 2000s resulted in the establishment of a secular republic in 2008, ending the world’s last Hindu monarchy. The Constitution of Nepal was adopted in 2015.



Nepal is roughly trapezoidal shape, and its defining geological processes began 75 million years ago when the Indian plate, then part of the southern supercontinent Gondwana, began north-eastward drift caused by seafloor spreading to its south-west, and later south and south-east. The Indian plate continues to move north relative to Asia at about 50mm (2.0 in) per year. This makes Nepal an earthquake-prone zone, and periodic earthquakes that have devastating consequences present a significant hurdle to

development. **Nepal** is a federal republic comprising 7 provinces. Each province is composed of 8 to 14 districts. The districts, in turn, comprise local units known as urban and rural municipalities.

Nepal has made progress in LGBTQ+ rights and gender equality. It recognizes marital rape and supports abortion; however, constraints have been introduced. Nepal is a signatory to the Geneva Convention, Conventions/Treaties on the prohibition of Biological, Chemical and Nuclear weapons, International Labor Organization Fundamental Conventions, Treaty on the non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and Paris Climate accord. Some legal provisions, guided by socio-economic, cultural and religious sensibilities, remain discriminatory. There is gender-based discrimination against foreign nationals married to Nepali citizens. Paternal lineage of a person is valued and required in legal documents. Many laws remain unenforced in practice.

Nepal depends on diplomacy for national defense. It maintains a policy of neutrality between its neighbors, has amicable relations with other countries in the region, and has a policy of non-alignment at the global stage. Nepal is one of the major contributors to the UN Peacekeeping mission, having contributed more than 119,000 personnel to 42 missions since 1958. Nepal is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The country ranks 165th in the world in nominal GDP per capita, and 162nd in GDP per capita at PPP. In 2022, Nepal limited import of non-essential goods after its foreign currency reserves dropped.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/statements/nepal-11582>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Nepal



Health Situation

Nepal has made progress in raising the health status of its citizens. Under-five mortality has been reduced by 67% and infant mortality by 59% during the 20-year period. Similarly, maternal mortality has been reduced significantly (56%) between the period of 1996 and 2016. The immunization coverage since 2011 had consistently remained above 90% for DPT3 and Polio, however, slightly decreased during 2015-2016. On the other hand, measles coverage has been improved and reached 88% in 2016 from 83% in 2014, which may be due to health sector efforts toward measles elimination. The country has achieved polio eradication and measles elimination targeted for 2019. The “Full Immunization Declaration” approach aims to immunizing all children through a strong community engagement. Leprosy is at the elimination stage and malaria is in pre-elimination phase. Considerable efforts have been made to halt and reverse the trends in TB and HIV.

TB remains as a public health problem in Nepal. However, the program is able to achieve a high success rate for treatment of TB, which was 90% for new and relapse cases in the last 5-years period. In the urban areas inadequate physical activity and rapid and unplanned urbanization are posing a number of health challenges including increased risk for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Air pollution is becoming an ever-increasing problem, both in the Kathmandu valley and the southern Terai Region. Mental health problems are also increasing and further aggravated by migration, ageing populations, poverty and widespread unemployment. Moreover, Nepal is prone to natural disaster, which pose their own health problems. Nepal has been gearing towards addressing equity gaps.

Health Policies and Systems

The Government of the Nepal has developed policies for delivering better health services to people of Nepal. The citizens have the constitutional right to access basic care free of charge. The National Health Policy 2014 and the National Health Sector Strategy 2015 – 2020 guide the overall health plans for Nepal. The Policy puts Universal Health Coverage at the center and stresses the need for quality equitable access to health care. The National Health Strategy has prioritized the health system. Improvement in Human Resources for Health (HRH), public financial management, infrastructure, procurement and health governance. A basic health care package has been defined and an insurance act has been recently enacted as part of a plan to address equity gaps and move towards universal health coverage. Currently, health services are provided at peripheral level through 202 Primary Health Care Centers 3803 Health posts, and 129 Urban Health Clinics. More serious cases are referred to 83 secondary level district hospitals, 15 tertiary level hospitals (zonal and above) and 8 specialized hospitals (all located in Kathmandu valley). In addition, there are more than 400 private hospitals, mostly in the urban areas.

Cooperation for Health

The main donor and partner agencies are: the World Bank, DFID, GAVI, GFATM, USAID, GIZ, KFW (German Development Bank), USAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO. Nepal has Sector-Wide approach in Health and partners support is based on Joint Financial Arrangement. Key External Development Partners meet twice a month to coordinate and discuss key current issues around financial and technical support to the Ministry of Health.

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



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Collaboration with UNESCO

Nepal Joined UNESCO on 1 May 1953



Kathmandu Valley

The cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley is illustrated by seven groups of monuments and buildings which display the full range of historic and artistic achievements for which the Kathmandu Valley is world famous. The seven include the Durbar Squares of Hanuman Dhoka (Kathmandu), Patan and Bhaktapur, the Buddhist Stupas of Swayambhu and Baudhanath and the Hindu temples of Pashupati and Changu Narayan.

Located in the foothills of the Himalaya, the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property is inscribed as seven Monument Zones. These monument zones are the Durbar squares our urban centers with their palaces, temples, and public spaces of the three cities of Kathmandu. The roofs are covered with small overlapping terracotta tiles, with gilded brass ornamentation. The windows, doorways and roof struts have rich decorative carvings. The stupas have simple but powerful forms with the all-seeing eternal Buddha eyes. A Buddhism and Hinduism developed and changed over the centuries throughout Asia, both religions prospered in Nepal and produced a powerful artistic and architectural fusion, beginning at least from the 5th century AD, but truly coming into its own in the 300 years period between 1500 and 1800 AD.



Lumbini, The Birthplace of the Lord Buddha

Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha, was born in 623 BC, in the famous garden of Lumbini, which soon became a place of pilgrimage. Among the pilgrims was the Indian emperor Ashoka, who erected one of his commemorative pillars there. The site is now being developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage center, where the archeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

Lumbini in one of the holiest places of one of the world's great religions, and its remains contain important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centers from as early as the 3rd century BC. The complex of structures within the archeological conservation area includes the Shakya Tank; the remains within the Maya Devi Temple consisting of brick structures in a cross-wall system dating from the 3rd century BC to the present century sandstone Ashoka pillar with its Pali inscription in Brahmi script.

Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Non-formal Education in Nepal

As part of an intersectoral activity on “Living Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Non-Formal Education in Nepal, and in line with the recommendation of a ‘Review of non-formal education program materials of Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in relation to the integration of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), August 2022” and feedback received from CLS managers and education officers from respective local government during the Workshop, UNESCO has organized a five-day training course in Kathmandu. The workshop aims to familiarize CLS-facilitators with key concepts, principles concerning the safeguarding of ICH in line with the 2003 Convention and the approach relevant to integrating ICH in CLS’s activities.

Details: <https://en.unesco.org/countries/nepal>

Education-for-All and Health-for-all

Bulletin Board



Goal 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

KEY FACTS

- **Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are root cause of triple planetary crisis: Climate Change; Biodiversity Loss; and Pollution.**
- **Our reliance on natural resources is increasing rising over 65% globally from 2000 to 2019**
- **Too much food is being lost or wasted; in every country every day.**
- **13.3% of the world's food is lost after harvesting and before reaching retail markets.**
- **17% of total food is wasted at the consumer level.**
- **The vast majority of the world's electronic waste is not being safely managed – e-waste collection rates (2019): 1.2% Latin America and The Caribbean; 1.6% sub-Saharan Africa; 46.9% Europe and North America; and 22.8% Global Average.**

PROGRESS and INFORMATION

Developing countries bear a large part of the climate, biodiversity and pollution impacts of resource-intensive production processes, without reaping their benefits. This situation has been made worse by the impacts of the pandemic. As part of sustainable global pandemic recovery strategies, the implementation of sustainable consumption and production will maximize the socio-economic benefits of resource use while minimizing the impacts.

In 2021, 83 policy instruments supporting the shift to the sustainable consumption and production were reported by 26 countries, bringing the total number of policies developed, adopted and/or implemented up to 438 (as reported by 59 countries and the European Union for 2019-2021). However, the distribution of reported sustainable consumption and production policies has so far been uneven, with 79% of policies reported by high-income and upper middle income countries, 0.5% by low-income countries and only 7.7% by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

The proportion of food lost globally after harvest on farm, transport, wholesale and processing levels is estimated at 13.3% in 2020, with no visible trend since 2016, suggesting that structural patterns of food losses have not changed. At the regional level, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion of losses at 21.4%, with food being lost in large quantities between farm and retail levels.

In 2020, Governments spent \$375 billion on subsidies and other support for fossil fuels. While consumer subsidies decreased compared with 2019, this has been due largely to low oil prices and decreased demand during the pandemic rather than to structural reforms.

Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)
Expert Series on Health Economics

Women's Status and Child Labor in Nepal

This study uses data from the Nepal Living Standards Survey 2 (2003 / 2004) to find evidence to whether children are less likely to work and more likely to attend school in a household where the mother has a say in the intra-family decision-making process, than in one where the father holds all the power. This is done by using a bivariate probity model with two dependent variables: child labor and school attendance. The results support the hypothesis that in households where mothers have bargaining power, measured in particular with mother's non-labor income (remittance), mother's marriage age and her awareness of fertility controlling, children are less likely to send to work. They are more likely to attend school.

According to UNICEF, 218 million children are engaged on child labor worldwide. over 58% of the figure comes from the Asian and Pacific regions. Child labor is often hard and hazardous to a child's physical, mental and moral wellbeing and it is found to perpetuate poverty. The research on child labor often employs household decision-making models. Recent studies have brought evidence that the balance of power between spouses makes it impossible to view the household as a single unit. Moreover, the household consumption patterns are found to differ depending on who takes the decisions and who earns the income. Studies have noted that women show stronger preference for children's wellbeing and are seen as more sensitive to the cost of child labor than men.

The previous research had devoted some attention to examining the effects of mother's intra-family status on child labor. This study uses data to analyze whether children use their time differently in a situation where the mother has a say in the intra-household decision-making process. The relation was studied with a bivariate probity model with a set of bargaining power indicators. The results show that the non-labor income (remittances) has a reverse impact depending on the receiver. Moreover the mother's remittances do the opposite, suggesting that the non-labor income in the hands of a woman decreases child labor more than in the hands of a man.

Raising the mother's marriage age has an effect of decreasing child labor. The mother's birth controlling awareness affects the propensity to send children to school positively. The parents' education significantly affects children's school attendance and working. The impact is almost equal for the father and mother, suggesting that decreasing the inter-spousal education gap does influence children's time use significantly. The distance to a water source has an effect of increasing female child labor and the distance to a school affects especially girls' school attendance negatively.

Moreover, females have higher probabilities to leave schools when the relative cost of education rises. The fees on education, as well as discrimination in families should be eliminated to increase poor children's, especially female's welfare in Nepal. This study brought evidence to the hypothesis that improving the balance of power in a household decreases child labor and enhances their school attendance, which contributes to stopping the transmission of child labor to the next generation.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Milla Nyssola; Sponsors: UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges, in particular, the project support provided by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the financial contributions to the overall research programme by the governments of Denmark (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Norway (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida) and the United Kingdom (Department for International Development).

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, July 2023

Editor's Choice – Journal Club

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Iron Deficiency Anemia in Pregnancy;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obs/obs038.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. **Birth Trauma: Neonatal Brachial Plexus Injury;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc009.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

Accession Means Better Protection for Refugees



The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

Throughout the 20th and 21st century the international community steadily assembled a set of guidelines, laws and conventions aimed at protecting the basic human rights and treatment of a growing number of people forced to flee their homes because of the fear of various forms of persecution – refugees.

The process begun under the League of Nations in 1921, culminated in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its subsequent 1967 Protocol. As of 1 July 2001, 140 countries had acceded to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol. When compared to the almost universal accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with 191 States Parties, and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, with 189 States Parties, additional efforts are needed to ensure wider accession to the refugee instruments.

The year 2001 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention. In commemoration, the first-ever meeting of States Parties will be held in Geneva on 12 and 13 December. In the run-up to the Ministerial meeting, UNHCR is encouraging States to accede to the international refugee instruments and thereby reinforce the international framework for refugee protection.

The refugee “phenomenon” is one of the truly global proportions, affecting not only millions of disenfranchised people directly but also the policies and practices of virtually every government in the world. To help tackle it effectively, UNHCR believes that it is necessary to broaden the base of state support for these refugee instruments, ensuring that the protection provided to refugees is more universal in scope and the burdens and responsibilities of governments are equitably distributed and consistently applied.

UNHCR serves as the guardian of the Convention and its Protocols. States are expected to cooperate with UNHCR in ensuring that the rights of refugees, as defined in the Convention, are respected and protected.

Article 1: A refugee is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of persecution, because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail himself / herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

Who protects refugees? Why do refugees need protection?

Protecting refugees is the primary responsibility of the States. Countries that have signed the 1951 Convention are obliged to protect refugees on their territory and treat them according to internationally recognized standards. Governments should protect the fundamental human rights of their citizens, such as their right to life and physical security. When governments are unwilling or unable to do so, individuals may suffer such serious violations of their human rights that they have to leave their homes, their communities and their families, to find safety in another country. Since, by definition, refugees are not protected by their governments, the international community steps in to ensure the individual's rights and physical safety.



Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) role with its partners and UNHCR complements that of States, and it contributes to protecting refugees by:

- Promoting accession to, and implementation of, refugee conventions and laws;
 - Ensuring that refugees are treated in accordance with internationally recognized standards of law;
 - Ensuring that refugees are granted asylum and are not forcibly returned to the countries from which they fled;
- Promoting appropriate procedures to determine whether or not a person is a refugee according to the 1951 Convention definition and/or other definitions found in regional conventions;
 - Seeking durable solutions to the phenomenon of refugees.

What obligations does a refugee have?

Refugees are required to abide by the laws and regulations of their country of asylum as well as measures for the maintenance of public order. The Convention protects ONLY persons who meet the criteria for refugee status. Certain categories are denied not to be deserving of this protection, including:

- Persons who have committed a crime against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity or a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge.
- Persons guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

What is the difference between a refugee and an economic migrant?

An economic migrant enjoys the protection of his or her home government; a refugee does not. A migrant normally leaves a country voluntarily in search of a better life. Fearing persecution, a refugee has no choice except flight. Procedures are normally established following accession to the Convention to differentiate between refugees and migrants.

Join us to help UNHCR to mobilize international support for the protection of refugees!

Dumping of sewage sludge at sea to be prohibited worldwide



Amendment to the treaty on dumping of waste at sea will remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes which may be given dumping permit.

Parties to the treaties which regulate the dumping of wastes at sea have adopted an amendment to ensure that the dumping of sewage sludge at sea would be prohibited worldwide. The amendment to the London Protocol will remove sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes – wastes which may be considered for dumping at sea.

The amendment will enter into force for each Contracting Party immediately on notification of its acceptance, or 100 days after the date of adoption if that is later. Sewage sludge is a waste that has been considered for dumping at sea under the London Convention and London Protocol. Decades ago, a substantial volumes of sewage sludge was permitted to be dumped at sea. However, the London Convention and Protocols parties previously commissioned a world-wide review of current practices of managing or dumping sewage sludge at sea.

Purpose and Objectives of the London Convention and Protocol:

The objective of the London Convention and Protocol is to promoted the effective control of all sources of marine pollution. Contracting parties shall take effective measures to prevent pollution of the marine environment caused by dumping at sea.

The purpose of the London Convention is to control all sources of marine pollution and prevent pollution of the sea through regulation of dumping into the sea of waste materials. A so-called “black-and-grey-list” approach is applied for wastes, which can be considered for disposal at sea according to the hazard they present to the environment. For the black-list items dumping is prohibited. Dumping of the grey-listed material requires a special permit form a designated national authority under strict control and provided certain conditions are met. All other materials or substances can be dumped after a general permit has been issued.

The purpose of the Protocol is similar to that of Convention, but the Protocol is more restrictive: application of a “precautionary approach” is included as a general obligation; a “reverse list” approach is adopted, which implies that all dumping is prohibited unless explicitly permitted; incineration of wastes at sea is prohibited; export of wastes for the purpose of dumping or incineration at sea is prohibited. Extended compliance procedures and technical period allows new Contracting Parties to phase in compliance with the Protocol over a period of five years, provided certain conditions are met.

Practical benefits arising from the London Protocol: Broadly, the London Protocol provides practical and comprehensive regulations that address the prevention of marine pollution from: 1) Dumping activities; and 2) New marine activities (e.g., carbon sequestration and marine geoengineering).

Fifty Years of Ocean Protection

[https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/London%20Convention%20timeline_FINAL_\(16-9-22\)_01.pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/London%20Convention%20timeline_FINAL_(16-9-22)_01.pdf)

CHILD & YOUTH SAFETY ONLINE

Suggested Guidelines on Child Online Protection (COP)



Young people are the driving force of connectivity globally, with 75% of 15 to 24 years-olds online in 2022, compared with 65% for the rest of the world's population. Children are also spending more time online than ever before. And they are getting there sooner. Around the world, a child goes online for the first time every half second!

This has created unprecedented opportunities for children and young people to communicate, learn, socialize, and play, exposing them to new ideas and more diverse sources of information.

Risks & Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying and other forms of peer-to-peer violence can affect young people each time they log in to social media or instant messaging platforms. Over a third of young people in 30 countries report being cyberbullied, with 1 in 5 skipping school because of it. When browsing the Internet, children and young people may be exposed to hate speech and violent content – including messages that incite self-harm and even suicide. Young internet users are also vulnerable to recruitment by extremists and terrorist groups. Digital platforms have also been used as vectors for disinformation and conspiracy theories that have a harmful effect on children and young people. Most alarming is the threat of online **Sexual Exploitation** and abuse. Some 80% of children in 25 countries report feeling in danger of sexual abuse or exploitation online.

Women's Health and Education Center 's Proposed Guidelines for Child Online Protection (COP)

The multistakeholder approach for the development of global platform and network of any kind of guidance related to digital ecosystem is the overall strategy of *Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)*. The focus of the Guidelines on challenges related to WHEC's work in the areas of Education, the Sciences, and Culture. The aim of Guidelines is to safeguard freedom of expression, access to information, and other human rights in the context of the development and implementation of digital platform regulatory processes.

Child online protection is a global challenge. Due to the rapid advancements in technology and society, and the borderless nature of the Internet, child online protection need to be agile and adaptive to be effective. Overarching Principles are:

1. Be based on a holistic vision that incorporates government, industry, and society, ensuring relevant multi-social action and accountability.
2. Be set at the highest level of government, which will be responsible for assigning relevant roles and responsibilities and allocating sufficient human and financial resources.
3. Result from and all-encompassing evidence-based understanding of the digital environment yet be tailored to national priorities.
4. Respect and be consistent with the fundamental rights and freedoms of children as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other key international conventions and laws.
5. Respect, be consistent with and build upon existing, similar, and related domestic laws and strategies in place.
6. Be developed with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders including children and their families, addressing their needs and responsibilities, and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups.
7. Be designed to align with broader government plans for economic and social development, including investment and resource mobilization to child online protection efforts.
8. Utilize the most appropriate policy instruments available to realize its obligative.
9. Guide efforts of stakeholders to empower and educate children, carers, and educators as digital citizens including digital access, equity and digital literacy.
10. Contribute to the development of a trusted digital environment that is safe for children.

WHEC is developing national public awareness campaigns, covering a wide variety of issues that can be linked to the digital environment and tailored to all target groups. We are enlisting public institutions and mass media for the promotion of national public awareness campaigns. We hope to harness global campaigns, as well as multistakeholder frameworks and initiatives to build national campaigns and strengthen national capacities on child online protection.

NOTE: This document is under development.... share your projects/campaigns on Child Online Protection.

Art & Science

Art that touches our soul



Harriet Jacobs (1813 or 1815 – March 7, 1897) was an African-American writer whose autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, published in 1861 under the pseudonym **Linda Brent**, is now considered an “American Classic.”

Born into slavery in Edenton, North Carolina, she was sexually harassed by her enslaver. When he threatened to sell her children if she did not submit to his desire, she hid in a tiny crawl space under the roof of her grandmother’s house so low she could not stand up in it. After staying there for seven years, she finally managed to escape to the free North, where she was reunited with her children Joseph and Louisa Matilda and her brother John S. Jacobs.

She found work as a nanny and got into contact with abolitionist and feminist and feminist reformers. Even in New York, her freedom was in danger until her employer was able to pay off her legal owner.

During and immediately after the Civil War, she went to the Union-occupied parts of South together with her daughter, organizing help and founding two schools for fugitive and freed slaves.

Photograph credit: Gilbert Studios; restored by Adam Cueden.

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

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

