



Newsletter...Winter 2009...www.realising-rights.org

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the [Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium](#). Our newsletter keeps you up to date with the work of the partners in Kenya, Bangladesh, Ghana and the UK. Do get in touch if you want more information.

With best wishes, Samantha Reddin, *Communications Officer*

QUICK LINKS

[African parliamentarians](#) [Research to Policy](#) [Bangladesh workshop](#)
[Unsafe abortion](#) [Men and masculinities](#) [Strange bedfellows](#)

Parliamentarians in Africa

In 2008, Members of Parliament from twelve countries in East and Southern Africa pledged to advance health equity and sexual and reproductive health in the region. How much progress had been made a year later? This was the question that was in focus in a follow up regional meeting in September 2009 organized by the Southern and East African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees on Health (SEAPACoH) in partnership with African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Partners in Population and Development-Africa Regional Office (PPD-ARO), and EQUINET.

>> [Read more](#)

Research to policy update

We have been working with the other Research Programme Consortia focussed on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS to review the ways we have communicated our work to influence policy and practice. You can now watch videos, read reports and view powerpoint presentations that tell you more about our research into influencing policy and practice. This work has been nominated by DFID in the evidence into practice section of this year's BMJ awards.>> [More](#)

Sexuality workshop in Bangladesh

Colleagues from the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University hosted a workshop on promoting sexuality and rights issues in society in relation to HIV/AIDS and this was reported in the Bangladesh Independent newspaper. The participants said the workshop provided them with an opportunity to share and reflect upon their efforts to weave sexuality and rights concerns into their professional and personal lives.

>> [Read the newspaper article](#)

Unsafe abortion

The UK Government has launched its updated policy position on unsafe abortion, a policy that draws on research published by Realising Rights on the economic costs of unsafe abortion.

>> [Read more](#)

Hilary Standing, Director of Realising Rights made a presentation on the economic costs of unsafe abortion at the EuroNGOs meeting, "Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Times of Economic Crisis".

>> [Read the presentation](#)

>> [Read about the EuroNGOs meeting](#)

Strange bedfellows?

The UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Debt, Aid and Trade, the Institute of Development Studies Sexuality and Development Programme and the Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium co-sponsored an event in the House of Commons in July this year. Asking the question: **Sex and International Development, strange bedfellows?** This meeting offered an exciting opportunity to explore the ways in which poverty reduction efforts and work on sexuality and sexual rights intersect with a view to improved policy and programming.

>> [Read more](#)

Menstruation in Kenya

Our partner The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and the Division of Reproductive Health of the Kenyan Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation have entered into a partnership to carry out research on menstruation with adolescent girls and women in Kenya. The project seeks to provide policymakers and program managers with a better understanding of menstruation and associated practices of adolescent girls and young women in Kenya, including their experiences, attitudes and the problems they encounter. The second phase, a pilot of menstrual cups with girls and women aged 15 plus in Nairobi, is due to start in the new year. For more information contact jcrichton@aphrc.org

Men, Masculinities and Power

The Institute of Development Studies and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Debt, Aid and Trade organised a recent seminar in their Dangerous Ideas in Development series called 'Troubling Developments? Men, Masculinities and Power'. Recent years have seen growing attention being paid in social and health policy to men and masculinities. The argument that working with gender must include work with men to create more equitable societies has given rise to a host of initiatives.

>> [Read more](#)

>> [Listen to the podcast of Jerker Edstrom speaking at the meeting](#)

RR annual meeting

The Realising Rights annual planning meeting will be held in Dhaka this year on 24 November, hosted by our partner James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. We are looking forward to reviewing progress and planning future work with consortium partners. It will be preceded by a two day researcher's workshop on the PEER methodology.

Endnote...

Send questions and feedback to j.vaghadia@ids.ac.uk
Anyone can subscribe to the Realising Rights Newsletter by sending an email to s.reddin@ids.ac.uk with 'subscribe' in the subject box. If you wish to unsubscribe to the Newsletter email s.reddin@ids.ac.uk with 'unsubscribe' in the subject box.

Realising Rights is a Research Programme Consortium supported by the UK Department for International Development. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of DFID.

Our partners:

[African Population and Health Research Center](#), [James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University](#), [INDEPTH Network](#), [Institute of Development Studies](#) and [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#)