



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

This is the fourth newsletter of the **Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium**. Our newsletter is designed to keep 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 drama](#), [Unsafe abortion](#), [SRH rights in Africa](#), [How babies are made](#), [Gender-based violence](#), [Writing workshop](#), [STI's in Pakistan](#)

African drama

Our partners APHRC in Kenya have been working with the makers of African drama Mukatano Junction on a storyline about abortion. This was aired in February, and they also helped produce a follow up information comic on the issue that viewers could request. The response from viewers was very positive with over 1000 texting in to the programme.

>> [Read the comic](#)

Research to policy

The true test of health and development research is whether people use it - for reference, for influence and, most importantly, for change. When researchers *do* work actively to influence policy and practice the process and outcomes are rarely rigorously documented and analysed. The four DFID funded Research Programme Consortia (RPC) that focus on sexual and reproductive health and HIV are joining together to try to better understand and learn from the strategies they have used to influence policy through primary research and a collaborative lesson learning workshop (Liverpool 18-19 May, 2009). We will feedback from this meeting in the next newsletter.

Unsafe abortion

A new research report 'Economic Impact of Unsafe Abortion-Related Morbidity and Mortality: Evidence and Estimation Challenges' has recently been published by the Institute of Development Studies. This report is an outcome of work commissioned by the Hewlett Foundation to try and estimate the global economic costs of unsafe abortion.

>> [Read a summary of the report](#)

SRH rights in Africa

An article written by Rose Oronje from APHRC explores why sexual and reproductive health rights remain an issue of controversy and misunderstanding in Africa and what can be done to address this.
>> [Read the article.](#)

How babies are made

Can someone tell me how babies are made? An article by Realising Rights Communications Officer Kate Hawkins, who is struck by the increasing conservatism of maternal health advocates and policy makers.
>> [Read the article](#)

Gender-based violence

Eram Cooper and Shuborna Camellia, researchers from the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University attended the '3rd National Course on Violence Against Women and Role of health Care Providers' in Mumbai, India.
>> [read the meeting report](#)

Writing workshop

APHRC held a Realising Rights Writing Workshop in Nairobi in November, 2008. Ten early career researchers working on sexual and reproductive health, attended including 2 from Bangladesh, 3 from Ghana, 1 from Ethiopia, 3 from Kenya and 1 from Malawi. Participants said found the workshop a useful source of motivation and encouragement towards writing and publishing.
>> [Read the workshop report](#)

STI's in Pakistan

Understanding sexual health and rights, and identifying feasible and appropriate interventions for improving sexual health and wellbeing benefits from a multidisciplinary approach. A recent study from Realising Rights published as a special issue in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections* seeks to understand the drivers of sexually transmitted infections in Pakistan.
>> [Read the dedicated page on the RR website](#)

Endnote...

Send questions and feedback to j.vaghadia@ids.ac.uk
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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](#)