



Newsletter...Summer 2010

[www.realising-rights.org](http://www.realising-rights.org)

Welcome to the sixth 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. This is the final year of our programme of work. Do get in touch if you want more information.

With best wishes, Samantha Reddin, *Communications Officer*

## Quick Links

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## World Population Day

Realising Rights sponsored the Population Symposium on 12<sup>th</sup> July held at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine to mark World Population day. This was followed by an evening reception at the House of Lords. Stephen O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, gave a key note speech in which he affirmed very strong commitment to maternal health, reproductive health, family planning and reducing unsafe abortion.

## Marital rape

In Kenya, marital rape is socially tolerated, and has not been legislated against, despite pressure from women's rights groups. Missing from debates were the public health impacts of marital rape as well as how distressing and debilitating it can be for those affected. APHRC researchers have recently prepared evidence based policy briefings on marital rape for policy makers. One is written specifically with an audience of parliamentarians in mind and a number of communications activities are planned targeting MPs. APHRC also plan to disseminate them to government officials, community and religious leaders and women's rights organisations.

>> [Marital Rape and its Impacts: A Policy Briefing for Kenyan Members of Parliament](#) (pdf)

>> [The reality behind the words: An information resource about marital rape in Kenya](#) (pdf)

## Man trouble?

**Working with men on gender, power and violence**

A [seminar](#) at IDS in March led to a lively debate on issues such as: What role do men have in challenging violence against women and

girls? What are the links between men's movements and feminist action? How can we build synergies between men's movements that challenge gender power relations and work on homophobia or discrimination on the grounds of class, ethnicity or nationality?

## SHHEP Initiative

**Sexual Health and HIV Evidence into Practice (SHHEP) Initiative**  
Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium has been working as part of SHHEP to understand how to encourage decision makers to use their findings. This work was shortlisted for a BMJ award. We have also been working in partnership with ID21 and the other DFID funded Research Programme Consortia exploring HIV, AIDS and sexual and reproductive health to produce an issue of *insights*.

>> [Find out more about our work in this area and view the presentations from our meeting in Liverpool](#)

>> [Read an online copy of \*insights\* on the Institute of Development Studies website](#)

## New research briefs from BRAC SPH

In the final phase of Realising Rights, our Bangladeshi partners, James P Grant School of Public Health BRAC University, have written up their research into 3 new briefings.

>> [Men's health matters](#) (pdf)

>> [SRH concerns of Bangladeshi Males](#) (pdf)

>> [Sexuality and Power](#) (pdf)

## Countdown to 2015

### Countdown to 2015: Challenging orthodoxies related to SRH and HIV

Realising Rights were one of four DFID-funded Research Programme Consortia (RPC) to come together for this [international conference](#) in May. All four RPCs involved work on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV and AIDS and are concerned with difficult, controversial and sometimes neglected issues. Around 150 people attended, including international policy advocates, DFID, NGOs, media, researchers, parliamentarians and editors of SRH, HIV and other health-related journals. All of them came away with more insight and understanding of the links between research and policy, and between personal sexual behaviour and the possibilities for effective interventions.

>> [Conference programme](#) (pdf)

>> [Conference report](#) (pdf)

## New policy briefs from APHRC

>> [Protecting in-school adolescents from HIV/AIDS, STI's and unwanted pregnancy](#) (pdf)

>> [The maternal health challenges in poor urban communities in Kenya](#) (pdf)

## Endnote...

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