

The Glass Ceiling

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For a woman, it is so difficult to write about such a sensitive subject like “discrimination and violence against the girl child” and work for the “elimination of this.” Moreover, there is a link between these two states: the girl child on the one hand and woman on the other hand. The kind of care the girl child had, determines her future social profile. If she suffered too much, her personality would be destroyed. And then, it will be hard for her to be able to protect or defend herself. That is why most women are weak in general even if they have some capacities. Discrimination and violence against the girl child raises the problem of human beings, freedom, traditions and cultures. These practices equal societies’ way of refusing more than 50% of the population represented by women whose right is to be or to live like everybody else. Girl children do not have the same opportunities growing up. The aim of this paper is to denounce the bad aspects of this kind of sexist discrimination felt by most women as gender violence organized by all of society. In the past, when a mother is pregnant, if the baby to be born is a female, the parents promise her to a man as future wife before the baby is born. The boy child receives no wife before his birth. The community rules allow the boy to take all time he needs before having or choosing his wife. Culturally people in the society prefer boys than girls. That is the reason why boys and men have more opportunities to develop than girls and women. The society has naturally prepared places and best positions for boys and men. The boy child is developing into a strong man. At the same time, the girl child is not empowered the rights. Thus, it means no possibility of becoming a strong woman. The boy child has to follow the same men’s role. And the girl child follows the stagnating powers of her mother. There is a social and psychological limit girls and women cannot pass called the glass ceiling. This way to stop women’s progress began when girls are still small. Violence is one way to harden discrimination against the girl child, not letting them go so far than their mothers. It is not good for the girl child for example to go to school or to stay too long at school. The way she will learn too much. If she is more educated, she becomes a danger to society, according to the popular way of thinking. The first way as a strategy to eliminate the situation of social and cultural inequality is to fight against the traditional way of seeing human organization by teaching new ways of thinking about men and women relationships. Another kind of violence includes sexual abuse—a kind of taboo nobody likes talking about fears; sexual harassment in school; domestic tasks; precocious pregnancies; AIDS, etc. It is urgent to protect the girl child. Moreover, their future depends that of the women. At the national

level, the government has ratified conventions about children rights. There are some laws that punish violence and discrimination against children. Nevertheless, today, the main challenge is to help people to know or to be informed about strong texts which protect the girl child. It is our duty along with all of women worldwide. In Burkina Faso, with the help of United Nations Fund for Children, children have a parliament through which they can exercise democracy and power management by defending their rights. As adults have helped them become more and guiltier of all kinds of offense towards children. We also have judges and the tribunal for children. In addition, there is a radio to give out information about children rights. More and more journalists are by denouncing abuse of the girl child by publishing through their writing and pictures about children's bad treatments. Nowadays, it is difficult to behave badly toward children without punishment

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We trust in the security future of the girl children, even if we are at the beginning of the implementation of new strategies that are necessary to change the ancient order of social structures.