How CRW Works?

Citizens Rights Watch, an international human rights non-governmental organization comprised by professional volunteers from around the globe. Its volunteers include politics experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics.

Citizens Rights Watch is utilizing new technologies, and through online activism, is raising awareness of human rights violations, focuses on educating the people about their rights, and advocates through all media possible for citizens' rights around the world.

Philosophy:
Citizens Rights Watch promotes, supports, and work as an effective tool to protect Human Rights as stated in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Vision:

Mission:
To encourage and drive ruling authorities in the world to focus on their citizens rights. Through online activism, and by using innovative technological tools, to push for the realization of universal human rights.

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Sierra Leone has gone through turbulent moments in its history, with the brutal civil war (1991 – 2002) which marked the climax of nurtured grievances and political instability, resulting in the death of thousands or people while millions were displaced. During this period, youths (18 – 35) were both perpetrators and victims of human rights violations. It is observed that this has been a dual role which youths have been accustomed to during the post-independence era when they became both the abusers and the abused. They were used as instruments of oppression, acting as vicious thugs to influence the outcomes of elections and to subdue anti-government demonstrations, they became a stronghold in the politically divided society. (TRO Report, 2004). According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report experiences of the youths during the war have disturbed their lives and traumatised them. As a result, many are currently moving without direction, unable to access education or employment. Some are arguably disillusioned with their environment and they are desperately seeking a way out and would readily resort to violence.

The post-war era saw the formulation and implementation of various development programmes aimed at moving the country from conundrum, hance security, justice and public sector reforms among others are laudable ventures. In all these, the youths were considered; however, women constitute over 70 percent of the country’s population are under the age 30 constituting a third of the country’s population making Sierra Leone a country of young people. One that can only move forward relying on their energy, resilience and creativity for national development (Revised Youth Policy, 2014). Since then, the Government has developed a number of youth policies and programmes such as establishing a youth ministry, youth commission and presidential youth aide to design and champion youth affairs programmes across the country in line with the Revised National Youth Policy 2014. The purposes of these policies and institutions are commendable and have benefited individuals and communities across Sierra Leone to some extent. Young people taking leadership roles in nation-building supported by government and individuals. On the contrary, it is discouraging to know that the current trend of many youth posture is arguably undermining national development. It seems to me that the purposes of policies and programmes have not yielded expected outcomes because of the behavior and attitude of youths posing serious threat to national security and development. Many youths have reverted to violence forming themselves into well-known groups of gangs and cliques causing movements, molesting and terrorizing the society. Their activities range from violent attacks on individuals and residences they perceived opposed to their activities; destroying property activities such as football matches and athletic competitions, musical shows and political rallies among others. Some of these incidents have resulted in deaths and serious consequence which often result to police action. In some cases, police intervention is meted with violent confrontations from these gangs and often led to arrest.

Contact us:

We demand that the responsible politicians here in Greece, with access to the resources of the EU, take immediate action:

- We need you to replace the failed system of only being able to make asylum appointments to the Greek Asylum Office with a Skype call that is never picked up with a face-to-face service in the refugee camps here in Greece.

- Because the longer we wait in this limbo, the more desperate people become. The more people will die or disappear with smugglers, or even commit suicide, and the more shame all of Europe should feel for leaving 50,000 of us here with no options besides a Skype call that is never picked up.

My name is Rania Ali and I am from Raqqa, Syria. I am 20 years old. I used to study business back in Syria but when ISIS took over our city my family had no choice but to leave. Because we are Kurdish as well we faced more trouble.

Now I am in Idomeni camp in Greece with my husband. Syria’s borders are closed, we have moved living in tent in the mud, rain and sun for over one and a half months. Life is becoming a normal hell, frustrations are rising as my husband and I lose hope.

Refugees in Greece have only three options to continue their lives beyond camps: to apply for asylum in Greece, to apply for family reunification or for relocation to another country in the EU if they want us. And all three options can only begin with an appointment made by a Skype call, and only for one hour per week for some languages.

My husband and I want to apply for relocation to another country in Europe to escape from this situation. I have tried to call the Skype Asylum service for 20 days with no answer. For us refugees here in Greece, our lives are reduced to a routine of sleeping and waiting. Waiting in line for food, to go to the bathroom, to charge our phones, and waiting on hold for a Skype call that is never picked up. Our lives are stuck in limbo. Waiting on-hold is frustrating, but when your life depends on the call.

For people living in camps with limited access to electricity, smartphones, computers, or internet, this is a cruel and senseless procedure. If it is our right to claim asylum, then why are there such impossible barriers to do so?

If my husband and I can finally apply for relocation, we will still have to wait many months for decisions about our future to be made - a future that is no longer in our hands. But at the very least let us begin the wait now with some certainty - that we won’t be stuck in camps in Greece forever.
Togo's history testifies of continuous shifts in West African political and economic organization, as a consequence of changing power dynamics, global geopolitics, and regional territories. The country has seen centurial immigration waves of various African ethnic groups, rubbing together through diversity and cultural hybridization among the territory's population.

Starting with the 18th century slave trade, moreover, Togo has been introduced and subjected to the Euro-Africa, under whose whip the country has been ever since. The colonial superpowers have always been active over the area after its initial arrival in the 18th century. The French and British, as well as Togo as the only Western country in West Africa, Thugs, and Togo were anachronized through the process of Europeanization. Togo is synonymous to the langlargest diameters of Africa’s history, where the kingly rules, the dictatorial, moreover, was not coincidentally West-supported regime when we look at the macroscopic as well. As Plot says,“Dictatorships are businesses, best friends, and Western countries, with France at the forefront, have long held the belief that they could use the dictatorship to avoid experiencing political, social, and economic crises, having in mind a new type of colonialism founded in the imaginary of place of Togo in the contemporary world. Indeed, the contemporary moment in Togolese history is marked by the cultural recreation of an old, as well as the financial resuscitation with recent Proust, provides a compelling reason, which potentially upverts the line of events. Togo, as a former French colony, is a poor country, sees Togolese culture as antithetical to modernity, and deplores the Togolese past. Plot says,“It is a pious belief that this is the cause of Africa’s poverty today. These beliefs deprived the social memory by denying the reality of centuries-long natural, gradual and historial basis, on the balance between dictators and the Western powers, as factors that had an impact on the African economic and political devastation. Togo today lets feed the collective fantasy of the better future, as well as the bold execution of everything familiar for the commitment to the uncertain and risky world to come. To Togolese, today, two million Togolese in total, one million of them played the U.S. lottery, in a hope of acquiring a new life beyond Togo. This turns for asking not only changes in the old style of the Togolese society, but specifically, as the U.S. formulates specific criteria applicants ought to satisfy in order to obtain the U.S. green card. Togolese subjects constitute themselves in accordance to the U.S. guidelines.

As of July 2012, Uganda along with seventy-one other countries and a subnational jurisdiction, has laws criminalizing homosexuality. This type of discrimination against people who have had sex with people of the same sex and economic issues by increasing unemployment rates, family banishment, harassment, and stigma; it also increases the HIV prevalence. Homophobic and transphobic laws which criminalize people’s lives do not help in any way, “saying,” “between 100 to 3000 people,” the Uganda’s commitment to the fight against AIDS, yet, it instead pushes their communities further underground. This in turn makes it harder for health workers to access one of the populations most at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS in Uganda, the male-to-male gay community. One of the only studies on men who have sex with men and HIV/AIDS in the country, found that the overall HIV prevalence was 23.5% for men who have sex with men, 5.4% among the female population, whereas, there has been little focus (if any) on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among transgender persons. Further, Uganda’s HIV prevalence rate has been on the rise since 2005, unlike every other country in the world. In the past five years Uganda’s rate has increased from 6.4 to 7.7%. It is clear that continuing to discriminate against sexual and gender minorities will only make this figure increase. To eradicate HIV/AIDS, Uganda will have to abandon the old, discriminatory laws, and focus on the disease, and that must include sexual and gender minorities. Recognising sexual and gender minorities—especially, MSM—as a “key population” in HIV/AIDS programming alongside other subnational jurisdiction, makes MSM and transgender persons, more visible, critical to effectively combating the spread of the disease. Such groups have been identified internationally to need specific healthcare interventions and measures to mitigate their risk of contracting HIV. Reducing their risk would subsequently reduce the wider society’s exposure to the virus. Possibly the best example of this is MSM who also engage in sex with women. These MSM, often pay a heavy price while also preserving their relationships with heterosexual women (often within the construc- tive pressures of their own socio-cultural environments). Therefore, decreasing the amount of unprotected sex among MSM would turn decrease the HIV prevalence among MSM and in Uganda. Knowing or unknowingly. Because of the social and political climate in Uganda there is often a disruption of access to health services, including harassment by police at health facilities.

Perhaps the most notable case of this occurred when the Uganda Police Force raided the Water Reed Project, a project funded by the USAID. This, in fact, saw a spread of all Uganda’s with a specific focus on LGBT individuals. Consequently, the USAID decided to shut down the project, and thirty of the clinic’s HIV-positive clients, were arrested from their homes and were left (at least temporarily) without access to antiretroviral medication. When LGBTI persons seek services at health clinics and reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity, they often are met with ridicule, bias, and discrimination by healthcare providers and their peers. Discriminatory healthcare practices are among the most frequent human rights abuses against sexual and gender minorities in the world. People who identify as sexual and gender minorities are often excluded from health services, either because they are unwilling to seek care or because they face obstacles that result in their exclusion. People who identify as sexual and gender minorities may be worse off in terms of accessing the care they need. Despite what research indicates, LGBTI persons are often subjected to racism and homophobia in the healthcare system. This discrimination makes the abuses difficult to track. Often when violations do occur, sexual and gender minorities fear reporting it because of fear of retaliation. As a result, the underreporting of abuses will receive only a fraction of the attention it deserves. From seeking retributions could “out” them—a stake too high to risk. However, SMUG was able to document 56 cases of human rights abuses across the country, toward Ugandan sexual and gender minorities.

It’s ironic—to say the least—that the same arguments, stigma, and discrimination that LGBTI Ugandans face today are the same arguments used to persecute people living with HIV in the beginning of the epidemic. While the Ugandan government has failed to adequately (or at all) address this growing problem, the world has watched African LGBTI activists across the continent take matters into their own hands. In the context of Uganda, LGBTI activists have created workshops to help people learn about HIV/AIDS, while the Ugandan government remains silent. At the same time, the Ugandan government is experiencing its own crisis, for the first time in decades, and this crisis has come at a time when the country is still reeling from the effects of the AIDS pandemic. The world is watching, and the pressure is on for the Ugandan government to take action and end the crisis.

"We don’t blame them when they ask you an offensive question," an LGBTI activist from Kampala, Uganda told me. They are just not used to it, and they don’t understand it. So you are actually there, and they don’t even think about it focusing. Do you tell them that? But we explain to them. They really want to know."
The status of women in the society is a very important issue to discuss. Considering that women are often viewed as the weaker gender and are often mistreated, the importance of this issue is increasing day by day. Even though the status of women has improved over the years in many aspects (e.g., education etc.), there is still work to be done. Several laws and Acts have been passed in favor of women but those are not strongly enforced. Many reported cases and incidents of torture on women can be found in law reports and newspapers of various countries.

In the past, women were not allowed to move freely in the society. Girls from poor families were not permitted to go to school and receive education because their parents considered it a waste of money and in the end, their activities were mainly limited to household duties and nothing else.

Upper and middle class women used to receive some sort of education. Some did not continue study after the SSC exam, some got married after HSC exam and for others their husband or their in-laws did not agree to continue their studies. It was unusual for a woman to work in an office or any other places outside her home. Even though a woman was educated, she could not work instead her activities were limited to household duties. After some years, the things have been changed. The females started to be properly educated with support of families. The societies also started to accept women in various professions like doctor, engineer, lawyer, scientist, pilot, and many more. Though women had educational and working opportunities, there was still problem in case of them. The problem was that they did not get rid of the pressure of household works. The working women were often ill-treated by their husbands and in-laws because of irregularity in the household duties like proper cooking, serving everyone in the family, look after children etc.

For this reason, the number of professional working women was very small. Some parents did not want their unmarried daughters to be involved in jobs because of fear of torture after marriage.

In the present period, there is no doubt that the women have many kinds of achievements. They can work side by side with men and earn money. They are not only well educated and rich women whose condition is like this but also the less educated women and women in village areas as there are too many posts or professions to get involved. Even the female students do part time jobs beside study. Women are participating in political activities. But still it cannot be said that the status of women is fully improved or in satisfactory condition. The violence and torture against women are not permanently removed from societies.

The number of violence is more than achievements. In a report of Human Rights Organization O'Ghiaar, it is mentioned that in Bangladesh, 1,257 women are murdered, 348 are tortured, 243 women committed suicide for dowry, 356 women are victims of acid attack, 1,076 women are raped and almost 216 women are sexually harassed from the year 2000 to 2010. In the US, a woman is raped in every 6 minutes and a woman battered in every 11 seconds. In North Africa, 6,000 women are genetically mutilated each day. Women are sold into sexual slavery in China by a year and the number of such women is more than 1,000. In India, more than 1,000 women are murdered by their in-laws for failure to take dowries. Besides this, a girl is sexually harassed in every 26 minutes and a woman is raped in every 54 minutes in this country. All these information reflect that the safety of women is not properly ensured in the societies. Newspapers publish several news on rape and torture on women every year. The most highlighted news is the rape of a young girl during travelling by bus in India. A married woman got blind as a result of torture by her husband in Bangladesh. This news took place in many newspapers and magazines.

Various kinds of Acts, Conventions and organizations are available in support of tortured women. Some of them are Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Dornon Ain, 2000 (In Bangladesh), Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 (In Bangladesh), Domestic Violence Prevention Act, 1984 (In Bangladesh), The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), UN General Assembly and The Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The picture of the societies of several countries proves that the Acts, Conventions and organizations are not successful in providing safe environment to females. Either these should be strongly enforced or the people should be sensitized. Unemployment among women in modern period have all kinds of legal rights except safe environment. Protection of right to life and personal liberty is one of the fundamental rights of human being. So, the person who violates such right should get extreme punishment. The institutions of law must come forward to improve the overall status of women. Women do not need any soft corner from society but need equal sense of honor to live.