



THE EQUALITY STANDARD

June 2010

This is the monthly publication on women's issues, local and global, published by Fifty-Fifty Leadership, A non-profit organization promoting women's equal leadership

Our Vision

**That 50% of
leaders are
women**

Our Mission

**To transform
the culture
within which
we live to one
that naturally
includes
women on an
equal basis in
the selection
of leaders**

Visit our website,
www.5050Leadership.org or give
us a call at
818.243.2322


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IN THE NEWS

 The first women to serve on U.S. Navy submarines are expected to be on the job by fall of 2011, Navy officials said recently, ushering in a policy change to what has been an elite service open only to men.



 **Italy, 1989; Australia, 2010 - Why we still need Denim Day:** An Australian jury acquitted 23-year-old Nicholas Gonzales of rape because it refused to believe the alleged victim's skinny jeans could have been removed without "collaboration."

Gonzales and the alleged victim, a 24-year-old woman, met for drinks in April 2008 and then returned to his house to listen to music. Gonzales claims they had consensual sex together; the victim says she was raped and "I struggled to try to get up for a while and then he undid my jeans and he pulled them off." But defense lawyer Paul Hogan said he thought it would be "difficult for skinny jeans to be taken off by someone else unless the wearer's assisting, collaborating, consenting." And the jury believed him.

Apparently the jury focused on whether or not the alleged victim removed her own jeans. But in a more general discussion about consent and sexual assault, let's not forget that even if a woman *did* remove her own jeans, she still could have been raped. Going back to his house, going up to his bedroom, even taking

off her jeans are not consent. *Consent is consent.*
[Read more...](#)

Source: [Daily Mail UK, New York Daily News]



WELCOME TO NEW FIFTY-FIFTY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Edy Rose-Berens has worked as a volunteer with Fifty-Fifty for a couple of years and has been integral in putting together the Love Yourself event last year and this year's Women of the World Awards. Edy is now working with Pauline Field on Leadership Circles.

Edy has had a varied career in fine art, teaching, and design. She created and taught the first curriculum in fiber optic lighting design and received the first vocational Education Credential in this field. Her interior design has been published widely and her fine art has been shown at the prestigious Pacific Design Center.

Elizabeth "Liz" Pinkton came to the Women of the World awards this year and knew that Fifty-Fifty Leadership is where she wanted to put some of her volunteer time. As well as being on the Board, Liz will also be a Mentor in the Leadership Circles program.

Liz works as a consultant on medical clinical trials and is currently working on a trial of a possible treatment for cancer. She has worked for many years with major drug companies on clinical trials, helping to ensure that new drugs will indeed be life-saving.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

You may notice that although this month's Equality Standard is nine printed pages, it is considerably shorter than the usual 14-17 pages.

If you are like me, you are not going to read all nine pages let alone 17.

Why then, you might ask, do I make it so long?

Because there are so many interesting, relevant and often important or inspiring articles that I want to pass along.

I am sure you will skim the headings for the articles you want to read and thanks to the ability to skip to that article; you don't even have to scroll through the rest to get to what you are interested in.

This month the news brings us the usual mixed bag of successes and setbacks.

The most egregious of the bad news is that in Australia a judge thinks that wearing tight jeans means you consent to rape! Is this far from the Taliban saying that women should walk around totally covered?

There is much work to be done; it is why our mission at Fifty-Fifty Leadership is about causing a shift in the culture, because until we do, judges will continue making such decisions and half the population, women, will still be violated and repressed.



WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP LOOK LIKE

Below is the second of two articles that highlight women leaders written by young women who are still in high school.

Female Infanticide by [srajavel](#)

Theodore Roosevelt the 26th president of the United States stated, "Do what you can with what you have where you are."



For many people especially in countries like the United States this is a given. Everyone is encouraged to use his or her talents and abilities. Everyone despite age, size, or gender. Sadly, this is not the case everywhere. In those places they have to learn to follow the children's fable called "The Bundle of Sticks".

The story shows how alone people can break easily, but as a group they stay strong. The more and more people the stronger the bundle.

This fact is not acknowledged everywhere though. Some people discourage a major part of society from using what they have and helping the bundle to become stronger.

Some people believe women cannot contribute to society and the best job for them is called 'housewife.' Of course, it is an option and if a woman chooses to be a housewife no one can blame her. On the other hand, if people in general have abilities and talents that they can contribute to make our world stronger and more efficient they should not be hidden from society. Fighting against gender inequality can help achieve a more efficient and successful world.

The first action that can be taken is stopping female infanticide and feticide.

Directly this may not seem to be connected to global achievement, but indeed it is because every year we lose millions of female brains that could be the next Marie Curie or Mother Teresa. The mere reason for their lives being taken away is their gender. Even though, female infanticide is well known throughout the world there is not much being done to stop it. If people used half the energy they use to stop global warming for stopping female infanticide we would have a group of bright women helping the world progress.

Many Asian countries where sons are always preferred over daughters and in society males are valued more than females, infanticide is prominent.

China and India are two countries where female infanticide and feticide has been in the millions. According to the U.N. and national census or population studies by Valerie Hudson, BYU: In 2000, China had 40,617,103 victims of female infanticide and feticide while just a year later India had a similar number of 39,284,065. Imagine if your mother, daughter, sister, or

female friend died. You would expect many of their loved ones to attend a funeral and mourn. Maybe over a 100 people would miss your loved one.

This means about 4,000,000,000 people should miss these victims.

Sadly, that is not the case. These children are unloved because of their gender and if they had the chance to grow up a 100 would have missed them and loved them.

Another major problem arising out of female infanticide is the imbalance in the sex ratio of male to female. This imbalance has a great possibility of causing the resurrection of gender unequal ideas and traditions. According to "Growing Gender Inequality in India" by Cami Martin: in 1981 there were 962 girls for every 1,000 boys and in 2001 this number decreased to 927.

This decrease in the population of women is more likely due to new technology that allows parents to easily find the gender of the child before birth and abort them instead of having the child and being unsure about murdering it. Feeling, abortion more humane prompts couples against the idea of female children to commit feticide. The most important factor of the change in sex ratio is not why it happens though, but the impact it will cause. Joseph Chamie, research director at the Center for Migration Studies and former director of the United Nations Population Division, writes in "The global abortion bind", "By 2020, it's estimated that the number of young "surplus males" unable to find brides could be more than 35 million in China and 35 million in India." These great imbalances will cause men to buy brides and maybe even resort to child marriages. Trafficking of females will increase due to their demand. We will be going backwards in our road of progress. Child brides and kidnapped women do not have the ability to go out into the world to be educated and help development of society.

The simple raising of awareness can impact this problem. Join a facebook group against this atrocity or create one. Make your twitter status as 'I hereby will help stop female infanticide' and let your friends know that they can, too.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Never think that your contribution has no worth because that one step you take is just a step closer to seeing the whole staircase. Even if your involvement can only save one life out of millions that only means that you have given life to a person that

will be a loved one and family of many. Any role you play allows you to pat yourself on the back for you were someone that helped save the future of our society. You were one who helped the great minds of the future survive.

You helped destroy gender inequality. Equal view of both genders will be the end to the majority of detrimental problems to society and the beginning to a successful future so play your part.

CITATIONS

Chamie, J. (n.d.). The global abortion bind - On Line Opinion - 13/6/2008.

On Line Opinion - Australia's e-journal of social and political debate.

Martin, C. (n.d.). Growing Gender Inequality in India | Global Envision.

Global Envision | The Confluence of Global Markets and Poverty Alleviation.

[Link to WIP](#)

The WIP.net

Source:



WOMEN AT WORK

🌀 Entrepreneur of 2010 Awards

Tell Entrepreneur magazine what you're doing to make an impact--on your industry, for your employees and in your community--and you could be the Entrepreneur of 2010.

DEADLINE: JUNE 15th entrepreneur.com/e2010

🌀 Following **Betty White's** critically acclaimed performance on "Saturday Night Live," a Facebook campaign has sprung up to get her signed as a host for the Emmy Awards. While Jimmy Fallon has already been confirmed as the host of the Aug. 29 Emmys, the campaign, started by blogger Abe Gurko, states: "It is quite obvious after Betty White's job hosting 'SNL' on May 8th, that she is more than worthy of hosting the 2010 Emmys." The 88-year-old showbiz legend agreed to host 'SNL' after a 500,000-member Facebook campaign. Her appearance got the highest ratings for the NBC show in 18 months.

🌀 **Made in the Valley** is the brainchild of Gail Lara, formerly a marketing executive in the corporate world and now business owner, mentor and friend to women business owners in the San Fernando Valley. Every month Gail has a mentoring evening where women thinking about or starting on a new business can come to get ideas, feedback and help to know what is the next thing to do. If you are even remotely considering starting a business – part time or full time, it is a warm and welcoming place to go and discuss your ideas. Call to find out about the next meeting and to get on their mailing list 818-359-2692



🌀 **Girl Scouts Alumnae.** Were you ever a Girl Scout or Girl Scout Leader? The Girl Scouts now has an Alumnae Association.

A great opportunity for networking and to help the upcoming leaders also. Visit their new website at <http://alumnae.girlscouts.org>. In the greater Los Angeles area you can call or email Tamika Barnes,

Senior Manager for Alumnae Relations at 626-677-2390, tbarnes@girlscoutsla.org with questions.



More than a quarter of a million women in the U.S. own and lead businesses with annual revenue topping \$1 million.

Source: The Wall Street Journal



SAVE THE DATE

On Tuesday, July 20th, Fifty-Fifty Leadership will be collaborating with UNA Pasadena to bring you a Coffee Talks presentation.



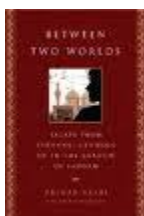
Kelly Hayes-Raitt, writer and former political consultant will be reading one of the chapters she wrote for the book, "Female Nomad & Friends," which was compiled by Rita Golden Gelman who wrote the wildly popular "Tales of a Female Nomad."

Kelly has traveled to many countries to listen and record the pictures, voices and stories of women and children who have been impacted by war and repressive cultures. Widely published, Kelly brings a warm, often poignant view of people making lives in deplorable conditions.

To be sure you don't forget about this event, email us at the following link to reserve your space. We will contact you with the location when registration is open. [Save me a seat!](#)



BOOKS



It is time to start thinking about books to help while away hot summer nights. This month on my list will be Zainab Salbi's Between Two Worlds.

After founding Women for Women International, an organization that empowers women survivors of war to rebuild their lives after conflict, Zainab Salbi found the courage and voice to tell her own story of growing up in Iraq under Saddam Hussein's control.

Salbi's family was trapped in Hussein's inner circle through her father's role as Saddam's airplane pilot. Through her riveting narrative the reader comes to understand that no one in Iraq was safe from Saddam's wrath and destructive appetites. Salbi's searingly honest writing has helped her conquer a lifelong struggle to claim her own identity. Even years after founding WFWI, on a return trip to Iraq she could feel the old, despised label of being known as the "pilot's daughter" clinging to her. With her work and now her writing, Zainab Salbi has shown the transformative power of shining an illuminating light of truth-telling into the dark corners of secrecy and fear. Weaving her family's story with women's history and Iraq's political history, Salbi has created an emotional, beautifully-written, timely and relevant memoir.



DID YOU KNOW...

☞ More children are born to women older than 35 than to teenagers, a change born of medical science, later marriages and evolving attitudes about motherhood, according to a new study released last month.

One in seven babies -- or 14 percent of a total of about 4 million births -- were born to older mothers in 2008. Almost one in four were first-time mothers. The vast majority, 71 percent, had at least some college education before giving birth.

[Read the whole Washington Post article here](#)

🌀 Shahnaz Mahmud of Womens Enews reports that surprisingly, men have so far been more willing than women to divide household duties with their partners and take on jobs beyond such traditionally male tasks as mowing the lawn and taking out the garbage. "While women feel that men should chip in, they still like to be in control of those tasks. What this frequently translates into is a situation such as this: The guy does the laundry and mixes blacks and colors or mixes underwear with jeans, and the woman gets upset because this is not how she would do it. The moral here is: If you want him to do things at home, don't chastise him for not doing it 'right.' If you have to correct him, do it with appreciation and pick your battles."



[Read the whole Womens Enews article](#)



HEALTH

🌀 Cutting down on calories could make your weight go up, a new multi-center study of 121 women suggests. Compared to volunteers who ate normally, women restricted to 1200 calories a day had a rise in cortisol, a stress hormone linked to weight gain, especially in the belly. This finding may explain why up to 64% of American dieters ultimately gain back more pounds than they lose. The best method to safely shed one-half to 2 pounds a week, and keep them off, is by eating moderate portions of healthy food and exercising more frequently reports the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This sensible weight control strategy also shrinks your risk for heart disease and type 2 diabetes.



🌀 Women who walk briskly - 3 miles an hour or faster - were 37% less likely to suffer a stroke than those who didn't walk, according to Boston researchers.

🌀 Taking pain relievers such as aspirin regularly after menopause reduces women's estrogen levels which may offer protection against breast and ovarian cancer. On a similar note, researchers report that using estrogen-only hormone replacement therapy (HRT) may raise the

risk of developing asthma after menopause.

🌀 Taking a combination of vitamins B6, B12 and folic acid helps protect women's eyesight as they age. Women treated with these vitamins had a 34% lower rate of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Eating a diet rich in leafy green vegetables and fish as well as maintaining a healthy weight and not smoking will reduce AMD risk, the NIH advises.

Source: Wall Street Journal



WOMEN OF NOTE



🌀 Teenage Sailor **Jessica Watson** circumnavigated the globe by herself. She battled mountainous seas, intense loneliness and cold gale force winds, but Jessica Watson, 16, proved her critics wrong by becoming the youngest person to solo-circumnavigate the globe, when her yacht returned home to a momentous welcome in Sydney.

🌀 On May 13th, Time Magazine's front cover article began with the following quote by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, "What if women Ran Wall Street?" The article is about **Sheila Bair**, Chair

of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), **Mary Schapiro**, Chair of the securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and **Elizabeth Warren**, Chair of the panel overseeing the Troubled Asset Relief program (TARP). Not only are they making some real changes in the country's financial systems, but also, the article noted, they had foreseen the problems but despite the education, knowledge, talent, skill, experience and visionary foresight that they expressed, they were not heard. Only now, after the male bastions of Wall Street have made such a mess are their suggestions being acted on.

[Read the Time article](#)



WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

❧ Rwanda:

BPeace noted that the world did not hear about a **Million Women Marching For Gender Equality**. What a site to see on the television. Women from all over Africa showed up in Rwanda, and had a simultaneous march in strategic cities throughout the country all in the same t-shirt.

Women were being trained recently to work at the Sweet Dreams Ice Cream store – Rwanda's first ice cream store. The women were surprised and delighted by a video with a video tour of Sweet Dream's owner's ice cream store in Brooklyn. *"To see the wide eyed look on their faces when they saw a real ice cream store in operation was worth all the travel time it took to get here."*

❧ In parts of south-east Asia, the south Asian subcontinent and east Africa, acid attacks are common, particularly on women. The Taliban and other extremist groups have frequently resorted to throwing acid in women's faces for even small transgressions, such as daring to go out unveiled. But there are concerns that such attacks may also be on the increase in the UK. Hospital admission figures for the past 3 years show a steady rise in the number of people being treated for acid attacks. According to the National Health Service information center,

The Rwandan women arrived at the training room very early and decorated it with banners, African art, baskets and wooden birds. They were all there waiting, ready and eager to learn. There was not one of these women who were not fully engaged in the class. *Fran, one of the trainers described her amazement as she walked into the class in the morning: "As we approached the institutional brick building from the Belgium mandate era via a rocky and muddy dirt road, I anticipated the uninspiring concrete walls inside. So imagine how stunned we were when we walk into this fabulously decorated space-transformed by the 'enterprising women' of Sweet Dreams."*

44 people were admitted to hospital in 2006-07 after they were "assaulted with a corrosive substance". The following year the figure jumped to 67 and last year there were 69 admissions.

These figures only include hospital admissions where a patient had to spend a night or more in hospital and there is no ethnic breakdown. But charity workers fear there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest acid attacks are becoming more common.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

You are probably reading this with your complimentary subscription. As we build our Leadership Circles program to help girls and women become leaders and hone their leadership skills, we need money to support that program. A subscription to The Equality Standard is a quick, easy and inexpensive way to help make a difference. Subscribe today -

Annual Subscription: \$15

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Questions? Call 818-243-2322



EVENTS Southern California

Tell us about events in YOUR area that we can post here.

Saturday, June 5th

We Will Rock You

Kidsave's House of Blues Celebration

6:00 p.m. – Midnight

House Of Blues – Sunset Blvd

Musical entertainment by Queen Nation – a tribute to
the music of Queen

Register online at www.kidsave.org

Or call Jennifer Conroy at (310) 642-7283 or email
her at jennifer@kidsave.org.



Saturday, June 12th

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Impact Personal Safety Introduction

5640 1/2 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood

No charge for the introduction

For more information call 323 467-2288



Thursday, June 17

Why Women Succeed

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Women at Work invites you to the KPCC studios
on Raymond for a discussion from powerful
women about success and achieving it.

Go to www.womenatwork.org for details



Tuesday, July 20

7:00 p.m.

Fifty-Fifty Leadership and UNA Pasadena

presents

Kelly Hayes-Raitt

As part of the Coffee Talks series

\$10

Call or email for reservations

Tickets@5050Leadership.org

818-243-2322



EVENTS - Around The Country

Tell us about events in YOUR area that we can post here.

June 2nd

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

International Museum of Women

Presents

Conversation with Mahnaz Afkhami

Omni San Francisco Hotel

500 California Street

San Francisco, CA

Mahnaz Afkhami is the Founder and President of

Women's Learning Partnership,

Executive Director of the Foundation for Iranian

Studies,

and Chairwoman of the International Museum of

Women's Global Council.

Afkhami, exiled from Iran under threat of death

during the Iranian Revolution,

has worked as a leading advocate for women's rights

internationally for more than

three decades. Afkhami will speak about the status of

women in the Middle East and

North Africa, how to engage women in these regions

in the global economy, and

how women can use technology to build movements
and create change.

Tickets: \$10 - \$25

For more information, email events@imow.org or call

415-543-4669 ext. 27.



Wednesday, June 3

5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

2010 Most Influential Women in Business

Awards

Honoring corporate and community leaders

in San Francisco

San Francisco Business Times

For more information, contact Jacquie Bischoff

at 415-288-4972

or by email at jbischoff@bizjournals.com.



**Friday and Saturday, June 11-12
Annual NCRW & UNIFEM
Conference**

**"Strategic Imperatives for
Ending Violence Against
Women."**

The conference will gather experts and advocates to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, and explore the latest thinking and strategies about how to confront it.
Hunter College, CUNY, West Building, **New York City.**

Click here to [Register online](#)

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**July 2-4th  
National NOW Conference  
Boston, MA**

The 2010 National NOW Conference will include a summit on health and body image issues, which led to this year's theme, Loving Our Bodies, Changing the World.

We're planning an action-packed weekend with engaging speakers, dynamic workshops, political strategizing and face-to-face social networking -- and we want you to be part of the excitement.

[Register Online](#)

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FINAL WORDS

I came across these two quotes and couldn't choose, so have included both as they both speak to the fact that the world changes with the small things:

From Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea and Stones Into Schools

"We can drop bombs, surge troops, put in roads, computers or electricity, but unless girls are educated, a society will never change."

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places - close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, and equal dignity, without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

Eleanor Roosevelt spoke these words when she was Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights



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