

# Who Answers to Women?

## GENDER & ACCOUNTABILITY

### Why accountability matters...

Who answers to women? *Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009* shows that realising women's rights and achieving the Millennium Development Goals depends on strengthening accountability for commitments to women and gender equality. The examples highlighted throughout the Report suggest that for women's rights to translate into substantive improvements in their lives, and for gender equality to be realised in practice, women must be able to fully participate in public decision-making at all levels and hold those responsible to account when their rights are infringed or their needs ignored. Published at the halfway point to the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs, *Progress* presents new data providing clear evidence that women's empowerment and gender equality are drivers for reducing poverty, building food security, reducing maternal mortality, and enhancing the effectiveness of aid.

### Did you know that...

1. Violence affects between **10% and 60%** of women and girls? Ending violence against women is a missing MDG target.
2. Perpetrators are charged in less **than 1 in 10** estimated cases of sexual and gender based violence?
3. In developed countries **30% more women than men** perceive high levels of corruption in the education system?
4. The **brain drain from the South is female?** In Africa, **3 out of 10 women**, with tertiary education emigrate.
5. **Half of all married women** in South Asia have **no say** in decisions regarding their healthcare?
6. In southern Africa, women are **300%** more likely to be infected with HIV than men?
7. More than **1 out of 50 women die from pregnancy related causes** in 44 countries (comprising about 12% of the world's population)?
8. Women are outnumbered **2 to 1** in political parties worldwide. **1 in 5 parliamentarians** is a woman...and it will take **4 decades** for women in developing regions to approach the parity zone (of between 40% to 60%) in parliaments.
9. The earliest international resolution concerning gender equality was passed in 1921 and referred to women's labour rights. Yet, **women are still paid 17% less than men** for similar work?
10. Worldwide, at best, there is **1 woman for every 9 men in senior management** positions in firms?

### But Progress is within reach...

1. **9 out of 10 girls** in the world are enrolled in primary education.
2. Half of the 22 countries that have reached **30% of women** in parliament come from developing regions.
3. In Costa Rica, women hold 43.9% of leadership positions in political parties.
4. Honduras & Croatia have more than **40% female judges** on the Supreme Courts.
5. **One-third of police** personnel in South Africa and Australia are women.
6. Gender-focused aid has nearly **tripled** (in absolute terms) from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2002 to **US\$ 7.2 billion** in 2006.
7. New Zealand and Canada have the highest proportion of aid that is earmarked for gender equality as a principle objective: **11%**.