

DAY TWELVE: December 6th

Women's Vulnerability to Climate Change

The resilience and adaptive capacity of many women to the impacts of climate change are impaired by patriarchal laws, customs and institutions which exclude them from participation in decision-making. They have limited awareness of their rights, limited access to or control over resources and bear unequal burdens in domestic and care responsibilities. They face impoverishment and increased exposure to gender-based harassment and lack of access to necessary sexual and reproductive health care, especially in situations of natural disaster. (UNFCCC – June 2019)

Aregash's Story

"A woman's life is hard, and climate change is making it harder," says Aregash, a 32-year-old Ethiopian woman who lives with her six children on a small farm. "Because of changing rainfall patterns, crop yields are poor and we don't have enough food. We used to get 500 to 600 kilos per harvest, but now we can barely get 100. It was never like this before. If the land fails to produce there isn't enough to feed my family ..." (adapted from 'Weathering Change' Population International: Healthy Families, Healthy Planet)

Questions

What are your thoughts as you read this story?

In what ways might your lifestyle be contributing to climate change?



<https://www.google.ie/search?q=pixabay.com+free+images+--+flooding>

Global Facts

- By 2050, the number of people fleeing the impacts of climate change could reach 150 million. 80% of climate refugees will be women and children. (greenpeace.org - 2017)
- Climate change is leading to social shifts, men migrating away from communities to find alternative employment so that there is increasing feminization of communities on the ground. (unenvironment.org – 2019)
- In [South Sudan](#) – droughts and flooding force girls and women to walk farther to gather firewood and obtain water, a time-consuming and [potentially dangerous](#) change. (project-syndicate.org - 2019)

"We will not solve the climate crisis or embark on a new pathway to sustainable development, if we don't fully engage the 50% of the world's population which are women."

Mary Robinson, 2015 CIDSE Conference, Rome

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN acknowledges the link between achieving **Gender Equality** and implementing the SDGs, especially **#13** : "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

Target: 13. b Promote mechanisms for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries.... including focusing on women, youth....and marginalised communities.

Laudato Si: "Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it." LS 23
Pope Francis warned us again: "We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own." (World Day of Prayer for Creation, 2020)



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ACTION:

Read about the link between climate change and conflict <https://eifoundation.org/secure-international-protection-for-climate-refugees-1>

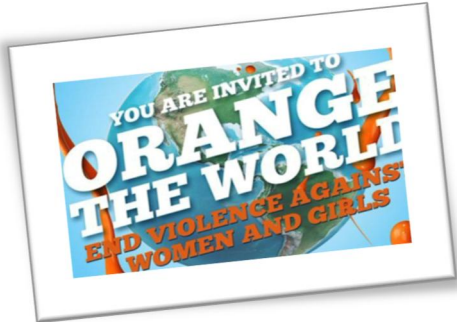
Campaign for EU leaders to stand up for the rights of climate refugees
<https://eifoundation.org/news-media/2017/eu-leaders-must-recognise-the-rights-of-climate-refugees>

See how to act on climate change:
<https://www.earthday.org/campaign/act-on-climate-change/>

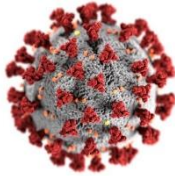
Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November 2020)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
is a systematic and widespread
human rights violation. It cuts
across age, socio-economic,
educational and geographic
boundaries...



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free



BEFORE

THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

243 million women and girls, aged 15-49,
experienced sexual and/or physical violence by
an intimate partner in the past year.

SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women,
especially domestic violence,
has increased dramatically.

EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

security, health and money worries,
cramped living conditions,
isolation with abusers,
deserted public spaces,
limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have
been diverted from responses to violence against
women for immediate COVID-19 relief.

(unwomen.org)

Watch:

**Identifying Vulnerable Population of
Women to Climate Change - Thailand**
(2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv6GgEtqzck>

SEE

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-climate-change-affects-women/>



*of Activism
Against
Gender
Violence...*

DAY 12 ...

6th

December

**Women's Vulnerability
to Climate Change**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*