

Women make the News 2009: The Feedback

Every year, UNESCO has used the great opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day (8 March) by implementing the **Women Make the News** (WMN) initiative which aims to highlight the situation of women in the media and to promote their equality.

Many authors agreed that the job situation in the media frequently turned out to be much harder for women than it was the case for their male colleagues. Mentioned studies showed that even though many women were holding university degrees in communication or journalism and despite their increasing presence in media organizations the number of professional female reporters, producers or editors-in-chief was exceptionally low. While a larger percentage of women work in what is known as the female-typical fields such as magazines, journalism has mainly remained male-dominated.

Additionally a number of gender-related conferences, meetings and award ceremonies were described, for instant "The Annual Palestinian Media Woman Award", giving hope and motivation to women all around the world to fight for their rights and equality within professions and education. Similarly journalists as well as students reported on the celebration of International Women's Day at the Divine Word University, Madang, Papua New Guinea.

Other media organizations organised, independently and in collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices, press conferences under the Women Make the News banner. Many expressed the usefulness of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)/UNESCO handbook entitled "Getting the Balance Right", which provides a guide on how to address some of the main problems faced by women working in the media.

Considering that a number of contributions were not stories directly related to best practices in advocating for, developing and implementing policies to ensure equality for women journalists, UNESCO decided to group those stories under another heading called, "**further gender related stories**" which you can find at the end of this page along with the submitted stories on best practice.

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