**Topic VI. How Can Access to Human Rights & Opportunity Be Expanded?**

**Human Rights**
LaFranchi, “China’s Human rights Rating Upgrades by the State Department”
1. Why are human rights advocates critical of the US State Department’s annual report (2007) on the state of human rights violations (i.e., what country stood out for its absence) and what abuses (2 examples) did they cite to support their criticism?

2. According to human rights experts, what countries did the report treat with considerably softer gloves than some human rights experts believe is warranted and why?

3. Which countries (3 examples) did the US State Department’s human rights report cite as having scored significant advances in human rights and which countries (3 examples) did it list as the worst offenders of human rights in 2007?

LaFranchi, “US and China Sit Down to a Belated Talk on Human Rights”
1. Activists say that there is sustained backsliding on (human) rights in China. What do activists cite as 2 examples of human violations?

1) In discussing the dialogue (on human rights) with reporters, what does US State Department official say the discussion with China is about?

1. According to the author, what is the most enduring legacy of Rwanda’s genocide (2 items)?

2. According to Mr. Pendegerast, head of the Enough Project, what is the most important development in international law since the Nuremberg trials, what does this new institution do, and while the next decade will be messy, what does he argue will happen overtime?

3. How has justice been meted out at home (in Rwanda)—what do the traditional courts do?

**Marquand, “African Backlash Against International Court Rises”**
1. Why is there a growing African political backlash against a wholesale acceptance of global justice and the ICC specifically?
**Women**

Editorial, “The Potential of Hillary Clinton’s Global Campaign for Women”
1. What is becoming the signature issue for Hillary Clinton and what is the greatest challenge?

2. What is the paradox that the US faces as it seeks to promote women’s rights and what is Clinton’s pitch in wisely framing the issue?

**Schuler, “For African Women, Rights Come Slowly”**
1. Rita Makarau, a leading activist lawyer, argues that Zimbabwe's system of customary law “is loaded with discrimination against women”. What are 3 examples of the anti-woman bias in Zimbabwe's customary law?

2. What is the Woman's Action Group doing to strengthen women's rights in Zimbabwe?

**Crawley, “Africa Spurs Female Circumcision”**
1. How does Tostan’s successful approach differ from the tactics of previous campaigns that failed to bring an end to FGM?

2. Why do some parents continue to carry out FGM and what is helping to end the practice in Senegal?

1. According to Gene Spalding (Director, Center for Universal Education), a World Bank study, other studies, and/or Sarah Crowe (UNICEF), what are 4 benefits associated with educating girls?

2. What are the barriers (myriad of reasons) to education that girls in urban areas face? What are the barriers in rural regions?

**Editorial, “An Unseen Burka Revolution”**
1. While often obscured by explosive news reports suggest the opposite, every year brings progress for women’s rights in Moslem countries. What are 3 example of this progress—victories small and large?

2. According to the Editorial, what is needed if women’s rights and interests are to significantly advance?
Hughes, “Female Cops in Iraq? Arab Woman are Seizing Freedom”
1. What is the major step for women that went unnoticed outside of Iraq?
2. What right have women gained in 2 Gulf states?

Girish, “For India's Daughters, a Dark Birth Day”
1. In its work with rural women in India, what is Community Services Guild doing (2 examples) to discourage female infanticide?
2. What factors (2 examples) contribute to some Indian parent's preference for boys and why are daughters considered an economic burden?

Yusuf, “People Making a Difference—Sheema Kermani”
1. What is Terikh-e-Niswan and what has Ms. Kermani been doing in Pakistan for 30 years?
2. According to Ms. Kermani, what is the only way to change values and for that reason, what did she begin to do?

Ridge, “Some Indian Villages Prefer to Put a Woman in Power”
1. What did the India’s government do that caused an uproar in parliament?
2. What did a study by Ester Duflo (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) find, regarding the priorities of panchayats led by women?

Francis, “As Women Prosper in Developing Countries’, So Do These Countries Economies”
1. According to Sandra Lawson, author of the paper titled “Girls Hold Up Half the Sky”, what are 3 benefits that educating girls and women leads to?
2. According to a recent World Bank report (“Commitment on Gender Equality”), women have been making progress in the world’s poor countries in schooling and health. What are 2 indicators of this progress? According to Ms. Ehrenpreis, in what area are women lagging?
3. According to Ruth Levine, one of the authors of “Girls Count,” what are 2 cultural and economic obstacles to the advancement of women? What are 2 of the many challenges for women?

LaFranchi, “Economic Downturn Fuels Human Trafficking”
1. According to the State Department’s annual “Trafficking in Persons” report, what are the results of the economic downturn (on human trafficking)? What is human trafficking—what are the 2 categories/types of human trafficking?

2. According to the new State Department’s report (“Trafficking in Human Persons”), what groups have been critical in highlighting cases and ending abusive practices (of human trafficking)? According to Pam Cope—founder of Touch of Life—what are 2 factors contributing to human trafficking?

Hughes, “New Lives for Sex Workers in the Dominican Republic”
1. In the Dominican Republic, what are nuns doing to try to pave another pathway for Dominican prostitutes (and other poor women)?

Wax, “Bangladesh Woman Wins Rights for Garment Workers”
1. As an activist and union organizer, what issues (3 examples) has Ms. Akter championed/campaigned for in her effort to improve the lives of female garment workers in Bangladesh?

2. What US companies have contracts with the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association?

Kerlin, “New Evangelism: Mini Loans”
1. How do microfinance programs (such as World Relief’s affiliate in Rwanda) operate--to whom does it make loans, how are loans guaranteed, and for what purposes do individual member take out loans?

2. AMIZERO (Rwandan affiliate of World Vision) religious vision has led it to providing microfinance to what underserved groups?

The Poor, Minorities, the Landless
Stoelelin, “In Congo, 1,000 Die per Day: Why Isn't it a Media Story?”
1. Why does the author argue that the extent of the coverage (or noncoverage) of the Congo is absurd?

2. Why do field-hardened (news) correspondents say that they are not covering the Congo?
1. Why (2 reasons) have some of South America's 55 million indigenous people been making noise lately?

2. According to Sociology professor Garcia, what does the fight between Bolivia's two indigenous parties reflect?

Downie, “Brazilians Wonder: Where's the Reform?”
1. Why are social justice groups & peasants criticizing Brazil's President Lula?

2. Why are NGO's and human rights groups criticizing Brazil's President Lula?

Llana, “Colombia Offers Clues for Solution to Mexican Drug War”
1. What is the focus of the new strategy (soft approach) on which Mexico is placing more emphasis on to eradicate organize crime (drug violence/drug cartels)?

Chopa, “India Moves to Spread Wealth”
1. Why did India pass the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and what will the new legislation do?

2. Why are some experts (including Prof. Bhagwati) critical (2 reasons) of the new legislation?

3. According to Mr. Savale, what's been a positive impact of one jobs program in Maharashtra that has been running for over three decades?

Clark, “Unserved by Banks, Poor Kenyans Now Just Use a Cellphone”
1. A growing number of Kenyans are tapping into a new service called M-PESTA. What is M-PESTA and how does it benefit poor people?

2. According to economists (including the World Bank’s Thorsten Beck), what is the potential (of greater access to financial products) beyond M-PESTA and Kenya?

3. What is Equity Bank’s latest innovation and what will it offer in the next phase?

Telis, “Jhau PC Low Cost Computer Links Villages to the Web”
1. What does the Jhai PC bring to people in the small Hmong village of Phonsavad in Laos and how much does it cost??
2. What sets the Jhai PC project apart, which has garnered interest from 65 countries; what does Jhai require from each community; and who does the project aim to assemble the machines?

**Youth**

**Montero, “Nike's Dilemma: Is Doing the Right Thing Wrong?”**
1. Why did Nike sever its contract with Saga Sports and what is the soul-searching debate that this decision has sparked?

2. According to Kailash Satyarthi (Chair, Global March Against Child Labor), who is responsible for monitoring child labor? Does everyone agree with her?

**Farrell, “Global Campaign to Police Child Sex Tourism”**
1. What does the “code” (which was launched at the UN) attempt to create and what do its signatories (companies) commit to do?

2. What has the Bush administration done to try to curb child sex tourism?

**LaFranchi, “US Condemns Somalia’s Use of Child Soldiers, but UA Aid Still Flows”**
1. While the US this week joined the UN Security Council in condemning the use of child soldiers in conflict by governments and rebel groups, what are some experts concluding?

2. What countries/groups (4 examples) are the most persistent violators of the International Convention Against the Use of Child Soldiers?

**Raman, “How Almost Everyone in Kerala Learned to Read”**
1. What suggests that in Kerela, there is a commitment to education that pervades society?

2. Why does Mr. Rivindran say that land reform measures contributed to the success of Kerela's literacy movement?

**Hanes, “Easing the Burden of School Fees”**
1. Why don't the children (especially girls) of many poor families attend primary school?

2. What happened when Kenya's President Kibaki declared in 2003 that all primary schools would be free of charge?
3. What countries in East & Southern Africa have done away with primary school fees?

**Downie, “In Brazil. New Focus on the Class After Class”**
1. Why is there a primary education crisis in Brazil and what are NGOs like CEASM doing to help address the crisis?

2. What does the author say is “the other main task”--what are these programs attempting to show poor children?

**Landow, “Stepping Into Africa's Future”**
1. What's unique about the Community Development and Individual Development University--what's its goal, who are it's 1,600 students, what type of degrees are they earning?

2. What have CIDA students done beyond the campus (3 examples), which confirms the student's comment: “it's not just ourselves we are concentrating on, we are totally concerned about the economy of the country”?