Dear IYF Staff and Partners,

In honor of International Women’s Day, please find below some relevant reports and articles about gender issues. For more details on integrating gender and reproductive health lessons into your youth development projects, please contact Julia Freed at j.freed@iynf.net. We hope that you find these resources interesting and applicable to your work.

**Reports:**

**Gender Justice: Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals**
This briefing points to key areas that must be addressed to move towards meeting the MDGs. “While there have been considerable gains since 2000 on many of the MDG targets, progress has been slowest on the gender equality dimensions of these targets”

**Women’s Economic Opportunity Index**
To gain a better understanding of the factors that influence women’s economic opportunity – and how countries have addressed them – the Economist Intelligence Unit constructed the first Women’s Economic Opportunity Index.

**A Rights-Based Approach to Realizing the Economic and Social rights of Poor and Marginalized Women: A synthesis of lessons learned**
To improve the international development community’s understanding of the value of a rights based development approach, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), provided technical support to six projects in India to help identify both the process of and challenges involved in implementing this approach.

**Exploring Linkages**
This e-publication highlights the results of a survey of women clients of microfinance institutions in 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with a special focus on the effects of the social services provided by those institutions. It finds that microfinance, when offered in conjunction with health education services, can both empower women and improve their sexual and reproductive health.

**The Rights to Contraceptive Information and Services for Women and Adolescents**
This briefing paper examines the right to access contraceptive information and services for women and adolescents.
In the News:

Veteran Advocate for Gender and Development Takes Stock
ICRW president Geeta Rao Gupta speaks about the major challenges that women face globally.

Cracking the Male Code of Office Behavior
Author Shaunti Feldhahn discusses male and female behaviors in the office and male perceptions of women in the workplace.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/06/jobs/06pre.html

Women’s Rights a Strong Point in Tunsia
The article acknowledges Tunsia as a leader in women’s rights in this region of the world.

Microcredit Pioneer Ousted, Head of Bangladeshi Bank Says
In a controversial move, Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been relieved of his duties at Bangladesh Bank; which provides microloans to 8.3 million borrowers – almost all of them poor women.