Do Girls Run the World?

NineteenPercent’s video: Beyonce, Run the World (LIES), provokes viewers to think about “girl power” and whether we should be celebrating or fighting back. She said, if you think any of this is unfair, you should look into it for yourself. We’ve put together a fact sheet to show you where the facts are. Sometimes research is the first stop on the way to change.

Decision Making

- In 2010, women held only 17 percent of seats in national parliaments and 17 percent of ministerial positions. Of the 150 elected Heads of State in the world, only 7 were women. Of the 500 largest companies in the world, only 13 were headed by a woman. --The World’s Women 2010, Trends and Statistics, The United Nations
- Of the 535 seats in the 111th U. S. Congress, women hold only 89 or 16.6%. --Center for American Women and Politics, Women in the U.S. Congress 2011

Rape

- The National Violence Against Women Survey found that 1 in 6 women (17 %) and 1 in 33 men (3 %) have been the victim of rape or sexual assault. Among all rape victims identified by the survey, 85.8 percent were women and 14.2 percent were men. The Survey estimated that 300,000 women are raped every year in the United States. --U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Special Report on the Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization
- In 2008, 57% of the rape or sexual assaults against females were committed by an offender whom they knew. Strangers committed about one third (31%) of all rape/sexual assaults. --Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violence, 2009
- 20% to 25% of women in college reported experiencing an attempted or a completed rape in college. --Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Intimate Partner Violence

- In 2008 females experienced about 552,000 nonfatal violent victimizations (rape/sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated or simple assault) by an intimate partner (a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend).
- In the same year, men experienced 101,000 nonfatal violent victimizations by an intimate partner.
- 70 percent of victims killed by an intimate partner in 2007 were female, a rate that has changed very little since 1993.
- Females were killed by intimate partners at twice the rate of males.
  --All data from Bureau of Justice Statistics, Female Victims of Violence, 2009

In the News

- In 2005, the House Judiciary Committee in South Carolina passed a bill that protected birds from cockfighting but tabled a bill designed to protect domestic violence victims from their batterers.
  --Judiciary Committee passes cockfighting bill, tables domestic violence bill

Missing Women

- Strong cultural preferences for boys, particularly in China and India, has resulted in high rates of sex-selective abortion and infanticide of girl babies. Consequently, The United Nations estimates that there are 134 million missing women in the world.
- In 2005, there were 32 million more males than females under the age of 20 in China.
  --British Medical Journal, 2009
- For a detailed examination of the Missing Women phenomenon read, “Gendercide: The worldwide war on baby girls.”

Wage Gap

- On average, women earn about 80 cents on the dollar compared to men.
  --Department of Labor
- One year after graduation from college, women earned only 80 percent of what their male counterparts earned. Ten years after graduation, women earned only 69 percent of what their male counterparts earned.
  --AAUW, The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap
  In addition to the wage gap, there is also a wealth gap between men and women. Women only own 36% as much wealth as men.
  --Shortchanged: Women and the Wealth Gap
Portrayals of Women in the Media

- A study of the top 100 top-grossing movies of 2008 found that men had 67 percent of the speaking roles. Women only had 33 percent. Researchers found that female characters were more likely to wear sexy, provocative clothing than men (26% vs. 5%) or to appear partially naked (24% vs. 8%). In particular, female teenage characters were more likely than other women to wear sexy, provocative clothing (40%) -- even more than those age 21 to 39 (32%). Additionally, teenage girls were as likely to appear partially naked than older women (30%).

- Men were also more likely to work behind the camera. For every five male directors, writers or producers, there was one female.

--Gender Inequality in Cinematic Content?