

Forum : Forum sur l'égalité de genre

Thématique : Face au regain des tensions et des enjeux autour du genre, comment atteindre l'ODD n°5?

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Situation familiale <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marié/en couple○ Célibataire• Avec enfants, si oui combien : 4	Niveau d'étude <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Primaire• Secondaire○ Universitaire
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1. De quelle manière êtes-vous concerné.e par le sujet ?

I serve as an Imam, a religious leader in Mali, a country that has endured much conflict, hunger, extreme poverty, and more. We are a fragile state, and I especially have seen what our people have gone through. As a leader, a husband, and a father, I am personally affected by the question of gender equality. In my community, my role is to guide people spiritually, protect my wife and children, and give them as many opportunities as possible. However, in 2010, the government tried to introduce a new family code. It came with changes like a raise in the marriage age, giving women more inheritance rights, removing the legal obligation to obey your husband, and, all in all, pushed to equalise the status of men and women in the country. The proposal was seen by many as anti-religious, that it didn't respect the founding values of the country and caused much anger and protests. In a country where 90% of the population are Muslim, our religion is what unifies us and holds us together, especially while going through other problems like hunger, poverty, crisis, and lack of resources. Many of the objectors were women. They argued that it went against their practice of Islam, and they refused to leave their religion for the Code. They recognise the different roles men and women have in Islam. They depend on men to be leaders, protectors, and supporters, and have their own role in society. Our religion doesn't refer to women as inferior, but as sensitive.

2. Que proposez-vous à votre échelle ?

Any change should respect our traditions and our faith. Our population is growing rapidly, which weighs on already limited resources. The fertility rate is high (approx. 6 children per woman), there aren't enough jobs to keep up with population growth, and education isn't accessible to everyone. We need to focus on these problems, focus on helping the whole population instead of focusing all our attention on women and girls. Improving wellbeing for everyone should be a priority before tackling gender inequality issues. Above all, we need to preserve the unity that comes from our religion and not create division. It is not democratic to impose something on a population when it goes against 90% of the people's faith.

New regulations should be tailored to each country and community. Copying Western ways does not work in our favour. Equality means valuing both genders, not making them the same. The structure of a traditional Malian family can be perceived as patronising and diminishing towards women. However, as a father and a husband, we follow our faith and the roles it has given us. Our culture has put pressure on men to protect, provide, and lead our families and friends. We are not equal to women; they have a different role in our society, a role which they

are expected to fulfil just like we are expected to fulfil ours.

I propose we educate our men to learn respect for women within the roles that our culture already offers. Furthermore, we should find ways to offer better education to girls and women. They play an important role as mothers and educators. Most importantly, any change should be beneficial to both men and women and aim towards a better and unified society.