

Network News

It is not news that most of our media sources, including all of the major television networks, most cable news channels, newspapers, radio stations, and news magazines are owned by a small number of media corporations. For visual representations of corporate media ownership, take a look at <http://www.thenation.com/special/bigten.html>. Not surprisingly, the same news stories often circulate on television, in newspapers, and online. For information underreported by major media sources, consider feminist news outlets, which provide access to important stories. Look to these websites and periodicals for news that colleagues and students will find interesting and informative.

Feminist News Wire

Feminist news stories are easily accessible online through the Feminist Majority Foundation's website www.feminist.org. Top feminist news stories of the week are featured on the page, but readers can also search for news briefs by date and topic through an online database. To keep the news circulating, stories can be emailed to students and colleagues. A section

labeled Feminist Global News highlights stories from outside the United States. To help readers understand stories, the Foundation provides links to additional background information on global issues. For example, information regarding the global gag rule, The United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and female genital cutting is available. To situate news stories in local contexts, the website invites women from around the globe to share their stories. In addition, readers are invited to make news; links are provided for readers who are interested in participating in online actions of The Feminist Majority Campaign. Subscribe to the feminist network news wire to keep informed through a daily email.

At the time of printing, these underreported feminist news stories traveled on the network's news wire:

Accessibility to abortion was expanded in the African nation of Togo. Previously, abortions were permitted only in cases in which the mother's life was in danger. Togo's provisions are now similar to those in Mali and Sudan, which include access

in cases of rape or incest. According to the wire, only three of fifty-three African countries include unrestricted access to abortion—Cape Verde, South Africa, and Tunisia.

In the United States, the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, was recently sworn in, but women all over the world are taking on political leadership positions. Blogger, feminist activist, and lawyer Mehrmouh Najafi won a seat in a city council election in Hamedan, Iran. Previously, Najafi worked to end stonings and police violence against women activists. In Tunisia, May Eljeribi was elected to lead the Progressive Democratic Party. She is the first woman party leader in Tunisian history. In the first national election in The United Arab Emirates, Amal Abdullah al-Kubaissi was elected to serve on the Federal National Council. Out of 438 candidates, 63 were women. Amal Abdullah al-Kubaissi was the only one elected to office.

According to a recent survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, domestic violence rates have declined by more than half since 1993. While rates of domestic violence are especially difficult to measure because victims are often afraid of retaliation, the survey takes police reports and the National Crime Victimization Survey into account. This method is intended to capture incidents not reported to the police. In 2004, there remained 1,159 female victims of fatal intimate violence.

In Scotland, a proposal calls for the removal of the “father clause” on in-vitro fertilization treatment applications. The proposed change would make IVF more accessible to unmarried and lesbian women. Although children’s welfare is still

taken into account on applications, welfare would no longer be tied to the presence of a male parent.

Feministing.com

Feministing.com is an online blog containing links to feminist news stories, many of which are not included on the feminist news wire. Recent posts describe local news events often unnoticed in larger publications. Readers’ comments to blog entries capture their responses to stories, often illuminating debates within feminist communities over recent events. In addition to news briefs, the site also contains links to video footage chronicling recent events. <<http://www.feministing.com>>

Bust and Z Magazine

In *Bust* magazine, the publication “for women with something to get off their chests,” regular column News From a Broad features global and U.S. stories of particular interest to third wave feminists. *Z* magazine’s online Gender Watch features stories on war, reproductive rights, parenting, and sexuality. For more information about how to subscribe to these publications visit <<http://www.bust.com>> and <<http://www.zmag.org>>.

Women’s eNews

Women’s eNews is an independent news source produced by freelance journalists from around the world. Stories covering politics, legislation, health, education, science, religion, sports, and global women’s movements are accessible via email subscription or the Women’s eNews website. In addition, Women’s eNews features editorial cartoons lampooning various public

figures and current events. The site even boasts an Arabic language version to provide news on global women's issues, at no cost, to those in the region. <<http://www.womensenews.org>>

Indybay Womyn

For feminists on the West Coast, go to <<http://www.indybay.org/womyn>>. The page is compiled by The San Francisco

Bay Area Independent Media Center, a local, noncommercial, independent branch of the media collective Indymedia. It includes links to new briefs recounting local feminist actions, political issues, women's events, and editorials. Readers can subscribe and receive news stories through email or text message. In addition, the page includes links to listen to news stories via iTunes.