

## GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX (GII)

No country in the world is on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 according to the first index to measure progress against a set of internationally agreed targets.

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. The United Nations report that girls and women have made major strides since 1990, but they have not yet gained gender equity. The disadvantages facing women and girls are a major source of inequality. All too often the UN say, women and girls are discriminated against, for example in health, education, political representations, and the labour market with negative consequences for development of their capabilities and their freedom of choice.

The GII is an inequality index. It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development: reproductive health - measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment - measured by the proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and the proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; and economic status - measured by the labour market participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older. The GII measures the human development costs of gender inequality. Thus the higher the GII value, the more disparities between females and males and the higher the loss to human development.

The table opposite shows the Gender Inequality Ranking for Commonwealth countries. The ranking demonstrates that there is a great deal of room for improvement. Nurses and midwives have a role to play in promoting gender equity to improve health outcomes for women and girls. The table also shows the ranking for the Human Development Index (HDI).

The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The Human Development Index (HDI) measures the average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and health life; being knowledgeable; and having a decent standard of living.

COUNTRY	GII	HDI
Singapore	12	9
Cyprus	17	32
Canada	20	12
Australia	23	3
United Kingdom	25	14
New Zealand	34	16
Malta	45	29
Brunei Darussalam	51	39
Barbados	60	58
Malaysia	62	57
Trinidad and Tobago	73	69
St Lucia	74	90
Bahamas	75	54
Maldives	76	101
Fiji	79	92
Sri Lanka	80	76
Samoa	82	104
Mauritius	84	69
Rwanda	85	158
Jamaica	95	97
Tonga	96	98
Botswana	89	101
Belize	89	106
South Africa	90	113
Namibia	115	129
Guyana	122	125
Zambia	125	144
Uganda	126	162
India	127	130
Zimbabwe	128	156
Tanzania	130	154
Ghana	131	140
Pakistan	133	150
Bangladesh	134	136
Lesotho	135	159
Kenya	137	142
Mozambique	138	180
Eswanti (Swaziland)	141	144
Cameroon	141	151
Malawi	148	171
Gambia	149	174
Sierra Leone	150	184
Papua New Guinea	159	153

Commonwealth countries did not score well on the Gender Inequality Index. The table below shows the Commonwealth country rank for the GII and the corresponding rank for the Human Development Index (HDI).

There is no GII ranking for the Seychelles, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Nigeria, Nauru and Tuvalu.

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>