GENDER EQUALITY AND CORRUPTION – WHERE DO WE STAND WITH EVALUATING THE RELATIONSHIP?

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2 WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT GENDER AND CORRUPTION

1. WOMEN’S PROPENSITY TO ENGAGE IN CORRUPT ACTS

“WOMEN ARE LESS CORRUPT THAN MEN”

2. CORRUPTION’S DIFFERENT IMPACT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN

“WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY CORRUPTION”
I. WOMEN’S PROPENSITY TO ENGAGE IN CORRUPT ACTS

- More women in government correlated with lower levels of corruption
- Possibility of a third variable:
  - Fairer systems
  - Limited opportunities
- Alternative interpretation: Women can reduce corruption by policy-making, because they have more experience with corruption.
2. CORRUPTION’S DIFFERENT IMPACT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN

- Barriers in accessing basic public services and resources
- Reduced access to markets and credit
- Less access to political participation
- Direct women’s rights violations
SEXTORTION

- “abuse of authority to obtain sexual favours”
- Prevalent all around the world
- Not included in corruption indices
- No express reference in most national legislation
- UNCAC Art. 15(b) on bribery broad enough to include non-monetary benefits such as sex
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a gender-inclusive framework to deal with corruption and human rights
- Ask State parties for and utilize gender-specific corruption data
- Highlight “sextortion” as a corrupt act in relevant individual communications and Concluding Observations
- Recommend State parties implement public accountability mechanisms that involve women