Global Women's Progress Report
NEWSWEEK's rankings reveal where women are winning-and where the gains are slow to come.by Jesse Ellison | September 18, 2011

Just over a decade into the 21st century, women's progress can be seen-and celebrated-across a range of fields. They hold the highest political offices from Thailand to Brazil, Costa Rica to Australia. A woman holds the top spot at the International Monetary Fund; another won the Nobel Prize in economics. Self-made billionaires in Beijing, tech innovators in Silicon Valley, pioneering justices in Ghana-in these and countless other areas, women are leaving their mark.

But hold the applause. In Pakistan, a thousand women die in honor killings every year. And in Somalia, 95 percent of women are subjected to genital mutilation. In the developed world, women lag behind men in pay and political power. The poverty rate among women in the U.S. rose to 14.5 percent last year, the highest in 17 years.

To measure the state of women's progress, Newsweek ranked 165 countries, looking at five areas that affect women's lives: treatment under the law, workforce participation, political power, and access to education and health care. Poring over data from the United Nations and the World Economic Forum, among others, and consulting with experts and academics, we measured 28 factors to come up with our rankings.

Countries with the highest scores tend to be clustered in the West, where gender discrimination is against the law, and equal rights are constitutionally enshrined. But there were some surprises. Some otherwise high-ranking countries had relatively low scores for political representation and workplace clout. Canada ranked third overall but 26th in power, behind countries such as Cuba and Burundi. Does this suggest that a woman in a nation's top office translates to better lives for women in general? Not exactly. "Trying to quantify or measure the impact of women in politics is hard because in very few countries have there been enough women in politics to make a difference," says Anne-Marie Goetz, peace and security adviser for U.N. Women.

Of course, no index can account for everything. Declaring that one country is better than another in the way that it treats more than half its citizens means relying on broad strokes and generalities. Some things simply can't be measured. (Is child care better or worse when provided by grandparents, or subsidized and mandated by government?)

Certain conclusions are nonetheless clear. For one thing, our index backs up a simple but profound statement made by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, as she declared a tipping point for women. "When we liberate the economic potential of women, we elevate the economic performance of communities, nations, and the world,"

Match the French with the English

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| --- | --- |
| English | French |
| rankings | Point critique |
| Lag behind | examiner |
| rate | Conserves/ sacrés |
| To pore over | Sont à la traîne |
| clustered | Compter sur |
| enshrined | taux |
| clout | financé |
| To rely on | regroupés |
| Broad strokes  | néanmoins |
| subsidized | De poids d’influence |
| nonetheless | Traits grossiers |
| Tipping point | Classements |

2) Choose a title -in the list-for every paragraph of the text.

-.(better scores in the west and yet no homogeneous facts)

-.(Yet there are still huge issues to be solved)

-(the limits of the survey and non-measurable facts)

-(Some certainties emerge from the survey : economic empowerment)

-.(the 21 st presages great improvements for women)

-.( A survey is made : the protocole)

Match the French with the English

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