

ETHIOPIAN WOMEN MUST GET ORGANIZED

Women are more than half of any given population, if not more. They play basic and central roles as guardians of tradition because they are at the very heart of social activities that carry out all rituals. Often, women are the guardians of traditions that are not in their interest at all, thus they themselves enforce harmful traditions. Along with the plights of the girl child (early marriage, abduction, rape...) women are deprived of education, babies undergo sexual mutilations like excision, infibulations. Brining awareness is the unavoidable task of those who've had the advantage of knowing how pernicious some practices are.

They must get together to defend their rights and endeavor for a better world for themselves and their children, with a particular attention to the girl child. The different ways of raising our children, how we distinguish their roles as a boy and a girl matters a lot in how culture evolves in the future. A mother who is aware of the need to fight for women's rights will make sure that the future roles of the young ones does not get determined to the detriment of a woman's well being.

Women themselves are the best agents to stand and defend their rights. That is why our organization IEWO is creating paltalk forums, organizing telephone-conferences and giving voice to Ethiopian women the world over. IEWO upholds the rights of Ethiopian women wherever they may be. It aims to achieve the goals that will help them start to look into it all together, and help each other and build mechanisms that can enforce self-confidence. Give space to other empowered women so that other women can have access to better role models. It is important that women who have never been given space get to see how to become a person who's taken seriously, whose opinions matter and who is ready to face up to anything. No country can advance or achieve lofty aims without including women's contribution that is why it is primordial to empower them in many ways and make them strong well-grounded citizens.

It is when they come together and discuss about their situation by sharing their experiences that they can see the need of becoming an active citizen, one who's aware of developments and changes that are bound to affect their

lives and that of others as well. Taking one's destiny into one's own hand wields a power that might have been unimaginable otherwise. Within the country where all rights are curtailed, women must become active militants alongside other organizations who are in battle for the instauration of democracy and the rule of law.

Today within the Ethiopian Diaspora scattered all over the globe, we sometimes hear about the practice of harmful traditions in incredible places. A case in point is that of the father of a baby girl who resides in Atlanta but still ended up practicing excision. This indicates that there are cases we might not hear about unless thus accidentally revealed. All over Europe we hear battles being waged to come to the rescue of girls born and raised away from home, but whose parents try to give away in marriage despite their young age and obvious unwillingness to being thus wedded.

These are but a few examples, a tip of the iceberg of the realities we might not yet know about, it is up to us to reach out to women around us wherever we may be. To make sure young or old women no longer end up suffering on their own. We will enable them to dare and come out to make their lives better.

Women must defend all their rights be they, physical, psychological, economic, political, social, or moral. They must look into and study both the general and the specific aspects of their rights without neglecting the details where, as they say, the devil resides.