



Voice, Agency and Participation

UN Women, New York

July 24, 2013

Jeni Klugman presented an overview of the report to a group of staff at UN Women headquarters in New York.

Participation was high and feedback overall was positive. Comments received were as follows:

- Various questions were raised about the inter-linkages across different aspects of agency (such as being able to exit a marriage and domestic violence), alongside an emphasis on the broader structures of constraints (institutional, religious, economic etc) that might be neglected if the focus is too much on the micro aspects.
- Some also raised rights issues, including in particular around sexual and reproductive health.
- A couple of useful leads were suggested, included the upcoming report to the Secretary General on women's political participation.
- Reference was also made to the World Association of Media which has longitudinal studies of women's portrayal therein, which may be useful on the social norms side.
- It was also noted that female political representations may not be transformational of either institutions or societies (Rwandan and other examples); and that constitutional changes may not be effective in shifting norms.