

Choose two or three of the Sustainable Development Goals and discuss, based on observations you've made during your internship and other experience/knowledge, how they interconnect with one another, and how this impacts how the goals should be addressed.

This internship has taught me a lot. It's taught me how to write a grant proposal in under 5 hours, that no conference on women's rights is complete without a song, and all about the stressful nature of working for a small NGO that is constantly required to justify its value in order to receive funding. In a broader and much more relevant sense in regards to this assignment, however – it's taught me how the issue of gender equality lies at the foundation of all other global goals, and without its achievement, very little progress can be made to better our world. Two goals that I have found within my internship at the Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) of Tanzania to be particularly intertwined with Goal 5: Gender Equality include Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and Goal One: No Poverty.

Much like Goal 5, WLAC's vision is for a just society that respects the rights of women and children, but it aims to achieve this via its mission that is also very tightly aligned with Goal 16, this mission being to promote access to justice and advocate for gender responsive policies for women and children. Tanzanian women continue to be discriminated against both within law and within cultural practice. In 2015 alone, WLAC served 6853 female clients who had been robbed of rights promised to them by national and/or international law. Often times, these women face further obstacles within the legal system itself as corruption and patriarchal bias prevails.

One of these obstacles takes form in the persistence of an unjust inheritance law that refuses female widows the right to inherit marital assets from their deceased husbands. This institutionalized example of discrimination has left thousands of women across the country without basic means for survival – evidenced in the alarming statistic that approximately 60% of Tanzanian women live in absolute poverty. And this statistic will only rise if women's rights continue to be denied or viewed as secondary to those of their male counterparts.

The many case documents that I've been tasked to edit here at WLAC have made it clear to me that, in order to make any progress on attaining gender equality and eradicating poverty, gender must be addressed in the formation of institutions. Women must be involved in decision-making bodies and women's issues must help to guide all major decisions. These goals cannot be achieved alone, nor can they even be addressed without reference to each other. However, if duty-bearers and rights-holders recognize the indivisibility of the SDGs, they will together secure the power to move the country and the world towards the ultimate achievement of these goals.

As Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, head of UN Women, recently said, 'If you don't know where to start with the SDGs, start with women and girls everything else will fall into place.' These passionate gender advocates from WLAC and other women's rights organizations of Dar es Salaam could not agree more (**see attached video**).

