



*Empowering Local
Media Worldwide*



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Internews Celebrates the Contributions of Women Journalists

It is an honor to work with so many courageous and spirited women journalists around the world. These women stand up for their beliefs, sacrifice their lives and safety for their work, and through their work empower not only themselves, but their communities as well. These women are changing the world, and today, on International Women's Day, we honor them as catalysts and leaders who inspire and give a voice to women and girls around the world.

At Internews we recognize the important role that media and accurate information can play in women's lives. By training women media professionals and mainstreaming women's issues, we work to strengthen women's voices worldwide. Some of our most exciting and ground-breaking work at Internews is focused around women and gender issues as exemplified in this story about a courageous young journalist who tackles difficult human rights issues in her community.

Happy International Women's Day!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Bourgault, President, Internews

A young Kenyan radio journalist tackles local taboos



Wangari Migwi, a presenter and journalist at Coro FM, a local language radio station in Kenya, tackles difficult issues in her local community – women's ownership of land, HIV and stigma, female cutting, and access to medical care by people with disabilities. Wangari believes that her stories have changed many of her listeners' attitudes and sometimes, their lives.

In March 2010, Wangari participated in a human rights issues reporting training conducted by Internews in Kenya. Increasingly, since then, she has started to focus many of her radio stories on human rights issues affecting women.

Coro FM is owned by Kenya's national broadcaster, the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC). The station broadcasts in Kikuyu and targets regions of Kenya, where tradition determines the pace of life. Wangari presents an early morning inspirational show on weekdays, children's programs on Saturdays and religious programs on Sundays.

Wangari was [interviewed recently by Internews](#) about her stories.

"There is a story I did on World AIDS Day. It was about men who have sex with men. I was looking at the angle of - whatever their actions are, they have a right to medical care just like everyone else. But you see, for a Kikuyu ... to understand that this

person should be treated in the same way was very hard, even for some of my colleagues. They said, 'How can they be treated like a human being?'"

- Wangari Migwi, a Kenyan radio presenter and journalist

In this [video](#), Sylvia Chebet, a senior reporter for Kenya's Citizen TV who was trained by Internews, talks about her reporting on humanitarian and women's issues.



Afghan women make their voices heard through a national radio program

Hawa (Eve) is a weekly program about Afghan women and young girls. It is part of Internews' national production unit, Salam Watandar (Hello Countrymen) and is broadcast in two weekly editions, one in Pashtu and one in Dari. Some of the topics covered include:

- Afghan women's soccer team and tournament play.
- The quality of life for women who were recently widowed.
- Increasing demand for money, clothes and other things from the groom by family of the bride is causing migration of young people in Khost province.
- Can women run election campaigns like men?
- Do women have the ability to travel to rural areas like men?
- The achievements of woman poets and their participation in literary and cultural events.
- Underage marriages (produced by Youth from the Afghan Youth Voices Festival).
- Why some families don't want their daughters to get an education.
- Women's concerns about the peace process and suggested negotiations with the Taliban.
- Parliamentary elections and the role of women.

The programs include interviews with successful women, reports from the provinces, tips on home economics, information about basic health care and advice on a range of gender issues, including domestic violence. All programming seeks to empower women through education and the connection of hearing women's voices on the air.

More about women and media:

- **Video**
 - Watch a [video slideshow](#) celebrating women in media
- **Program News**

- o [She's the "man and woman of the household," grandmother of eleven tells journalists](#)
- o [Yemeni Child Bride Tells Her Story](#)
- **Articles**
 - o [Funding Local Media. Strengthening Human Rights](#), By Manisha Aryal, Director of Internews Global Human Rights Program, *Human Rights Funding News*, IHRFG e-Newsletter, February 3, 2011
 - o [Tunisian journalists hold women's rights workshop](#), by Houda Trabelsi, *Magharebia*, December 17, 2010
- **More Information**
 - o Brochure: "[Women in Media: Diversifying Voices. Strengthening Coverage](#)" (PDF)
 - o [Internews Programs for Women in Media](#)
 - o [Innovative Programming on Women's Issues](#)
 - o More on [International Women's Day](#)
 - o United Nations - [Women Watch](#)

For stories reported on television, radio and newspapers, the percentage of those by female reporters is exactly similar to that registered in 2005, that is 37%.

The [Fourth Global Media Monitoring Project](#) (2010)

Support Blind Women Journalists in Gaza

Four blind women journalists who are working at Fursan Al-Erada (Knights of Will), a local radio station in Gaza Strip run by the disabled for the disabled, need accessible equipment and software to help them do their jobs. Because of the blockade on Gaza, these women have no access to new technology or equipment for the blind. They use what is available for them, mainly Braille typewriter machines and slate and stylus (a handheld Braille device). This makes it difficult for them to access information on the Internet and to be independent in their work. You can [support these women](#) through Global Giving to provide them with vital equipment.



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ABOUT INTERNEWS

[Internews](#) is an international media development organization whose mission is to empower local media worldwide to give people the news and information they need, the ability to connect, and the means to make their voices heard.

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Banner Photo: A journalist interviews victims of the Pakistan flood. (Internews)

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