

Women Suffer the Most from the Crisis

“The current economic crisis is not just financial; it is just as much a cultural crisis. The social contract has been broken in many countries. A small homogenous elite has lost touch with its role to lead and generate sustainable growth for all.” ([Dag Detter, Women—a Competitive Advantage, Huffington Post](#))

Part of the cultural crisis is intricately tied to the economic crisis because the concept of home is completely shattered, literally and figuratively. Rising home foreclosures come after another decade of 50% of first marriages in the U.S. ending in divorce, with the main cause being money issues. Today, the entire family unit is in shambles.

This is not intended as a feminist piece. Honestly. However, as waves of crises repeatedly sweep over us, we may want to reflect on whether letting men ‘play their games’ all these years is the reason why everything around us is falling apart. Maybe in between the football, video games, and fishing, we should have directed them toward something more purposeful, something that would contribute to humanity, that they could look back on with pride.

We definitely took a wrong turn somewhere and are paying an extremely high price, probably the highest price ever. We are paying with our lives and the lives of our children. The following sheds some light on the current dismal state of women in the world, but unfortunately, there are many more facts that could be added to this gloomy scenario.

Increased Inequality Between Genders

Globalization has exacerbated inequality in many Western countries, especially in America. The news is even worse for the [woman](#) sewing t-shirts or making trainers. She is the collateral damage of globalization. She did all that was asked of her: worked hard, paid her taxes, and saw her children off to school each day. It is not her fault that millions of \$1-per-day Chinese workers were more than willing to compete with her, and that Walmart snapped up their products, triggering a massive shift of wealth from the U.S. to China and from producers to consumers.

“Public spending cuts are set to widen Britain's gender pay gap and increase inequalities between the sexes. The [study](#), carried out by experts at the University of Warwick, says that cuts to adult social care, legal aid, and benefits will have a bigger impact on women than men.”

“...Mary-Ann Stephenson, chair of Coventry Women's voices, believes that the cuts will make life harder for women...’Taken together, the effect will be devastating, particularly on the most

vulnerable. Women who have been raped or abused may find it harder to get justice or the support they need. Some women and their children, particularly single parents, may be pushed into poverty. Women did not cause this situation, but we are paying the price.”

“Experts in the [UK](#) predict the next wave of redundancies will be in health and education - jobs dominated by women. ...The large-scale loss of women’s jobs may even herald a major social shift, with the clack of stilettos on office floors falling silent as former career women revert to the roles of wife and mother. Some would welcome a return to the values of an earlier era, where couples put less emphasis on material success and women were not under pressure to fulfill the demands of work as well as home. But whatever the long-term outcome, this economic downturn has made redundancy a new and difficult aspect of 21st-century womanhood.”

Treated Like Sub-Citizens in Parts of the World

“Women’s bodies have become part of the terrain of conflict, according to a new report by Amnesty International. [Rape and sexual abuse](#) are not just a by-product of war but are used as a deliberate military strategy, it says.”

“The world woke up to this phenomenon in 1993, after discovering that Serbian forces had set up a network of [‘rape camps’](#) in which women and girls, some as young as 12, were enslaved. Since then, we’ve seen similar patterns of systematic rape in many countries, and it has become clear that mass rape is not just a byproduct of war but also sometimes a deliberate weapon.”

“Experts [estimate](#) that there are currently 215 million women around the world who wish to either delay or prevent pregnancy but lack access to contraceptives. Guttmacher states that these women account for more than 80% of all unintended pregnancies in the developing world every year.”

All This Extra Stress Is Obviously Affecting Women’s Well-Being

“Laura Segura, director of Women’s Crisis Support-Defensa de Mujeres, said she believes [domestic violence](#) has increased in severity due to the recession, and she said shelters nationwide have reported increases.”

“British women are being hit by an ‘epidemic of fatigue’ caused by sleep deprivation, according to new research. The study by the [Sleep Council](#) found that of the 1,400 women questioned, nearly one in three arrive late to work because they feel so shattered in the morning. One in six sleep-deprived women confessed to ringing in sick due to tiredness and one in 10 admitted that they had a sneaky nap whilst at work.”

“The latest [figures](#) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show an 11.7% rise in dementia deaths in the last year, 2009-10, to a total of 25,106. More than two-thirds – 18,349 – were of women, in part because they live longer than men.”

Women Are Making Career Choices That They Would Not Consider in Better Times

“Women today are acting as equal partners in all aspects of [drug trafficking](#), from running crews to laundering funds, resulting in the rise of incarcerated and violently treated women. A glance into women’s association with DTOs (drug trafficking organizations) reveals an increased crime rate, as well as the adversities that drug trafficking predictably brings upon them.”

White Slave Trade and Human Trafficking

“The severe financial and economic problems in [Portugal](#) are driving many women to desperation, pushing them into prostitution as a last resort to support their families. The incidence of drug abuse is high: the main goal of 30 percent of prostitutes is to earn money to support their habit. The level of addiction has apparently changed markedly since 2009, when the effects of the global crisis began to be felt in Portugal. To fight the crisis, drastic cuts have been made in public spending and social subsidies, in a far from promising outlook for the anaemic economy.”

“In [Bulgaria](#), the main causes of the development of trafficking continue to be illiteracy, the collapse of moral values, racism, ethnic discrimination, poverty, unemployment and the ailing economy... And these latter causes in part explain a change in strategy on the part of the traffickers who are increasingly presenting themselves as representatives of employment agencies -- a phenomenon that is likely to continue in the context of the current economic crisis, which has forced many people to seek desperate solutions to the problem of their catastrophic material circumstances.”

Complementary Forces of Nature: Women and Men

The labor pains of a renewed world bring new questions to the surface, which we have not yet found a common human denominator for that would enable us to comprehend the root of the problem. Time will most definitely teach us. Ultimately our collective desire will accelerate both the search and quality of results for all of humanity.

At the heart of the never-ending search for enhancing life on our planet is the gender issue. Men and women are the two forces that the renewal and continuation of the human species are based on. The correct balance between these two forces will bring about fresh results in all aspects of our lives: education, the economy, society and the environment.

Forces of nature are never equal to one another, but rather complement each other perfectly. This is the only way to measure the correct balance between them. Our generation must understand that the complementary aspects of the female-male relationship serve a single common goal—the improvement of mankind. The outcome of this discovery will bring about significant changes for everyone on the planet.

What do we need to proceed to the next stage?

- 1) A basic understanding of the laws of nature.
- 2) A common goal for both genders to embark upon together.
- 3) A desire for ascending to a new stage of humanity.

1) A Basic Understanding of the Laws of Nature

The natural reality unfolding in our time shows us that man is obligated to societal life. We see the direct ties to the basic economic conditions where everyone is dependent on support from society. So the goal, or any goal for that matter, is without a doubt built on all the laws of nature together. Nature is made up of the forces that run our world. It is precisely nature's attributes that we must try to emulate. If we are going to be dealing with the laws of nature, it is only fitting that we must learn them, in order to avoid any confusion between our materialistic world and the more purposeful world we are headed toward.

Laws of Nature

Law of the Conservation of Energy (and its conversion from state to state): Everything in the universe is energy, which can be converted to a material-taking form. This is how our thoughts and ideas that are a form of energy can take on forms and be realized in our reality.

Law of Relativity: Thoughts are neutral; there is no good or bad until we have the opportunity to compare one thing to something else.

Law of Vibration: The human law of attraction is based on nothing in the universe being in a state of rest, despite our senses deceiving us into thinking so. We are dealing with energy that is dependent on our thoughts, which in turn influence our feelings and sensations.

Law of Polarity: Everything in the universe has its opposite side: heating/cooling, upward/downward; every state in life includes the opposite form.

Law of Cyclicity: The law determines that the state will constantly change: ascents and descents, after every night comes day, the high tide and the low tide of the seas.

Law of Cause and Consequence: Just as Isaac Newton said: To every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction, both positive and negative. This can also be called the boomerang effect.

Law of Propagation of the Species: Every thought, action, or desire has its necessary time for development; beware of unripe fruit.

2) A Common Goal

Nature is a wondrous thing full of beauty and charm, full of endless inspiration that often leaves us breathless in the face of its splendor. We the people are the central point of nature: women, men and children. The moment we adjust ourselves to the laws of nature, the human nature, we will be able to live with these laws in harmony and to generate the maximum potential that awaits us, each one of us with no exceptions. Everything, external and internal nature, external and internal man, absolutely everything is connected in a chain of cause and consequence. All we have to do is discover the first connecting link, and then we will be able to gradually sense the general balance. At the moment, natural systems are not in balance; we can see examples of this throughout the world.

Today we are on the threshold of a new world, a world striving to be more social with more cohesion and a world that strives to live securely in complete opposition to the random instability that keeps throwing us from bad to worse. Indeed, we are still dealing with the negative signs, the deteriorating economy, education, ecology, and worse of all—the family unit.

The family unit is the historic defining symbol of the genders and the foundation of society. If society is the macro, then the family unit is the micro concept of the human experience on which the entire power of life and existence of the human race depends. Society and the family unit have been in constant interaction throughout all of history up until now. At the same time, men and women alike have been on a continuous moral downfall that strains all the systems connected to the family.

As the family unit gradually lost its power, society began losing its value. We can even go so far as to say that today we are seeing opposite systems forming, systems that are working against both society and individuals. From the moment we lost the central and most natural starting point, the family unit, we continued to lose our balanced development in accordance with the laws of nature.

It is important to understand that no one is to blame for the state we find ourselves in today. This is simply the most obvious outcome resulting from the materialistic path we have been following. Until today, man developed at the level of the individual desire. Man was driven by desires for ever-increasing pleasures. In this pursuit, our egos pushed us to make a foundation for ourselves in this world from a materialistic, technological, and institutional perspective. People explored the limits of their potential development in the above above-mentioned systems, while developing as a part of the general system. All individuals within the general society or system underwent the same development of desires for food, family, sex, wealth, respect, power, and knowledge. This same development maintained the historic balance until now.

3) Ascending to a New Stage of Humanity

How is the new world different from the old?

The new world is the human development right in front of us, the historic man of all the generations who is now starting on his way. The concrete questions today are about the purpose of life. Attention has been diverted from the size of one's car, house, and bank account, to social issues. There is nothing random or trendy about this process; but rather, these are the first sparks of our new life. People all over the world are becoming concerned with social and global issues just as they are concerned about their personal issues. We are beginning to discover mutual ties that are committing us to something new.

Proper Cooperation Between the Genders Will Provide Us All With a Better Future

Two parts of nature, women and men, are equal and completely opposite to one another. The woman's natural system is totally tied to nature and that is why we see that it is precisely the woman who brings new life into the world and who is responsible for the hierarchical order in the home and children's education. Most natural systems are derived from women and belong to their essence. Above all, women are the catalysts of development of life in the universe.

Man is simply a reflexive reflection of women's desires. No man can move a finger without a woman pushing him from behind. There is validity to the adage "behind every great man stands a great woman." We can conclude that the impulse tying us to all the processes of development in life is none other than the female power. Without a woman's pressure and desire for perfection (love and giving), the male part completely lacks yearning.

Although it appears that everything happens thanks to men, history actually develops with the help of women. This is because all the inter-connections between one state of development to the next, superior state, derives from women's desires, which the male desires are meant to complete. Additionally, the female part is responsible for the birth of new states in our world. So it turns out that the male part cannot attain a connection between historic states of development without the female part, and the female part cannot perform its connecting task between states without the help of men.

The Central Issue

Women spend more time thinking about inequality than they do thinking about their natural essence; this blocks them from realizing their full potential. Inequality only exists at our natural starting point. . But with regard to the purpose of life and leveraging the human values within us both emotionally and intellectually, we are all equal. The natural differences we see are simply an external sign of so-called separate systems, which are meant to form a connecting bridge for realizing life. The truth is that there is a disinformation of terms here because inequality in our world means a female manager earning less than her male counterpart, which is correct in itself.

However, if we are discussing human qualities, then equality is a relative issue; each side contributes and brings its part in an equal and utmost manner, in accordance with its abilities. The fact that we are different must be maintained since social justice is based on our common identification of what exists inside me. Every female part, just as the male, that wants to express its participation in the general processes by cancelling its natural attributes is destroying, more than building.

A conceptually equal system obligates each of the genders to maintain their natural capabilities so that they can equally contribute to the whole. What do we need this entire ritual for? The power of opposition, the polarity is what builds the correct balance between genders by and large.

Two Forces

All of nature is made up of two forces that exist within it: the force of reception and the force of bestowal. What is special in our time is that we are on the verge of discovering forces of bestowal in the world. We still do not have the correct tools to know how to use the force of bestowal properly or optimally. In fact, society at large is still in its infancy in this regard and even more accurately is a baby that has not yet been born. The truth is that you may not want to accept this fact, but it is difficult to reject it.

This is all tied to our common life processes. If we are talking about our system of basic necessities then everyone does as they like, but since we are talking from square one about global mutual ties, historic ties of the human race, of men, of women, and their common result, children, then we must begin to internalize, to implement certain values, and to apply new emotional attitudes to old questions.

Life can no longer continue being a materialistic summary of a matter for a period of months or years or of numbers and tax reports. Just as a person demands bread for his living, his soul is demanding its nourishment as well: The emotional complex of our togetherness, along with more advanced forms of our common development together. These are processes that will take all our renewed creative powers of our renewed life.

Until today we could manage because we were mainly driven by the ego, and our development was natural and inevitable. The same form developed from generation to generation to fill the material spaces throughout time. Each historic period was characterized by various transformations but they all had a common denominator: to bring us to the limit of our private material abilities, which is our ticket into the new general world. We are standing on the threshold of this new world.

As we mentioned earlier, the forces of bestowal are beginning to operate in our world, but still not with our conscious participation. To bestow, meaning receiving something beyond the standard in return for what I give, was not possible until now. Of course, we can give money to the poor all over the world, but in return for this action, we gain the respect of others, or if we do it anonymously, we still achieve personal satisfaction. We can perform this type of giving. But to bestow simply for the sake of bestowal, for the general good, in which all the profits from my work will go toward the general good; that is still very far from us.

We will approach the implementation phase gradually, just like we do any other natural process in our lives, going from the simple to more difficult phases. So before we learn and implement the general force of bestowal that exists in nature—love, we can begin by at least not doing harm to one another. To the same extent that I would not want anyone to do me harm, I can refrain from harming them. We all know that love cannot be created by force. Love is a result of the balance and harmony of all parts of nature. That is the process before us.

Conclusion

All of nature's wondrous system, the entire universe throughout all of history is waiting to continue its desired development. "Desired" is emphasized in contrast to the failed system we are currently living in or to the worse-yet legacy of the depleted and distressed world we are passing on to our children and grandchildren.

This is precisely the point in time, the very next moment, here and now, that the woman's role is vital to the continuation of our species on this planet, to life itself. Men by nature would be happy to continue playing in the very sick sandbox of our time; playing with the financial industry and the arms industry, playing right up until the point that there will not be one human left on the planet. The only force that can reign in this children's game at the moment is that of the global woman. The continuation of life is dependent on the presence and intervention of women.

Seventy percent of the world's population is comprised of women and children. Their cultural propensity for creating real and good life here on earth must step forward to the front of the stage. The impulse and desire must come from women; they must take the reins into their own hands. This may sound slightly exaggerated, but it is the truth. All the destructive results that men brought to the world are floating to the top now, one after the other.

Women are known to be more practical, closer to nature, seeking security, able to multi-task, and the source of life that brings children into the world; they must be the operational part of the new times, of the new world. It is safe to assume that men will not make the transition easy, and not give up their games so readily. Therefore, as the crisis deepens, the world will become more and more dependent on women's determination to save and enhance the general situation of the quality of our lives.

Women in Power

Ireland President Mary McAleese Nov. 11, 1997

Finland President Tarja Halonen Mar. 1, 2000

Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel Nov. 22, 2005

Liberia President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Jan. 16, 2006

India President Pratibha Patil Jul. 25, 2007 Argentina President Cristina Fernandez de
Kirchner Dec. 10, 2007

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed Jan. 6, 2009

Iceland Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurdardóttir Feb. 1, 2009 - appointed 2009 Croatia
Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor Jul. 6, 2009

Lithuania President Dalia Grybauskaite Jul. 12, 2009

Kyrgyzstan President Rosa Otunbayeva Apr. 7, 2010

Costa Rica President Laura Chinchilla May 8, 2010

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar May 26, 2010

Australia Prime Minister Julia Gillard Jun. 24, 2010

Slovakia Prime Minister Iveta Radicová Jul. 8, 2010

Brazil President Dilma Rousseff Jan. 1, 2011

Switzerland President Micheline Calmy-Rey Jan. 1, 2011

Peru Prime Minister Rosario Fernández Mar. 19, 2011

Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga Apr. 7, 2011

Thailand Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra Aug. 8, 2011

[Source](#)

The Road to Social Justice

Throughout the world, nations and peoples are awakening. They are demanding of their governments to listen to their cries, recognize their pains, and resolve their problems. The uproar is not only over food or housing prices. At the bottom of it stands a firm demand for *social justice*.

Yet, social justice is an elusive goal. With so many sections of society affected by inflation, unemployment, and lack of education, one person's justice might very well entail another person's injustice. In the current structure of society, it seems that whatever solution is reached, it will only perpetuate, if not exacerbate the injustice, causing widespread disillusionment, which could lead to more violence, and even war.

Therefore, the solution to the demand for social justice must include *all factions of society*, none excluded. The 2011 "Spring of the Nations" proves that the world has changed from the root. Humanity has become a single global entity, and as such, requires that we acknowledge every part of it - nations and individuals - as worthy in their own right. Nations no longer tolerate occupation, and people no longer tolerate oppression. Compare humanity to a human body containing numerous organs of different functionalities. Yet, no organ is redundant. Every organ both contributes what it should to the body, and receives what it needs.

Likewise, the approach toward a solution for the unrests in all the countries must be one that includes *all* parts of society. The keywords to all negotiations involving government officials and protesters should be "thoughtful deliberation." The negotiations should be based on the premise that all parties' demands have merit and should be addressed respectfully, and yet, because so many parties have just demands, the parties must take the other parties' demands into account, as well.

In such deliberations, there are no "good guys" or "bad guys." There are people with genuine interests, sharing their problems with one another and trying to reach an acceptable, *dignified* solution for all sides.

Think of a large and loving family. Everyone in the family has his or her needs: grandpa needs his pills, dad needs a new suit for the new job he got, mom needs her Pilates lessons, and the big brother has just been accepted into a prestigious, high-priced college. So the family gets together for a family meeting, a bit like thanksgiving but without the turkey. They talk about their incomes, argue about priorities, share their needs, squabble a bit, and laugh a lot. And in the end, they know what's necessary, what's not, who will get what he or she needs now, and who will get it later. But since they are all connected, a family, they agree to wait because after all, they're family.

In many respects, globalization and growing interdependence have turned humanity into one giant-size family. Now we just need to learn to work as such. If we think about it, a big family is always safer than being alone, if it only truly acts like a healthy, loving family.

Also, we must keep in mind that in almost all the countries, governments are struggling with mounting deficits and debt, and there is not enough resources to go around, but there are certainly enough resources to allow for respectable living for all, if only we *acknowledge* each other's needs. Therefore, the "big family" is the best way to ensure that social justice is eventually achieved.

Granted, not all demands can be met at once. But if we discuss our needs openly, and join forces working toward resolving all the problems, we will be able to decide which problems are the most urgent, and which can be addressed subsequently. Just as in a family, the idea is not to break down the system, but to adjust it, tune it into catering to people's needs rather than catering to the wants of various pressure groups.

King Arthur had a round table, around which he and his knights would congregate. As its name suggests, the table had no head, implying that everyone who sat there was of equal status. Similarly, governments and citizens need to understand that there is no way to resolve the social problems unless by discussing everyone's problems while seated together at a round table (metaphorically if not physically). We must remember that we are all mutually responsible for one another and that we're interdependent, like in a family. The problems that seem to tackle us around each corner are not the causes, but the *symptoms* of our real problem - lack of solidarity, and mutual responsibility for one another. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we resolve them specifically in this way - the round table - and by resolving these problems one at a time we will gradually build a society that is governed by mutual guarantee. Indeed, the mindset of mutual guarantee is the real reason why Nature is presenting us with these problems. And once we achieve mutual guarantee among us, they will be gone like the wind.

The solution, therefore, lies in shifting our viewpoints from self-entitlement to social-entitlement, putting the society first, and our egos next, *in order to eventually benefit ourselves*.

In practical terms, this solution entails three goals:

1. Guaranteeing the necessary provision to every member of society.
2. Guaranteeing the continuation of that mindset by inculcating prosocial values using mass media and the internet, and primarily the social networks.
3. Using our prosocial work for self-enhancement in order to fully realize the potential that lies within each of us.

To achieve **goal 1**, an international panel of statespersons, economists, and sociologists, in which there are representatives from all the nations, must be set up and devise a plan for establishing a just and sustainable economy. Note that the term “just” does not refer to equal distribution of funds or resources (natural or human). Rather, a just economy is one where no person on earth is left uncared for. Thus, a starving child in Kenya may not need the latest model of iPhone, but it is undoubtedly entitled to proper nourishment, a roof over the head, proper education, and proper healthcare.

Conversely, a child of a similar age in Norway may already have the latest model of iPhone, but still feel miserable to the point of taking his or her own life, or worse yet, that of others, as recent events in that country have shown us. The distress in the two cases is very different, but just as acute, and both must be addressed by the panel, keeping in mind that, as Paul Krugman, the 2008 Nobel prize laureate in economy and *The New York Times* columnist said, “We are all in the same boat.”

Achieving **goal 2** requires a shift of mindset. Since the media determines the public agenda, it is the media that must lead the way to annihilation of self-centeredness. Instead of the current “Me, me, me,” attitude it has been cultivating for the past several decades, the new mottoes should be “We, we, we,” “mutual guarantee,” and “one for all and all for one.” If the media explains about the benefits of mutual guarantee, and the harm in the narcissistic approach, we will naturally gravitate toward sharing and caring, rather than toward suspecting and isolating ourselves. If commercials and infomercials show veneration toward giving individuals then we will all begin to want to give, just as today when the media shows reverence to the rich and powerful, we want to be rich and powerful, as well.

Such a prosocial mindset will guarantee that our society remains just and compassionate toward all people, and at the same time that all the people *willingly* contribute to that society. Additionally, many of today’s regulating and restraining agencies, such as the police, the army, and financial regulators will either become obsolete or require a fraction of the resources and human power that they require today. Thus, all those financial and human resources will be directed toward improving our daily lives, rather than merely keeping them relatively safe, with diminishing success.

In such an encouraging and prosocial atmosphere, **goal 3**, “Using our prosocial work for self-enhancement,” will be a natural offshoot. Society will encourage, strive, and *make efforts* to guarantee that each of us realizes his or her personal potential to the maximum, because when that potential is used for the common good, it is in society’s *interest* that we realize it to the fullest. Moreover, liberated from the need to protect ourselves from a hostile environment, a treasure trove of new energies will lend themselves to our self-realization. The result will be eradication of depression and all its related ills, and a dramatic improvement in our satisfaction from life.

After a few months of living in a society oriented mindset, we will not understand how we could ever think that self-interest was a good idea. The evident success and happiness of

such a society will yield ever growing motivation to promote and strengthen it, thus creating a perpetual motion in favor of society, and at the same time, in favor of each of its members, without neglecting a single one of them.

In our globalized reality, only a structure that deems the happiness and well-being of *all* the people in the world *equally important* can prove sustainable and successful.

Proposal

The Round Table for Women

- The "Round Table", a project promoted by the ARI Institute is a symposium among equals, in which everyone is encouraged to express his or her opinion
- The Round Table is moderated by a discussion leader who leads the debate on social issues among people and activists, representatives of different organizations, people from the academy, influential people and members of all the social classes.

Goals of the Round Table

- To enhance cooperation among different parts of society through deliberations in symposiums.
- To point out problems and social issues
- To present diverse opinions regarding the social situation
- To bring up possible solutions to the social problems we are facing
- To encourage cooperation and sharing of views
- Every participant will be allowed enough time to present his or her views and ideas, and will also be able to relate to what others have said
- The public will be invited to participate and to comment on the discussions and we will present some of them on live broadcast.