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Alanna Leslie:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Australia, Tanzania and Trinidad and Tobago.

But first...

India's Supreme Court has published a book of advice urging judges to avoid sexist language when referring to women.

The "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes" seeks to eliminate the use of archaic terms like "seductress", "vamp", "spinster", and "harlot" which perpetuate negative views of women in sexual-assault cases

Ayushi Shah has this report from Mumbai, India

Ayushi Shah: In India, the scales of justice are sometimes tipped against the very people they're meant to protect - the women of the country.

Picture this: a courtroom where words and ideas like "seductress", "slut", and "all women are weak" are tossed around casually when crimes against the very same women are discussed.

Here is some good news though.

The Supreme Court of India is making waves with its recently launched "Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes". It's a 30-page manifesto that guides judges by helping them ditch this demeaning language.

D Y Chandrachud: *It contains a glossary of gender unjust terms and suggests alternative words or phrases which may be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments.*



Ayushi Shah: This is what India's Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had to say as he launched the handbook.

Some of the new guidelines include: Use sex worker instead of hooker; use the words 'sexually harassed or assaulted' instead of 'ravished by him'; don't use the word 'child prostitute', use 'child who has been trafficked'.

Aishwariya Singh: *Indian legislations will still continue to use the term prostitute when the handbook has recommended that the term sex worker should be used.*

Ayushi Shah: Aishwariya Singh, a lawyer who specialises in women's rights.

So Aishwariya, this is a great first step, but is it really going to make a difference to the judges' language, or is it just a band aid on a much more complex issue?

Aishwariya Singh: *I won't say that this is a band aid but I think the language that ascribes women to an inferior position is only part of the problem and larger, systematic issues still remain.*

Ayushi Shah: 17-year-old student Yashvi Mehta tells me that while it is a step in the right direction, she does not think that it is going to have a lasting impact.

Yashvi Mehta: *Gender discrimination is deeply rooted in cultural and social norms. To remove it completely, we would need more initiatives like the handbook, one being a strict punishment for rape crimes.*

Ayushi Shah: Another 17-year-old, Riddhi Joshi, who is studying to become a lawyer, is more optimistic about the impact of this handbook. In fact, she also has some ideas about how the handbook can be implemented better.

Riddhi Joshi: *There should be stricter laws for judges and lawyers too. Like, for example if a judge uses such discriminatory words then he should be fined.*



Ayushi Shah: In a nation grappling with persistent crimes against women, the introduction of this handbook is a promising step towards a fairer and more equitable society.

However, let's remember, forging a society where women experience genuine safety and respect will need more than just this handbook. It requires an evolution of our laws and a collective commitment to change.

This is Ayushi Shah reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai, India

Alanna: Thanks Ayushi

Alanna:

A group of young climate change activists in the U.S have won a landmark case against the state of Montana.

The group successfully argued that the state's pro-fossil fuel policies violate their constitutional rights, including the right to a clean and healthy environment.

Montana is one of a number of states in the U.S that explicitly grants this right to its citizens, alongside Pennsylvania and New York.

18-year-old plaintiff Kian Turner said of the judge's decision: *"Frankly the elation and joy in my heart is overwhelming [...] We set the precedent not only for the United States, but for the world."*

Alanna:

A woman in Australia is recovering well after an 8cm live worm was extracted from her brain during surgery – the first time a larva has developed in that part of the human body.

She was admitted to hospital in 2021 after her symptoms of stomach pain and night sweats grew worse and she started to experience memory loss and depression.



Dr Hari Priya Bandi, the neurosurgeon who found the worm, told BBC News it was “definitely not what we were expecting”:

Dr Hari Prya Bandi: *I took my tweezers, and I pulled it out and I thought gosh! What is that? It's moving! Take it out of my hands.*

Alanna: Doctors suspect that the woman may have come into contact with the parasite while she was collecting a type of grass found near the lake where she lives.

Alanna:

That was a short clip of Jolene, from the Trinidadian artist Kes.

It's an example of Socca, a genre of music that originated in Trinidad and Tobago in the early 1970s.

Alanna:

Now, primary school children across Tanzania will begin a new curriculum from next year after the government announced a series of educational reforms.

The reforms include reducing the number of years that children will be in primary school education from seven years to six.

The aim is to transform Tanzania's education system to better prepare pupils for the workplace.

Charles Kombe has this report from Dar es Salaam

Teacher: *Good afternoon class!*

Students: *Good afternoon, sir!*

Charles Kombe: That's the sound of students being taught at Tusiime Primary School in Dar es Salaam. It's just one of the schools that is going to be affected by educational reforms that the government are introducing next year.

The government's initiative aims to ensure that the content of students' learning aligns with the priorities of the 21st century. This shift allows students to explore practical skills like fine art, music and home management.

From grade three to six, the curriculum will enhance language skills, mathematics, social sciences, arts, and sports, all instructed in English. Social science covers Tanzanian history, ethics, geography, and environment, while also introducing French, Chinese, and Arabic.

Agneslisa Deogratus is 12 years old. They think that the reforms will help students develop their talents.

Agneslisa Deogratus: *It will help children who their parents stick to informing them to work hard, work hard, work hard, but they also have talents which they wish to do that may cause them to have examination phobia and leave their talents away.*

Charles Kombe: Michael Millinga believes that the curriculum will benefit not only students but also parents.

Michael Millinga: *Parents sometimes these days are complaining on the fee that they have to pay for a child's education but now with this new curriculum it can help parents to reduce the amount of money used to pay for that kind of education.*

Charles Kombe: In our schools today, as students go from grade one to grade seven, some students like Nabeel Ahmed says the longer time students spent in school was a challenge.

Nabeel Ahmed: *We are passing through seven classes from grade one to grade seven, that may cause forgetfulness.*

Charles Kombe: Education policy experts have embraced the decision but believe more needs to be done to ensure the initiative is a success.



Dr. Wilberforce Meena is an Education Technical Advisor at Hakielimu, a non-profit dedicated to quality education for all.

Dr. Wilberforce Meena: *This is a big movement as a nation and I think we need a very, very, very good preparation for that. You need to transform the schools, you need to change the school systems completely. Of course, I know that the curriculum and the syllabus, perhaps they are ready but you need teachers, you'll need a lot of resources, you need a lot of prior preparation before the implementation of the curriculum.*

Charles Kombe: Meanwhile, students like these at Tusiime Primary School are hopeful that the curriculum change will usher in a new era of educational excellence, fostering a competitive Tanzanian education system that aligns with global standards.

Charles Kombe, Newsreel World, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Charles! That's all from me today. See you soon, bye!