



In support of

HeForShe

UN Women Solidarity Movement
for Gender Equality

Thank you for the opportunity to promote male support for the full human rights of all females – adult and child. It is difficult to believe that in a society such as ours in the 21st Century we would still need to be agitating for such things – we are not as civilised as we smugly believe we are.

My wife Joanne and I are active funders in the social development space in developing countries. One of our most valued partnerships is with UNICEF because it champions the cause of human rights for women and children, eschews religion and ties its funding to governments' accepting that affirmative action on behalf of women is the only way for a society to progress.

That general principle of affirmative action toward women and girls is common in the philanthropic space that focuses on social development. For example, quite separately, we fund directly an eye clinic in Gilgit, North Pakistan that only provides its services to women and girls – because the nearby State facility only serves men.

The struggle for gender equality is as much a campaign to educate men, including tellingly, men who think they are educated and are in positions of power in our communities. It should not be necessary and until we reach that point where it no longer is, we all have a lot to do to curb the social cancer that discrimination is, and certainly no right to think of ourselves as “civilised”.

Dr Gareth Morgan

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