

# Gifts of Speech News

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## Featured Product



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### 1. Hope for Uganda to Criminalize FMG

From Women's eNews:

Earlier this month a member of Uganda's parliament introduced a bill to criminalize female genital mutilation, a traditional coming-of-age practice of cutting off all or part of a girl's clitoris. Though relatively rare in Uganda, the mutilation is still practiced by two ethnic communities in the eastern part of the country.

Chris Baryomunsi, a doctor elected to Parliament three years ago, says he has gained overwhelming support so far from male and female legislators throughout the country for the bill, receiving endorsements from members of many different backgrounds.

Read the whole article at the link below.

Link: <http://www.womensnews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/4026/context/cover/>

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### 2. Mousavi to Review Laws 'Unfair' Women

From [Agence France-Presse](#)

Iranian presidential hopeful Mir Hossein Mousavi vowed on Saturday (5/30/09) to review laws which are "unfair" towards women if he wins next month's election.

Addressing a cheering crowd of women screaming "Mousavi! Mousavi!", the moderate candidate, who served as prime minister during the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, said he would work to towards taking the moral police patrols off the streets if elected in the

June 12 poll.

Mir Hossein Mousavi is married to [Zahra Rahnavard](#) who was chancellor of Alzahra University in Tehran, Iran, from 1998 to 2006. She is also a well-known artist and political scientist with a PhD. Women have the right to vote in Iran, and Zahra Rahnavard [is doing all she can](#) to help her husband win this upcoming election.

Read more about Zahra Rahnavard at [Thousands gather to hear, cheer Iran's Michelle Obama](#), and at the link below.

See her FaceBook page [here](#).

Link: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090524/en\\_afp/iranvotewomenrahnavaardleadprofile](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090524/en_afp/iranvotewomenrahnavaardleadprofile)

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### 3. Inspiring Young Woman

From [CNN's Young People Who Rock](#):

"I remember sitting in journalism class in college and hearing the professor say, "It's about giving a voice to the voiceless." I never forgot it, because it seemed to me to be the purest way to describe the power of the press." Neela Banerjee is putting the idea into action as the editor of [YO!](#)

**YO!** stands for Youth Outlook. It's a magazine that's part of a non-profit media group in San Francisco. YO! content is generated mostly by young people who are coming out of "the system"- incarceration, foster care, rehabilitation facilities. "They take cameras into their neighborhoods and show us what their life is like. They are able to show some of the complexity of communities around the bay area that often gets lost in main stream media," Neela says.

Neela compensates all journalists the same, no matter age or socio-economic background. Sometimes, though, she works with youngsters whose literacy is below par to get them to a point where they can effectively communicate their story. "Everyone one can be the media. Everyone is a journalist. We all have access to the tools to tell stories that happen around us and luckily I'm here to distribute it."

Link: <http://www.youthoutlook.org/news/>

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#### 4. Bk Review: Murder in the Name of Honor

Posted by Natalia Antonova on Feministe -

"I attended the Jordanian launch [of "[Murder in the Name of Honor](#)"] last night, and finished the book within the space of a few hours. Reading it took precedent over biological functions such as eating and sleeping. I couldn't put it down.

Rana Husseini is a Jordanian journalist and human rights campaigner. When she first started investigating honour crime, she had the pleasure of sifting through death-threats in her mailbox. She pressed on, and her badass determination served as an example to others. *Murder in the Name of Honour* speaks of years of struggle on many fronts.

Read the complete review at the link below.

Link: <http://www.feministe.us/blog/archives/2009/06/03/murder-in-the-name-of-honour/>

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#### 5. June Site of the Month



By

## [Bob Gasche in Gainsville.com](#)

The opportunity for women pilots to fly military aircraft during World War II evolved from the efforts of Jacqueline Cochran, a legendary aviator and successful business woman. She convinced Gen. "Hap" Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces, that women pilots given the same training as Aviation Cadets would be capable of flying military aircraft.

On Sept. 15, 1942, Cochran's proposed military flying program was officially approved. This decision to provide military pilot training for selected women proved to be one of the best decisions made during World War II and paved the way for women to serve as pilots in America's armed forces.

The WASP compiled an outstanding record as they displayed their skill, determination and versatility on many occasions. Their assignments included towing targets for gunnery practice, ferrying, flying the new B-29 bombers to prove they were safe for men to fly, timing engines, transporting cargo and personnel, providing instrument instruction, training navigators and bombardiers, and many other hazardous assignments.

They accomplished this in spite of gender discrimination that required them to fly planes needing repairs, purchase their own uniforms (later they were issued), receive no insurance or burial benefits, no G.I. Bill, and no military rank or honors. Thirty-eight WASP lost their lives in the line of duty.

The GoS site of the month for June - [WASP on the Web](#) - recognizes this select group of young women pilots who were pioneers, heroes, and role models. They were the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft. **WASP on the WEB**, is a site dedicated to sharing the history of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, and to shining a light on the inspirational stories of their lives before, during and after WWII.

Visit the site at the link below. For more info on the WASP, read [this article at CNN](#).

Link: <http://www.wingsacrossamerica.us/wasp/>



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--Liz Kent

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