







2. As the highlands regions transitions to a cash-based economy, traditional customs are often distorted to fit new opportunities. Buying wives is common, and elevates male status, while dramatically diminishing the rights and possibilities of young brides to escape violent marriages. Bride price and polygamy combined enables me

4. the advent of TV, video and DVDs have led to a huge influx of affordable B grade movies, and pornographic material viewed in a context of limited or no legal litera

their family's basic needs and to seek justice. Their greatest desire is for peace to be restored soon so that they can return to their rightful hs0 0.24 68

The bravest of the leaders have become outstanding Women's Human rights defenders. They have empowered themselves to personally and physically intervene to stop domestic violence, for example, when men beat their wives, girlfriends or their sisters or daughters. Voice for Change has a 7 women member team of like-minded women who regularly defend women's human rights and intervene when a woman is encountering violence such

that they have a sense of financial security which enabled them to meet the basic needs for their families. One of the most promising new ideas to is to unite Women market vendors is a mass association, to give them voice in visioning, planning, budgeting and managing the markets, which are their mains site of income earning.

There are other communities and faith based organizations and government organizations work to support the social, economic and political empowerment of rural women at their own level, pace and capacity. There have historically been a variety of initiatives to establish rural women's cooperatives and associations. All of these institutions face similar challenges, including the lack of appropriate infrastructure, communication, organizational and staff capacity and a lack of consistent technical and financial resources. These organizations must be supported and united because they are share a common urgent mandate, to promote the interests of rural women and give voice to rural women themselves.