

# Tackling Africa's demography is not just a matter of improving education and economic growth, it is also about to consider women's rights!

Letter to the Editor (Financial Times)

Sir, I write regarding the article "Failure to address Africa's rising population is not an option" (FT Health G20 Special Report, July 7). Authors John May and Hans Groth make the important point that tackling demographic dynamics is not just a matter of improving education and economic growth, but must also consider women's rights. Key to this is the link between domestic violence and fertility. Currently, one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. In a relationship, this can mean intimate partners deny women and girls access to contraception and safe abortions, forcing them to have multiple pregnancies. If global attempts to achieve "a contraceptive revolution" at today's London Family Planning Summit are to be successful, it is critical that we tackle the way violence in relationships affects family planning.

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