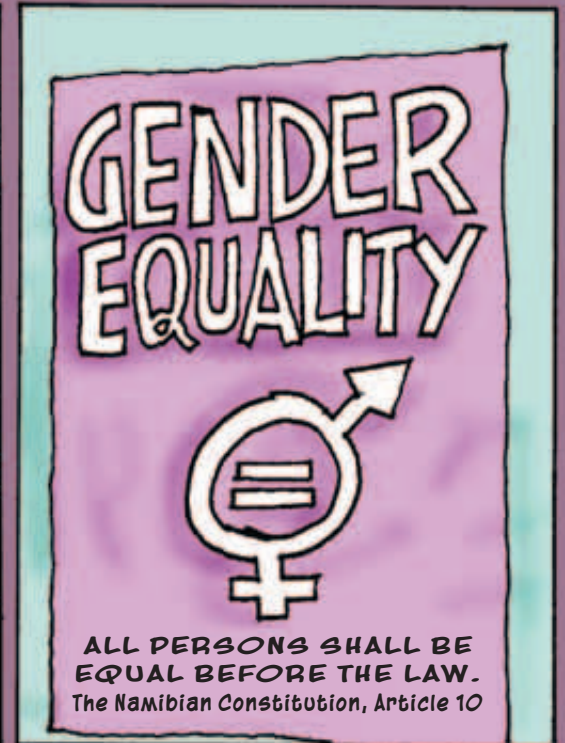


WHAT DOES GENDER EQUALITY MEAN IN A RELATIONSHIP?



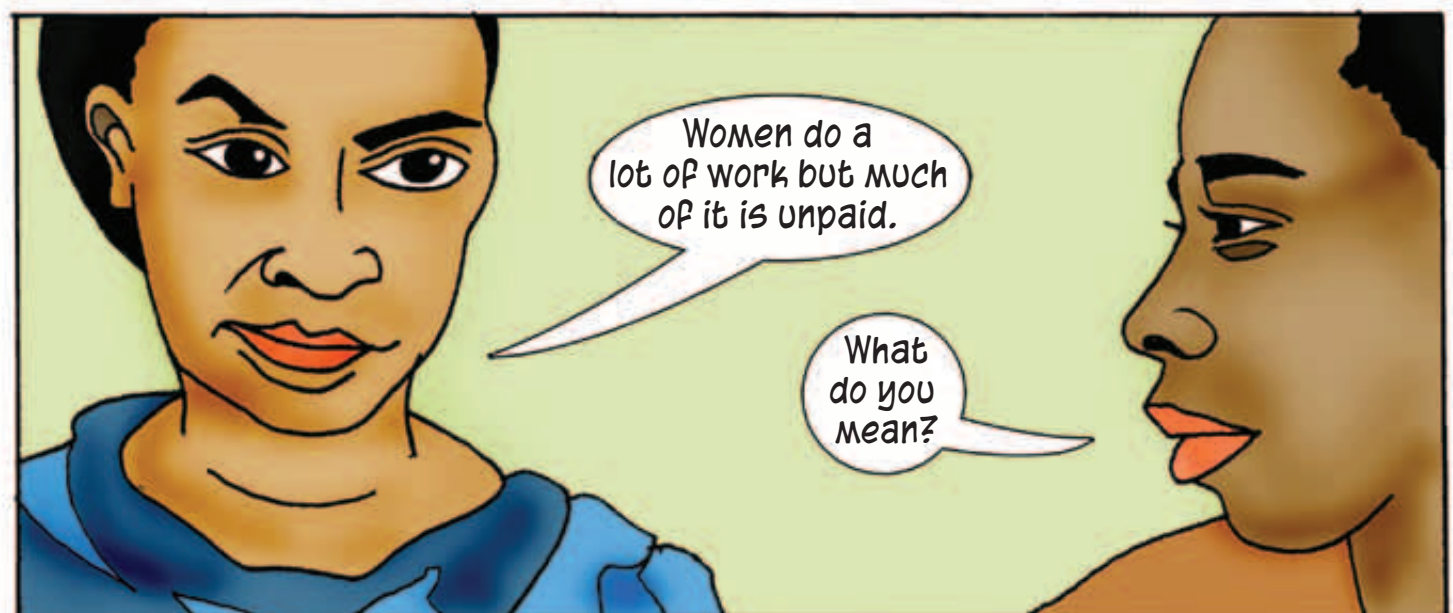
Would you like a poster? Children from our youth group made posters about gender equality. We want to educate people in our community about gender equality.

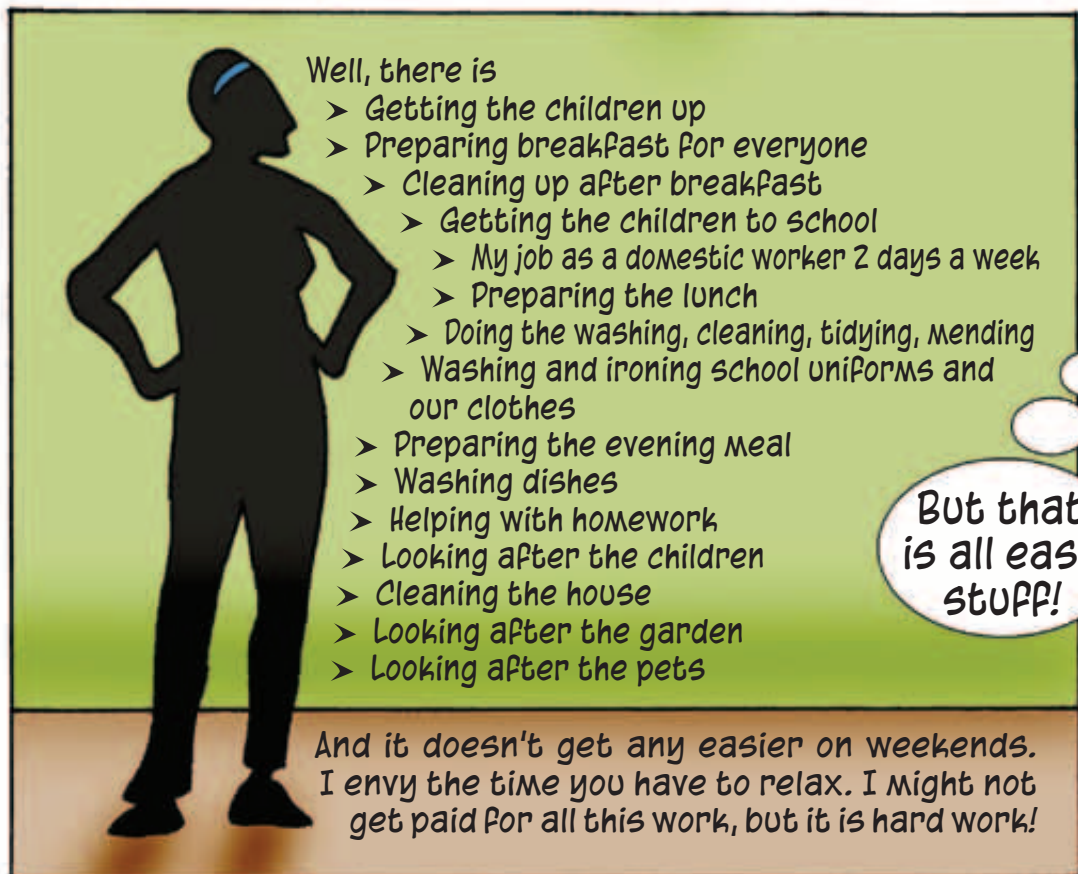
BACK AT HOME ...



Look at this. A community group in our town gave me this poster.

Yeah, yeah, all people are equal. But I am the man in this house and that means I am in charge, ok?!





THE NEXT DAY ...

I have caught the flu. I can't even get out of bed. Can you look after the children today?

No problem.

Ahhhh this is chaos.

This is harder than a day in the office. I am tired already.

What a day! Now I understand what my wife was saying about her work. I have learnt an important lesson today. Men and women have equal value.

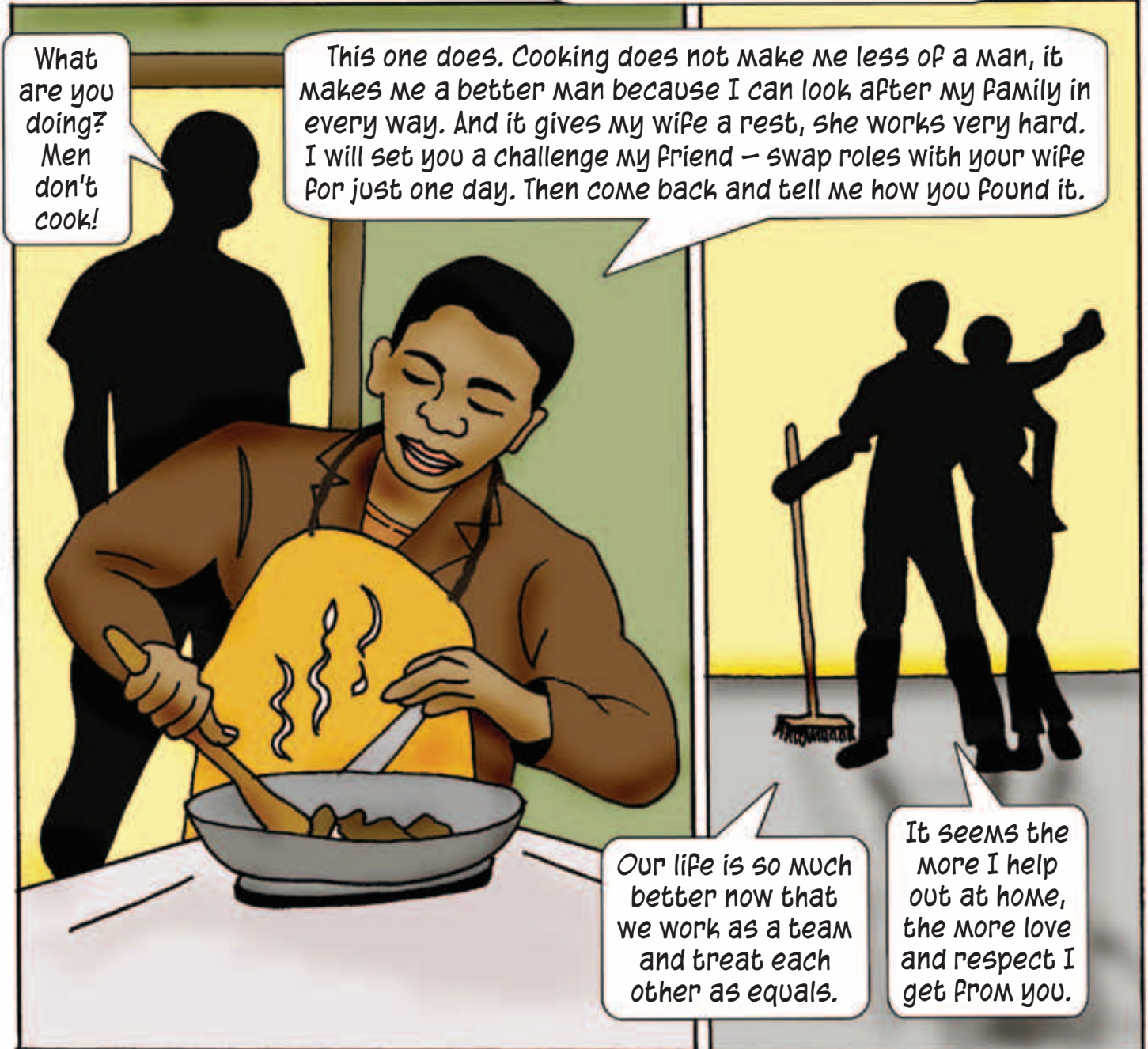
This is going to take forever.



Let us go through your list of household tasks and see what I could do. I could help the children with homework and I could help with some cleaning on the weekends.

That would be amazing! And we would have more time together if you could help me!

I have always thought cooking looks interesting. So many of the great chefs in the world are men. If you could help me at first, I could even give that a try. I might end up being brilliant at it!



What are you doing? Men don't cook!

This one does. Cooking does not make me less of a man, it makes me a better man because I can look after my family in every way. And it gives my wife a rest, she works very hard. I will set you a challenge my friend - swap roles with your wife for just one day. Then come back and tell me how you found it.

Our life is so much better now that we work as a team and treat each other as equals.

It seems the more I help out at home, the more love and respect I get from you.

Have you seen what Martha and her husband are doing? They are sharing the housework. I can't believe it!

I think it is terrible. Men should be men. They should not have to cook and clean.

I think that it is a great example to young people. I have a full-time job. I can't do all the household tasks by myself. I hope that when I get married, my husband will help me.

Men can help out around the house but they should not have to look after the children.

If a woman becomes independent, she is difficult to control.

Why do you have to control your wife? You are her partner, not her owner.

A woman must never earn more than a man.



I am terrible at fixing things around the house but my wife is really good with her hands. So she fixes things and I look after the children more.

My wife is doing an evening course. It will help her to earn more money in the future. While she is at classes I care for the children. I like being able to spend more time with my children, I have a better relationship with them now.

I swapped roles with my wife for one day. I always thought that I did all the work in the family. Now I know that she works really hard too. Now we share the household tasks more evenly.

A man should be proud of his wife if she can earn a good salary. If a man only feels like a man because of what he earns, things like love and respect are missing from the marriage.

Have you ever thought about how the work in your family is divided? Why not fill in the chart below to find out.

Time of Day	Jobs done by the man at that time	Total hours spent	Jobs done by the woman at that time	Total hours spent
5-6				
6-7				
7-8				
8-9				
9-10				
10-11				
11-12				
12-1				
13-14				
14-15				
15-16				
16-17				
17-18				
18-19				
20-21				
21-22				
22-23				
23-24				
TOTAL				

If the workload in your family is uneven, are there any changes that you could make?

I used to think that men had the right to tell women what to do. Now I know better, men and women are equal.

Being equal does not mean that we have to do the same things, or that we both have to do all the jobs in the home. It just means that the decisions we make as a family are not based on gender. My husband offered to do the cooking in our home. It turns out that he is a terrible cook. Now I am doing the cooking again. I am happy with this arrangement because I am doing something that I am good at and not just because I am a woman.

I am looking forward to a future where all men and women are equal. It will be a better place for us all.



DO YOU
... HAVE A QUESTION?
... HAVE A COMMENT?
... NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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Funding:
DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MDG3 FUND

Printing:
JOHN MEINERT PRINTING
(PTY) LTD

Publisher:
GENDER RESEARCH &
ADVOCACY PROJECT,
LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE,
2010

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For more information about gender equality, contact the Legal Assistance Centre.

