



## Primary Sources

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Sheelan Anwar Omer, seven, continues to cry after a female circumcision was performed on her. More than 60 per cent of women in Kurdish areas of northern Iraq have been circumcised.

### UK signals fight against FGM

➤ On International Women's Day this year British Prime Minister [David Cameron](#) announced that 2014 would be the year to “end violence and discrimination against women”. He singled out Female Genital Mutilation ([FGM](#)) for special focus, saying that while it is against the law in the UK there has never been a single prosecution. He promised to enforce the law—[two cases](#) have since been prosecuted—and has diverted £35 million from his development budget to ending FGM around the world. In December 2011 Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a comprehensive effort to stop [FGM in Australia](#).



PHOTO: ANDREA BRUCE/THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES, PHOTOGRAPHED AUGUST, 25, 2008 IN TUZ KHURMATU, IRAQ



### Kowloon Walled city

➤ Once the most [densely populated](#) place on earth

### Gmail turns 10

➤ How [Google](#) created the modern world

📄 PAYWALL



### Oh do shut up, dear ...

The first [recorded example](#) of a man telling a woman to “shut up”—and other moments from the public voices of women, from an engaging speech by historian Mary Beard as part of the *London Review of Books*, Winter series 2014



### The Honest Oscars

Prizes for creativity in the global [anti-corruption](#) campaign, posted on his blog *Open and Shut* by ASR contributor Peter Timmins



**“The first thing that has become clear to me is that a knowledge and technology intensive economy does not happen spontaneously. It is not something that you can leave to market forces to sort out once you have inflation and the budget under control.”**

➤ [Dr Don Russell](#), former secretary of the federal Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCS RTE) in the Gillard government and former Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Paul Keating, speaks on how to structure government to achieve good policy goals. Hint: it’s not happening.



## Too many men

- “There’s a close relationship between surging populations of young men and ‘revolutions, wars and upheavals’...” according to a [Bank of America/Merrill Lynch research paper](#).
- Current [world demographic profile](#) indicates sex ratio is not improving
- 57 of the world’s countries [have more men](#) than women

PHOTO: QZ.COM

## Angela Merkel’s map of China

➤ [One map](#), so many meanings



## OK to hate?

➤ The Abbott government proposes to water down provisions of the Racial Discrimination Act that [outlaw racial vilification](#). These provisions were introduced in 1996 by Attorney-General Michael Lavarch in the Keating government and are strongly defended by Australia’s ethnic communities, several of which have made use of the act to seek redress against vilification.

## A history of cases brought under S.18C of the Racial Discrimination Act

➤ It is unlawful for a person to do an act, otherwise than in private, if: (a) the act is reasonably likely in all the circumstances to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or group of people, and (b) the act is done because of the race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the other person or some or all of the people in the group.