

LISTS

How're They Doing?

The United Nations rarely has the power to make countries do things they don't want to do. But it can embarrass countries by ranking them according to various criteria. The hope, of course, is that bad publicity will lead countries to follow the paths of virtue. Can't say I'm optimistic, though, that appealing to the better nature of sociopaths makes any difference. Still, the indexes are fun to browse. Consider the Human Development Index, the Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index for a handful of countries that interested me.

No big surprises here. Face it: Scandinavia, Australia and New Zealand are very civilized. But it is interesting how well China does on gender inequality – and how badly the United States fares on both inequality-adjusted HDI and gender inequality. Oh, did I mention how badly India does across-the-board?



Norway



Dem. Rep. Congo

BY THE NUMBERS

COUNTRY	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX	INEQUALITY-ADJUSTED HDI	GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX
Norway.....	1	1	6
Australia	2	2	18
Netherlands.....	3	4	2
United States	4	23	47
New Zealand.....	5	n/a	32
Canada.....	6	13	20
Germany.....	9	9	7
Sweden.....	10	5	1
South Korea.....	15	32	11
Denmark.....	16	12	3
Israel.....	17	25	22
Saudi Arabia	56	n/a	135
China.....	101	102	35
India.....	134	133	129
Haiti.....	158	167	123
Zimbabwe.....	173	172	118
Mozambique.....	184	177	125
Dem. Rep. Congo....	187	187	142