Girls not at Secondary School

Territories with a big difference in the ratio of girls to boys at primary level often have a bigger difference at secondary level. In those same territories significantly fewer boys are in secondary education, so the gap between total numbers of girls and boys enrolled in each year group remains at about 3 million worldwide.

In 104 territories boys and girls are equally enrolled, or girls’ enrolment slightly exceeds that of boys. These territories are mainly found in South America, North America, Eastern Europe and Western Europe. Anomalies in these regions, where more boys go to secondary school than girls, include: Peru, Guatemala, Bulgaria, Italy and Switzerland.

Territory size is proportional to the excess male over female enrolment in secondary education there.

Technical notes
- Data are from the United Nations Development Programme’s 2004 Human Development Report.
- *Female enrolment equals or exceeds that of males in 104 territories.
- **All figures rounded to the nearest percent.
- See website for further information.

“...my father thinks it’s a waste letting me go to school. It’s better for my family to let me work than go to school. My father also says it’s easier for men to tell girls what to do if they don’t have an education.”

Aisata, 2002

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