**FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY:**
**EXPERIENCE, PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS OF WOMEN REGARDING VAWG**

In the South Mediterranean region, there is little reliable information about the prevalence and trends in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). However, some studies about the reality of women illustrate the magnitude of the problem and show alarming figures on VAWG. Advancing women’s rights and combating all forms of VAWG are priorities for Euro Mediterranean countries as stated in the 4th Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on “Strengthening the Role of Women in Society” (Cairo, 2017) and States are responsible for enacting and implementing laws and public policies to combat VAWG and ensure achieving gender equality.

In 2019, the Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) on VAWG was established to follow up on the implementation of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration, particularly in the area of VAWG, Women, the Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). The RCSO was established under a three-year (2019-2021) regional project “Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region”, funded by the EU and implemented by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) and a consortium of nine member organizations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

In December 2019, the RCSO launched a survey in these seven countries to assess the level of awareness of women towards the laws and services provided for victims of VAWG, as well as to know the personal experience, perception and values related to VAWG.

Methodology:
- Between December 2019 and January 2020
- In seven countries in the South Mediterranean region
- Quantitative survey
- 2,870 questionnaires exploited
A- Legal Framework:
Women can apply for a passport or any identification papers for her or her children in the same way as men.

- 46% of women declared they can apply for a passport or other identification papers for themselves or their children on the same basis as their husbands.
- 83% of women reported that it is unacceptable for a husband to hit his wife regardless of the reason.
- 87% of women were against child marriage.
- 85% of women declared that VAWG is common in their country. While 63% believe that it is increasing.

B- Personal Experience Towards VAWG:

B1. Women who received a death threat from their husband, or other family members during the last 12 months.

- 19% of women reported that they have received death threats from their husbands, or other family members during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- 20% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife leaves the house without informing her husband.
- 15% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife neglects her kids.
- 11% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife refuses sex.
- 7% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife argues with her husband.

B2. Women who complained after receiving death threats

- 68% of women reported that VAWG is common in their country.
- 63% believe that it is increasing.

Yet, some women stated that domestic violence is acceptable under certain circumstances

- 3% of women who received a death threat from their husband, or other family members during the last 12 months:
  - 13% of women reported that this only happened once.
  - 6% of women reported that this happened several times.
  - 68% of women reported that they did not file a formal complaint.
  - 29% of women reported that they did file a formal complaint.

- 29% of women reported that they do not file a formal complaint.

Surveys breakdown:

- 20% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife leaves the house without informing her husband.
- 15% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife neglects her kids.
- 11% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife refuses sex.
- 7% of women declared domestic violence is acceptable if a wife argues with her husband.

Amongst the 19% of women who received death threats from their husbands, or other family members during the last 12 months:

- 80% of women declared they can apply for a passport or other identification papers for themselves or their children on the same basis as their husbands.
- 6% of women reported that it is unacceptable for a husband to hit his wife regardless of the reason.
- 87% of women were against child marriage.
- 85% of women declared that VAWG is common in their country. While 63% believe that it is increasing.

A- Legal Framework:
Women can apply for a passport or any identification papers for her or her children in the same way as men.
C- Attitude and Values Towards VAWG:

- It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they neglect their children: 15% YES, 83% NO, 2% NO ANSWER
- It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they go out home without telling them: 78% YES, 20% NO, 2% NO ANSWER
- It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they argue with them: 82% YES, 7% NO, 5% NO ANSWER
- It is acceptable that husbands beat their wives if they refuse sex: 85% YES, 4% NO, 1% NO ANSWER

D- Awareness Towards VAWG:

- Women’s perception that child marriage should be stopped: 87% YES, 12% NO, 1% NO ANSWER

Sources of information on VAWG:

- MEDIA: 60.21%
- RELATIVES & FRIENDS: 44.36%
- CSOs/CBOs: 23.52%
- GOVERNMENT: 11.74%
- DONT KNOW: 5.05%
- NO ANSWER: 2.51%

Women’s perception of VAWG level: 62%

Barriers that hinder women from reporting violence:

- SHAME: 26%
- PRIVATE MATTER: 10%
- OSTRACIZED BY FAMILY & FRIENDS: 17%
- FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES: 22%
- NOTHING CAN BE DONE: 5%
- NO ANSWER: 20%
- OTHER: 0%
EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network encompassing women’s rights organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean and advocates for gender equality and women’s rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of people to self-determination. EuroMed Feminist Initiative seeks to improve and promote women’s rights as universal human rights, the value of gender equality, and the use of non-violent means to solve conflicts. Our criterion and position align with the international resolutions and conventions and regional instruments promoting the universality of women’s rights and strengthening women’s impact and voices in conflict resolution.

About the Regional Civil Society Observatory on VAWG:
The Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) is an independent civil society mechanism that follows up on measures and actions to combat VAWG, in particular the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on women’s rights (November 27th, 2017, Cairo) in the area of combating all forms of VAWG, Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). The RCSO is hosted by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) in Amman, Jordan. It aims to develop regional tools to follow up on the implementation of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration. These include evaluating and highlighting gaps between international women’s rights mechanisms and national legislations, providing evidence-based recommendations to policymakers aiming to improve the efficiency of policies and measures in this field and preparing guidelines for developing WPSA, and support the adoption and implementation of further instruments on UNSCR 1325.