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EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأوروبية المتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed



Press Release

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Engendering policies and strategies in Security Institutions: The role of Internal Security Forces and General Security in protecting women on the Lebanese territory.

BEIRUT, LEBANON - The National Gender Observatory, hosted in the Ministry of State for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth (EEWAY), in partnership with the Internal Security Forces, General Security and EuroMed Feminist Initiative held a roundtable on Engendering policies and strategies in Security Institutions: The role of the Internal Security Forces and General Security in protecting women on the Lebanese territory. The roundtable was organised in the frame of the project "Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities," funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, The EU "Madad" Fund.

The roundtable gathered high-ranking Officers from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) and General Security (GS) and aimed to raise awareness on mainstreaming gender into national strategies and policies. It focused on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the gendered mechanisms that the Internal Security Forces and General Security can utilize when dealing with women affected by armed conflict. Mr. Rein Neiland, Head of Section for Governance, Security and Human Rights at the European Union Delegation to Lebanon, opened the roundtable with a warm welcome, stressing that "equality is a core value of the European Union, and a principle we will keep fighting for. Equality between women and men should not be an exception". Colonel Elie Al Asmar from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces elaborated on the vital role the Internal Security Forces plays in protecting women on the Lebanese Territory highlighting how "ISF is one of the leading public administrations which took executive steps in the application of UNSCR 1325. For the same purpose, specialized trainings on the topic have been received and several memos and internal orders have been issued. Recently, ISF participated in the drafting of the NAP."

Major Nisrine Chedid, the Gender Focal Point within the Lebanese General Security, highlighted the gender perspective of effective border management under the GS mandate. In particular and since the onset of the Syrian Crisis in 2011, the General Security played a pivotal role in the protection of women crossing the Lebanese-Syrian borders. As such, Major Chedid confirmed that "gender-sensitive border measures are part of effective border management."

Looking at engendering policies and strategies in Security Institutions, Sophie Hedenstierna, Analyst at the Capability and Cooperation Department with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM), brought to the roundtable her extensive experience integrating a gender perspective in international missions and advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in military operations. Addressing the attendees, Ms. Hedenstierna reiterated the point that having a gender perspective "adds an extra capability and not an additional burden, and ensures a full implementation of your tasks and mission."

An open discussion on the topic concluded the roundtable and allowed to draw recommendations to further enhance the role of the Internal Security Forces and the General Security in protecting women.