



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE MILESTONES AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

2010-2020



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOBAL CONFERENCE: WOMEN AND THE 21 CENTURY – FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES	2
PROMOTING A COMMON AGENDA FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN THE EURO-MED REGION	3
IRAQ - IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 - UNIQUE EXPERIENCE	4
DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY	4
IMPLEMENTATION AND NATIONAL REPORT OF THE NAP FOR UNSCR 1325	7
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN SYRIA AND STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION	13
GENDER REGIONAL PLATFORM	21
STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES FOR WOMEN REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs) AND WOMEN IN THE HOST COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON, IRAQ AND JORDAN	23
ENHANCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES IN SYRIA	29
COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION	30

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network that provides and supports expertise building in the field of gender equality and women's rights as full part of democracy and citizenship. It advocates for gender equality and women's universal human rights, for the right of peoples to self-determination, and for political, non-violent solutions to conflicts. Our reference are the international human rights mechanisms that promote women's rights and gender equality and strengthen women's impact and voices in conflict resolution.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is active in four main areas: Power and Democracy; Violence against Women, Peace and Security; Citizenship, and Women's Rights. EuroMed Feminist Initiative seeks to promote gender equality and thus contribute to democracy, sustainable development and the creation of positive changes in the whole society through:

- Developing networking and promoting international solidarity
- Providing platforms for multi-sector policy dialogue aiming at correcting gender power imbalances and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and oppression against women
- Acting for empowerment of women to self-organize for access and control over resources and power
- Creating and supporting spaces for exchange across the different socio-political borders and building common gender-based analyses, in the respect of the different contexts, that advance democracy, citizenship and peace in the region and globally.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative believes that achieving gender equality requires powerful women's movement, strong civil society, true collaboration and joined efforts. EuroMed Feminist Initiative works with members and strategic partners on the basis of core values that stem from the essence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1954), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW (1979), the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the UNSCRs advancing Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2000) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2016-2030).

EuroMed Feminist Initiative programs are guided by its Regional Strategy (2016-2020) which aims at contributing to:

- Gender equality policy development: reduced gender power imbalance curbing all forms of direct and indirect discrimination, and violence against women and girls.
- Peace, democracy and dialogue: enhanced peace, democracy and women's participation with women's rights and gender equality as core principles.
- Women empowerment: improved access and better control by women over social, economic and political resources

EuroMed Feminist Initiative acts as a dialogue partner and supports the development of thematic discourse and actions on the ground and on policy level. Each action is based on the accumulated achievements, lessons learned, experience and knowledge from previous programs. Head Quarters are in Paris. Actions are implemented through the regional and national offices in Amman and through EuroMed Feminist Initiative offices in Beirut and Erbil.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE

WOMEN AND THE 21 CENTURY – FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

DECEMBER 2010, SUPREME COUNCIL OF CULTURE, CAIRO

The Global Conference “Women and the 21 Century” was organized following up the International Conference held in Skopje in October 2009. The main objective was to strengthen feminist strategies for transformative action. 120 women and men from 24 countries from around the world gathered in Cairo Egypt on 16th -18th December 2010 to elaborate feminist proposals for peace and social justice, for democracy and development. The Conference provided space for feminist researchers and practitioners to share experiences, analyses and knowledge and to promote feminist alternatives to the present increasing influence of fundamentalisms and conservative patriarchal dominance.

The Cairo Conference will stay as a memorable event and a fruitful mix of ideas, generations and cultures. Five key ideas have been promoted and developed during the event:

I. **Uncompromising**

Towards all forms of discrimination, oppression and violence against women; towards all patriarchal values that inferiorize women in both public and private sphere.

II. **Continuity**

Building carefully based on previous results and each step is a new achievement. Cairo is now the bases of the next event, in a process nurtured by a continuous feminist involvement and work on the ground in the different countries.

III. **Advocacy**

Addressing the policy makers, governments, parliaments, the national and international institutions and striving to make feminist voices heard regarding the situation of women globally. Interacting with the democratic and peace movements to spread feminist analyses that uncovers cultural relativism, nationalisms, and social tolerance towards discrimination and violence against women.

IV. **Feminist balance of power**

In order to contribute to the creation of the requested balance of power, further develop our action to support the access of feminist women in the decision-making spheres while striving to change patriarchal mentalities and attitudes by developing all possible means of feminist education.

V. **Reflexion and action**

Keeping the link and a permanent interaction between grassroots feminist activism and feminist studies and research as an absolute necessity in order to strengthen feminist analyses and capacities of intervention.

The participants of the Global Conference in Cairo issued this declaration <http://bit.ly/2MqbKfZ>



PROMOTING A COMMON AGENDA FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN THE EURO-MED REGION 2011-2013

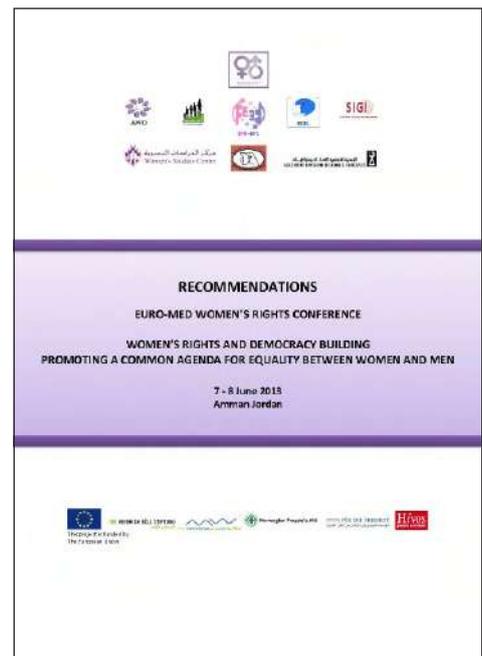
The two years regional project “Promoting a Common Agenda for Equality between Women and Men through Istanbul Process”, funded by the European Union (EU), was implemented with seven partners from five countries in the region. It launched the Equality First Regional Campaign and set up a regional discourse that raised the importance of implementing UfM Istanbul Frame of Action (IFA), today known as UfM Ministerial Process on women’s rights, as a means to strengthen the status of women’s rights in the Euro-Med Region. The work was carried out on both regional and national level. On regional level 5 workshops with civil society, 3 roundtable dialogues with State actors and decision makers, and one Euro-Med women’s rights conference took place. Furthermore, 6 workshops, 11 seminars, 4 conferences and 7 roundtables were organized in Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia. Discussions over a common gender equality agenda took place with over 250 grassroots, advocacy and development NGOs and 4 regional networks, 50 politicians and 25 State actors. Over 25 key media figures were associated to the action. Representatives of International NGOs and Development Agencies, ambassadors and diplomats participated and supported Equality First campaign. Over 3500 direct beneficiaries got an opportunity to discuss directly women’s rights, democracy and the regional and international mechanisms promoting them.

The first Euro-Med Women’s Rights Conference was organized in June 2013 in Amman, Jordan. It gathered over 120 participants from 17 countries and produced recommendations representing the common agenda for equality. They were requested by the governments responsible for the preparation of the 3rd Ministerial Conference (Paris 2013). EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a lobby trip to the EU Institutions and Governments in connection with the Ministerial Conference.

On 29 Oct 2013, EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized in Amman a panel discussion to follow up on the implementation of the 3rd UfM Ministerial Conclusions. During the panel discussion, ministers, diplomats and EU ambassador in Jordan reaffirmed their engagements while the women’s rights NGOs affirmed their will to remain a resource and a watch dog in the process of implementation of the Ministerial Conclusions. About 80 participants raised up the importance of taking concrete steps for the implementation of these conclusions.



Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M9kKFW>



Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M9kKFW>

IRAQ IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 - UNIQUE EXPERIENCE 2012 - ONGOING

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

2012 - 2014

During 2012-2014, EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported and facilitated the development in Iraq of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported the building and establishment of the Civil Society I-NAP1325 Initiative as well as the national Cross Sector Task Force 1325 to work on the development of the NAP. Eighteen meetings, workshops, national consultations, validation roundtables and conferences were organized and helped the development of the NAP 1325.

Due to this successful process, Iraq became in 2014 the first country in the MENA region to have developed and adopted a NAP for UNSCR1325. The process was funded by Norway.

First Workshop Towards Development of NAP for UNSCR 1325



The first workshop on development of NAP 1325 took place on 25th-27th April 2012, Amman. It discussed concrete steps for widening the process, identified actors: government, civil Society, UN agencies, international actors. It discussed challenges and opportunities related to development of and defined roles and responsibilities. Secretary of State of Norway Ms. Gry Larsen and Ms. Bandana Rana, Member of Nepal Government High-Level Steering Committee on UNSCR 1325 participated.

First Strategic Meeting Civil Society Reference Group



The second workshop took place on 28th – 29th July 2012 in Beirut. Participants agreed to form a National Civil Society Reference Group: *Iraq INAP 1325 Initiative*. They developed argumentation for having NAP1325 and outlined a framework with goals, specific NAP objectives and main pillars. They outlined a plan for action for the *I-NAP1325 Initiative*.

National Roundtable: Why a NAP to Implement UNSCR 1325 in Iraq



The national roundtable was organized on the 19th - 20th October 2012 in Beirut. A tentative framework for the NAP was developed. The NAP's goal, purpose and objectives were identified along with identification of Six Pillars.

Moreover, the work on formulation of strategic objectives, specific actions and desired results for each pillar was initiated during the roundtable. Ms. Bandana Rana, Member of Nepal Government's High-Level Steering Committee on UNSCR 1325 participated via conference call.

National Workshop: Refining Framework of NAP 1325

The workshop was organized on 4-5 April 2013 in Beirut. It gathered State actors and members of the parliaments from the Federal Government in Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government and members of the I-NAP1325 Initiative. During the two-day workshop, the State actors and the I-NAP 1325 Initiative discussed in details the six pillars of NAP 1325 in Iraq and refined the strategic objectives, specific actions, expected results, indicators, implementing agencies and time framework of the NAP.



First Meeting of Legal Committee in the Parliament of KRG

The Meeting of the Legal Committee took place on 25-26 May 2013 at the Parliament of KRG. During the meeting, sixteen articles that discriminate against women were identified as major hinders for implementation of UNSCR1325.

Second Meeting of Legal Committee, Ministry of Interior – Erbil

The second meeting of the Legal Committee was held on the 7th of July 2013 at Ministry of Interior – Erbil. During the meeting, further discussions on formulations and articles to be recommended for cancellation from legislation were made.

First Meeting of Drafting Committee NAP 1325, Ministry of Interior – Erbil

The first meeting of Drafting Committee NAP 1325 was held on the 7th of July 2013 at the Ministry of Interior – Erbil. The different components of the NAP were discussed and a schedule on finalizing the different parts was made.

Cross-Sector Task Force Validation Meeting NAP 1325, Ministry of Interior – Erbil



CSTF held a NAP 1325 primary validation meeting on 7-8 July 2013 at the Ministry of Interior, Erbil. Reports of the Legal and Drafting Committee were discussed. CSTF affirmed the NAP pillars and planned next steps. CSTF met Mr. Sinjari, Minister of Interior KRG on 8 July 2013 at the Ministry of Interior, Erbil and discussed discriminative legislation and next steps.

The meeting was followed by a press conference at the Ministry of Interior, Erbil. Over 200 people attended the press conference. The work in progress of the NAP was presented to the broader community.



First Meeting of the Financial Committee, Women High Council, Erbil.



The first meeting of the Financial Committee was held on 9th - 10th October 2013 at the High Council of Women in Erbil. The committee discussed details on budgeting, going through each pillar and objective and developed detailed budget framework.

Exchange Trip for the CSTF to Georgia

The exchange trip took place on 13-15 November 2013. CSTF met with civil society and UN engaged in the process and shared lessons learned. At the Ministry of Defense they met with Vice Minister of Defense and representatives from Ministry of Interior involved in implementation of NAP. Both parties discussed major challenges. Georgian Ministry shared exchanged experience from the implementation and lessons learned from their M&E process. They recognized that Iraq has made a step further as the CSTF has also developed a budget.



National Conference “Launching Iraq NAP 1325: From Words to Action” in Baghdad and Erbil



The launching of the NAP 1325 took place on 6th of February 2014 in Baghdad. The launching NAP 1325 in KR-I followed on 12th March 2014 in Erbil. Iraq became the first country in the MENA region to have developed and adopted a NAP for UNSCR 1325.

IMPLEMENTATION AND NATIONAL REPORT OF THE NAP FOR UNSCR 1325 2015 - 2018

After the adoption of the NAP1325, EuroMed Feminist Initiative continued to support its implementation through supporting the development and institutionalizing of the CSTF, which has been the driving mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP. Many events marked different steps in the development of the CSTF and their work on implementation of the NAP: EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported 18 meetings of the Coordination of the CSTF, 8 national conferences and seminars, 3 trainings and 3 high-level national consultations. The progress was reflected in the increased number of the CSTF members: from 12 Ministries and Institutions in 2014, to 18 Ministries and Institutions from Federal Iraq and 9 from KR-I by end of 2018. This shows that the process of implementation of Iraq first NAP, with its final stage of reporting, was visible and loud and has contributed to accumulation of political will, leading to the institutionalization of CSTF.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative continued the discussion with both civil society and governmental representatives leading in 2018 to the enlargement of the civil society representation in the CSTF and allowing representation from more alliances and networks. These provided more women's civil society organisations (CSOs) the channels to mainstream their demands and expectations, as well as to monitor and share information on the implementation of civil society activities related to the NAP. The structural inclusion of the civil society in the whole process has been of unique added value. The process of implementation of NAP 1325 has also supported the use of UNSCR 1325 as a tool to facilitate a multi stakeholder dialogue on women's rights and gender equality in Iraq. The collaboration between Federal Iraq and KR-I was strengthened in particular in the area of supporting the refugee and displaced women, providing of legal and psychological support, and in lessons learned in the field of legislation.

During the period EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported CSTF to develop the National Report on the implementation of INAP 1325. Even with change of governments, the process continued successfully.

- The report on the implementation of NAP 1325 was completed, making Iraq the first country in the MENA region to have reported on NAP 1325 implementation.
- The report was presented to the UNSC in New York in August 2018
- The drafting of the second NAP 1325 has started, based on two large national consultations. It takes into account the gaps and recommendations identified in the National Report.
- A structural space for multi-sector dialogue on strengthening policies and actions related to gender equality, peace and security, GBSV and legislation was enhanced between women's rights organizations and State actors.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative actively contribute to developing a favourable environment for coordination and cooperation. Indicators are the UN collective feedback on the National Report, the reporting to the UNSC in New York, with UNAMI and later on with UN Women, the cooperation in promoting the NAP and CSTF on international level. This ensured the support for the second NAP.

This process was funded by the Dutch and UK embassies in Baghdad.

One Year of NAP 1325 in Iraq

On 4-5 February 2015, Ms. Boriana Jonsson, Executive Director of EuroMed Feminist Initiative, together with representatives from the CSTF met the President of Iraq, Mr. Fouad Massoum, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Baha Al-Aaraje, the Minister of Women Affairs, Ms. Bayan Nouri and discussed the obstacles as well as the political commitment of the government to the implementation of the NAP.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2KxzKu5>

CSTF representatives meeting with advisor of Prime Minister, 23rd February 2015



Meeting of Task Force 1325: Implementation of NAP for UNSCR 1325 Baghdad - House of Representatives



On 24th May 2015 the CSTF 1325 held its working session in the Iraqi parliament. The session was supported and opened by the Speaker of the Parliament, Dr. Salim Al-Jubouri. The meeting kicked off the implementation of the NAP 1325.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2KkicTs>

Follow-up and Monitoring Meeting CSTF



CSTF met on 13th December 2015, at Ministry of Interior KR-I. The objective was to improve the implementation of NAP 1325 and involve stakeholders and civil society.

CSTF Conference in Kurdistan Region, Ministry of Interior, Erbil

The Conference took place on 23th February 2016 at the Ministry of Interior Erbil. It launched the work of the CSTF in KRG for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP 1325. It discussed the adoption of an internal structure of CSTF with clear tasks and duties for the purpose of facilitating, implementation as well as M&E of the NAP and the emergency plan as a part of NAP.

CSTF Training: M&E and development of Ministerial Plans

The training was held on 6th -7th April 2016 in Erbil. 44 stakeholders and members of the Alliance 1325 participated in the training. The Ministerial Teams discussed the implementation of the NAP and developed ministerial plans.

CSTF Workshop “Follow up and M&E Kurdish Ministerial Follow up Teams”

The workshop was held on 22nd June 2016 in Erbil to further discuss the M&E.

CSTF meeting with SG Council of Ministers, Dr. Mahdi Alallaq (middle) reporting on NAP implementation 11th August 2016, Council of Ministers



Members of CSTF and Secretariat 1325 met with Dr. Mahdi Alallaq, Chair of CSTF, to report on achievements in implementation of the NAP and next steps. EuroMed Feminist Initiative stated its commitment to support the work of the CSTF.

Launching the implementation of National Action Plan 1325

The Iraqi Cross Sector Task Force 1325 in partnership with EuroMed Feminist Initiative held the conference on launching the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan for UNSCR1325 on September 1st, 2016 in Erbil.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2Yz4Mf8>



High Level Conference on implementing Iraq NAP1325



The High-Level Conference on the implementation of the NAP 1325 took place on 27 October 2016 in Baghdad. It validated the Masterplan.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2OHSr3F>

Masterplan: Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Iraq

The Masterplan for implementation of NAP 1325 is a roadmap which defines concrete roles, actions, timeframe, responsibilities of different actors.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yJEGXm>



Second Euro-Med Women's Rights Conference

EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized the Second Euro-Med Women's Rights Conference on 28-29 November 2016 in Beirut. A delegation from Iraq was invited to participate. Mr. Kenani, legal advisor to President Iraq, (left) present Iraq experience of NAP 1325.



Meeting President of Iraq, Mr. Fouad Massoum



Coordination Committee of CSTF 1325 met the President of Iraq, Mr. Fouad Massoum to update him on implementation of NAP 1325, before holding their coordination meeting at the President Office Baghdad on 25th of July, 2017. The main objective of the meeting was to follow up on the implementation of the NAP 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2DyI9JR>

Meeting of CSTF, Ministry of Interior KRG, Erbil



Meeting of the CSTF at Council of Ministers, Baghdad



The meeting of the CSTF in KRG took place on 10th Aug 2017 to follow up on the implementation in the KR-I. The meeting of the CSTF 1325 on 12th of Oct 2017 took place at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Baghdad. CSTF reported on implementation of NAP 1325. NAP 1325 brings not only women, but also decision makers together over in challenging times.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M7BH3U>

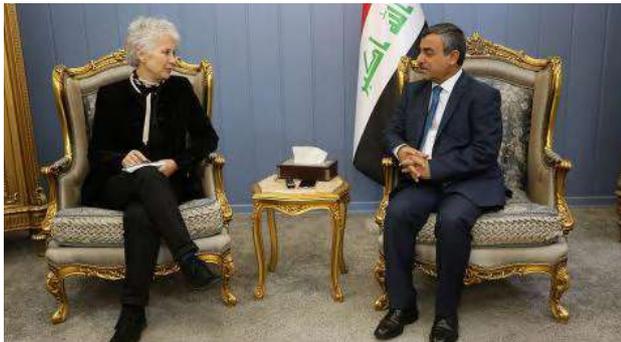
Training workshop of CSTF on Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting on NAP 1325, Baghdad

A training workshop of CSTF on Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of NAP 1325 took place on the 27th – 28th November 2017 in hotel Cristal, Baghdad. The main goal of the training was to build capacities of the ministerial teams. The focus was on the preparation of the national report on the implementation of the NAP 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/31pQz00>



Meeting with the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers in Iraq



Ms. Borianna Jonsson, the Executive Director of EuroMed Feminist Initiative and Ms. Susan Aref, Coordinator of the 1325 CSTF in Iraq met Dr. Mahdi Al-Alak, the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers and Chair of the CSTF 1325 on 6th of February 2018 to discuss the latest development of the Iraqi women's empowerment projects in the framework of the NAP for UNSCR 1325 as well as the progress on the reporting on NAP implementation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yLzKRT>

Launching of the Report on the Implementation of the NAP 1325, Iraq

The high-level conference was held on 7-8 March 2018 in Baghdad to mark the international women's day by launching the report on the implementation of NAP 1325. It was organized under the patronage of H.E. Prime Minister of Iraq, Dr. Hayder Al-Abadi. The conference aimed to enrich the draft national report with input from local communities, civil society, and women IDP and refugees themselves.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2TdZPSN>



CSTF Coordinator at the UN Security Council Meeting on Iraq NAP 1325



On 8 August, the UN Security Council held a meeting to discuss the situation in Iraq and hear updates from UNAMI. EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported the participation of CSTF at this meeting. Ms. Suzan Aref, the Coordinator of CSTF briefed the Security Council on the national report on implementation of the NAP 1325 in Iraq.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/31jR4cl>

High-level Consultation on 2nd NAP 1325, Baghdad



A high-level consultation on development of 2nd NAP 1325 was held on the 3rd of October 2018 in Baghdad. Representatives from all governorates participated and provided recommendations for the Second NAP 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/33jVORJ>

High-level Consultation on 2nd NAP 1325, Erbil



A high-level consultation meeting on development of 2nd NAP 1325 followed on 9th October 2018 in Erbil. Representatives from all local communities provided recommendations for the Second NAP 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2OL4QnB>

Presentation of National Report on implementation of Iraq NAP for UNSCR 1325: First National Report in MENA region

Under the patronage of Mr. Abdul Mahdi, Prime Minister of Iraq, a High-Level Conference took place on 16 December 2018 at Baghdad, Iraq. CSTF presented to a large national audience the national report on implementation of NAP 1325.

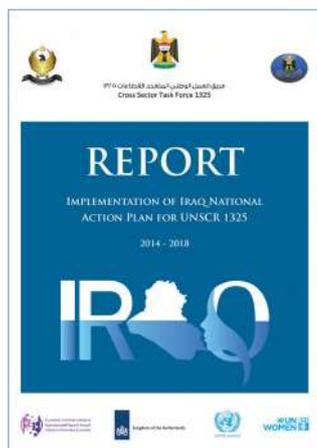


Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M4koRa>

First National Report on the implementation of Iraq NAP for UNSCR 1325 in MENA region

This is the first report on NAP 1325 in the MENA region. The report discusses challenges, gaps and level of achievements of the results, and provides recommendations for the 2nd NAP.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2MIRdCE>



Third National Consultation session on development of 2nd NAP for UNSCR 1325

Following the launch of the National Report on the implementation of Iraq NAP for UNSCR 1325, another consultative meeting took place on the 17th of December 2018 in Baghdad, taking final recommendations for the 2nd NAP.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/33kQAoz>



TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN SYRIA AND STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION 2013 - ONGOING

EuroMed Feminist Initiative has been collaborating with Syrian women's rights and civil society activists and supporting their work on building of a gender-sensitive constitutional **process** to enhance gender equality and women's participation. The process engaged women's rights and human rights lawyers and during a first training in 2013, gender entry points for an inclusive constitution-making process for Syria were identified. In April 2014 **"Recommendations for Nonviolent Transition towards Democracy through Engendering Constitution Building Process"** were drafted as an outcome of the international conference held in partnership with CSWD in Brussels. Later on, same year, a report was issued, developing further gendered constitutional and building broader ownership.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative published beginning of 2016, the handbook: **"ABC for a Gender Sensitive Constitution"**, the first of its kind. It is received very positively by Syrian activists and internationally and has been increasingly used as an awareness raising tool by the partners. EuroMed Feminist Initiative and partners chose to focus on constitution building process because enshrining women's rights, gender equality, and the principle of non-discrimination based on gender in constitutions acknowledges women's equal status and enables legislative changes addressing existing discrimination in law and practice.

Throughout these years, EuroMed Feminist Initiative has been providing Syrian partners with different regional and international solidarity and fora to voice their analyses and demands. They all agree on the necessity to work for adequate representation of women and women's rights in all political negotiations and peace-building efforts. During the horrible escalation of violence in Syria and in spite of it, EuroMed Feminist Initiative continued to fully support partners, Human Rights (HR) and Women's Rights (WR) activists and lawyers, who continue organizing and lobbying for the inclusion of women's rights at all stages of a peace and negotiation processes. During the first international conference on implementation in Syria of UNSCR 1325 hosted by EuroMed Feminist Initiative and the Embassy of Sweden in Damascus on 8th of December 2016 in Beirut, it was underlined that women's participation is the only way to achieving sustainable and just peace.

As stated by UNSCR 1325, women have to be recognized as key actors and get a structural access to the formal peace negotiations and post conflict reconstruction. UNSCR 1325 represents one of the major HR instruments to establish women's rights as a main concern on Syria's political agenda as it implies taking concrete measures enabling active participation of women as decision-makers in negotiation, conflict resolution and peace-making. Therefore EuroMed Feminist Initiative promotes and supports the inclusion of women and women's rights defenders in every stage of conflict-resolution and peace processes. Women's participation is imperative to enhance the chances of sustainable peace and should therefore be reflected in the national constitution-making and constitutional texts. EuroMed Feminist Initiative supported the development of the link between implementation of UNSCR 1325 and a gender sensitive constitutional process and since 2016 supports the work on developing guidelines for the implementation in Syria of the resolution. Iraqi experience has been exchanged and will be further enhanced.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative continues to provide trainings and platforms for women's rights activists to advocate decision makers and reach out to grassroots. Final beneficiaries of this process are the most marginalized in the society: widows and displaced women; victims of violence, local communities and the society as a whole. This process is supported by the Swedish international development agency (SIDA).

Gender Sensitive Principles



The Gender Sensitive Principles were developed by the Coalition of Syrian Women for Democracy (CSWD) and are an outcome of the high-level conference “Building an Inclusive Gender-Sensitive Constitution” that took place in 2016, Brussels.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yKx3zS>

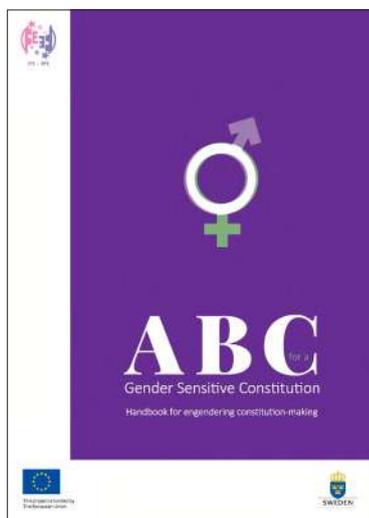
Exchange Trip to the European Union and launching of the ABC for a Gender Sensitive Constitution

EuroMed Feminist Initiative arranges exchange trips to the EU. A delegation of Syrian lawyers and constitutional experts had several discussions at the EU Parliament in February 2016 in Brussels.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2YPNDZT>



ABC for a Gender Sensitive Constitution



The ABC for a Gender Sensitive Constitution is a handbook aiming at guiding constitution-makers in their endeavor to draft or amend constitutions from a gender-sensitive perspective and at educating the general public.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yN2UzT>

International Conference on implementing in Syria UNSCR 1325



The international conference “Implementation in Syria of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security” took place on the 8th of December 2016 in Beirut. It was organized in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden in Damascus and developed first recommendations for guidelines to implement in Syria the UNSCR 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2ZNsnp2>

Lobby trip to EU and French Institutions, Paris – Strasbourg - Women’s Participation in Syria



EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a lobby trip to EU and French Institutions for a delegation from the Syrian Feminist Lobby. It took place from 22 to 25 November 2016. Six members from the Syrian Feminist Lobby (SFL) visited the French National Assembly, Paris City Hall, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the EU Parliament in Strasbourg and discussed women’s participation in decision-making, as well as in all stages of peace negotiation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2GV01Bx>

As a part of the trip, SFL and EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized an international conference in Paris entitled “Women’s Political Participation in Syria”. The conference gathered women’s rights defenders, activists and academics, from Europe and the Middle East.

Ensuring Women’s Participation in Future Political and Economic Decision-making in Syria Now: United Nations HQ New York

The panel discussion “Ensuring Women’s Participation in Future Political and Economic Decision-making in Syria Now” took place on March 24, 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN and EuroMed Feminist Initiative in partnership with the Women’s UN Report Network (WUNRN) during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 61 (CSW). It discussed the urgent need to involve women’s rights activists and experts in all stages of peace negotiations.



Read more: <http://bit.ly/2CSsmHO>

International Conference “Peace and political transition processes: where are the women?”



The conference was held at Paris City Hall on April 25th 2017 with the support of the Mayor of Paris. It tackled the absence of women in decision making and came with recommendations.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2m6Yzkm>

Exchange Trip in France for Syrian Lawyers



On September, EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized in September 2017 an exchange trip to France for Syrian lawyers, legal and constitutional experts. This trip was the last in a series of four, organized during 2016-2017 in European countries with different historical backgrounds in order to reflect the wide variety of situations for Women's rights and Gender Equality in Europe.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2EGwWX5>

Women in the Constitution and Citizenship, Beirut

The Coalition of Syrian Women for Democracy held a panel discussion "Women in the constitution and citizenship" on the 20th of September 2017 in the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2mAd5kO>



International Conference "Electoral Systems and Gender Equality in Democratic Transitions", Geneva



The International conference was organized by the Coalition of Syrian Women for Democracy and EuroMed Feminist Initiative on the 27 -28th February 2018 at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG), Switzerland. The conference discussed which electoral system would be best for allowing optimal women's participation in Syria.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2YpNFMMy>

Training Workshop "Gender Equality: From Theory to Practice", Lebanon

EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a training workshop "Gender Equality: From Theory to Practice" for 21 Syrian lawyers engaged in the engendering of constitutional process. It took place on 8-12 May 2018 in Lebanon. Participants elaborated practical steps in implementing gender equality in all stages of peace negotiation in Syria.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M7XdoP>



Provision of Psychosocial Support and Legal Counselling Workshop, Beirut



EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a training workshop “Provision of psychosocial support and legal counselling” from 15 -19 July 2018 in Beirut. The training provided the Syrian activists and service providers with knowledge, recommendations, best practices, experiences and lessons learned from different countries, in order to enhance support to Syrian women victims of violence.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2KwbNn1>

Reference Group Meeting on ABC for A Gender-Sensitive Legislation

A reference group meeting took place on the 4th and the 5th of July 2018 in Paris. The reference group which consists of Syrian activists, gender experts and lawyers will guide the writers and help the development of the ABC for a Gender Sensitive Legislation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2TbkKGe>



Lobby trip to the UN, Geneva



In the frame of the 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council, EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a lobby trip in Geneva for a delegation of Syrian women rights activists. The purpose of the trip, which took place from 17 to 19 September 2018, was to create a dialogue platform with different stakeholders and decision-makers in order to lobby for prioritizing women’s rights and gender equality in the drafting process of the Syrian constitution and ensure women’s political participation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2ZFjcGO>

Lobby trip to the UN, Geneva, to denounce growing escalation of violence in Palestine

EuroMed Feminist Initiative and Palestinian Working Women Society for Development (PWWSD) organised a three-day lobby trip from 24 to 26 September 2018 to inform about the opened practices of apartheid against the Palestinian people and the ongoing violence faced by women and girls. The trip came ahead of the report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory that was presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative and PWWSD delegation met with decision makers and stakeholder to denounce the escalation of violence and the growing of the apartheid system in Palestine.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M4VII8>



Exchange trip in Sweden

A delegation of Syrian lawyers and women rights activists traveled to Stockholm to learn from Sweden experience in developing gender sensitive legislation.

The Exchange trip took place from the 22nd to the 25th of October 2018.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/31oM86E>



ToT on ABC for a gender sensitive constitution



In partnership with Equality and Citizenship Center a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was provided to selected applicants on 25 - 29 November 2018 to gain technical skills to practically apply the handbook “ABC for a Gender-Sensitive Constitution” in promoting gender equality and women’s rights. In partnership with Mussawa a two-day workshop was organized on 17-18 November 2018 in Paris on how to contribute to a democratic transition in Syria, applying a feminist perspective.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2OMprw>

Workshop on feminist perspective to democratic



Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M74Eww>

Outcomes of the International Conference: Implementation in Syria of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security



The second international conference “Implementation in Syria of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security” took place on 12-13 December 2018 in Beirut. Organized in partnership with CSWD it provided concrete recommendations to implement the resolutions in the four areas of protection, prevention, participation and reconstruction.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2OMFMfQ>

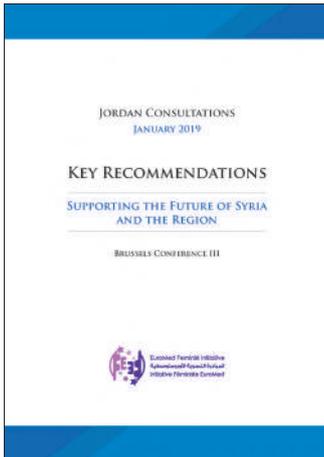
International Conference “Gender-sensitive transitional justice process in Syria”

The International Conference “Gender-sensitive transitional justice process in Syria” organized in collaboration with the Syrian Feminist Lobby, took place on 20th - 21st February 2019 in Paris. It tackled transitional justice from gender perspective and opened ways to discuss broadly the issue.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2Kkvyiy>



Key Recommendations of Jordan Consultations on Brussels III Conference



Ahead of the Third Brussels Conference “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”, 12 -14 March 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to Jordan, EuroMed Feminist Initiative and UN Women Jordan Country Office supported a number of Syrian activists and Jordanian civil society organizations active in the field of women’s human rights and the Jordan Response Plan to the Syria Crisis to convene and discuss their strategy for policy advocacy on gender equality and women’s empowerment ahead of the Brussels conference. The consultations took place on 21 and 29 January 2019 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Amman.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/31m2PPX>

Impact of Sexual and Gender Based Violence on Political Participation: 41st session of UNHRC, Geneva

In the frame of the 41st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC41), EuroMed Feminist Initiative and the European Union Delegation to the United Nations organized a panel discussion “The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on Women Participation” on the 3rd of July 2019 in Room XXVII, Palais Des Nations, Geneva. The panel addressed challenges and opportunities for recognition of gender-based violence and inclusion of women in the political process in Syria and globally.



Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yPbwWE>

Lobby trip to the United Nations



A delegation of Syrian women’s rights activists traveled to Geneva on the occasion of the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council to emphasize the role of the International Community in ensuring justice and accountability for women survivors of violence in the time of conflict.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2XC3Hhk>

Training on Awareness-Raising Techniques and Behaviour Change

A training organised by EuroMed Feminist Initiative on 8 and 9 April 2019 gathered 22 Syrian activists (20 women and 2 men) from partner CSOs working in Syria and introduced the definitions and basic steps of advocacy and campaigning. During the training, participants discussed networking and coalitions building and received tips and techniques on how to conduct effective communication. Gathered in groups, the participants worked on different advocacy themes, on analyzing the related problems and accordingly setting objectives for their campaigns.



Read more: <https://bit.ly/2Vg3GIJ>

Contributing to a Democratic Transition in Syria? A Feminist Perspective

EuroMed Feminist Initiative and Musawa Women Study Center gathered Syrian activists and workers from all around Europe for a two-day workshop on 16 and 17 September 2019.

The event provided an opportunity for sharing experiences and lessons learned between the Syrian women organizations based in the European countries and Turkey, and the Syrian women activists that work on helping Syrian refugees in Europe and in the Syrian alternative media. Discussions addressed ways to seek a political solution and lasting comprehensive peace, with democratic transition towards a state of justice and law, that preserve the rights of all Syrians, women and men, and guarantees gender equality.



Provision of Legal and Psychosocial Support to Women Survivors of GBV, October 2019, Beirut



EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a training on the “Provision of Legal and Psychosocial Support to Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence” from the 7th to the 11th of October 2019 in Beirut. It gathered 20 Syrian participants, from service providers, caseworkers, lawyers and volunteers working with local communities, refugees and internal displaced persons.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2QbYgVX>

Training of Trainers on the ABC for a Gender-Sensitive Constitution

EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized a five day training of trainers (TOT) on the “ABC for a gender-sensitive Constitution” in Beirut, Lebanon for Syrian lawyers and WR activists. The event was held from the 18th to the 22nd of December 2019. The ToT aimed to help create a pool of strong feminist trainers that are capable of conducting trainings on the manual ABC for a gender-sensitive Constitution.

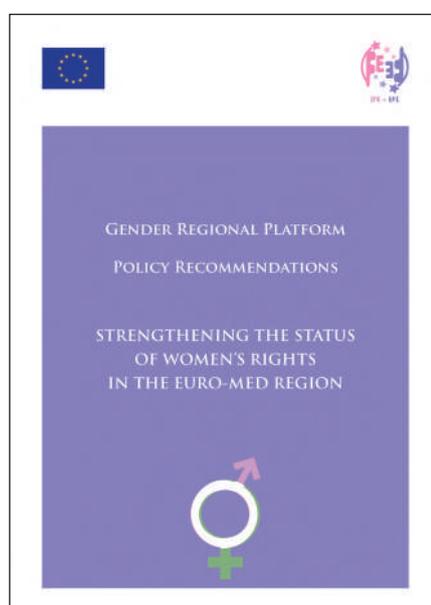
Read more: <http://bit.ly/2SBdqp1>



GENDER REGIONAL PLATFORM

2015 - 2017

EuroMed Feminist Initiative was contracted by the EU to develop a Gender Regional Platform with the objective to enhance regional cross sector co-operation through policy dialogue as well as exchange of best practices with existing networks and stakeholders in the Southern Neighborhood (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia). The one-and-a-half-year long process brought together over 1000 representatives from women's rights CSOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), gender experts, academics and researchers with state actors, decision-and-policy makers and legislators from the whole MENA region. A Gender Regional Platform (GRP) was developed with concrete policy recommendations in four commonly identified areas: Ending discrimination against women and strengthening women's participation; Reforming education and challenging gender stereotypes; Ending violence against women, war and occupation, and Ensuring freedom and independent action of civil society as well as support to women's rights organizations. In this way, the GRP is responsive to local realities, while addressing common regional challenges.



Gender Regional Platform Policy Recommendations

On March 2017, EuroMed Feminist Initiative published the Gender Regional Platform policy recommendations on strengthening the status of women's rights in the Euro-Med region. The Platform was developed through engaging over 1000 stakeholders in 13 national dialogues in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, and in 2 regional dialogues in Amman and Beirut. Four priorities areas have been identified: Ending discrimination against women and strengthening women's role and participation in public life; Reforming education and challenging gender stereotypes; Ending violence against women, wars and occupation and initiating a regional peace process; Ensuring freedom and independence of civil society and support for women's rights organizations.

Read the recommendations: <http://bit.ly/2IDza4h>

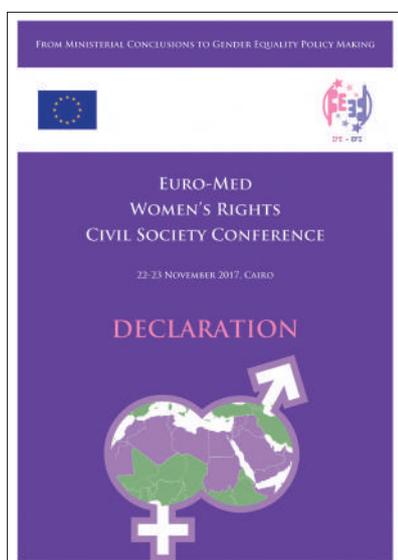
Euro-Med Civil Society Conference back-to-back the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference Issues Recommendations on Gender Equality Policy Making to the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Women's Rights

In the follow up of the Gender Regional Platform, EuroMed Feminist Initiative was charged by the EU to organize the Euro-Med Women's Rights Civil Society Conference back-to-back the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on women's rights. It took place on 22-23 November 2017 in Cairo and gathered over 130 representatives from 107 women's rights and human rights CSOs and networks, as well as gender experts, academia and media from 26 countries. The Conference issued a Civil Society Declaration to the Ministerial Conference.



Read the press release: <http://bit.ly/2B2dQbR>

Declaration of the Euro-Med Women's Rights Civil Society Conference



The Declaration of the Euro-Med Women's Rights Civil Society Conference (22-23 November 2017, Cairo) was handed to the Ministers in the Euro-Med Region during their 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on 27th November 2017 by Ms. Leila Al Ali, Co-President of EuroMed Feminist Initiative and Ms. Boriana Jonsson, Executive Director of EuroMed Feminist Initiative.

Read the declaration: <http://bit.ly/2D4eoQ4>

Outcomes of Civil Society Consultations "Follow up on the 4th UfM Ministerial Meeting on Women's Empowerment"

After the "Gender Regional Platform" EuroMed Feminist Initiative in partnership with the member women's rights organizations in Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Algeria, Jordan and Egypt held several civil society consultations during 2018 to follow up on the 4th UfM Ministerial process on women's rights and on the implementation of the Declaration from the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference, held on 27 Nov 2017 in Cairo. They produced outcomes and recommendations for follow up.

Read the outcomes: <http://bit.ly/2GT5s3W>



MADAD FOR WOMEN

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES FOR WOMEN REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDPs) AND WOMEN IN THE HOST COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON, IRAQ AND JORDAN

2018 - ONGOING

Launched in September 1st 2018, EuroMed Feminist Initiative has started implementing 2 years' multi-country project "Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities". This project is funded by **the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU MADAD Fund**. The overall objective is to improve the livelihood, agency and legal and social protection for Syrian women refugees, IDPs as well as for women in the host communities in Lebanon, Iraq/Kurdistan Region – Iraq (KR-I) and in Jordan.

The added value of the project lies in addressing the immediate needs of the most vulnerable women and bringing them to policy level: as the need of women and girls victims of sexual and gender based violence to have access to safe spaces, psychosocial support, information about their rights, as well as legal consultation and advice; the need to have access to decent jobs, to be able to take lead of own lives. Beyond the emergency response, a set of policy actions and awareness raising campaigns support the achievements in the field of gender equality on both local and national level.

Long term development in the three countries is supported through enhancing the engendering of policies and strategies in general, and on the crisis response in particular, by linking them. The project pioneers in Lebanon a comprehensive service provision to victims and survivors of violence in 12 centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs and establishing a National Gender Observatory hosted by the Office of Minister of Women's Affairs. In Iraq, the project supports the implementation of National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 (NAP 1325) and the development of the second NAP. In Jordan, the action contributes to improving women's employment and career development. Comprehensive approach helps to bridging the gap between international women's rights mechanisms and the realities of women in the local communities.

To address the multi-layered repercussions of the protracted refugee crises on women and girls, EuroMed Feminist Initiative has built in Lebanon, Iraq KR-I and in Jordan consortia with credible and experienced national and international organizations.

In Lebanon EuroMed Feminist Initiative is partnering with Care International Lebanon (care.org/country/lebanon), Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) (legalactionworldwide.org) and Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) (rdflwomen.org).

In Iraq with Baghdad Women's Association (BWA) (bwa-iraq.org) and Women Empowerment Organizations (WEO) (weoiraq.org).

In Jordan with Business Development Centre (BDC) (bdc.org.jo) and Tamkeen (tamkeen-jo.org).

A range of national policy makers and stakeholders as well as the EU Delegations in the three countries are involved to support and provide strategic advice on the implementation as a part of the program Regional Steering Committee.

This project strongly supports and contributes to the ongoing efforts of civil society and governments alike to support both women refugees and vulnerable women in the host communities to overcome the challenges of this crisis.

First meeting of the Steering Committee of National Gender Observatory in Lebanon

The Steering Committee held its first meeting on 30 November 2018 at the office of Minister of State for Women's Affairs in Lebanon to establish a National Gender Observatory in Lebanon.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2Kqylp2>



Meeting Advisory Committee, Kurdistan Region of Iraq



The project “Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities” was kicked off in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) by the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the project in KR-I. The meeting took place on the 2nd of December 2018 at the Ministry of Interior, Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). Minister of Interior Mr. Sinjari attended the meeting

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2M4dUBL>

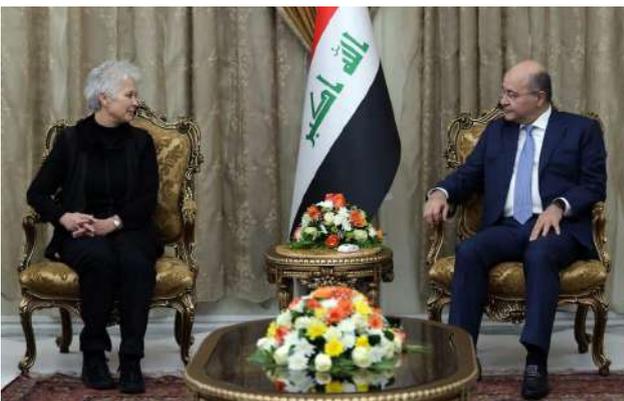
Meeting Country Advisory Committee, Iraq

The meeting of the Country Advisory Committee of the project “Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan”, took place on the 17th of December 2018 at Council of Ministers, Baghdad. SG of Council of Ministers Mr. AlAlak attended the meeting.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2YPbuNs>



Meeting Dr. Barham Salih, President of the Republic of Iraq



EuroMed Feminist Initiative and the Cross Sector Task Force Coordinating Committee chaired by Suzan Aref had a meeting with the President of the Republic of Iraq H.E. Dr. Barham Salih on 17 December 2018 at the Presidential Office in Baghdad. During the meeting, they discussed the implementation of the Iraq National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, in addition to sharing views on the situation of women and women's rights under the present circumstances.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yHMSav>

Training workshops for Ministries staff on UNSCR 1325 in KRG

During February 2019, Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) conducted a set of training workshops for the dedicated staff of Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Martyrs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs at the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) who are involved in the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan I-NAP 1325.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/33nzZ3t>



The opening of a new psycho-social, legal support, case management, and referral services center for women at Salah Al-Din Governance, Iraq



Baghdad Women Association celebrated the opening of its new “Psycho-social, legal support, case management, and referral services” centers for women and girls at Obaidy District in Baghdad on 18 February 2019 and at Salah Al-Din governance on February 19th, 2019.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2Yt3bY2> and <http://bit.ly/2Kofsv6>

Meeting between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the EuroMed Feminist Initiative in Lebanon



On March 5, 2019, Minister of Social Affairs, H.E. Richard Kouyoumjian met with a delegation from EuroMed Feminist Initiative, represented by Executive Director Boriana Jonsson, accompanied by EU MADAD Country Manager Laura El-Khoury and National Gender Observatory Consultant in Lebanon Birgitta Holst Alani. During the meeting, H.E. Richard Kouyoumjian was introduced to the two years’ multi-country project “Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, Internally Displaced People” IDPs” and host communities in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq”.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2OJrdJT>

Meeting of the Research Policy Group of the National Gender Observatory in Lebanon

The Research Policy Group of the National Gender Observatory in Lebanon held its first meeting on 7 March 2019 at the Office of the Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth. The research work of the National Gender Observatory will be guided by the Research Policy Group composed of academics and gender experts.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2YP7n3Y>



Minister of Interior and Municipalities in Lebanon, H.E. Ms. Raya El Hassan meets EuroMed Feminist Initiative



On 18 June, 2018 Her Excellency, Minister of Interior and Municipalities Ms. Raya El Hassan met the delegation composed of EuroMed Feminist Initiative, the Office of the Ministry of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth (EEWAY) and the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Lebanon. They discussed the activities of the National Gender Observatory and combatting VAWG in the region.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2yJzD9m>

Regional Forum - Enhancing Gender Equality and Engendering A Response to the Syrian Crisis in Host Communities

Held under the patronage and in the presence of the President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Saad Hariri. The Regional Forum “Enhancing Gender Equality and Engendering a Response to the Syrian Crisis in Host Countries” took place on the 3rd of July 2019 at the Grand Sérail, Lebanon to enhance mutual understanding about the gaps in implementing women’s rights, protecting the most vulnerable women and addressing laws discriminating against them.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2TkXmWT>



Regional Round Table “Enhancing Gender Equality and Engendering Syrian Crisis Response in Host Countries”, Beirut



The regional roundtable “Enhancing Gender Equality and Engendering Syrian Crisis Response in Host Countries – Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan” took place on 4th July 2019 at the Ministry of Social Affairs, Beirut in the presence of H.E. Dr. Richard Kouyoumjian, Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon. It followed up the regional forum and gathered project partners and stakeholders from Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon to exchange challenges and achievements during the implementation of the project as well as ways forward.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2KIB4Bm>

National Roundtable on the Reality of Women’s Economic Participation, Challenges and Solutions, August 2019, Amman



The national roundtable “The Reality of Women’s Economic Participation, Challenges and Solutions” took place on August 29 at the Jordanian Parliament. The roundtable gathered Members of Parliament and Senators, representatives of relevant ministries, academics and civil society organizations to discuss policies and affirmative actions to improve women’s economic participation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2QusOkY>

A National Roundtable on Engendering Policies and Strategies in Security Institutions, August 2019, Lebanon

On 28 August, the National Gender Observatory, hosted in the Ministry of State for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth (EEWAY), held a roundtable on Engendering Policies and Strategies in Security Institutions. Participants discussed the role of the Internal Security Forces and General Security in protecting women on the Lebanese territory. It gathered high-ranking Officers from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces and General Security 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



Read more: <http://bit.ly/37kFeCf>

A conference to support the establishment of ‘ Gender Units’ at 9 Ministries in Erbil



The High Council of Women Affairs in Erbil, in partnership with EuroMed Feminist Initiative, organized a Conference: “Strengthening Institutional Support for KRG High Council of Women Affairs and Structures Working in the Area of Empowerment and Protection of Women and Girls” in Erbil on 28 October 2019. The conference contributed to building a bridge between the Gender Units in all the ministries and governorates, assessing their needs to build their capacity, discussing support they are expecting from the international organizations and donors and identifying challenges and ways to overcome them.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/354HsEt>

Seventy Syrian and Jordanian Women Complete Hospitality Training in Jordan

21 Syrian refugee women and 22 Jordanian women graduated on 21 November 2019 from an intensive hospitality training programme enhancing their access to the labour market. The training was delivered at the Ammon Applied University College of Hospitality and Tourism Education and provided through a consortium led by EuroMed Feminist Initiative.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2rFpmLD>



Dialogue on “Till when will women in Lebanon stay #TwiceARefugee”



The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) in partnership with EuroMed Feminist Initiative launched the dialogue “Till when will women in Lebanon stay #TwiceARefugee?” on October 3rd, 2019 at Antwork, in Beirut, to initiate discussion about all women in Lebanon.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2sIGPJn>

Roundtable on the Role of the Qaim Maqam in Combating Gender-Based Violence

The National Gender Observatory held a roundtable in Beirut on “The role of the Qaim Maqam in combating gender-based violence” on 30 September 2019. The event was organized with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, in partnership with EuroMed Feminist Initiative. It provided the space to discuss Lebanon’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was presented by the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). The Action Plan prioritizes the promotion of safety and protection of women across the country.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/39jyFSp>



ENHANCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES IN SYRIA 2019 - ONGOING

In 2019 and with EU support, EuroMed Feminist Initiative started implementing the project “Enhancing women’s participation in decision making and peace building processes in Syria.” Over its two-year period, the project contributes to a gender-sensitive and inclusive peace-building process in Syria, through promoting women’s participation, empowerment and women’s rights. More specifically, the project strengthens knowledge and capacity building of CSOs lawyers, humanitarian actors and decision-makers alike on the ways in which VAW and in particular CRSV prevents the full participation of women in public life and peacebuilding initiatives. Moreover, the project addresses impunity and increasing durable opportunities for survivor-led accountability for gendered crimes committed in Syria. It uses legal empowerment of survivors and victims and capacity-building of Syrian lawyers to participate effectively in justice processes.

Supporting Women’s Movements Towards a Common Agenda for Combatting VAW and CRSV

With the aim to support the efforts of women’s movements towards a common agenda for combatting violence against women and conflict-related Sexual Violence and to lobby for it at the level of decision-makers, EuroMed Feminist Initiative organized two experts meetings in December 2019 in Gaziantep and Beirut in the framework of the EU-funded “**Enhancing Women’s Participation in Decision Making and Peace Building Processes in Syria.**” A total of 38 representatives of Syrian CSOs attended the meetings.

The attendees discussed ways to expose and reduce VAW and CRSV across Syria and promote the inclusion of women and women’s rights defenders in peace negotiations in order to enhance the chances of sustainable peace. The meetings set the stage for a wide and grassroots consultation process that will continue until August 2020. The consultations will take place inside Syria, in neighbouring countries and in Europe.

The meetings were preceded by two-day workshops that gathered lawyers, experts and civil society activists to discuss international justice mechanisms, the challenges of documenting international crimes and human rights abuses, especially CRSV, as well as the gendered impact of the Syrian conflict and how to adopt a holistic, feminist approach to VAW.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION 2019 - ONGOING

EuroMed Feminist Initiative and a consortium of member women's rights organizations in Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Algeria, Jordan and Egypt launched a three-year regional project to contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Southern Neighbourhood countries. The project is titled "**Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region**" and is funded by the EU. By promoting a social environment that does not tolerate VAWG and where decision makers address it as a political priority, it strongly contributes to the ongoing efforts of civil society and governments alike, to eliminate all forms of VAWG.

The project supports a comprehensive approach to VAWG and encompasses three interrelated main actions: 1) a **Regional Campaign on Zero tolerance for VAWG** to help to get violence out of the private sphere and to support changing of public attitudes. 2) **Strengthening the women's rights CSOs-led dialogue with decision makers** and contribute to the balance of power needed to achieve legal and policy change. 3) Establishing a **Regional Civil Society Observatory** to follow up on governmental commitments in the field of VAWG, women, peace and security (WPS) and preventing violent extremism (PVE) and to ensure public awareness about these issues thus supporting the adoption and implementation of policies.

The **regional campaign on Zero tolerance for VAWG** in the South Mediterranean captures shared challenges in the region, while addressing priorities specific to the different national contexts, aiming to reach out to over one million people and involve a broad variety of national and local actors: from women's rights organization and broader civil society, to decision makers, first respondents (police, social workers, judges), relevant Ministries, opinion makers, academics, school teachers and students, victims of violence and discrimination, and globally, the whole society, women and men aiming to challenge gender stereotypes and achieving social change.

The campaign encourages the whole society to stand up against VAWG, to demand adoption of a comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of VAWG, and the implementation of such legislation when it exists. A rights-based approach and gender equality in education has a particular focus. It was launched by EuroMed Feminist Initiative with the consortium members - The Algerian Women Claiming their Rights (FARD) in Algeria, Association for Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development (ACT) in Egypt, Arab Women Organization (AWO) in Jordan, Association Najdeh and Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) in Lebanon, Women's Action Union (UAF) in Morocco, the Federation of Women's Action Committees (PFWAC) and Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD) in Palestine and Tunisian Women's Association for Development and Research (AFTURD)

The Civil Society Regional Observatory established in Amman since 1st January 2019 enables the civil society to follow up and monitor the implementation of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration from November 27th 2017, in particular in the area of VAWG, women, peace and security (WPS) and preventing violent extremism (PVE).

Launching Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women and Girls



The Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for VAWG was launched on 2-3 May 2019 in Amman during a conference that gathered 140 participants from 14 countries in the Euro-Med region. Civil society organizations, ministries, political parties and members of parliaments, gender and legal experts, researchers and media shared experience and expertise on violence against women and girls, status of services for victims, legal frameworks, public awareness on VAWG, education and media. They discussed shared regional challenges and raised priorities specific to the different national contexts. Participants discussed strategies to encourage the societies to stand up against VAWG, demand the criminalization of all forms of VAWG, and implement such legislation when available. A strong focus was put on primary and secondary education.

Click [here](#) to read the Brief.

Regional Experts Roundtable

Combating Discrimination and VAWG in Legislation

The Roundtable took place on 17 June 2019, Beirut and gathered legal and gender experts and researchers from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, France and Sweden. The experts identified three areas for common work: annulling discrimination in family laws, improving legislation on VAWG, and annulling discrimination affecting women's economic participation.

Click [here](#) to read the Brief.



Regional Experts Roundtable

Promoting Gender Equality through Education

The Roundtable gathered gender experts and experts in the field of education from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and France and representatives from the Ministries of Education from Jordan and Lebanon. The experts examined gender sensitive teaching methods. They agreed to develop regional guidelines to mainstream gender in school curricula.

Click [here](#) to read the Brief.



Media Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women and Girls

Press conferences were held on 22nd - 23rd of September 2019 in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia to officially launch a Media Campaign on Zero Tolerance for VAWG. The Media Campaign is a part of a broader Regional Campaign on Combating Violence against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean Region, initiated in January 2019 by EuroMed Feminist Initiative in consortium with 9 women's rights organizations from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco Palestine and Tunisia, and funded by the EU. It aims to engage the whole society in preventing VAWG, and foster societal and legal change.

The Media Campaign comprises billboards, films, a website, radio spots, TV coverage and interviews along with social media coverage in seven countries. Influencers from these countries have joined the campaign in order to contribute to the public debate.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2tdMAZx>



National Consultation on Developing Regional Guidelines for Women, Peace and Security Agenda, Jordan

Arab Women Organization and EuroMed Feminist Initiative held a National Consultation on Developing Regional Guidelines for Women, Peace and Security Agenda on November 13 in Amman, Jordan under the patronage of H.E. Ms. Basma Ishaqat, Minister of Social Development. The consultation, which is part of the Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for VAWG, aimed at fostering a common understanding of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and developing guidelines for the implementation of the agenda on national and regional levels.



Read more: <http://bit.ly/39ivQkm>

National Consultation on Developing Regional Guidelines for Women, Peace and Security Agenda, Palestine

Another National Consultation on Developing Regional Guidelines for Women, Peace and Security Agenda was held on November 10th in Ramallah, Palestine. Organised by the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committee (PFWAC), the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Violence Against Women (Al Muntada) and EuroMed Feminist Initiative, the consultation aimed at fostering a common understanding of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and developing guidelines for the implementation of the agenda on national and regional levels.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2MEkwFw>



Regional Forum on Combating Discrimination in Legislation, Tunis



One hundred and fifty-four participants from eighty-seven civil society organisations, together with decision makers, ministerial representatives, legal and gender experts, as well as media from twelve countries from the South Mediterranean gathered on 10-11 December in Tunis for the Regional Forum on Combating Discrimination in Legislation.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2MEkwFw>

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network that provides and supports expertise building in the field of gender equality and women's rights as a full part of democracy and citizenship.

EuroMed Feminist Initiative advocates for gender equality and women's universal human rights, for the right of peoples to self-determination, and for political, non-violent solutions to all conflicts.