



Press Release

Local dialogue in Zarqa, Jordan on ending violence against women and girls, took place in the frame of the third national campaign “Her Life Without Violence, Her Future Without Fear”

21st April 2025, Zarqa

A local dialogue on combating violence against women and girls (VAWG) was held on Monday, 21st April 2025, in Zarqa, Jordan. It took place within the framework of the third awareness campaign “*Her Life Without Violence, Her Future Without Fear*” which is a part of the three years national campaign “*No Silence, No Tolerance*” carried out by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), Justice Centre for Legal Aid (JCLA), Children Villages SOS, Institute for Family Health (IFH), and the National Council of Family Affairs (NCFA), Information and Research Center - King Hussein Foundation (IRC-KHF), Tafila Women's Society (TWCS), Arab Women's Organization (AWO), and Family Guidance Awareness Center (FGAC) in the framework of the project “**Improving Access to Comprehensive Gender-based Violence Services in Jordan**” funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), with the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The local dialogue, organised by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), aimed to create an open and inclusive space for community members and leaders, service providers, and civil society to come together and engage in meaningful discussions on preventing violence and promoting survivor-centered services across Jordan. It served as a platform for fostering proactive community efforts and raise awareness about the availability of essential services for survivors of gender-based violence as one of the means to prevent violence against women and girls.

Throughout the session, participants emphasized the critical role of community support and the importance of involving men in disseminating accurate information and actively participating in raising awareness and combating VAWG. The dialogue promoted the key messages of the campaign, linked to the accessibility of services, the need to challenge harmful norms and misconceptions, and the value of working collectively to foster a safe and supportive community environment.

By encouraging open conversation, the dialogue also focused on empowering survivors to feel safe in seeking help, debunking persistent myths and stereotypes, and reinforcing the importance of prevention. Ultimately, the session reaffirmed that community engagement is a vital driver of change—one that protects survivors and contributes to building a more informed, resilient, and equitable society.

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The event opened with remarks from Ms. Hadeel Abu Hayyaneh – EuroMed Feminist Initiative, Mr. Ioseba Amatriain Losa – Project Manager, Spanish Cooperation Office in Jordan Ms. Zoha Al-Murabaha – Board Member of the Housewives Association / Zarqa and Head of the Women’s Union – Zarqa Branch, and Eng. Emad Al Momani - Head of Zarqa Municipality.

Ms. Ruba Emad, EuroMed Feminist Initiative, presented in the first session an overview of the third national awareness campaign “*Her Life Without Violence, Her Future Without Fear*” and shared the key awareness messages, of which 20 based on real-life testimonials from service beneficiaries and 10 designed to reinforce prevention actions. In addition to printed brochures disseminated in six governorates, and SMS outreach reaching 500,000 recipients, billboard placements, and influencer-led videos to engage youth audiences, community dialogues are organised in Irbid, Karak, and Zarqa, along with scheduled media appearances, further extending the campaign’s reach and public engagement.

The campaign presentation was followed by a panel discussion titled “Building Bridges: Connecting Prevention and Support for VAWG”, moderated by Ms. Hadeel Abu Hayyaneh, EuroMed Feminist Initiative. The discussion brought together key voices from health, education, psychosocial services, and local government to explore practical ways to bridge the gap between prevention and service delivery.

Dr. Sayed Ratrout, from Institute for Family Health (IFH), reflected on his extensive field experience to address the main challenges in linking preventive and response services for survivors of violence. He also discussed the potential role of the health sector in prevention, not just intervention, and referred successful preventative models in Jordan that could be expanded nationwide.

From the education sector, Dr. Amani Al-Tarawneh, Head of Family Guidance and Empowerment Department at the Islamic Community College, emphasized the role of community-based educational institutions in awareness and prevention. She shared how family empowerment and prevention concepts are integrated into guidance programs and highlighted the importance of empowering girls and women to reducing violence.

Ms. Sukaina Al-Shamayleh, Psychologist and Psychosocial Support Specialist at Family Awareness and Counselling Center, spoke about the crucial role of psychosocial support in both prevention and response. She outlined key indicators signalling the need for early intervention within families and communities and addressed the level of collaboration between counselling centres and other institutions.

Representing the local government sector, Eng. Diana Al Khawaldeh, Head of the Women’s Empowerment and Economic Unit (WEEU) at Zarqa Municipality, discussed how municipalities play a role in economic and social empowerment services as a core pillar of prevention. She also described existing local-level partnerships that link prevention with support, while acknowledging the challenges faced by municipalities and proposing solutions to overcome them.

The discussion underscored the urgent need for stronger multi-sectoral cooperation, effective referral systems, and community-based preventive strategies that go beyond awareness to tangible support.

Following the panel discussion, attendees participated in an interactive “Violence Line” activity led by Ms. Khawla Abu Ria, Social Worker and Case Manager at the Family Awareness and Counselling Center. This engaging segment encouraged participants to reflect on the forms of violence women and girls experience and how communities can act preventively.

The event concluded with moving testimonies from women beneficiaries, who shared their personal journeys of resilience and transformation. Their testimonies illustrated the profound impact of accessible, survivor-centered support services and the power of awareness to drive change.



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About EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI):

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy platform that provides expertise in the field of equality between women and men and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.

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