

“A life without violence and discrimination is possible!”

Regional Campaign to Protect Arab Women from Domestic Violence

Context:

Egypt and Jordan have both signed the most important gender-relevant international conventions and human rights instruments but have made a number of reservations that are particularly relevant for women. Due to the unresolved question of Palestinian statehood, the law applicable in the West Bank and Gaza is complex and confusing with elements of at least five legal systems. All national constitutions as well as the Palestinian Basic Law grant equal rights to men and women. National laws contain, however, a number of articles that discriminate against women according to international notions of equality.

Qualitative studies as well as empirical data of police and state agencies and the project partners own records suggest that violence against women is extremely widespread in Arab society and is a phenomenon that occurs across all social strata, regions and religious groups. The real incidence of gender-based violence against women is probably multifold since Arab society knows numerous mechanisms of covering up on honour crimes, frequen-



tly with the complicity of tribal leaders. Other forms of physical and sexual violence are rampant in Arab society, particularly in traditional and rural areas and among poor and middle income strata.

Partners:

- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) - Jerusalem
- El-Nadim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence - Cairo
- Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J) - Amman

Objectives:

- Support women and human rights activists in national lobbying and advocacy campaigns for legal change in support to protection of women and children from domestic violence
- Launch awareness raising campaigns targeting decision makers and professional groups as to the nature of domestic violence, scope and consequences, at the national and regional levels
- Build the capacity and strengthen the role of the partners as a credible force in combating violence against women in the Arab world
- Coordinate and network with targeted partner organizations towards the establishment of strong coalitions against domestic violence; on the national and regional level

Expected results:

- Broad and sustainable coalitions advocating legal change for better protection of women and children from domestic violence have been built (both on national and regional level)
- Draft laws have been brought before at least

Mediterranean Area: Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories

two national parliaments

- Awareness and education materials are produced and widely distributed
- Staff members are capable of advocating against violence against women
- Regional and national research studies addressing issues of violence against women and children in the Arab context are conducted

Activities:

- Formation and regular meetings of a regional project steering committee to coordinate regional and national campaign activities
- Capacity building and awareness-raising seminars and trainings for the target groups including members of relevant professional groups
- Meetings and discussions with representatives of national decision makers, governments and parliamentarians are subject to EU policy
- Regional conferences and trainings for women’s rights activists, media workers, members of the medical and juridical profession, relevant decision makers
- Regular meetings of women’s rights advocates from Arab countries

Target group:

- Staff members of the partner organizations
- Women NGOs working on combating violence against women, civil society activists across the region
- Members of the professional groups, law enforcement agencies, local community leaders



- (including traditional leaders)
- General public

Final beneficiaries:

- Women victims of violence
- Women’s rights activists and human rights organizations in the three target countries and beyond
- Women in the target countries

Funding:

662.000 € (2006-2008)

ENoP MEMBER FOUNDATION:

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
The Green Political Foundation