

3rd Regional Workshop for the Empowerment of Women:

“Narrowing the gap between the rhetoric and practice to protect women from violence”

3 July 2019 – Casa Árabe, Madrid, Spain

In cooperation with:



With the financial support of:



Concept Note

CONTEXT

In line with the [Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely goal 5 “gender equality” and 16 “peace and justice”, and in the framework of its mission, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe promotes gender equality and women's rights. Since 2015, the project "North-South process for the empowerment of women", by supporting the role of women's civil society organisations, promotes regional cooperation and coordinated action in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean in the protection of women's rights and in particular by focusing on combating violence against women.

Ending violence against women is a global challenge that requires global solutions, which must be formulated and then implemented through effective cooperation and coordination at all levels, in particular with the active participation of civil society organisations which are identified as the “connecting stakeholder” between rights holders (women) and duty bearers (public authorities). The regional workshops for the Empowerment of Women of the North-South Centre whose thematic were each built on previous conclusions (*Strengthening Capacities of Women Organisations* and *Application of Laws on Women's Rights*) aim at ensuring the political participation of these organisations, which is a prerequisite for the effective implementation of actions to combat violence against women.

In this context, the North-South Centre will organise its third Workshop under the theme of : “Narrowing the gap between the rhetoric and practice to protect women from violence” to gather relevant stakeholders and experts to discuss concrete solutions to tackle persistent issues which were identified in previous North-South Centre’s activities, namely: the lack of gender sensitive global data that prevents to combat trafficking of girls in the Euro-Mediterranean region; the lack of training of public authorities on the victim-centred approach that together with the lack of public awareness prevents victims to report acts of violence; inadequate national and international response to specific needs; and the lack of implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national strategies/laws by qualified and independent bodies.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

During one day, relevant stakeholders from Euro-Mediterranean region (representatives of Governments, local and regional authorities, parliaments, civil society organisations, media and academia) and international and regional organisations will put forward practical recommendations which will define the next objectives and milestones of the future North-South Centre’ action in the area.

One day prior to the Workshop, the North-South Centre will organise two parallel meetings with civil society organisations’ representatives to gather recommendations (from youth and women organisations) which will be shared during the public discussion of the Workshop.

Targeted outputs

- The workshop offers a privileged meeting space for the development of cooperation and partnerships between key actors in gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Good practices on the implementation of strategies and/or projects related to combating gender-based violence in the region are presented;
- Expertise related to protection of migrant and refugee women and girls and victim-centred approach is shared, as well as Council of Europe and other international standards;
- The recommendations of civil society, in particular women and youth organisations, are promoted.

Targeted outcomes

- The consultative role of women and youth civil society organisations is strengthened in the region;
- Stakeholder roles are defined and concrete action lines are proposed within operational conclusions which will be followed up by the North-South Centre;
- Development of partnerships between institutional actors and field actors, with the aim of greater synergy and effective action;
- Reinforcement of regional peer cooperation, in particular within the networks of civil society organisations for greater complementarity;
- References to Council of Europe standards and tools are considered useful and relevant.

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