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AIT-ZAI, Nadia



President of CIDDEF Foundation for Equality, Algeria

Ms Nadia Aït-Zaï is a lawyer specialised in family law, women and children’s rights and lecturer at Ben Aknoun Law Faculty in Algiers. Ms Aït-Zaï is a committed campaigner for women’s rights in the Maghreb and founder of the “Information and Documentation Centre on Children and Women’s rights” (CIDDEF) in Algiers, which was set up to document the history of the women’s movements - in Algeria, the Maghreb, in Europe and worldwide. She is a founding member of the Maghreb Equality Collective and co-author of “100 Proposals for an Alternative Islamic Family Code in the Maghreb” and “Dalil for equality in the Family in the Maghreb” in 2003. She is also a co-author of Algeria’s first official survey on violence against women, published in 2005 by the National Institute for Public Health. Since its creation, her organisation promotes children and women’s rights in Algeria and the region through capacity-building, awareness-raising, policy development and research activities.

BALLESTEROS MELERO, Maria



Project Officer for GENDERS, AEGEE-Europe, Spain

Maria Ballesteros Melero is a young Spanish professional. She holds a bachelor in Translation and Interpreting from the Autonomous University of Madrid and is finishing her second bachelor in Political Sciences in the Spanish National Distance University. After several years of youth activism and volunteering at local and European level, she was the Vice President of AEGEE/European Students’ Forum (AEGEE-Europe) where she currently works as Project Officer for AEGEE-Europe, managing European-wide projects on gender mainstreaming, social inclusion and social entrepreneurship. After

advocating to make gender equality from an intersectional perspective a priority of her organisation, she founded the Safe Person Project, aimed at preventing, detecting and reacting to sexual harassment and assault in youth events. She coordinates the GENDERS project, which aims at developing an online platform in which organisations can learn how to implement gender mainstreaming.

BENABOUD, Fifi



Expert Consultant on International Relations and Women Rights

Ms Benaboud is a defender of women rights in MENA region, and has been working in the field of international cooperation since over thirty years. She holds a PhD in Political science. Prior to her present position, Ms Benaboud worked at the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and was, among other things, the coordinator of the Women’s programmes, Coordinator of the Transmediterranean programme as well Senior Advisor to the Executive Director. Moreover, Ms Benaboud was member of the International Committee of the World Social Forum as well as the Euro Mediterranean Commission for Cooperation and security (EuroMeSCo). She founded and chaired several active networks involved in cooperation around the Euro-Mediterranean basin focusing mainly on human rights, democratic processes and the impact of globalisation, and wrote various articles on the euro Mediterranean relations and on international relations.

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BENCHAHIDA, Hafida



Senator, Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ms Hafida Benchehida is a Senator, member of the Senate of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria since 2013, where she served on the Foreign Affairs Committee until 2015. Since 2017 Ms Benchehida is a mediator, member of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network and ICAN, civil Society network for peace. Since January 2016, she is Vice-President for Legal and Administrative Affairs and the Senate Human Rights Committee. She is a founder and member of the Network of Arab Women Parliamentarians initiated by UN Women, Mena Media Monitoring. She was an official interpreter at the United Nations, as well as UNIDO, World Bank, IMF, G8, G15, OIC, OPEC, AU, EU, and BDA. Ms Benchehida participates in symposiums and conferences on issues of societal and economic development, and women's empowerment. On the theme of women, peace and security, she cooperated with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in discussions with the Mediterranean countries, for the participation of African women in governance.

CANGEMI, Daniele



Head of the Human Dignity and Equality Department, Council of Europe

Mr Cangemi is the Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department at the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe. He holds a degree in Political Science from the LUISS University, Rome, and a Master's degree from the College of Europe, Bruges. Working for the Council of Europe since 2001, he served as legal advisor, as Deputy Head of the Counter-terrorism task force, and as Head of the Human Rights Law and Policy

Division, at the time of the elaboration of the ground-breaking Committee of Ministers' recommendation on the promotion of human rights of older persons and of the draft legal instruments for the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights. Between 2014 and May 2018 he has been entrusted with the function of Special Coordinator of the Directorate General of Democracy. In his current functions, he supervises the Council of Europe work in the areas of Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Trafficking in Human Beings, including the secretariat of the Gender Equality Commission and of the monitoring bodies in charge of following the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Department is also in charge of co-operation and capacity building programmes in these areas.

CAROÇO, José Rui



Executive Director, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Mr Caroço has served as a Portuguese diplomat for over 27 years, working in Europe, Africa and the Americas acquiring a large experience both in bilateral and multilateral international affairs. As of September 2018 and after serving as Consul-General of Portugal in Boston (USA), he was appointed as executive director of the North-South Centre.

CLODE, Teresa



Jurist, Legal Affairs Department, Commission for Equality and Citizenship, Portugal

Since April 2014, Ms Teresa Clode is Senior officer at the Legal Department of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality of Portugal, entity integrated in the Council of Ministers, responsible for the legal analysis and follow up of complaints

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based on discrimination and gender identity, legal support to the public, emergency support phone line to victims of domestic violence and legal support to the Commission. Ms Clode is a Member of Equality Law Working Group - Equinet Europe. From 2000 to February 2014 Ms Clode was legal adviser at Statistics Portugal, International Unit, and consultant for the World Bank/Brazil as well as an internal lawyer at Citibank, Portugal.

DERAOUA, Amel



Parliamentarian, National People's Assembly, Algeria

Ms Deroua Amel has a degree in Law and Applied Foreign Languages from the University of Grenoble - France. She was elected Parliamentarian to the National People's Assembly for the mandate 2002-2007 on the Wilaya of Oran, she was a member of the Committee on Culture, Communication and Tourism and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and emigration. From 2007 to 2012, she took up the position of Director in a professional training and professional development institution, before being re-elected for a second legislative term (2012-2017), during which she was a member of the Committee on Transport and Communications and the Committee on Finance and Budget. In 2014, she was elected Vice-President of the National People's Assembly in charge of communication, culture, publishing and training, and in June 2015 founded the network of Algerian women parliamentarians. In May 2017, she was elected for a third legislative term on the Wilaya of Algiers and occupies the position of Vice-President of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Protection, before integrating, in September 2018, the Finance and Budget Committee. Since January 2018, Ms Deroua is also President of the Algeria-France Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Ambassador of the Women In

Parliaments Global Forum (WIP/WPL), platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices between women political leaders.

EDDALIA, Ghania



Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women, Algeria

Ms Eddalia was born in Blida on October 5, 1963. Graduate in clinical psychology, social psychology and human resources management at the University of Algiers, Ms Eddalia is specialised in Victimology at the Institute of Specialized Research Training Consulting (INCOFORS) of Chéraga and at the National Institute for Aid to Vocations and Mediation (INAVEM) in Paris, France. Ms Eddalia holds a university degree from the University of Burgundy (Dijon, France) on Clinical Psychopathology of crisis situations. She became a French teacher at Lycée in Blida wilaya in 1988, then psychologist and director of the Children's Families Association of Welcome Volunteer of Tipaza, before assuming various functions within the National Social Insurance Fund for Workers (CNAS). Engaged in child protection associations and a researcher in psychology and communication, Ghania Eddalia has been an activist of the FLN since 1990 and has been a member of the National People's Assembly in 2012, being a member of several commissions. From 2015 to 2017, Ghania Eddalia is Minister of the Relations with the Parliament. In 2017, for the legislative elections, she led the FLN list in Blida. On May 25, 2017, Ghania Eddalia was nominated by the Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, as Minister of National Solidarity and Family and the Status of Algerian Women.

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JOUNY, Nadya



Advocacy & Policy Officer, ABAAD, Lebanon

Having been raised in a country full of discrimination against women, and being a survivor of gender-based violence as well, Nadya Jouny left the field of journalism to advocate against discriminative laws in Lebanon and become a full-time activist in the field of women's rights. She currently works as an Advocacy & Campaigning officer at ABAAD, a pioneer organization in the MENA region in the field of women's rights, gender equality, and the elimination of gender-based violence. Prior to joining ABAAD, she worked with several NGOs in case management as well as emergency response under crisis with Syrian refugees, specifically in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. As an activist on both personal and professional levels, she advocates and fights for all women's issues, but particularly the issue of personal status laws in Lebanon, which disproportionately ban children from their mothers, and mothers from their children, in religious court-mandated custody battles.

KHAFAGY, Fatema



President of the Egyptian Feminist Union, former Head of the Ombudsperson Office of Egypt's National Council for Women

Ms Fatema Khafagy worked for fifteen years heading UNICEF Gender Program in Egypt and headed UNIFEM regional office in Jordan in 1997. She established and headed from 2001 until 2005 the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality office at the National Council of Women in Egypt. She works as senior gender expert for the EU, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, DFID, GIZ and other donor agencies in Egypt, Syria, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates. She is a board member of the Alliance of Arab Women, a founding and board member of the Arab Women Network for Parity and Equality and

vice President of the Egyptian Feminist Union. She was a member of the fact finding commission established by the interim President of Egypt in 2013, to gather information and evidence for the violent events against women and children that accompanied the June 30, 2013 revolution and its repercussions identifying perpetrators, and examining previous investigations and other incidents into which no investigations took place.

MOKRANI, Ali



Director of the European Union and European Institutions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria

Graduate of the National School of Administration of Algiers, Diplomacy Section, the French University of Law, Clermont Ferrand (DEA in Public Law), and the French University of Strasbourg (Diploma of Specialized Studies in International Relations) Mr Mokrani joined the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984 as Diplomatic Secretary. After four years in charge of the United Nations Office at the Directorate of International Political Affairs, he holds the position of Deputy Consul at the Algerian Consulate in Clermont Ferrand (France). He is then appointed First Secretary at the Embassy of Algeria in Hanoi (Vietnam). Between 1993 and 1997, Mr Mokrani held the post of Deputy Director in charge of the European Economic Community. He was then appointed, between 1997 and 2001, Minister Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Algeria in Brussels. Back in Algiers, between 2002 and 2004, he held the position of Deputy Director of International Economic and Financial Affairs. In 2004, he was appointed Ambassador of Algeria to Zimbabwe and Zambia until 2009. He currently serves as Director of Cooperation with the EU and the European Institutions. Among the main diplomatic activities ensured and which it assumes, we note the Chairmanship of the Follow-up Committee of the Dialogue with NATO, the national coordination of the Union for the Mediterranean, the follow-up of the 5 + 5 Dialogue, OSCE, and Partnership with the Council of Europe, as

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well as the steering of Algeria-EU cooperation. Mr Mokrani is also an associate professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences Politiques in Algiers.

MUHREIZ, Nuha



President of the Network Women Helping Women, Jordan

Ms Nuha Muhreiz is active on women's rights issues and has worked for more than 20 years at the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and Queen Zain Al Sharaf Institute for Development. She managed many programs and projects in the field of civic engagement, women rights, gender equality, reproductive health and gender based violence and conducted many leadership trainings for women and youth throughout Jordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia in cooperation with International agencies. Currently, she is the president of Women Helping Women Network and a freelance consultant working on women issues human rights coalitions and gender based violence. She was selected as one of the fifty pioneer Arab women by Sayedati Magazine Survey in 2014. Ms Muhreiz holds High Diploma in Equal Status and Human Rights of Women in the Middle East & North Africa, from Lund University through Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden program and BA in Philosophy and Psychology, Arab Beirut University, Lebanon.

BAIDOO, Mercy Chidi



Founder and Executive Director of Ripples International, Kenya

Ms Mercy Chidi Baidoo left her fulltime work as a social worker in Nairobi, in 2001, to return to her hometown, Meru, to respond to the AIDS pandemic. She now heads a comprehensive operation including a safe home for girls at risk of sexual

violence, a babies rescue home, a medical centre, a school, Legal Aid operations, an advocacy program, Community outreach for prevention, among others.

Following the kidnapping of "160 Girls" in Kenya in 2012, she initiated a legal initiative to achieve justice and protection against defilement for all girls in Kenya. After a series of legal initiatives, legal history was made in Kenya as access to justice was secured for the 160 Girls that inspired the adoption of the case, and legal protection from rape for all 10,000,000 girls in Kenya. Under her leadership, Ripples International has grown and is now celebrated as one of the most vibrant programs in the region, addressing diverse needs with emphasis on women and children rights. She is a mentor to a growing number of young women leaders.

QABBA, Marieme



Therapeutic mediator, ALCS Association for the Fight against AIDS, Morocco

Ms Marieme Qabba is a young Moroccan aged 34 who works for the Association to Fight AIDS "ALCS" in Essaouira as a therapeutic mediator, to ensure and contribute to a better follow-up of global management of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Ms Qabba is also responsible for the animation of the information sessions on women's rights with women's Associations.

SAHRAOUI, Fayçal



National Coordinator of the programme Moussawat, Ministry of Women, Family and Children, Tunisia

Mr Fayçal Sahraoui started his professional career in the Ministry of Finance as the head of department for the monitoring and management of tax and financial benefits in the context of investment encouragement and then as a Director for the follow-up of public

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enterprises. Mr Sahraoui was Director for budget management of the Ministry of Finance as well as responsible for the national programme for the promotion of equality between women and men at the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Senior citizens. Mr Sahraoui is well acquainted with the implementation and management of European projects. He was also designated as responsible for setting up and implementing the national strategy for the Economic empowerment of rural women as well as focal point at the OECD for gender issues. He regularly intervenes as a trainer/expert on gender-sensitive budgeting, budget management by objectives, and integration of the gender approach.

SAKANI, Ouahiba



Ms Ouahiba Sakani, Representative of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) for Algeria

Ms Sakani is a trained physician, holds a master's degree in demography and a diploma in population and development. She has held several international positions from 1998 to 2012, as medical director for the International Medical Corps (IMC) in Iraq, medical consultant for Engenderhealth and the International Rescue Committee in Pakistan, and reproductive Health Officer for UNHCR in Geneva. Since 2013, she has held the position of deputy representative of UNFPA in Algeria and has been in charge of the office since October 2018. Ms Sakani manages the UNFPA's programmes and develops the strategic partnerships, being her focus on population and development issues, including those related to reproductive health, youth and gender equality.

SINIORA, Randa



Director of Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling, Palestine

Ms Randa Siniora is a human rights and women's rights defender for over thirty years. She is currently the General Director of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) in Jerusalem. Randa's work has focused on advocacy and networking for progressive change in civil society organisations, UN agencies, and governments at national, regional and international levels. She began her career as a legal researcher and coordinator of the women's rights programme at Al-Haq, where she later served as director from 2001-2005. She has also worked as a human rights specialist with good governance organisations in the occupied Palestinian territory and was Head of the Advocacy and Networking Department at WCLAC from 1997-2001. Before leading WCLAC, she served as the senior Executive Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine.

SWÄRD CAPRA, Marie-Claire



Ambassador of Sweden in Algeria

Mrs. Swärd Capra is a diplomat at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs since August 1989. Born in 1962, she is a lawyer by training, and has graduate and post-graduate degrees in International Public Law from Lund University (LLM) in Sweden and Sorbonne University (D.E.A), France. She is fluent in French and English. Throughout her diplomatic career, Mrs. Swärd Capra has worked on a wide range of issues, notably foreign policy, European affairs, and trade. She has served at several Swedish diplomatic missions abroad, including Seoul, Copenhagen, Paris, Washington, and Geneva. Upon Sweden becoming a Member of the European Union in 1995, Marie-Claire Swärd Capra joined the services of the European Commission in Brussels before returning to national diplomatic service in 1998. She served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the OECD for two tenures, 1998-2003 and 2011-2016. Mrs. Swärd Capra was Sweden's Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva between 2007 and 2011.