



## North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Lisbon, 26/02/2016

### Training on Istanbul Convention for the Mediterranean civil society

#### Draft of concept note

#### CONTEXT

Deeply rooted in gender inequalities and discrimination, violence against women and girls is a worldwide issue. This violence takes different forms and is present in different parts of the world. The Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence ([Istanbul Convention](#)) is a complete and universal tool that could, through an integrated approach, contribute to putting an end to this pandemic affecting both European and Southern Mediterranean societies.

The Istanbul Convention and its provisions arise from an in-depth analysis of problems and solutions reported by member States of the CoE and others<sup>1</sup>, allowing non-members of the CoE to adopt/use it.

The mission of the North-South Centre (NSC) is to reinforce the role of civil society and in particular young women and girls through awareness-raising and training activities. The Convention gives non-governmental organisations (NGO) a solid basis to organise activities to promote awareness-raising, prevention and protection. It can also improve the actions of public authorities in regard to violence against women<sup>2</sup> using the Istanbul Convention as a reference.

#### NGOS IN THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

The Istanbul Convention is a tool for civil society actors enabling them to enlarge their influence and their potential of action. Undeniably, civil society plays a key role in the fight against domestic violence and violence towards women.

The measures for the protection of victims are largely provided by actors of civil society. The advocacy and awareness efforts against violence towards women and girls, discrimination, gender stereotypes, and demands for gender equality are often provided by NGOs and gender equality activists. Many NGOs also work on implementing the principles of gender equality and non-violence.

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<sup>1</sup> The Convention offers a universal model of laws and policies that aims to end violence against women and girls. It is a form of good practices on a higher jurisdictional level.

<sup>2</sup> The Convention foresees the implementation of global policies and contacts involving public organizations, NGOs, parliaments along with national, regional and local authorities. Policies of prevention and action should be implemented on all governmental levels and by all competent institutions and jurisdictions.

As a key actor, NGOs are mediators between victims and other stakeholders. They possess knowledge of reality in the field and are thus able to identify issues and real causes of violence against women.

The Convention shows that NGOs can play a role in the conceptualisation and monitoring of policies against violence by gathering and transmitting information and statistics about the phenomenon of violence against women and girls.<sup>3</sup>

## ACTIVITY PROJECT

In the framework of the training activity organised by [Euromed Rights](#) for its Network and [Working Group on gender equality and women's right](#), the NSC will organise a one-day training seminar on the use of the Istanbul Convention by NGOs with a focus on 3 modules:

- **PREVENTION:** methods of prevention in combatting violence against women and girls and domestic violence
- **PROTECTION:** measures of protection for victims
- **INFORMATION:** research, collection and sharing information and data

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Provide representatives of civil society, activists in the domain of women's rights and/or gender equality in the Southern Mediterranean with tools that will enable them to combat violence, as presented in the Convention, by sharing experience and good practice;
- Reinforce coordination and cooperation of NGOs on a regional level in order to raise awareness of violence against women ;
- Support civil society actors in collecting and spreading data on violence against women locally and nationally.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS:**

- Means of preventing violence and protecting victims in the Southern Mediterranean and Europe are referenced and shared by and for participants ;
- Participants cooperate and support respective implementation of good practice;
- Participants develop an action plan to combat violence against women on a regional level through an awareness-raising campaign;
- Participants undertake the collection of information and data on violence against women and domestic violence in order to share it with different stakeholders and members of the quadrilogue.

### **TARGET GROUP:**

Euromed Rights' working Group on gender equality and women's rights, composed of 17 members, and 9 representatives of Moroccan civil society.

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<sup>3</sup> Article 11 of the Convention: Collection of data and Research. NGOs and actors of the civil society can contribute to the collection of statistical data on matters related to different forms of violence and lead research on the explanatory factors, their effects, their frequencies, etc.

**DATE AND VENUE :**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, Mercure Sheherazade Hotel, Rabat, Morocco.

**FORMAT:**

The training seminar will start with a general presentation of the mission of the North-South Centre and the objectives of the training course followed by an exchange of views on the Istanbul Convention and the GREVIO (the specialised organ in charge of implementing the Convention). Case studies and simulation exercises will take place for actors of the civil society, in order to identify and elaborate tools, methods and strategies to fight violence against women focusing on the 3 main themes: Prevention, Protection, and Information.

The seminar will focus on sharing experiences, good practices and interactive sessions such as roles-playing and practical work in small groups. These activities will be based on the reference text to encourage an active participation and answer the different learning needs by offering a variety of methods to participants.

**WORKING LANGUAGE:**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic and English.

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