

## Training of Experts The Human Rights-based approach in Combating Violence against Women

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### Concept Note

#### BACKGROUND

Deeply rooted in gender inequalities and discrimination, violence against women is a serious human rights violation<sup>1</sup> that can take different forms<sup>2</sup> and that is common worldwide. Violence against women must be addressed on multiple levels and multiple sectors of society simultaneously.

In line with the Council of Europe (CoE) [Gender Equality Strategy](#), the [CoE policy towards neighbouring regions](#)<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly [Goal 5](#) to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) aims to contribute to the empowerment of women in the Southern Mediterranean region by addressing the obstacles that hinder the achievement of their full potential namely through awareness raising and training activities.

Considering the importance of a comprehensive integrated approach to prevent and combat violence against women, the co-ordination and co-operation of all stakeholders both at national and international level, could ensure the implementation of national strategies in the area of prevention and protection. The NSC promotes through civil society organisations the CoE standards and its human rights-based approach as guidance tools to eliminate violence against women through multi-stakeholders' and peer co-operation, as well as through the sharing of good practises.

#### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In order to reinforce efforts to prevent and combat violence against women, the NSC will provide a training of experts on preventing and combating violence against women in the Southern Mediterranean. The aim of the activity is to establish a network of trainers/experts in the Southern Mediterranean countries enabling them to disseminate CoE and NSC expertise on preventing and combating violence against women at the national level, while taking into account the current national contexts and needs.

On the basis of a selection process that will be held in consultation with relevant stakeholders from Southern Mediterranean countries, experienced workers in the field of violence against women will not only get acquainted with the principles of the CoE's standards, but they will also be provided with a co-ordinated and multi-agency methodology and a victim-centred and human rights-based approach.

Additionally, the network of experts monitored by the NSC will contribute to raise awareness about specific issues faced by women in Southern Mediterranean countries, as well as to promote

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<sup>1</sup> Violence against women is defined as human rights violation and a form of discrimination against women in the Article 3 (a) of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

<sup>2</sup> Forms of violence as defined in the [Council of Europe Recommendation Rec\(2002\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence.

<sup>3</sup> In particular, in reference to the CoE Neighbourhood Partnership with [Jordan](#), [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#) and the and the CoE Co-operation Priorities with [Palestine](#)<sup>\*</sup>.

Southern expertise in CoE member states in the NSC's future regional activities on the Empowerment of Women.

The duration of the training will be determined by the NSC, together with the appointed pedagogical team, on the basis of a pre-evaluation of the knowledge/expectations of the beneficiaries.

### **Targeted outputs**

- A minimum of 12 participants from the Southern Mediterranean countries trained on CoE's standards on preventing and combating violence against women, including the co-ordinated and multi-agency methodology, as well as the victim-centred and human rights-based approach;
- Increased knowledge on training tools and methods on combating violence against women;
- Establishment of a network of experts responsible for equality and women's empowerment.

### **Targeted outcomes**

- Enhanced coordination of institutional and other relevant stakeholders to prevent and combat violence against women;
- Recognition of the CoE's standards and human rights-based approach by the participants as guidance tools in order to build the capacity of stakeholders in fighting violence against women;
- Increased understanding of the relevance of adopting a coordinated and integrated action at the international and national level to reinforce women's rights;
- The Euro-Med Women Network online platform, monitored by the NSC, includes a specific section for the exchange of information and collection of good practices;
- Planning of local capacity building activities targeting the needs and specificities according to national contexts, on the basis of the good practices and testimonies shared during the activity;
- Reinforcement of the exchange of expertise between Southern Mediterranean countries and CoE's members states through activities monitored by the NSC.

### **Targeted group(s)**

The training is addressed to civil society legal experts and/or trainers from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*, Syria and Tunisia.

The participants should have already demonstrated experience and expertise in the field of preventing and combating violence against women.

### **For more information, please contact the NSC Secretariat:**

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