



## **Engaging the Male Perspective in Combating Violence against Women and Women Economic Empowerment**

**14th July 2017, 6:30pm-8pm**

IACE, Tunis, Tunisia

Gender equality means an equal visibility, empowerment, responsibility and participation of women and men in all spheres of public and private life. It also means an equal access to and distribution of resources between women and men and valuing them equally. However, violence and discrimination persist in many areas, maintaining women and men in their traditional roles and preventing the full realisation of women's human rights.

Women economic empowerment, in particular through entrepreneurship, plays a major role in achieving gender equality in southern Mediterranean countries; it is an essential growth lever and a reinforcement tool for democratic consolidation and peace construction in the region.

The contribution of women to these fundamental processes needs to be enhanced. It is of particular importance to raise awareness about women issues amongst men, who are usually absent from these discussions. To this aim, Global Shapers Tunisia, partner of the of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe's Training of Experts on the Human Rights-based Approach in Combating Violence against Women is organising a side-event on Men and Women fostering gender equality.

In the framework of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe's Training of Experts on the Human Rights-based Approach in Combating Violence against Women organised in cooperation with Global Shapers Tunisia, the latter is organising a side-event on "Engaging the Male Perspective in Combating Violence against Women and Women Economic Empowerment", a unique initiative where men are invited in order to discuss women issues.

Experts and enthusiasts about women's rights and combating violence against women from Southern Mediterranean region will be present to interact and answer to men's questions. Based on the exchange of expertise and best practices between women's rights experts and men from the Tunisian civil society organisations and international organisations, the side event seeks to promote and encourage the role of men in empowering women, in particular through entrepreneurship, as well as to enhance the cooperation between women and men in promoting women's rights.

The experts' participants will be co-creating the event format and discuss the way they would like best to run it in order to give them more ownership and to boost their sense of a network that will be collaborating on the long term.



The discussion will be oriented on the need to undertake increased efforts to empower women to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those on gender equality and poverty; the decisive role entrepreneurship can play as a means of reinforcing women's rights, fighting violence against women, discriminations and stereotypes; and integrating refugee and migrant women.

**PURPOSE:**

- Bring male perspective to the table on the issue of women's rights
- Share ideas on how to involve more men in combating violence against women and in empowering women through entrepreneurship
- Provide a space for the regional network of experts to collective action in front of audience, share their knowledge and experiences.
- Encourage men to bring a gender perspective in their futures activities

**FORMAT:** Debate OR Presentation of the workshop participants followed by Q & A

**OUTCOME:** List of recommendations provided by the experts, possible blog on GS platforms/WEF

**TENTATIVE LIST** (expected number 10-15)

**LOCATION** IACE – Institut Arabe des Chefs d'Entreprises

Adress: Bvd. principal Rue du Lac Turkana, 1053 LES BERGES DU LAC, Tunis, Tunisia.

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