

## IN FOCUS

25<sup>th</sup> November 2012

### Activities at EC Headquarters and Delegations

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, this Newsletter presents some of the activities that will be carried out at EU Headquarters and Delegations.

Get to know Maria da Penha Law.

Access: [www.spm.gov.br](http://www.spm.gov.br) or [www.mariadapenha.org.br](http://www.mariadapenha.org.br)

#### ALL WOMEN ARE ENTITLED TO AND DESERVE PROTECTION!

The Law protects all women, rich or poor, black, indigenous, Asian or white women, women who have affective relationship with men or with other women, sex workers, young, old, single, married, divorced or separated, unmarried that live together with male or female partner and women who live with Aids or other diseases.

#### STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN! LEARN YOUR RIGHTS, REPORT IT!

Dial 180 or go to the nearest police station.

Visit the videos of the Campaign: [www.unaids.org.br](http://www.unaids.org.br) and the website: [www.mulhereseadireitos.org.br](http://www.mulhereseadireitos.org.br)



Photo: A small part of the leaflet of the "Women and Rights Campaign" in Brazil (see also page 9) - EU Delegation in Brazil – UNAIDS – UN Women - UNFPA

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### Declaration by the High Representative Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2012

"Violence and abuse affect women from all kinds of backgrounds every day. As many as seven in ten women around the world report having experienced physical violence at some point in their lifetime. The violence knows no geographical, cultural, social, economic or educational boundaries. It is a phenomenon that affects all societies and takes many gruesome forms: from sexual harassment to female genital mutilation, forced marriage to honour killings. Violence against women is arguably the most widespread human rights violation of our time. A violation that claims millions of victims every year and causes terrible physical and emotional pain.

We must not only help prevent violence; we must also work to provide women with access to economic opportunities, to ensure their equal participation in public life, repeal laws and practices that continue to discriminate against them and ensure that homes, offices, streets and schools are safe for women and girls.

The EU is committed to leading this work. We have made protection against gender-based violence a key feature of the EU's human rights strategy. And we have cleared the way for greater cooperation between the EU and the UN on this agenda. Women and girls are particularly targeted and vulnerable in conflict situations. We have therefore made it a priority for the EU's military and police missions to prevent and combat gender-based violence. The EU's mission in Kosovo is, for example, already involved in the investigation and prosecution of war rape cases and in strengthening the fight against human trafficking. And the EU is spending € 4 million to reduce violence against women in Egypt.

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls is the priority theme of the UN Commission on the Status of Women's 57th session, which will be held in March 2013.

The EU will work to ensure the Commission's success."

**Editorial Committee:** European Union, DEVCO D1 & EU Gender Advisory Services

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## 25<sup>th</sup> November in EU Delegations (1)

### Albania

The Ministry of Labour/Social Affairs/Equal Opportunities is organising a 16-day campaign against domestic violence, together with UN WOMEN, other international organisations and local NGOs. Several initiatives are being organised, including:

- **The conference "Working with men and boys to fight against domestic violence"** will propose best practices for establishing education programmes for domestic violence perpetrators. The EU head of Delegation will probably be among the speakers. Where and when: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012, Tirana  
More information: [www.hotlinealbania.org](http://www.hotlinealbania.org)
- **A forum discussions on domestic violence with boys and men** from high schools and universities in the different cities, Vlora (5<sup>th</sup> December), Shkodra (6<sup>th</sup> December), Puka (25<sup>th</sup> November)  
More information: [www.gadc.org.al](http://www.gadc.org.al)
- **Two forum discussions** at the EU Information Center in Tirana or in two schools will be organised in Tirana on 25<sup>th</sup> November  
More information: [www.gadc.org.al](http://www.gadc.org.al)
- **Training sessions** including a special component on the fight against domestic violence are being organised in different cities, Shkoder (15<sup>th</sup> November), Puka (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November), Lezha (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November), Milot (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November), Lac (25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November). More information: [www.gadc.org.al](http://www.gadc.org.al) and [www.hotlinealbania.org](http://www.hotlinealbania.org)
- **A roundtable for the presentation of a follow-up on the UN CEDAW concluding observations on Albania** will be **broadcasted on TV**, in cooperation with the Albanian Women Empowerment Network/AWEN (23<sup>rd</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> November - tbc)  
More information: [www.gadc.org.al](http://www.gadc.org.al)

### Why the 16-Days of Activism Against Gender Violence?

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. In order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights, participants chose the two dates :

**November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day.**

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including **November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.**

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organising strategy by individuals, groups and organisations around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

More information: [Center for Women's Global Leadership](http://Center for Women's Global Leadership)

### Bangladesh

The EIDHR programme is funding the project "**Combating Violence against Women in Bangladesh through Community Participation, Education and Media Access**", which includes several activities for the 16 Day Long Activism for Combating Violence against Women and Children, namely:

- Rallies to Combat VAW
- A local Cable TV Network Campaign (on Child Marriage, Dowry and Sexual Harassment)
- Human Chain to Prevent Women & Child Trafficking
- Folk Song on Violence against Women Issues
- Video Show on Child Marriage, Dowry and Domestic Violence; Stage Drama on VAW
- Door-to-Door Campaign on Domestic Violence
- Press Conference, Round-Table Meeting on VAW

**For more info please contact:** Relief International-UK, MM Kabir Mamun [kabir.mamun@ri.org](mailto:kabir.mamun@ri.org)

Furthermore, the EIDHR-funded project "Securing Women Community's Basic Rights through Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governance" is planning a **women's rally for putting policy into practice on violence against Women** in Bangladesh; it aims at mobilising governments and partners around the southwest region of Bangladesh to end violence. Where and when: Tala Upazila, 25<sup>th</sup> November  
More information: Women Job Creation Centre



Photo: Gender talk communication in Ho Pu village – Ho Mit – Lai Chau (Vietnam)

## 25<sup>th</sup> November in EU Delegations (2)

### Brazil

The EU Delegation in Brasilia organised a Conference in Brussels joining Brazil and EU Civil society; the event '**EU-Brazil Human Rights Civil Society Seminar**', which included the theme of Elimination of Violence against Women, in the three thematic areas of the conference: human rights defenders, human trafficking and LGBTI rights, took place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels. More information: [Natalie.JELLINEK@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Natalie.JELLINEK@eeas.europa.eu)

### Colombia

**Public Forum for debating and raising awareness on the situation of rural girls** in Arauca, Nariño and Vaupés regions have been organized from September to early November in Arauca, Bogotá, Pasto and Mitú. At the end of November, a **National Meeting of Women and girls of the three departments** will be organised in Bogotá.

Organising entity: Humanidad Vigente (HV), Defensa de las Niñas y los Niños Internacional (DNI)

More information: [www.humanidadvigente.net](http://www.humanidadvigente.net) or [marcela.salazar-posada@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:marcela.salazar-posada@eeas.europa.eu)

Links to publications on Colombian rural girls and women:

[Situation of girls and women in Nariño](#)

[Situation of girls and women in Arauca](#)

### Lebanon

The **White Ribbon Campaign** will be launched; the event will include the intervention of the EU representative, and the broadcasting of a movie of men's forum activities.

Where and when: Beirut, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Organising entities: OXFAM GB and KAFA - Enough Violence and Exploitation in Lebanon

More information: Mrs. Roula Abi Saad [rabisaad@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:rabisaad@oxfam.org.uk)

### Lesotho

In Lesotho, the EU funded project "Beyond Enactment: Facilitating Implementation of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Act of 2011 to Realise Women's, Children's and Persons with Disability's Human rights" will implement an **Advocacy Campaign on the 16 Days of Activism to sensitise men, women, and people with disabilities on the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and raise awareness on different forms of gender-based violence. Research on knowledge, magnitude and attitudes of people** is also being undertaken in Lesotho with the purpose of determining the extent of human trafficking and GBV in the country.

More information: [www.womenandlaw.org.ls](http://www.womenandlaw.org.ls)

### Mauritius

The EU Delegation to Mauritius has two on-going programmes which provide **support to non-state actors and that make a provision to fund actions related to domestic violence**: NSA thematic programme (AAP 2012) will fund actions by non-state actors through the competitive process of Calls for Proposals and Decentralised Cooperation Programme, which also provides support to NSAs, including actions related to domestic violence.

More information: [madev.baloo@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:madev.baloo@eeas.europa.eu)

### Moldova

**"Altogether we'll succeed"**: a national campaign will be launched to raise the awareness of individual citizens, public institutions and non-state actors towards the country's on-going efforts to achieve the MDGs final targets. The campaign is part of the EC-funded project "Civil society and private sector as contributors to Millennium Development Goals' implementation", and it includes, amongst others, **videos, audio spots and research reports on MDG3**. Active campaigning will be undertaken between November 2012 – January 2013.

Research reports are already available online:

[Information campaign video spots](#) Romanian language

[Information campaign research reports](#) English

More information: Center for Economic Development-[www.ced.bg](http://www.ced.bg), Institute for Public Policy-[www.ipp.md](http://www.ipp.md), Think-Tank 'Expert-Grup'-[www.expert-grup.org](http://www.expert-grup.org)



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Photo: Two Colombian Girls

## 25<sup>th</sup> November in EU Delegations (3)

### Morocco

In September 2012, Mr. Eneko Landaburu, Head of the EU Delegation to Morocco participated in the opening session of the **Regional Conference “Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women”**; the event was organised by the Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Social Development and the Council of Europe.

The disbursement of the first tranche of the programme “support to the promotion of equity and equality between women and men” (see also article at page 6), was planned for October 2012, upon the accomplishment of the agreed conditions for this tranche; these conditions included the **adoption of implementation protocols for a Family Support Fund** allowing divorced mothers whose former spouse do not pay child maintenance, to receive this from the State.

More information: [sandra.bareyre@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:sandra.bareyre@eeas.europa.eu)

### Pakistan

The EIDHR-funded project on '*Ending torture and ill-treatment of women in police custody in Pakistan*' will organise multiple activities such as **press conferences, seminars, dialogues, exposure visits to jails**. An **education poster** emphasising the social integration of women survivors of torture has been designed by Oxfam and will be used in all relevant activities.

More information: Uzma Zarrin [UZarrin@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:UZarrin@oxfam.org.uk)

### Papua New Guinea

The EU Delegation supports the **Human Rights festival** organised by the United Nations in November and December 2012 in Port Moresby, Buka and Goroka.

More information: [Png Human Rights Festival](#)

### Solomon Islands

The Delegation to the Solomon Islands is supporting the Church of Melanesia Trust Board "*Men wea waka fo men fo stopping violence*". In this framework a Special Church Service to commemorate **White Ribbon Day and 16 Days of Activism against Violence** will be organized on 25<sup>th</sup> November at St Barnabas Cathedral. Male Advocates of the Anglican Church of Melanesia will be appointed to do training/awareness raising in the provinces among men.

More information: Judith Siota

[tufu.watafolwaterfall@hotmail.com](mailto:tufu.watafolwaterfall@hotmail.com)

### South Africa

Local NGOs are undertaking different long-term programmes and initiatives for combating violence against women and improving access to justice for victims:

- **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Rights Programme** in the Mpumalanga province.

More information: Greater Nelspruit Rape Intervention Programme [www.grip.org.za](http://www.grip.org.za)

- **Strengthening State Responsiveness to Gender-Based Violence** in the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces

More information: Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre [www.za.boell.org](http://www.za.boell.org)

- **Promoting Access to Justice for Rape Survivors**

More information: Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre [www.tlac.org.za](http://www.tlac.org.za)

### Thailand

In the Pattanee Province, a dialogue on "**Deep South Women Peace Building**" and a walking campaign have been organised under the EU-funded project "*Empowering Women's Networks to Improve Women's Rights Protection and Access to Reproductive Health Services*", 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November 2012

More information: [fowomen@gmail.com](mailto:fowomen@gmail.com)

### Ukraine

The EU Delegation and the UN in Ukraine will organise different events to foster debates among students at the Pedagogical University (female audience), KPI (male audience) and NAPA (civil servants); the different types of violence against women in Ukraine will be topics for discussion among students and professors. A round table on the prevention and response to domestic violence will be launched jointly with the Ombudsman.

Where and when: 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>. and 27<sup>th</sup> November in Kiev.

More information: [sergey.polyuk@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:sergey.polyuk@eeas.europa.eu)

### Vietnam

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and UNFPA organised a **National Policy Dialogue to celebrate the International Day against VAW** on 21<sup>st</sup> November. On this occasion, the EU Ambassador and the Spanish Ambassador made a joint statement on the situation of GBV in the country and worldwide.

More information: [iulia.petrecchia@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:iulia.petrecchia@eeas.europa.eu)

The priority theme of the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW57](#)) – New York, 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - will be the **elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls**. Some preparatory documents are already available :

- [Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls](#)
- [Report on the online discussion on eliminating violence against women and girls](#)

## Highlights from Delegations

### **EU Somalia Unit: The European Union remains a steadfast supporter of women's empowerment in Somalia**

Somali women play a key role in the development of Somalia and, on the occasion of the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Woman", the EU stresses its continued support to Somali women in reinforcing that role. To date, the situation of "gender equality and women's empowerment" (GEWE) in Somalia has been shaped by a context of prolonged conflict, endemic poverty, recurrent natural disasters and more importantly by a deep clan and male hierarchy culture. However, the situation has evolved over the past few months, in particular with the recent political transition that has led to the establishment of a new Somali Government, which includes two women for the first time. This first step is a very positive and symbolic change in the history of Somalia and an inspiration for all to continue working on women empowerment initiatives and on comprehensive gender policies at national and regional levels. Under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, the EU Somalia Unit has launched a competitive process focused on gender projects for the first time. This *Call for Proposals to support the promotion of WEGE in Somalia*, allocating more than 3 million EUR, aims at strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society.



EU Somalia Unit

Initiatives are foreseen as a means to promote an inclusive and empowered Somali society, capable of paving the way for a social contract between Somali women and girls and the Somali authorities at all levels - and to build a sense of citizenship. The Call has been a huge success and six contracts have already been signed; the selected projects focus on different aspects of WEGE, resulting in a very comprehensive intervention in support of Somali women: elimination of gender-based violence, minority group's rights, economic empowerment, livelihood, capacity building and political representation. Through all these projects, the EU remains strongly committed to promoting gender equality and in keeping women empowerment in Somalia high on the agenda.

More information: [Francesca.PAVARINI@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Francesca.PAVARINI@eeas.europa.eu)

### **EU guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them.**

*"The adoption of guidelines on violence against women and girls is a mark of the EU's clear political will to treat the subject of women's rights as a priority and to take long-term action in that field. In focusing on the issue of violence against women and girls, the EU will be taking effective action against one of the major human rights violations of today's world."*

In this context, it is important to remind the importance of including WAV in reporting from the Delegations: *"Heads of Mission must systematically include in their reports a section on compliance with human rights analysing respect for women's fundamental rights, with particular reference to their right to physical integrity and non-discrimination and compliance with the international commitments of States as regards violence against women."* [Complete text 2008]

### **Council of Europe - Ad Hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**

The website of the CAHVIO "Stop Violence" provides a list of useful [background documents on VAW](#) at regional and international level.

At European level, in 2011, the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence* [Complete text, 2011] has been approved and is now open for signature and ratification.



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Photo: Group of Girls in Colombia

## Experiences on VAW (1)

### **NIGERIA: Women, Peace and Security**

A programme on **Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria** is under formulation. It aims at enhancing women's participation in peace building in Northern Nigeria.

The programme intends to tackle gender inequalities due to patriarchy, cultural and socio-economic factors and the lack of an adequate legal framework to ensure the protection and promotion of women's rights.

Three specific objectives represent the core of the intervention:

1. Support the advancement of women's rights and women's meaningful engagement in peace building and conflict management
2. Enhance the rule of law mechanisms that foster the achievement of women's rights;
3. Contribute to ensuring that more women and vulnerable girls in at least four states of Northern Nigeria benefit from key public services that meet their specific needs

The causes of the problems are:

- Women's under-representation in the Northern region
- Low quality of access to justice
- Escalation of insecurity and violence
- Low access and awareness of services and opportunities
- Low capacity of state and local government to deliver quality services
- Failure to incorporate and budget women's concerns into national policies and planning in the North
- Corruption and mismanagement

In this context, the programme will be implemented using a "Peace building" framework: the starting point will be the development of a **comprehensive, gendered conflict analysis**; from this, the delivery of "peace" dividends will be sought in a manner that aims to address the root causes of conflict and build sustainable conflict resolution mechanisms.

The following strategies will be used to achieve the objectives of this programme: Partnerships with state and non-state actors; capacity building for local women and a women's peace coalition on conflict resolution; technical support for the justice/security sector; gender responsive budgeting and public service design and monitoring; evidence-based advocacy channelling local level findings of national policy-making forums and decision makers for budget allocation and the involvement of men.

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### **Morocco: Budget Support and Gender**

The European Union is supporting the Morocco Plan for Equality between Women and Men: the Financing Agreement for the programme "**Appui à la promotion de l'équité et de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes – mise en œuvre du Plan gouvernemental pour l'Égalité**" was signed in July 2012. It includes the participation of different Ministries: Solidarity (Women's Machinery), Justice, Economy and Finance, Communication, Public Sector Modernisation, Home Affairs, the programme is a clear demonstration that gender is a key issue on the policy agenda of the Moroccan Government.

Formulated during the Arab Spring, the expected results of the programme reveal the importance of this initiative, especially considering this historical period; they cover different angles of intervention, such as: legal protection; enjoyment of women's rights; socio-cultural environment for gender equality; institutionalisation of interventions on gender equality; conditions and capacities for participation in political governance and management of public affairs; programming capabilities for the implementation of the Plan for Equality between Women and Men.

On the issue of **violence against women**, the programme foresees different initiatives at different levels, representing a step forward in the protection of women from any type of violence:

- Legislative level: criminalisation of violence against women, in particular through: amendments to the penal code and penal procedural code by including measures related to protection for violence against women and a new law against domestic violence; new legislative initiative to eliminate stereotypes based on sex in media; training for police, judges, and justice chain actors on gender.
- Service level: strengthening the services provided for the protection of the rights of women who are victims of violence, such as: dedicated areas for women and children in courts; developing and implementing regional action plans for an improved protection of women and children; equipping the new Multi-Functional Centres for women.
- Socio-cultural level: developing tools to eliminate stereotypes about sexes in the media in order to promote a change in attitudes and practices related to violence against women, early marriages and to achieve better protection of women's rights.

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## Experiences on VAW (2)

### **Solomon Islands and Kiribati: Family Health and Safety Study**

The **Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study** (2009) and **The Kiribati Family Health and Support Study** (2008), were funded by the Government of Australia and the United Nations Population Fund, and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Government of the Solomon Islands. These Studies replicate the WHO's Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women.

The Solomon Islands study shows a high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional VAW with a particular emphasis on *violence by an intimate partner (VIP)*. The most astonishing data indicates that nearly 2 in 3 women (64%), aged 15-45, reported experiencing physical or sexual violence or both, by an intimate partner and that 37% of women had been sexually abused before the age of 15. The Kiribati Family Health and Support Study also shows that violence against women is prevalent and more than 2 in 3 (68%) of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner. According to the studies, only a small number of abused women seek help and support from services and institutions due to a lack of support structures.

The analysis of the risk factors associated with the VIP found that partner (men) characteristics are much more significant than women characteristics in relation to violence. Many of the perpetrators of VAW and children used the concept of culture as a convenient excuse for their behaviour and as a basis for instigating violence. For both studies, the high prevalence of violence relates to a multitude of factors, such as the acceptability of VAW, the normalisation of controlling behaviours within intimate partner relationships, the fact that physical punishment is often used as a form of disciplining women who are seen as transgressing their gender roles and with the fact that current law does not define partner violence as a crime.

The evidence throughout these two studies highlights that VAW is an extreme manifestation of gender inequality, that discrimination and power differences between men and women exist and need to be addressed in order to overcome this fundamental violation of human rights.

These reports are available online

[Solomon Islands](#) - [Kiribati](#)

More information: [Juan Carlos Hinojosa](#) [Juan-Carlos.HINOJOSA-MARTINEZ@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Juan-Carlos.HINOJOSA-MARTINEZ@eeas.europa.eu)

### **Brazil: Women and Rights Campaign**

Brazil has a recent strong history of combating violence against women and domestic violence in particular (the so called "*Maria da Penha Law*"); the Delegation of the EU is also engaged in supporting initiatives promoting women's rights.

Violence against women, not only produces psychological and physical diseases, but also increases women's vulnerability to HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases.

In this regard, the EU Delegation and the UN (namely UNDAIDS, UN Women in Brazil and UNFPA), joined their efforts for the production of a new campaign aiming at reducing and preventing violence against women: the 2nd edition of the Women's and Rights Campaign.

The campaign was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and includes a wide range of different materials: TV movies, radio spots, leaflets, DVDs, which have been distributed nationwide in 4 languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish and for the first time in Brazil - in the indigenous language - "Tikuna". The Tikuna population has an extremely high level of violence against women and sexually transmitted diseases.

The campaign will be run nationwide and is also expected to be available on the web for wider use: [www.mulheresdireitos.org.br](http://www.mulheresdireitos.org.br) or [www.unaids.org.br](http://www.unaids.org.br).

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Photo: Material from the Women and Rights Campaign

## EU & UN Women for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

### **“Spring Forward for Women”: EC - UN Women new partnership on women’s empowerment**

In October 2012, the European Commission and UN Women launched a new partnership on women’s empowerment “Spring Forward for Women”, a new joint regional programme for the South Mediterranean Region. The launch of Spring Forward for Women follows the signature of a strategic partnership agreement between UN Women and the European Commission in April 2012 (see box below). Signed by the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle, and UN Women Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director Policy and Programmes, John Hendra, the programme aims at supporting national and regional stakeholders to empower women economically and politically in the context of the progress that has followed the Arab Spring. The central role that women occupied within the Arab Spring has created new momentum for meaningful citizenship and political empowerment in a region with the lowest levels of political participation and economic engagement among women globally. The Spring Forward programme will support initiatives by national and regional institutions and civil society organisations to ensure women's active engagement in decision-making, empower women economically and enhance regional knowledge and experience-sharing on women's political and economic rights.

More information:

[DG Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid](#)  
[EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle](#)  
[European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument : UN Women](#)

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### **Highlights from the First Progress Report to The European Commission**

The programme **Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality (FFGE)** is a partnership between the EU, UN Women and ITC/ILO and seeks to address challenges to financing and accountability for the implementation of gender equality commitments in stable and fragile states. The first year of implementation contributed to positioning financing for the GE agenda at both global and national levels. In particular, the following practices and lessons learned should be underlined.

#### **Enhancing transparency and accountability on the implementation of the post-Busan agenda at national levels, based on the commitments made by governments.**

*In Kyrgyzstan, efforts are underway to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) on the Busan Agenda for Action.*

#### **Building institutional capacity and strengthening technical skills of national partners and funding partners.**

*In Bolivia, in partnership with the Centre for Research and Development, a module on fiscal policy and GRB has been developed. The Centre is now delivering courses, using this module, to representatives of various ministries.*

#### **Contributing to promoting learning and knowledge on financing for gender equality.**

*The occupied Palestinian territories recently completed a study on local aid coordination mechanisms and assessed how gender has been incorporated in these structures.*

*Honduras and Bolivia have both developed costing tools that have been used in those countries. As a result of the costing exercise in Bolivia, a specific budget for the creation of a Gender Unit in the Ministry of Production has been allocated.*

#### **Strengthening the on-going work on institutional capacity-development and promoting gender mainstreaming in EU aid management mechanisms and supporting national planning and budgeting mechanisms.**

*In Honduras, a strategic partnership between the National Women’s Machinery (NWM), the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation and the EU has been developed to facilitate a common approach among all parties, to identify gender equality priorities for inclusion in the country’s National Development Plan (NDP). It was launched at a high-level event with participation from the President of Honduras.*



### **Memorandum of Understanding EC-UN Women**

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012, a new partnership between the EU and UN Women was signed by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, with Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Michelle Bachelet. The new Memorandum of Understanding signed on the margins of the EU Sustainable Energy for All Summit in Brussels, reaffirms the partnership between the two organisations to support gender equality and women’s empowerment around the world and ensures closer collaboration, information sharing, expertise and analysis in order to effectively advance women’s rights. Cooperation will primarily focus on ensuring women’s representation in decision-making in the fields of economics, politics and justice worldwide, as well as better access for women to work and social opportunities. Crucially, the partnership will see the two organisations coming together to take action on combating sexual and gender-based violence. This will include a commitment to provide more support and protection to survivors of violence and increasing access to support and services for those women affected.

The press release in all EU Languages can be found [here](#).

## About GAP

### Speech of Fokion Fotiadis and David O'Sullivan on women at DEVCO days

In their note to the attention of Heads of Delegations on **"Implementing and reporting on the EU Gender Action Plan 2010-2015"** Fokion Fotiadis and David O'Sullivan underlined the importance of gender equality in EU development policies: *"Gender equality objectives should be part of the policy and political dialogue related to budget support programs"*, as stated in the Council Conclusion on the *Agenda for Change* and on the *Future Approach to EU Budget Support*.

Congratulating the work done up to now, the two DGs also urged Heads of Delegations to commit EU Delegations to the future reporting of GAP implementation.

On GAP reporting: the note underlines the leading role of EU Delegations in putting together the achievements from EU Delegations and Member States in one report.

On GAP implementation: the necessity to improve gender mainstreaming is recognised in EU supported interventions, thus encouraging Delegations to give their contribution to achieve the objective (75% of all new proposals for EU supported interventions take gender into account).

*More information: the complete note and annexes can be found on Cap4Dev Gender Focal Person Group.*

### GAP – 2012 Implementation report

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, the Second Report on the implementation of the "EU Plan of Action on gender equality and women empowerment in development 2010-2015" will be presented to the Council. Despite all the HQ efforts to alert EU Delegations and Member States early on about their reporting obligations and numerous reminders to both, a high number of reports arrived too late to be taken fully into account. As a consequence of the aforementioned note, the number of Delegations who have reported increased to 92 this year as opposed to 80 last year, while the number of Member States reporting has decreased (-2). The report is following its adoption procedure. As soon as possible, it will be uploaded on the Cap4dev website.

*More information:*

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### Investing in People

As mentioned in the 8<sup>th</sup> March newsletter, the call **"Investing in People - Strengthening protection and promotion of women's rights and women's social and economic empowerment"** -EuropeAid/131087/C/ACT/Multi – was closed on 30/01/2012; an extremely high number of applications were received (1818). Currently, only 48 contracts are being negotiated for a total budget of 30 Mln. Euro. By the end of the year, the contract will be signed and Capacity4Dev should announce the publication of the list of signed contracts.

*More information:* [marina.marchetti@ec.europa.eu](mailto:marina.marchetti@ec.europa.eu)

### Ethiopia: Training on Gender Mainstreaming in EU

The EU Delegation to Ethiopia organised gender training for EU staff of the Delegation and Embassies in Ethiopia and some of their national partners. Juan Villa Chacon, gender focal person of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, initiated and coordinated the training with other EU staff of Embassies in Ethiopia. The Swedish Embassy arranged the logistics of the training. The training programme was elaborated on the basis of a training needs assessment questionnaire which was completed by the EU Delegation in consultation with gender focal persons of EU Embassies in Ethiopia. The training was tailor-made, taking into account the specific situation in Ethiopia in the exercises and presentations. It was implemented by EU Gender Advisory Services in Brussels, which was represented by the trainer Thera van Osch.

This training was particularly interesting because of the participation of staff from the Embassies of Austria, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden. Crucial national partners, such as the NAO (Ministry of Finance), the Ministry of Women, children and Youth Affairs; an important CSO was also present. This was a good mixture for a fruitful working relationship during the training and especially during exercises on real cases in the small working groups.

Although two days were rather short, the group covered all the key topics that the participants expected to address. They valued the training as highly relevant to their work.



*Gender training in Ethiopia: one of the working groups*

## Notes produced by the GAS team

New tools available for Gender focal persons and/or for implementing the EU Gender Action Plan :

### Guidance notes and pedagogical introductions:

- Guidance note on Gender Country profile
- Guidance note on the G-marker, including a ppt on G-marker
- Gender checklist for National Indicative Programmes
- Gender checklist for programming phase (FAQ and guidelines on sex disaggregated data and gender equality performance indicators in budget support)
- A pedagogical ppt on Gender indicators from a project approach
- A short French ppt presenting EU-GAP
- Examples and tips to build gender competences in EU Delegations (Examples of TOR, how to finance gender capacity building, defining a budget for training)
- Starter set for Gender focal persons

### Notes on GAP Exchange of experiences and good practices

- Note 1 on GAP-Specific objective 1: Strengthen the lead role of the EU in promoting GEWE in development
- Note 2 on GAP-Specific objective 8: Support in Combating Violence against women
- Note 3 on GAP- Action 3.3: Gender coordination group at country level

Most tools are uploaded in the Gender focal person group on Capacity4Dev or ask DEVCO D1

## Online Resources on Gender

The EC Platform for Knowledge management on development. Share experiences, check events and receive news related to gender issues on Capacity4Dev platform! Join the Public Group on Gender and Private group for GFP !  
[www.capacity4dev.eu](http://www.capacity4dev.eu)



**My M&E** is an interactive Web 2.0 platform to share knowledge on country-led M&E systems worldwide with focus on Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights responsive evaluation; managed by UNICEF and IOCE, in partnership also with UN Women.  
[www.mymande.org](http://www.mymande.org)

## VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

An online resource in English, French and Spanish, designed to serve the needs of policymakers, programme implementers and other practitioners dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls. The Centre is an initiative of UN Women, bringing together the valuable contributions of expert organizations and individuals, governments, United Nations sister agencies, and a wide range of relevant actors.  
[www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org)

### **Online Gender Training 2013**

The ONLINE courses on gender equality and how to include it in development cooperation activities will be available again in 2013.

Each course will last approximately 10 learning hours, including reading and exercises.

There are no fixed time schedules. Participants are free to follow the course at a time which is most convenient for them, as long as they finish it before the closure date. Students who finish the course will receive a certificate.

A Tutor will be available to support participants.

Please, check in January when the training will be held, on the Cap4DEV Gender page.



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Photo: Women's training in Nariño (Colombia)