



Combatting Violence against Women and Girls

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEMESTER | JULY - DECEMBER 2014



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for Democracy and Human Rights

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) (Article 1).

Foreword

Most of us know a woman who has suffered from violence at some point in her life. It happens everywhere, in all spheres of all societies. It is unacceptable and revolting.

I believe that the role of men and boys in taking up the fight against violence is crucial. This is why I call myself a male feminist; change cannot happen without the active engagement of men and boys.



Indeed, the biggest danger we face is to accept this situation as the status quo, simply because "it has always been like that". The biggest mistake would be to consider as fate what has in fact been socially and historically constructed by our own societies. This is not the world we want to live in, neither is it the one we want to pass on to our children.

As EU Commissioner, I have strong faith in our capacity to make change happen. I know this needs strong political will. That is why gender equality is among the three top priorities of my mandate, and rightly so. It is not an option, it is a must.

Combatting all forms of violence against women and girls is a fundamental pillar of respect for human rights. It is therefore an integral part of our development policy.

In 2015, the world will formulate a new agenda for development. Gender equality and women's empowerment, the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls and of all other harmful practices are a precondition of poverty eradication, and of fair and sustainable development. This is why the EU firmly supports gender equality, both as a stand-alone goal and as an objective to be mainstreamed across the post-2015 agenda.

The promotion and protection of women's rights is a priority for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Hundreds of EIDHR actions have addressed all forms of violence against women. I am particularly proud that they could concretely help to mitigate its effects, address its root causes, improve individual situations and change systemic issues.

This proves that results and changes can occur.

I can only commend the remarkable work and dedication of our implementing partners on the ground and confirm that our support to eliminate violence against women, be it political or financial, will go from strength to strength.

Neven Mimica

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development



By 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.

EU Guidelines on violence against women and girls and combatting all forms of discrimination against them (2008)

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Union assistance shall focus on measures to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation, forced and arranged marriages, crimes of "honour", domestic and sexual violence, and trafficking in women and girls.

EIDHR Regulation 235/2014 (Article 2, l.b(ix))

Introduction

In recent years and in many parts of the world, there have been unprecedented contestations of women's status and rights; including the widespread use of rape as a weapon of war, and the proliferation of horrific forms of human trafficking, with women being enslaved or formally sold as goods.

Around the world millions of women and girls suffer discrimination simply for being women. They often suffer double discrimination if they belong to a marginalised group or if they are fleeing their country.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is one of the most pervasive forms of violence. It takes place in armed conflict but also through daily forms of violence. It is a global pandemic that affects all countries, all societies, all religions, faiths and ethnic backgrounds.

In 2008, with the adoption of dedicated "Guidelines on violence against women and girls", the EU committed to take effective action against one of the major human rights violations of today's world.

To do so, the EU agreed to address all forms of violence by mixing three intertwined approaches: (i) the prevention of violence (ii) the protection and support for survivors and (iii) the prosecution of perpetrators.

Combatting Violence's Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is therefore a priority of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Between 2007 and 2013, over 420 projects worth 70 million Euro in total, were deployed to promote and protect women and girls' rights across the world, either as a specific or as a secondary priority. They contributed to the empowerment and protection of these women and girls. They actively supported women's human rights activists and gender equality advocates. Such an essential objective, as well as its necessary financial support, have been reinforced for 2014-2020.

This report highlights the added value of EIDHR activities in delivering against VAWG. It provides examples of projects fighting domestic and sexual violence (Part 1), preventing harmful practices such as infanticides, Female Genital Mutilation, or early marriage (Part 2), eradicating economic exploitation, trafficking and exposure (Part 3), combatting violence against women in armed conflict (Part 4) and supporting Women Human Rights Defenders (Part 5).



35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence

HOW TO STOP VIOLENCE

- Awareness**
- Education**
- Prevention**



1

Fighting domestic and sexual violence



Gender-based violence is the most shocking manifestation of gender inequality, and it serves to perpetuate and reinforce it. It cannot be understood in isolation from those social norms that govern gender relations and that make such violations acceptable.

The most common form of violence against women is that performed by a husband or an intimate partner. Men often use violence to punish perceived transgressions of gender roles. It is often considered normal rather than a criminal act, and victims rather than perpetrators are often blamed and stigmatised.

Domestic violence is a serious, preventable violation of human rights that relates to any physical, sexual, or psychological harm done by a current or former partner or spouse both in heterosexual or same-sex couples, ranging from one hit to chronic severe battering.

An EU project mobilises communities in **Georgia** to prevent and respond to violence against women through educational, cultural and sport activities.

Implemented by the **Women's Information Centre**, this project sensitises ethnic and religious communities as well as refugees in the Panksi Gorge. It has increased protection mechanisms, online consultations, legal assistance, and broadcast programmes. It has helped to break stereotypes. Crucially, it has led to a decrease of cases of violence. While they previously only used and referred to the Sharia, today, the Men's and the Women's Elder councils of the Gorge are using the national legislation.



In **Papua New Guinea**, an EIDHR project helps to protect women from violence. It strengthens and mobilises communities and provincial stakeholders to advocate for improved prevention, treatment and protection services in the Provinces of Southern Highlands and Madang.

Implemented by **World Vision Trust**, this project equips men and women in the targeted communities with information and skills required to prevent violence. It protects and

supports women who have survived violence. It engages all local key stakeholders in evidence based advocacy for effective police and legal protection.

In South Africa, an EIDHR project enhances state responsiveness to Gender Based Violence. It seeks to bring about fairer outcomes for survivors of rape and domestic violence and to highlight the lack of programmes and the significant need for these.

Implemented by the **Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre**, this project fruitfully lobbied the state to improve the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, to enhance judicial and policing services to victims, to reform national policy and to support shelter services for abused women. Through town hall meetings with community members and local government structures, public debates, dialogues, round-tables and advocacy workshops it helped strengthen collective engagement and produced reports for the parliamentarians. A national campaign of murals was developed to raise awareness of victims' rights and to advocate against rape.

An EU project in **Turkey** has provided a life free from violence to 477 women in 23 shelters in Ýstanbul, Van, Ýzmir and neighbouring cities. Implemented by **Austrian Women's Shelter Network, Van Kadın Dayanışma Derneği and Ýzmir Kadın Dayanışma Derneği**, this project helped SHÇEK, the Social Services and Child Protection Agency and municipalities receive direct information and therefore be more active, increase their standards and advocate for the provision of necessary budgets. By providing information through advice centres, it also reduced incidents that may result in death or disability. Furthermore, in cooperation with related chambers of commerce, it empowered women and children who stay in shelters to do on-the job vocational training.

An EU project promotes the establishment in public policy of protection mechanisms, family support and investigation of women disappearances in **Mexico**. Implemented by **Mujeres por México en Chihuahua** in the largest border city of Juarez, this project monitors the implementation of investigation protocols for disappeared women. It develops prevention campaigns. It follows court cases and provides psychosocial and legal support to the family of "desaparecidas". It also organises working seminars with local and federal authorities to strengthen their response and develop a national register of enforced disappearances.



2

Preventing harmful practices



Throughout the world, there are many different types of harmful traditional practices that violate the human rights of women and girls, such as female infanticide or son preference, female genital mutilation, child, forced and early marriage, or bride kidnapping.

"Son preference" is a custom rooted in gender inequality that is prevalent in many countries and found across religions and social status. It can lead to selective abortion of **infanticide** of new born baby girls.

An EU project helps to reduce female infanticide in India with a view to improve the child sex ratio for the 2021 census and to strengthen accountability on female infanticide through the enforcement of the law and the strict implementation of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Acts.

Implemented by the **Asian Centre for Human Rights Charitable Trust**, this project increases awareness, imposes the inclusion of female infanticide in the syllabus of medical courses as part of ethics, and calls for the cancellation of licences of medical practitioners found guilty of violating the law.

Using public statements by religious leaders against female infanticide, it advocates for more resources from the Government to incentivise the retention of female infants. Through the establishment of 24x7 Telephone Helplines it supports mothers under pressure to commit female infanticide or to abort female foetuses.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a partial, or total, removal or injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons usually performed on girls between the ages of six months and nine years. Although it is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights and child abuse, it affects the lives of millions of girls every year. It causes infection, chronic pain and increased maternal and neonatal mortality. It represents a major risk to women's health.

In 2013, the EU adopted the Communication on eliminating female genital mutilation. On this basis, the EIDHR supports projects promoting social change, preventing this practice, and providing support to survivors.



More than 125 million
girls alive today
have been subjected
to Female Genital Mutilation



Mariame Habib, 17 years old and 9 months pregnant, was subjected to (FGM/C) Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting) when she was a child. She came from Beremedaytu woreda (district) to be treated during pregnancy at Barbara May Hospital in Mille that treats women and children subjected to FGM/C



Implemented by the **Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Freedom**, an EU project reduced the practice of female genital mutilation **in Mali**. In four cities of the region of Kayes, it trained, influential social actors such as community and religious leaders, traditional practitioners, teachers, and health workers to act as facilitators and to become active agents of information and sensitisation of the wider public.

Focussing on the veracity of traditional views about the practice, its health related harmful consequences, its human rights related negative effects and its repercussions for the wellbeing of the community at large, through dialogue, information and community education, this project successfully led to the decision to abandon FGM in the villages and to the issue of public declarations endorsed by local authorities.

An EU project also helps to eradicate female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practice such as abduction, polygamy, spoliation of widow inheritance, early marriage and rape **in Ethiopia**.

This project, implemented by **HUNDEE**, supports women's self-help groups and community conversations between traditional leaders, police and elders to deal with women's status, violence and impact of harmful practices. The empowered communities, supported by law enforcement and local authorities, enacted local laws against harmful traditional practices. None of the women participating in the self-help groups agree to subject their daughters to FGM anymore.



Child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18, is a human rights violation. It denies girls their right to childhood, education and the choice of whether, whom and when to marry. Not ready, neither physically or emotionally, to become wives and mothers, married girls often face dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, and are more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS and to suffer domestic violence. Girls who marry early often abandon formal education therefore limiting their opportunities.

In Yemen, an EU Project reduces the number of early marriage and practices of exchanging wives. It targets lawyers, judges, imams, public speakers, journalists and both male and female teachers to raise their awareness on the negative consequences of such marriages. It also supports the practices of law and Islamic references that protect women's rights.

Implemented by the **Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)**, this project also offers educational enrolment for girls and supports women from poor households to start income generating business, through micro-credit loans, business training and monitoring service, and to become more independent.

In Pakistan, an EU project enhances social and collective action in local communities to detect, prevent and respond to forced marriage and denial of inheritance rights.

Implemented by **Kirkens Nodhelp Forening** in the Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces, this project sensitises stakeholders to implement existing national laws and expedite pending bills, trains police officials, Lady Health Workers (LHWs), Revenue officers and Marriage/Nikah registrars to incorporate gender considerations.

It maps violence's and lobbies religious leaders, journalists, youth groups and members of Parliament to condemn incidents and develop complaint handling mechanisms for survivors. It also strengthens access to justice and safety, through response services, referrals and adherence to applicable laws. It offers psychosocial counselling and legal aid, as well as referral to shelters when needed.

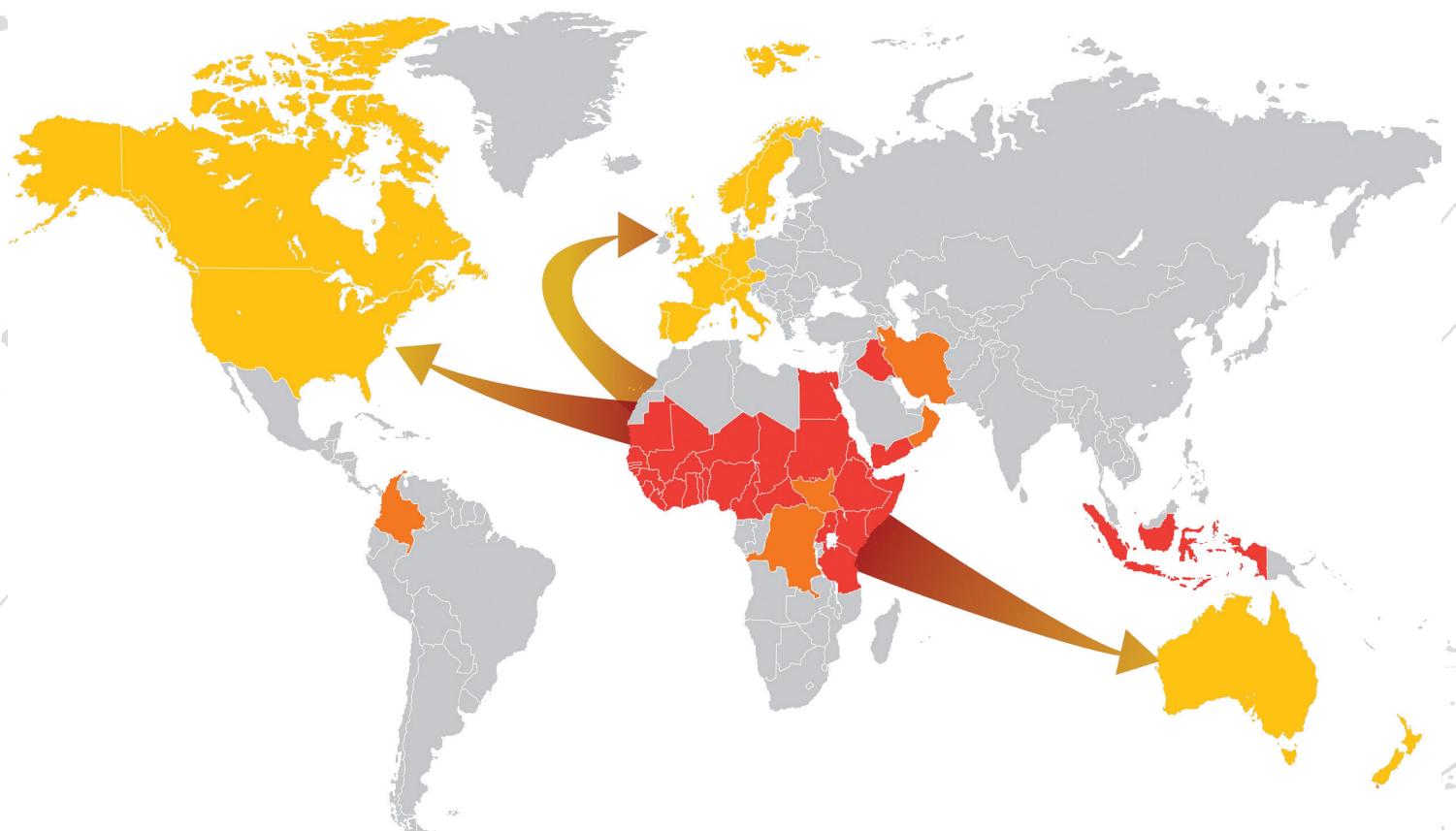


Albert Gonzalez Farran - UNAMID



*Every single day
39.000 girls become child brides
- 14 million a year*

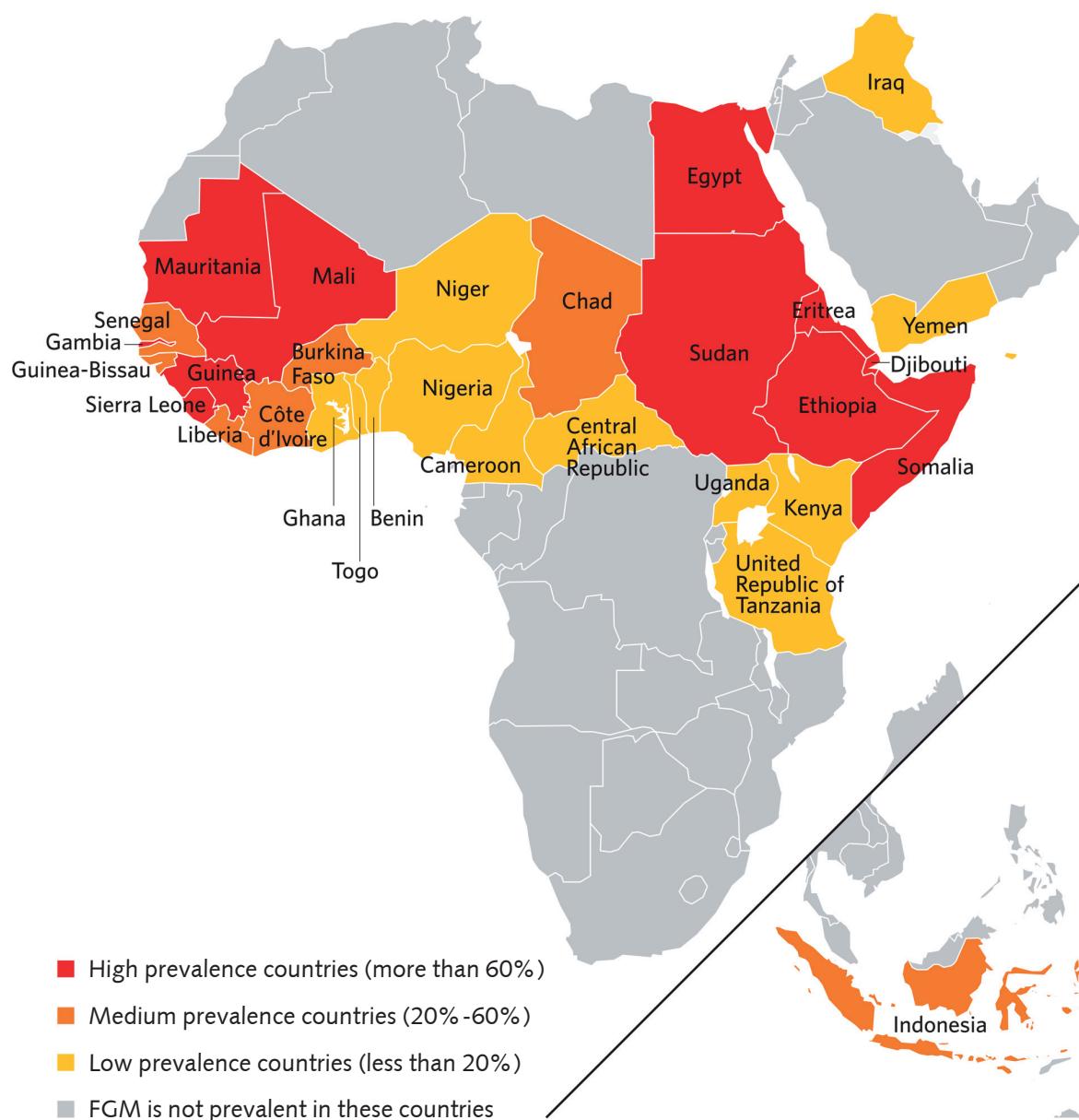
FGM can be found around the world



source: UNFPA analysis based on DHS and MICS, 2002-2014, and WHO,
"Female Genital Mutilation: A Joint WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Statement" 1997.



FGM prevalent countries where data are available, latest data



3

Eradicating modern forms of slavery, trafficking and exposure



Trafficking takes various complex forms: sex trafficking, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and coerced or forced prostitution or labour. While trafficking affects both women and men around the world, it is women and girls who are the most affected. **During the period 2010-2012, the majority (80 %) of recorded victims of trafficking of human beings were women and girls, 69 % of them were trafficked for sexual exploitation.**

In addition, traffickers uses coercive tactics, including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and physical force, or debt bondage, as a way to control women. The prevailing "culture of silence", not only permits but promotes and perpetuates trafficking, modern slavery and exposure. It gives a free hand to the traffickers to merchandise, in impunity, human beings.

In Brazil, an EU project reduces the risks of sexual exploitation and human trafficking around major sports events, such as the previous football World Cup and the upcoming Olympic Games and strengthens actions against sex tourism.

Implemented by **Frente National de prefeitos**, this project helps the preparation and coordination of the services involved in 250 Brazilian municipalities, in particular the 12 cities that hosted the world cup, and trains officials to deal with sex tourism. It helps to identify the routes of sexual exploitation. It also deploys a general public campaign against the prostitutions of minors and human trafficking, targeting tourist locations and information offices, operators, hotel, airport and social networks.



In Serbia, an EU project advances existing mechanism for the assistance to victims of human trafficking.

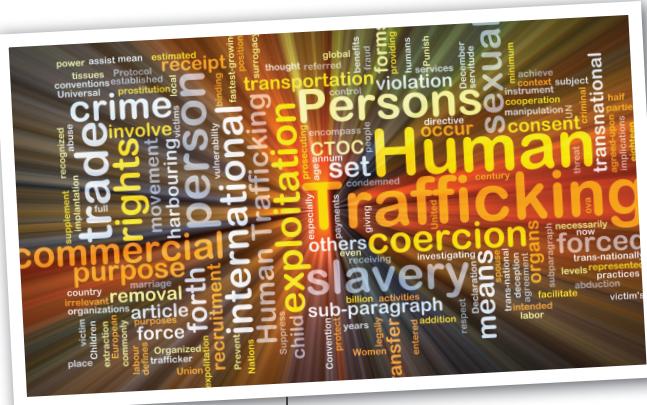
Implemented by **ASTRA - Anti Trafficking Action**, this project supports a network composed of 50 specialised therapists from 30 different towns that offer psychotherapy to many human trafficking survivors. In order to enhance assistance, a practical guide titled *Human trafficking, Trauma and Psychotherapy* was developed for psychotherapists, psychologists and psychiatrists who work with victims and other professionals dealing with them (legal practitioners, medical staff, NGOs) and all relevant professionals from the countries along the Balkans Migration route where trafficking occurs.

It is estimated that 4.5 million of women are forced into sexual exploitation

Trafficking in Women and Children
Bangladesh: A sixteen year old sex worker holds a photo of herself before she was trafficked into prostitution. .



© Nick Rain



An EU project facilitates the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in Lesotho and helps to identify cases related to both human trafficking and gender based violence.

Implemented by Women and law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust (WLSA), this project provides legal aid services through consultation and representation in courts of law to women that are subjected to conditions of domestic servitude and sex trafficking. 20% of the consulta-

tions led to court cases on divorce, gender based violence, domestic violence, inheritance, land rights and marriage issues. Moreover, the project raises awareness through advocacy campaigns, public dialogue and education of clients, community leaders, law practitioners, immigration officers, or police child. 14,200 people have already been reached through radio broadcasts.

In Djibouti, an EIDHR project supports women with a disability, women in jail, women working in the sex business, or living with HIV who suffer from double discrimination and are painfully exposed to trafficking.

Implemented by the **Association Djiboutienne pour l'équilibre et la promotion de la famille**, this project trains detention staff about international standards and conventions, and health in jail. It ensures that the specific needs of pregnant women are fulfilled in jail, that free sanitation products are available and that vulnerable women are trained on their rights and legal instruments. It also helps to defend women's rights, all over the country, through the dissemination of a locally produced legal guide and a documentary on violation of women's rights in Djibouti.



In Vietnam, an EU project reduces the violence affecting more than 3.3 million women internal migrants.

Implemented by the **Tinh Than Programme**, this project provides protection and psychosocial support for migrant women affected by violence. These women are often particularly at risk. It establishes and manages community-based support for survivors and access for hundreds of beneficiaries to health services, legal advice, shelter and vocational assistance. It enables migrant women to speak out and to involve self-help groups in the strengthening of policy development and implementation based on proven and effective methods. It also helps to increase men's skills to adopt and advocate alternative non-violent models of masculinity.



*80% of all refugees
and displaced persons
are women*



**It has probably become more dangerous
to be a WOMAN than a SOLDIER in armed conflicts!**

*Majot - General Patrick Cammaer-
former UN peacekeeping forces, Eastern DRC*

4

Combatting violence against women in armed conflict



Armed conflicts bring their own distinct forms of violence against women. These include random acts of sexual assault by both enemy and "friendly" forces, and mass rape as a deliberate strategy to increase humiliation. It also includes murder, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced sterilisation and exacerbates gender inequalities that already exist in society.

Rape is a deliberate tactic of torture, because victims are reticent to report it. Survivors are stigmatised, wives rejected by husbands, girls rendered "unmarriageable", pregnant women accused of adultery or tainting family "honour". It fragments communities. The misplaced blame and shame has deep roots in a historical absence of accountability.



In Afghanistan, an EIDHR project mobilises women victims and survivors of war crime. Implemented by the **Association for Human Rights**, it supports their voices, demands and claims for justice, peace and reconciliation. Six "Shuras" (consultations) have empowered survivors in political (mobilisation and transitional justice), economic (vocational training and home business) and psychological terms (counselling).

Thanks to the six "shuras", a hundred women received counselling to overcome depression, anxiety, trauma and family violence. In parallel, actions have been targeted at local authorities, media and civil society to sensitise them about the survivors' rights and role in the peace process.



An EU project seeks to reduce violence against women in the Jonglei, Lake, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Western Equatoria States of **South Sudan**. It enhances the prevention, protection and response to gender based violence of women's groups, local traditional chiefs and elders, judicial and prison staff and community para-legal officers.

Implemented by the **New Sudan Women Federation**, this project helped hundreds of women to break their isolation and learn. At least 50 beneficiaries of the project are now employed

in government institutions, including on leadership or political positions. Gender relations in the concerned communities improved. The paralegal clinics created by the project helped women to access law and justice. The aggrieved parties now seek redress in the courts of law, reducing impunity a key menace to reducing violence against women.



In Guatemala, an EU project supports the request for truth and justice of Maya women, victims of sexual violence in the Ixil region, during the genocide. It supports the recovery of collective and historic memory and gives access to justice for the survivors.

Implemented by the **Center of Human Rights Legal Action**, this project provides counselling and assistance to witnesses and the Association for Justice and Reconciliation co-plaintiffs. It activates cases in the national courts, assists public prosecutors, and increases the capacity of litigating lawyers handling cases of violations committed during the internal armed conflict. Moreover, in 2013, the project assisted in highlighting sexual violence as an element of genocide, in the first conviction for genocide and crimes against humanity generating an important and strong precedent.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, an EU project supports the rehabilitation of female child soldiers, kidnapped by rebel militias and often turned into sex slaves.

It provides psycho-social support and medical care to freed victims. It offers protection and temporary shelter for girls at risk from being recruited or enlisted by the military. Moreover, it offers them an alternative to sex work through continued schooling, including literacy and numerical classes, and vocational training. Implemented by **War Child**, this project has helped the recovery and reintegration of 800 girls affected by armed conflicts.



In Libya, an EIDHR project supports women victims of torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearances during the civil war, in particular those victims of organised mass rape. It combines medical, legal and social rehabilitation with advocacy for prevention and accountability.

Implemented by the **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)** and the **World Organisation against Torture (OMCT)**, this project provides direct assistance, physical and psychological rehabilitation to victims. It also supports them to obtain effective remedies and reparation for the harm they have suffered. It helped local actors, and in particular primary health care staff, lawyers, members of the legal community and human rights defenders to better face cases of torture. Moreover, this project allowed sufferers to move from their status of victims to the status of survivors and citizens of the new Libya.

6

The UN resolution on women, peace and security (1325) was unanimously adopted in 2000.

For the first time, it addressed the impact of armed conflict on women, recognised their under-valued contributions on peace, and stressed their importance as active agents.

In October 2015, the resolution will be reviewed to assess its implementation, renew commitments, and address the obstacles that have emerged.

UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) - 31 October 2000

9



The **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women** role was established in 1994 and is held by Ms. Rashida Manjoo since 2009.

The Special Rapporteur seeks information and recommends ways to eliminate VAWG. She works with the other UN mechanisms and reports to the Human Rights Council.

The **Special Rapporteur on Rights of Women in Africa** role was established by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in 1998.

Appointed since 2007, Maître Soyata Maïga reinforces and promotes women's rights in the countries of the African Union. She also promotes the respect of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol.

The EU has been supporting politically and/or financially both rapporteurs.



Doctor Mukwege has treated more than 30,000 gang rape survivors in the hospital of Panzi, Eastern Congo, performing up to 10 surgeries 18-hours a day.

In 2012, after an assassination attempt, for denouncing mass rape and impunity, the EIDHR supported the urgent relocation of Doctor Mukwege and his family to a safe location out of the country.

Mukwege has now returned to Bukavu, resuming his work. He was awarded the European Union's Sakharov Prize in 2014.

5

Supporting women human rights defenders



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Women defenders are subject to the same types of risks as any human rights defender, but as women they are often perceived as defying cultural norms and social stereotypes on sexuality and/or femininity, or defying religious interpretations which subordinate, stigmatise or restrict their freedoms.

They are targeted or exposed to specific threats and violence. In their advocacy, they become more visible and thus more vulnerable to prejudices, image manipulation, exclusion and public rejection even by their own families.

An EU Project in **Western Africa**, supports the defenders of victims of gender based violence, both women and LGBTI people, in particular in their fight against hate speeches and calls for violence in the press.



© Deutsche Welle

Implemented by the **Institut Panos** (IPAO), this project supports the capacity of defenders to conduct their job, in the court, in the media and mitigate the risks to their physical security. It helps them to produce their own information, develop their own communication skills and means. Moreover, it raises the awareness and the training of media on gender violence.

In **Central and South America**, an EIDHR project protects and supports rural and indigenous threatened female activists in their campaign for socially and environmentally responsible mining.

Implemented by the **Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme** (LAMMP) this project provides protection to defenders in situations of risk, offers legal assistance, and helps to build capacity in the areas of human rights, fundraising, information technology, and lobbying. Moreover, it helps to develop a culture of respect for female Human Rights Defenders, allowing them to promote and defend their individual and collective rights against the mining projects that affect them.



creative commons
Oxfam Novib

An EU project supports Women Human Rights Defenders in **Egypt**. Implemented by **Oyoun Centre Foundation**, this project offers three Legal Clinics for women and children in Assiut district in Upper Egypt.

This project supported 1000 women and 250 children to claim their rights through legal assistance. Working with the Faculty of Law in Assiut it also helped develop a human rights curriculum for law students and to raise community awareness of the rights of women and children.

In Pakistan, an EU project counters acid and burn violence - one of the worst forms of violence against women and girls and their defenders.

Implemented by the **Acid Survivors Foundation** in Islamabad Capital Territory, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, this project helps the detection and prevention of, and response to, acid and burn violence against women and girls. It supports mandated organisations, such as the National and Provincial Commission on the Status of Women, in designing and setting up monitoring, complaints and referral systems.

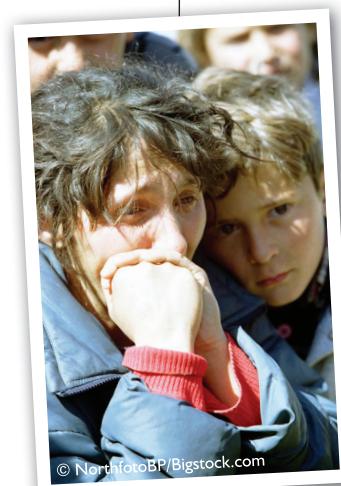
It also supports the rehabilitation of women and girl survivors of acid and burn violence, and ensures the provision of medical and psychological assistance, and of legal counselling.

A global EU project implemented by **Front Line Defenders** supports women Human Rights Defenders. With concrete operations in 132 countries, this project has provided emergency support to hundreds of women Human Right Defenders at immediate risk. It has also helped to develop medium to long term preventive measures to improve their security. Moreover, it built the capacity of actors working on women's rights and strengthened their synergies and networks.

Several EIDHR projects are implemented in **Syria** and **Iraq**. They help maintain a flow of information on this unprecedented crackdown on women's rights, in particular in the areas under ISIS control, and seek to register cases of violations, and provide support to victims in the neighbouring countries.

As for some other projects in other places, their information is not publically available to protect the integrity and safety of our implementing partners, most of them under direct threat. The European Commission reports on these projects on a need to know basis to relevant bodies in the Council and the Parliament.

An EU project implemented by **UN Women** seeks to prevent trafficking in women and girls in **Albania**, femicide in **Mexico** and domestic violence in **Timor Leste**. Increasing awareness of women and communities, strengthening service provision for women survivors of violence, enhancing public policies and capacities to protect women's right, this project will also collect lessons on the implementation of the EU guidelines on Combatting Violence against Women and any discrimination against them.



6

Women defenders are more at risk of suffering certain forms of violence..., in particular when they work in the area of women's rights. This can be particularly acute when women defenders are perceived as challenging cultural norms and social constructs related to gender, femininity and sexuality.

Margaret Sekagya, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, report to United Nations General Assembly 2011

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