



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed



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الجمعية النسائية الديمقراطية اللبنانية



Press Release

17 June 2019 Beirut

Regional Experts Roundtable - Combating Discrimination Against Women (VAW) in Legislation

In the frame of the project “Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region”, funded by the European Union, the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) organized on 17 June 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon, a regional experts roundtable “Combating Discrimination Against Women in Legislation”. The roundtable gathered 26 legal and gender experts and researchers from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, France and, Sweden, as well as representatives from the Office of the Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth ([EEWAY](#)) and the [EU Delegation to Lebanon](#). Click [here](#) to view the photo album.

The experts discussed the discriminatory articles in the Personal Status Laws and Penal Codes and focused on issues of common concern to all countries: male guardianship over women, guardianship, and custody of children, child marriage, marital rape, and inheritance. Participants identified other shared challenges, among which absence of data related to VAWG, and weak protection mechanisms. They noted that victim blaming was pervasive while demanding accountability for the perpetrator remained marginal. The experts identified three areas for common work: annulling discrimination in family laws, improving legislation on VAWG, and annulling discrimination affecting women’s economic participation and independence, such as inequality in inheritance, or sexual harassment at work.

Experts affirmed their commitment to contribute to the three-year Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women and Girls¹ launched in 2019.

The second experts roundtable will take place in the fall and it will gather law-and decision makers to discuss alternatives to discriminative laws and strategies to revoke or amend discriminatory articles.

¹ The Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women and Girls was launched on 2-3 May 2019 in Amman, Jordan in the frame of the project “Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region”, funded by the EU. Click [here](#) to read the press release. (#Zero_Tolerance_for_VAWG)