



## Press release

1 November 2020 Amman

### Regional Civil Society Observatory on VAWG: Factsheets on VAWG in the South Mediterranean

In 2019, EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) established the Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) in the frame of the regional project “Combating Violence against Women in the Southern Mediterranean Region” (2019-2021), funded by the European Union. The RCSO is hosted at EFI Amman regional office as a civil society mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Union for Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (November 27<sup>th</sup> 2017, Cairo), in the area of combating all forms of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), implementation of Women, Peace, Security Agenda (WPSA), and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).

The RCSO strives to contribute to ending VAWG, to the inclusion of women’s rights in policy debates, and to the social acknowledgement of women as actors of sustaining peace and security, underlining the importance of their role in the prevention of violent extremism. In this regard, the RCSO provides a regional perspective on the status of VAWG legislation, policies, and actions in the Southern Mediterranean States.

To this goal, the RCSO has until now conducted a regional study and developed a regional index to help implementing a continuous follow up, data collection of laws and policies, and analyses of the barometer results. The countries studied are limited to those involved in the regional project: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. However, all countries in the South Mediterranean region will be included during the next phase.

We are glad to present two factsheets.

**Fact Sheet #1** provides an overview of the main findings from the survey conducted between December 2019 and January 2020 in these seven countries to assess the level of awareness of women towards the laws and services provided for victims of VAWG, as well as to know the personal experience, perception and values related to VAWG.

**Fact Sheet #2** provides some of the key elements on the legal framework on VAWG in the same seven countries. These come from the Regional Index which gives a complete documentation on laws, public policies and government services related to VAWG and WPSA in the region and provides policy makers with a meaningful overview of complex data to support informed decisions and actions in the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> UfM Ministerial Declaration. The index contains two parts: part one with 49 indicators for covering VAWG and part two with 24 indicators for covering WPSA.

Both the index and the study will be available in November 2020 and will be launched to mark the 16 days of activism for the elimination of VAWG.

