



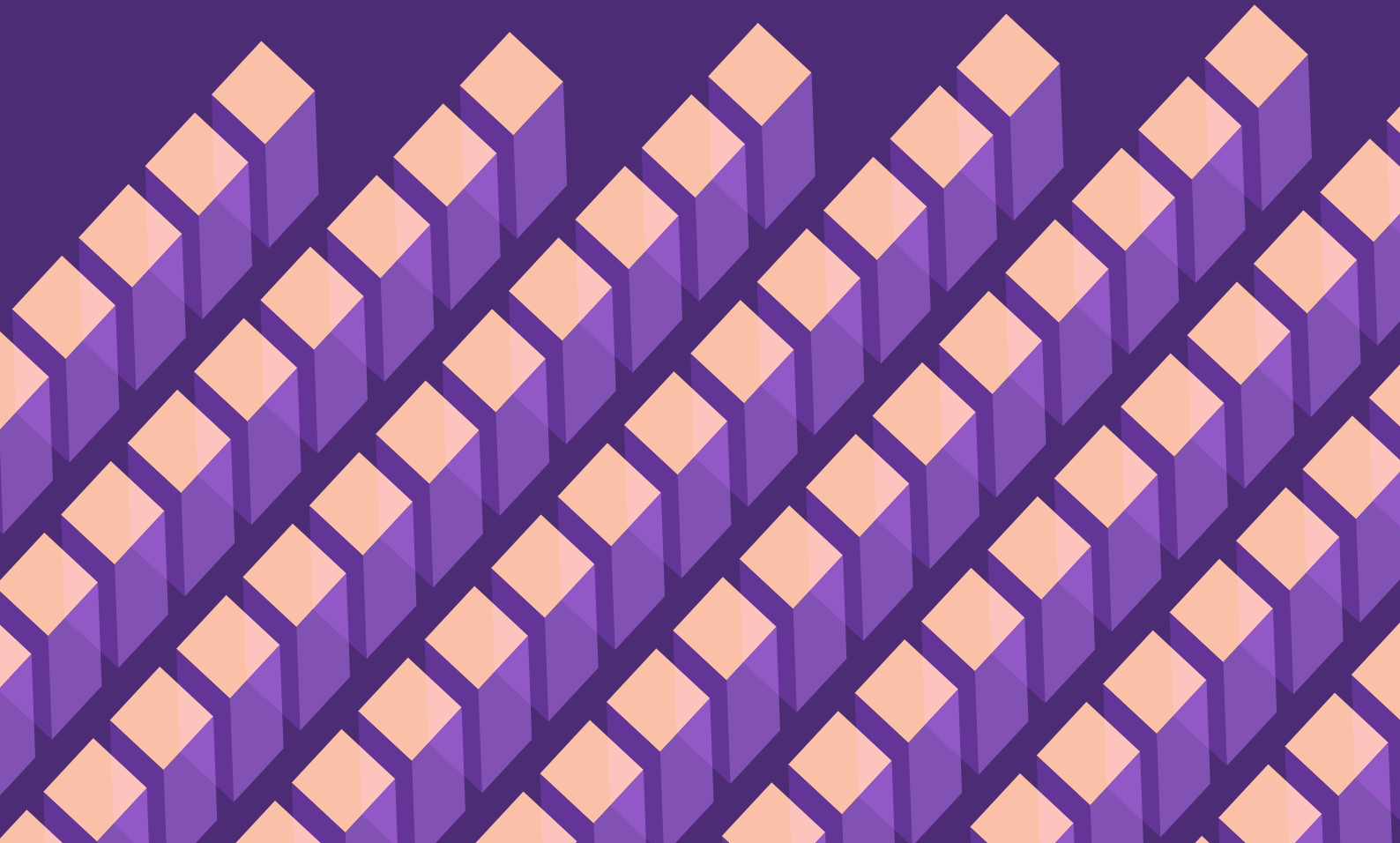
The Regional Civil Society Observatory
المركز الإقليمي لمؤسسات المجتمع المدني



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

Violence Against Women and Girls in the South Mediterranean

STUDY BRIEF



Funded by the European Union
بتمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي

Regional Study on Violence Against Women and Girls in the South Mediterranean

STUDY BRIEF

Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO)
is hosted by EuroMed Feminist Initiative EFI,
Regional Office-
Amman-Jordan
Lana Commercial Complex - Building No. 5
Abdullah Ben Rawahah Street
Al RabiyeH, Amman, Jordan

Tel: +9626265521782
Fax: +9626226554956

Email: ife@efi-euromed.org
Regional Civil Society Observatory: www.efi-rcso.org
EuroMed Feminist Initiative: www.efi-ife.org
Regional Campaign: www.Ostik.org

Copyright © 2020 by EuroMed Feminist Initiative

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Methodology	5
Main Findings	6
Conclusion and Recommendations	10
Overarching recommendations	12
Specific recommendations	12

Introduction

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a global phenomenon and is recognised, in line with international human rights standards, as a violation of women's human rights. Important efforts have been made in recent years to adapt national legislations, strategies and policies to international standards to address and prevent VAWG more effectively.

In 2019, the Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) on VAWG was established as an independent mechanism to follow up and support the implementation of the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society¹ (27 November 2017, Cairo), in the areas of combating all forms of VAWG, implementation of Women, Peace, Security Agenda (WPSA), and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). The RCSO is hosted by EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) in Amman and funded by the European Union (EU) as part of a three-year regional programme, "Combating Violence against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean". Its aim is to provide an update on the status of VAWG legislation, policies and actions in the Southern Mediterranean States.

Between December 2019 and November 2020, the RCSO conducted its first regional study on "Violence Against Women and Girls in the South Mediterranean". This focused on the seven countries involved in the regional program above: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

To reach this goal, the RCSO research team set two specific objectives for the study:

- To provide a basic overview through relevant quantitative data on women's experience of VAWG, their level of awareness and attitude towards VAWG.
- To get insight on people's awareness and perception of VAWG, and their knowledge of international and national frameworks and existing VAWG services.

The study looked at three main areas:

1. The characteristics of VAWG, using a set of data reflecting women's own experience and attitudes towards VAWG.
2. The efficiency of existing legal frameworks and public policies to counteract VAWG.
3. The level of awareness of national and international instruments to combat VAWG including the UfM Ministerial Declaration (2017, Cairo).

The study is part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness of VAWG among stakeholders, including policy makers, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the general public including women themselves. It aims to highlight ways to effectively improve women's right to a life free of all forms of violence.

¹ The Declaration can be found at: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/womenfinaldeclaration.pdf>

Methodology

The research team conducted a desk review of existing studies and data on VAWG in the region and on country level. This was followed by both quantitative and qualitative approaches to analyse VAWG and discrimination against women within the legal environment, to shed light on areas where progress is being made and where further actions are needed.

Quantitative phase

The quantitative phase aimed at identifying women's personal experience, awareness and perception regarding VAWG. In total, 2870 women in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia completed questionnaires. The representativity of the sample was ensured in the seven countries by including four diversified governorates in each country and both rural and urban areas.

Qualitative phase

During the qualitative phase, 137 in-depth interviews were conducted with privileged observers to know about their perceptions and analyses of national laws and existing services to tackle VAWG and of international agreements, including the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration. These included representatives of relevant ministries, the police force, the justice system and medical services; gender experts from CSOs, researchers and the media.

Data collection process

A team of researchers and data collectors carried out the study in each country. The field data collection teams were composed of a team leader and four data collectors selected by the partners and member organisations – a total of 35 data collectors were recruited.

For the qualitative phase, two experts in each country were selected to carry out in-depth interviews.

The data collection team leaders and the interviewers received training delivered by the RCSO to make sure that the rules and code of ethics both for the interviews and for the self-administrated questionnaires were known and respected.

The data collection process took place from December 2019 to January 2020. The surveys and in-depth interviews were administered under the guidance of EFI partner organisation in Algeria, Femmes Algériennes Revendiquant leurs Droits (FARD) and by EFI member organisations in the other countries: Association for Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development (ACT) in Egypt, Arab Women Organisation (AWO) in Jordan, Association Najdeh and Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL) in Lebanon, Union pour l'Action Féministe (UAF) in Morocco, Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD) in Palestine and Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement (AFTURD) in Tunisia.

To make sure the sample was representative, half of the questionnaires were administered in cooperation with community-based organisations (CBOs) in the selected villages and towns. The data collectors highlighted the importance of the study and made sure women were willingly filling in the questionnaires.

All questionnaires were shipped to the RCSO in Amman for data entry and analysis, except for those completed in Algeria, who used KoBo Toolbox link to enter data online.

In-depth interviews were conducted during the same period, face to face in Arabic. Audio recordings of the sessions were made if participants did not object to it; otherwise only written notes were taken. The transcripts of interviews were sent to the RCSO for analysis.

Ethical considerations of the survey

Due to the sensitivity of the subject, procedures were put in place to guarantee the confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents. All respondents were informed of the objectives of the survey and provided their explicit consent to participate. Participants in the in-depth interviews were as well assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of the process before each interview.

Main Findings

Main results of the quantitative phase

Gender equality in the legal framework

- Women's rights and participation are not recognised on equal footing as men by laws according to 43% of women respondents.
- Only one in three women stated that women have the same right of movement in public space as men.
- Over half of the respondents (51%) stated that women can apply for a passport or any identification papers for them or their children in the same way as men.

Level of awareness of VAWG

- When asked what they understand by VAWG, respondents most frequently answered: sexual assault (79%), rape (77%), physical assault, (73%), psychological assault (72%), exclusion from power (63%), and to a lesser degree forced marriage (57%) and child marriage (56%).
- According to an overwhelming majority of the respondents (85%), VAWG is common, or quite common in all countries, and it is increasing according to 62% of them. This result is consistent with the views of the privileged observers.
- Most women find out information about VAWG through the media (60%) followed by relatives and friends (44%).
- Physical assault is the most common form of VAWG in the community (59%), followed by psychological abuse (39%), sexual assault (21%), forced marriage (18%), and far behind, exclusion from education, health and inheritance (1%).
- Over one third (33%) did not know if there are laws explicitly addressing VAWG and domestic violence. Approximately the same number (35%), if there are any legal protections against sexual harassment.
- An average 46%, (except in Tunisia at 33%) are unaware of any legislation that specifically guarantees full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care for women aged 15 years and older, and related awareness-raising information.
- The two main barriers that hinder women from reporting violence are feeling of shame (26%) and fear of consequences (22%). A feeling that "nothing can be done" is also reported by 10% of the respondents.
- When VAWG occurs, most women turn to relatives (40% of the respondents). One in five (20%) go to court and slightly fewer (17%) go to the police.

Attitude and values towards VAWG

- Rape is unacceptable and should not be tolerated, regardless of women's dress and clothing, according to 73% of the respondents.
- For 83.5% it is not acceptable for husbands to hit their wives regardless of the reasons.
- One in five (20%) consider it acceptable if a woman leaves home without telling the man, 11% if she refuses sex with her husband and 7% if she argues with him.
- 61% agree that if women are being beaten by their husbands, they should report it to the police. 31% disagree with this.
- 44% would report to the police or provide assistance if they witnessed an incident of VAWG, and 29% would probably report it, or try to help.

Personal experience of VAWG in the last 12 months

- One in five women (19%) stated that their husbands, spouses or a family member have uttered death threats against them during the last 12 months. 68% of those who received threats did not lodge a complaint, while only 29% did.
- 46% stated that their husband, partner or family members have refused to consider their opinion, ridiculed them or attempted to tell them what they should think, "sometimes" (30%) or "often" (16%).
- 45% have been insulted "sometimes" or "often" by their spouse or family members. 39% of the sampled women have been insulted in public.
- 41% reported that their husbands or family members had imposed a style of dress, a type of hairstyle or rules for behaving in public on at least one occasion.
- 37% have been prevented from meeting or talking to friends or family members by their husband or relatives at least once.
- A quarter (25%) of respondents have been slapped or otherwise injured by their husband or family members at least once.
- One in five women (19%) have been subjected to attempts to undergo sexual contact against their will at least once.

Level of awareness of services of and access to services for victims:

- In all countries, access to legal aid and police is considered more difficult than accessing education and health care. Legal aid is considered difficult to access by 60% of the respondents, police by 57%, health 33% and education 28%.
- Almost three in five (59%) respondents said they are aware of community support institutions dealing with VAWG and 53% are aware of governmental institutions tackling the issue.

Main results of the qualitative phase



Algeria

- People's patriarchal and conservative mindset and a weak legal framework are among the main causes of VAWG.
- The most prevalent forms of VAWG are verbal and physical violence, followed by sexual violence.
- Not all national laws are harmonised with international agreements. The main obstacles to legal reform include patriarchal customs and traditions, weak legislation tackling VAWG and instrumentalization or interference of religion in the public and legal sphere.
- Very few observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
- The government's strategy to address and combat VAWG, which also includes the area of service provision, is dated as of 2007 and should be improved.
- There is a lack of human and financial resources in most governmental institutions and CSOs to deal with VAWG.
- There is limited coordination between governmental institutions and CSOs on this issue.



Egypt

- Social culture, the instrumentalization of religion and legislative deficiencies are among the main causes of VAWG.
- Female genital mutilation and harassment at home, school, university, work and market, as well as on social media are the most widespread manifestations of VAWG in Egyptian society.
- Most observers agree there is no alignment between several laws and international agreements and treaties, even though the Constitution recognises gender equality. Yet, all the decisions and articles of international agreements have not been executed. Absence of legal control, and customs and traditions that stand against accepting the international agreements, are among the major obstacles to legal reform.
- Only a small minority of observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
- Governmental services for victims are inadequate. Insufficient procedures mean women wait a long time to access support.
- Human resources to combat VAWG are sufficient, according to most observers, but they lack training and competence. Financial resources are insufficient.
- Some progress has been made to improve coordination between government and CSOs through programmes and projects that combat VAWG but until now with limited results.

 **Jordan**

- The patriarchal mentality, harmful customs and traditions, and a legal framework that tolerates VAWG are among the main causes of VAWG.
 - The most common manifestations of VAWG include physical, verbal and psychological violence.
 - Jordan has made some progress towards harmonizing laws in line with international obligations, but there is a lack of political will to implement them. The Constitution does not explicitly refer to gender equality. The Family Protection Law demonstrates some progress but does not explicitly target VAWG, and it is not comprehensive. The most prominent obstacle to legal reform is the patriarchal mindset including religious fatwas.
 - A third of the observers have good knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
 - Government services for women victims of violence are inadequate and insufficient.
 - Both human and financial resources to combat VAWG are insufficient.
 - While coordination between CSOs and government exists, both parties need to adopt a more interactive participatory approach.
-

 **Lebanon**

- Religious interference in the public sphere and conservative mindsets and culture are among the root causes of VAWG.
 - There are no detailed statistics on VAWG, and most cases are not documented. However, the most common forms, according to observers, are physical violence, psychological and moral abuse, verbal abuse, humiliation and sexual violence.
 - Lebanon has made strides towards amending its laws and procedures in line with international obligations. However, the main obstacles to legal reform and harmonising all laws are society's patriarchal mindset, religious interference over women's issues and absence of political will.
 - A minority of observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
 - The public services provided to victims of violence are not effective nor sufficient. The government does not provide shelters for victims of violence.
 - More resources are needed to handle all cases of VAWG. Some CSOs deal effectively with VAWG, but there is a shortage of both financial and human resources.
 - There is limited coordination between government and women's rights CSOs. But women's rights CSOs and internal security forces are working together to effectively respond to VAWG cases.
-

 **Morocco**

- The rise of religious fundamentalism, customs and traditions leading to harmful practices against women are among the main causes of VAWG.
- One of the most common forms of VAWG in is domestic violence.
- Not all national laws are in line with international agreements, but there are attempts to make them consistent with international obligations and standards. On the other hand, the religious fundamentalist authorities are pushing back on every potential change. The law on Combating Violence against Women of 2018 demonstrated progress but it still does not specifically criminalise marital rape. The obstacles to legal reform include the patriarchal mentality of decision makers and the absence of training for judicial personnel on the contents of international agreements.
- A minority of observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
- Governmental services for victims of violence are insufficient and do not meet the increasing need of protection.
- There is a shortage of human and financial resources. Therefore, projects to tackle VAWG rely mostly on external aid and support.
- Coordination between government and women's rights CSOs needs to be improved and widened to more women's organisations.

Palestine

- Patriarchal culture, interference of religion in the public space and the Israeli occupation are among the main causes of VAWG. The occupation intensifies and increases VAWG, with military violence affecting women directly. Likewise, the violence that the occupation inflicts on citizens makes men more inclined to use force and violence at home.
 - The most prevalent form of VAWG is psychological violence, followed by physical violence and sexual violence.
 - International agreements and treaties have been ratified but the harmonisation of national laws is still missing. Obstacles to legal reform include the lack of political will and absence of a legislative council that monitors and contributes to the harmonisation process. Added to this, are the occupation policies.
 - More than two thirds of the observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society and three quarters have heard of it.
 - Governmental services are improving but victims of violence need access to more services.
 - The government and CSOs are coordinating efforts to tackle violence through projects and memoranda of agreements. Nevertheless, this coordination needs to be strengthened by developing strong partnerships and putting it into practice at all levels.
-

Tunisia

- The main causes of VAWG are embodied in patriarchal culture and religion.
- Physical violence in the home is the most common form of VAWG.
- Only a tiny minority of the observers have knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.
- Tunisian legislation is keeping up with international agreements that support women's rights. However, implementation needs to be improved. The law on Eliminating Violence against Women of 2017 demonstrated progress, but marital rape needs to be explicitly addressed and criminalised.
- Services provided by the government for victims are insufficient. Some observers acknowledge that most services are provided by CSOs, including listening centres and shelters. Although the law has stipulated the allocation of a budget for VAWG-related services within the budget of the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly, there is not yet clear and stable funding from the State.
- There is a lack of human and financial resources in institutions and CSOs that provide services for victims of violence.
- While there is some coordination between CSOs and the government, it needs to be improved and become more operational. The Ministry of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly has a primary role in this coordination.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Experience, perception, and awareness of VAWG

All countries are making proactive efforts to end VAWG. However, a lot remains to be done to prevent it, enhance legislation, raise awareness, and provide efficient services to all victims.

The study is highlighting a strong prevalence of VAWG across the whole region and alerting that it is on the rise. The most predominant forms of VAWG take place in the family, with one in five women having received a death threat from a relative or spouse during the last 12 months.

Domestic violence is multifaceted and may include physical, economic, psychological, or sexual abuse. Women's level of awareness of these different aspects varies across the region. Even if psychological violence, including insulting, belittling and undermining women, is particularly common and has severe consequences, ranging from depression to suicide, physical and psychological violence are tightly interconnected. In terms of consequences, physical harm may lead to a permanent or temporary injury and, in most cases, psychological violence causes long-term mental health problems.

Social tolerance towards VAWG persists, including among women, even when they have experienced violence themselves: one in five believe that physical violence is "justified under some circumstances".

There is varying awareness of marital rape as a form of VAWG. Legislations do not recognise it as a crime, and national policies and law enforcement agencies fail to address it adequately.

Since the ground-breaking UNSCR 1325, the correlation between armed conflicts and VAWG is recognized. When women are fully supported to participate in the formulation of policies and negotiating positions, it ensures the development of real solutions that protect the rights of women who are the first victims of war, armed conflict and occupation and must be given special attention in these contexts. Following an influx of refugees from the current conflict in Syria, VAWG has increased among refugees and the wider community, including rape, early marriage, and prostitution.

Despite some positive progress made in combating VAWG, including the introduction of new laws, the development of new services and new governmental bodies set up to combat VAWG, the level of implementation remains limited due to a lack of sufficient political will, financial and human resources. Governmental procedures are also insufficient and need improving and developing. This contributes to the reluctance of women to report VAWG with one in three saying that "fear of consequences" but also a feeling that "nothing can be done" are stopping women from speaking out. The underreporting of cases leads to gaps in existing VAWG data and statistics. Underreporting of cases contributes to gaps in VAWG data and statistics, which keeps VAWG off political agendas and out of public debates, and further pressures women to remain silent.

Services for women victims of violence are still very few and cannot respond to the increasing needs. Furthermore, most of these services are based in the big cities and their availability in governorates and countryside remains limited.

The level of violence is tightly linked to the status of women in society, their economic and political participation. Beyond national differences, all States face common pattern of exclusion of women in decision-making in social, familial, economic, and political spheres. Women access to resources and political decision making are hindered by the persistence of the patriarchal gender power structures, be these discriminatory laws, economic policies, unequal distribution of tasks at home and the social gender stereotypes.

Alignment with international agreements

The findings show that combating VAWG needs the adoption of policy reforms, notably comprehensive laws on VAWG, reforming penal codes and engendering the constitutions. Only Morocco and Tunisia have adopted specific laws on combating and eliminating VAWG. CEDAW is an important reference and a major tool for civil society to advocate for women's rights and monitor national laws to achieve gender equality. However, the internationally ratified agreements are not always, despite their ratification, enforced on the ground, mainly due to an absence of legal control, lack of political will, influence of patriarchal culture and tradition and instrumentalization of religion. Furthermore, implementation is hampered by reservations and declarations on key elements of CEDAW, including the steps to be taken to eliminate discrimination, particularly article 2, and the primacy of the existing family laws and personal status laws, particularly the articles 9, 15 and 16. By entering these reservations or declarations, the States indicate that they would not commit to equality between women and men and would not change discriminative laws and policies on substantive issues for women, such as nationality (article 9), domicile (article 15(4)), and equality in marriage and dissolution (article 16).

Despite the importance of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, most people interviewed are not aware of it, except in Jordan and Palestine. All who are knowledgeable on the Declaration underlined the importance of its implementation.

The role of media and education in preventing VAWG

Within the patriarchal structure of power, women and men are given different roles and allowed to enjoy different rights. Traditional mentalities and stereotypes are reproduced by both men and women. The media and educational systems contribute to sustain culture, tradition and customs that still depict women as inferior and act as sources of violence. They play a significant role in increasing levels of knowledge and awareness of VAWG. They can reach many different social groups, therefore influencing the dominant culture. Conversely, in many cases, media broadcast programmes encourage VAWG, and drama and talk shows reproduce stereotypical images of women.

Norms, values, and behaviours are also reproduced in schools' curricula. Gender equality is not embedded in students' learning yet. Instead, the curricula contain gender stereotypical discriminatory norms and models that feed discrimination and VAWG. Young people are not taught that violence is unacceptable and educational personnel lack training on VAWG, particularly in relation to consequences for women first and then the whole of society.

Cooperation between women's rights CSOs and governments in combating VAWG

Coordination between governments and CSOs is yet to be institutionalised. Despite progress made, there are increasing restrictions on the work of CSOs. There is no systematic dialogue between them on VAWG and gender equality issues, rather ad hoc consultations, and activities, often to respond to a VAWG cases, rather than to act together to prevent VAWG. CSOs analysis and recommendations are not always taken into consideration on policy making level.

Overarching Recommendations

To make their efforts to end VAWG effective, countries must reform existing penal codes, adopt comprehensive policy reforms, including a specific and comprehensive legislation on combating VAWG, and include gender equality in their constitution. A commitment to the full implementation of the international instruments, including the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society and full compliance with CEDAW, is a basic prerequisite to improve women's lives and security across the region.

Domestic violence should be framed as a social problem and human rights issue, and not as a private 'family affair', and governments and civil society must work together and develop both preventative and protective interventions. Victims of violence should be supported to speak out, to report their experiences of VAWG and to claim their rights safely.

A real change that enables women equal participation and access to power, and thus their autonomy, requires structural transformations of both economic system, based on the need of human development that benefit women and men equally, and of the political system, in order to promote equal participation of women in the decision making spheres. To this end, both the private sphere of reproduction and the public sphere of production must be addressed.

The media should be used to increase knowledge and awareness of VAWG among many different social groups, positively influencing dominant views rather than encouraging VAWG and reproducing gender stereotypes as they often do currently. Damaging norms, values and behaviours are also reproduced in school curricula, which should be modified to teach young people that violence is unacceptable and has serious consequences for women and the whole of society. Gender equality must be embedded in students' learning, and educators trained about VAWG to support this.

Coordination between government and CSOs must be enhanced. Women's rights organizations must be structurally involved at any stage of policy making process on combating and preventing VAWG, from the preparation to the follow up and monitoring of the implementation.

Specific Recommendations

Governments

- Lift all reservations and declarations made on articles of CEDAW.
- Align constitutional and national legislations with international agreements, especially CEDAW and enhance mechanisms for their implementation. Despite ratifying CEDAW, many laws are in conflict with international agreements.
- Increase governmental and CSOs knowledge of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society and ensure its implementation.
- Adopt and enact specific and comprehensive laws on VAWG that define and address all forms of violence.
- Criminalise marital rape.
- Dedicate sufficient financial and human resources to combat effectively VAWG.
- Enhance the provision of and increase the number and access to comprehensive government services for victims of VAWG. This includes reinforcing referral pathways, data collection and reporting systems, and distributing information about their existence at the grass roots level.
- Widen the service provision and shelter system to all the country, including rural areas.
- Enhance and systematize coordination and partnership with CSOs to develop, implement and monitor policies that combat VAWG.
- Provide systematically training about VAWG for first responders, especially the police who are often the first people to deal directly with victims of VAWG. Training programmes should be fully embedded in institutions.
- Organize national campaigns to raise social awareness of the root causes of VAWG, in partnership with CSOs.
- Improve the availability and accessibility of information about existing government institutions that address VAWG.
- Design and conduct comprehensive research studies and publish statistics about VAWG at the national level.
- Develop and implement existing national action plans for implementation of UNSCR 1325 to include women's rights defenders in formal peace negotiations in the region, so that issues related to equality between women and men and VAWG are present in on-going peace processes.

CSOs and research centres

- Submit alternative reports on women's rights to monitor the implementation of national laws and their alignment with international agreements.
- Improve women's and men's knowledge of the root causes and consequences of VAWG, from a human rights perspective. Conduct campaigns to tackle social tolerance of VAWG and promote women's rights.
- Raise awareness among women and their communities of existing services and CSOs that address VAWG.
- Increase knowledge about the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society among political decision makers, CSOs, human rights activists and academics.
- Strengthen cooperation with service providers and offer continuous training on women's rights and VAWG to all stakeholders.

Education institutions

- Update school curricula, teaching methods and educational materials to include gender equality principles.
- Develop and embed training programmes for educators on gender equality and combating VAWG.
- Media institutions
- Develop better standards of representation in the media by sensitising and training media professionals about how to report on VAWG and gender equality.
- Raise awareness of and provide training to journalists about the importance of combating VAWG and challenging gender stereotypes in the media.



The Regional Civil Society Observatory
المركز الإقليمي لمؤسسات المجتمع المدني



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

About the Regional Civil Society Observatory on VAWG:

The Regional Civil Society Observatory (RCSO) is an independent civil society mechanism that follows up on measures and actions to combat VAWG, in particular the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration of the 4th UfM Ministerial Conference on women's rights (November 27th 2017, Cairo) in the area of combatting all forms of VAWG, Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).

The RCSO is hosted by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) in Amman, Jordan. It aims to develop regional tools to follow up on the implementation of the 4th UfM Ministerial Declaration. These include evaluating and highlighting gaps between international women's rights mechanisms and national legislations, providing evidence-based recommendations to policymakers aiming to improve the efficiency of policies and measures in this field and preparing guidelines for developing WPSA, and support the adoption and implementation of further instruments on UNSCR 1325.

About the EuroMed Feminist Initiative EFI:

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network encompassing women's rights organization from both shores of the Mediterranean and advocates for gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of people to self-determination. EuroMed Feminist Initiative seeks to improve and promote women's rights as universal human rights, the value of gender equality, and the use of non-violent means to solve conflicts. Our criterion and position align with the international resolutions and conventions and regional instruments promoting the universality of women's rights and strengthening women's impact and voices in conflict resolution.



Funded by the European Union
تمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي