



Union pour la Méditerranée  
Union for the Mediterranean  
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



ROYAUME DU MAROC - MINISTÈRE DE LA SOLIDARITÉ, DE LA FEMME, DE LA FAMILLE ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL



المملكة المغربية  
وزارة التضامن والمرأة  
والأسرة والتنمية الاجتماعية

## « Enhancing laws implementation to end violence against women in the Mediterranean region – Morocco's experience »

Joint Side Event between the Kingdom of Morocco,  
The Union for the Mediterranean & UN women

14 March, 2016

11:30AM-12:45 PM

Conference Room 9 - Conference Building

UN Headquarters, New York

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Every year around the world, violence against women devastates the lives of millions of women. Even when laws exist, this does not mean they are always compliant with international and regional commitments or well implemented

In the Mediterranean region, the Union for the Mediterranean 43 countries committed to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls<sup>1</sup>. Many countries have taken concrete measures by adopting laws and establishing national plans and strategies. Legislation criminalising domestic violence has been passed in some countries and awaits approval in others. However, despite obvious advancements in legislation and planning, there is still a substantial gap between adopted policies and the level of actual implementation on the ground. Statistics on violence against women remain high in the region.

Morocco is one among the Mediterranean countries that have effectively created, particularly over the last decade, an enabling legislative and institutional environment for promoting gender equality and women empowerment. The country has launched a new generation of political, social and economic reforms, based on the principles of human rights and the rule of law, including the obligation to promote women's rights and providing all institutional and legislative guarantees to reach this end. Indeed, the new Constitution (2011) stipulates that women shall enjoy the same civil, economic, social and environmental rights on an equal footing with men. Its preamble lays stress on prohibiting and combating all forms of discrimination based on sex or any other personal condition.

The National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women was launched earlier in 2003. A decade later, Morocco has settled The Government Plan for Equality "ICRAM" (2012-2016) focused on eight objectives including fighting all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Morocco has also undertaken efforts to harmonize its legislation with international conventions and covenants it has ratified, by amending a number of existing laws and the establishing of new ones:

- The Bill to combat violence against women 113.13, prepared in 2013 by the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, and the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms has been recently resubmitted to the approval circuit.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/34-13-REV4-Draft-Ministerial-Conclusions-Women.pdf>



- The penal code was the subject of several amendments: in 2014, the parliament unanimously approved the amendment of Article 475 of the Penal Code which aims to protect the rights of minor girls in the case of rape victims.
- In May 2014, a draft of the new Criminal Procedure Code was announced and presented for general discussion between the different actors and stakeholders. Important amendments were made to 175 articles and 113 new articles were added.
- Law relating to the establishment of Authority of Parity and the fight against all forms of discrimination validated during 2015 & submitted recently to the parliament for adoption.
- Law relating to the establishment of the Consultative Family and Child Council validated during 2015 & recently submitted to the parliament for adoption.

Despite the legislative effort made by the country, the implementation remains challenging.

### **Purpose & anticipated outcome of the round table**

Jointly hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat & the UN Women, the session aims to enhance the exchange and the sharing of expertise and best practices at the international level on how to combat violence against women, and especially how to concretely foster the implementation of laws and policies at this regard. Experts & high responsible will expose lessons from the Moroccan experience and benefit from some international technical recommendations and best practices.