

EU Partners

Comitato di coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario

13 human rights NGOs

Facts and Figures

- EU contribution :
€ 300 000 (80% of total)
- Duration: 2009 - 2011



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Civil Society

Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights in Lebanon

A space grounded on networking: research, training, advocacy and sharing of information on human rights in Lebanon

“The Multimedia Virtual Space for Human Rights gives the participating organisations an opportunity to constantly exchange new ideas and information on human rights in Lebanon within a flexible, open and friendly network.”

Marie Daunay, President of the Lebanese Centre for Human Rights



Context

In Lebanon, coordination between the many NGOs active in the field of human rights has historically been weak, leading to duplication and overlapping of initiatives. This has prevented the development of a strong collective voice. On the one hand, a more concerted effort on the part of the Lebanese Government is needed to apply a human rights protection system based on international standards; on the other hand, there is a need for enhanced awareness of the general public regarding human rights and democracy.

Objectives

- Sharing and disseminating information on human rights issues published by human rights organisations;
- Empowering youth and victims by giving them advocacy tools;
- Raising awareness of the general public about human rights in Lebanon.

Impact

- A website and a documentation centre were created to share information and resources; publishing of research reports on different human rights thematics.
- Workshops took place which brought together groups such as women victims of violence and human rights violation, Palestinian youth, migrants, refugees and youth from human rights groups.
- Video documentaries were produced by the participants in the workshops and presented in public events.
- A successful Human Rights film festival was organized in Beirut.

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Workshop on “Women Rights in Lebanon” with a group of women victims of domestic violence: an experience of empowerment.

In Lebanon, women still face diverse forms of discrimination in the private and public spheres, and are not well protected by the law. In March 2010, a series of workshop sessions were conducted in cooperation with the NGO Kafa (Enough) Violence & Exploitation, targeting a group of women victims of family and domestic violence. The participants, belonging to different religious, social and regional backgrounds, were offered tools and information on the UN Convention for the Elimination on all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as on religious laws and penal and civil codes. Advocacy tips were given together with simple film making techniques through the use of a video camera, in order to help them express themselves and their ideas via the media.

One participant said about her experience in the workshop: “Sharing experiences with other women living similar situations was very important for me. I had the opportunity to understand that I have the right to have the custody of my daughter after my divorce. Every woman has her own story but the workshop helped in creating a very solid ground among the members of the group, and enabled us to express together our ideas through the documentaries.”

Another participant added: “We produced 3 short documentaries under the title ‘We are the shouting voice for the coming dawn’ expressing our hope to change the situation regarding the laws, traditions, and the general mentality. This is why we need to defend equal rights for women in Lebanon.”



The documentation centre on human rights,
Dora, Beirut