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Successful Events at CSW60 New York

At the CSW60 in New York, Gender Concerns International facilitated two key discussions highlighting the need in Afghanistan for the continued support of women's political participation and the second focusing on improved female leadership. After the two discussions between a lively crowd and the panellists, Gender Concerns premiered its short documentary film "Bayan: Women at a Flashpoint, Challenges and Opportunities Beyond 2016." [Read on...](#)



First meetings taking place for the Dutch National Action Plan 1325

On the 8th of March, the signatories of the Dutch National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security presented the third Dutch National Action Plan for the period of 2016-2019. The plan is an expression of the contribution to the goals set out in the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. The NAP 1325 forms collaboration between government, over 50 Dutch civil society organizations and knowledge institutions. Since the presentation of the third Dutch National Plan, the first country group meetings have taken place to discuss women's participation and empowerment in conflict and post conflict environments including Afghanistan, Colombia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. [Read the complete Dutch NAP 2016-2019 here.](#)



UEC National Conference Myanmar

The Gender Concerns Myanmar Team attended the 2 day Union Election Commission (UEC) National Post Election Conference on the 29th of February - 1st of March. During the conference the team also attended a meeting held by the UEC Commissioner, Dr. Daw Myint Kyi, who is in charge of the international observation. The meeting focused on pivotal issues such as the future engagement of the UEC and the female representation within the commission, the current Memorandum of understanding, and the need for capacity building on gender issues within the government and the UEC.



International Coordination Meeting in Tunis

On the 29th of February, Gender Concerns attended an International Coordination Meeting organized by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSM) Women's Empowerment Unit. Governments, UN agencies and International NGO's came together in a joint session to consolidate efforts for the empowerment of women in Libya.



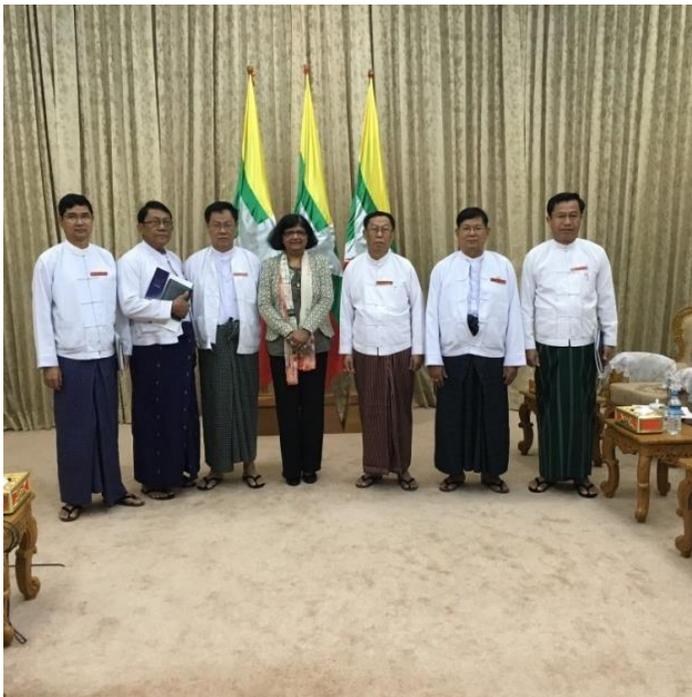
Press conference in Morocco

In April 2016, Gender Concerns hosted a press conference in Rabat in which the key recommendation drawn from the GEOM program in Morocco will be presented to various civil society organizations, political figures and media outlets. Furthermore, Gender Concerns also hosted an inclusive consultation seminar with esteemed political representatives from various parties regarding women's political and economic inclusion in Moroccan society. Gender Concerns continues to be engaged in talks with the National Human Rights Council for Morocco (CNDH) regarding the training of election observers and establishing a training manual for the election observers.



Referendum on a more gender sensitive constitution in Libya

April 6th marked the end of a 3 week consultative retreat for the CDA resulting in a general consensus on the draft constitution. On the 19th of March, Martin Kobler, the head of the UNSMIL, declared that the new Libyan constitution will be released for approval by a referendum. The extended drafting process has been challenging and highly criticised since the Libyan Constitution Assembly (CDA) began its work in 2014. However, the delay in the release of the draft constitution has allowed for some fundamental changes, suggested by a partnership of agencies including Gender Concerns, which will improve women's rights in Libya. Further information about the draft constitution and the 'Gender Sensitive Constitution' drafted by Gender Concerns and several other key agencies can be found [here](#).



GEOM 2015 Report Launch in Myanmar

On the 7th June, Gender Concerns International launched the 2015 Gender Election Observation Mission report "The Dawn of Inclusive Governance in Myanmar" at the Novotel in Yangon. The launch was attended by representatives of the UEC, Women and Civil Organizations and members of the international community who engaged in discussions on women's social and political participation. "According to the report, the participation of women in the electoral process is still low. On an international level, women participation is 30% but for Myanmar 10%. The report also mentions that we need to promote and support women's participation in democratic transition while building capacities to enact positive political and social change"(Khin Ma Ma Myo, Executive Director of the Myanmar Institute of Gender Studies). Director Ms. Sabra Bano also met with female parliamentarians, WO's and CSO's and the new United Election Commission in Myanmar. [Read the full report here](#).



GEOM 2015 Report Launch in Morocco

On the 4th May, Ms. Sabra Bano, head of the Gender Election Observation Mission 2015 presented the GEOM 2015 report including its recommendations and conclusions in Rabat. The event successfully stimulated a fruitful dialogue between the councillors, the civil society, the representatives of the CNDH, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Gender Concerns International. The event achieved its goal by facilitating for women elected in the communal councils to gather and think of ways to enhance their leadership and women's political participation in Morocco. It was a valuable exercise that saw various stakeholders come together and discuss to contribute to the development of a roadmap towards increased female leadership and political participation of women.



Interactive Consultation and Workshop on Women's Political Participation in Morocco

On the 30th June, an interactive consultation and workshop took place in Morocco aimed to facilitate and strengthen ongoing processes of women's democratic inclusion, female leadership and inclusive democracy. The main findings of the consultation were an intentional negligence to encourage women to participate in politics and the political parties do not include women in the composition of the electoral lists. Women still have the same image in political parties. On the 14th July, an interactive consultation and workshop was also held in Agadir, Morocco.

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Gender Concerns International promotes women as agents of change and development. Gender Concerns International's focus is on capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, facilitating training and supporting women's organisations in fragile states to improve the political, legal, social and economic position of women.