



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### GENDER CONCERNS INTERNATIONAL

#### COMING SOON: GENDER ELECTION MONITORING REPORT TUNISIA

With its commitment to support women's free and fair democratic participation, Gender Concerns observed electoral processes and transitional events in Tunisia with the country's largest 2014 international election observation mission. It was a great honour to support Tunisian women as they participated meaningfully in the parliamentary and presidential elections. We will soon publish the final mission report including observations and recommendations. Check the [Gender Concerns website](#) for the upcoming publication from these historic elections.

#### SUPPORT LIBYAN WOMEN'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!

*#MakeItHappen!*

*International Women's Day Theme 8 March 2015*

Gender Concerns International's Tunisia Office is pleased to host this year's event to commemorate International Women's Day. The Tunis event will focus on Libyan women's determination in guaranteeing their constitutional rights, the challenging of long-standing hierarchical structures and their dedication to change unequal social conditions. Women's Day is about acknowledging the effort, power and achievements of women worldwide!

The event *Equality for Women is Progress for All: Ensuring Peace, Security and Constitutional Equality for Women in Libya* in Tunis will address Libyan women's persistence to fight for their rights despite Libya's unstable security, political and economic environment. This International Women's Day event will highlight the triumphs and challenges ahead for Libyan women! *See details on page two!*

#### NEW TUNISIAN MINISTER OF WOMEN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS



Gender Concerns Director Sabra Bano had the pleasure of congratulating Ms. Samira Merai in Tunis on her appointment as Tunisian Minister of Women and Family Affairs. Gender Concerns is encouraged to continue to build positive relations with the Tunisian government and excited about the country's future. We wish Ms. Merai all the best in her new position!





Intisar Al Hasairi

## YOU WILL BE MISSED

Gender Concerns stands with the women of Libya and expresses its condolences to the family and supporters of civil rights activist Intisar Al-Hasairi. We are sorry to have lost a colleague and a friend.

Gender Concerns pays tribute to her work in Libya and her aspiration for a gender equal society. Ms. Hasairi worked extremely hard for women's democratic inclusion and was an honoured guest at the 2014 International Women's Day celebration in Tripoli.

We wish our colleagues strength in these difficult times. The killing of Ms. Hasairi demonstrates that more support is needed from the international community to help Libya continue its path towards security as a developing democracy.

## **PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2015**

Sunday 8 March, 2015

The Sheraton Hotel, Tunis, Avenue de la Ligue Arabe 1080

**13:30** Registration

14:00 Welcome Speech "Equality for Libyan Women is Progress for All" Ms. Sabra Bano Director Gender Concerns International



The purpose of our "Equality for Women is Progress for All: Ensuring Peace, Security and Constitutional Equality for Women in Libya" conference in Tunis is to commemorate International Women's Day, present the publication of the 'Gender Sensitive Constitution' and discuss women in armed conflict, UNSCR 1325 opportunities, challenges and ways forward. The 'Gender Sensitive Constitution' lists a series of recommendations to engender the Libyan constitution, and the conference will be an opportunity for representatives of the Libyan Constitutional Drafting Assembly and other participants to discuss the recommendations of actions needed to ensure implementation.

Participants will be able to discuss lessons and experiences in promoting gender equality through the constitutional reform process. A panel will discuss key opportunities and challenges for Libyan activists, as experts come together and take joint action for Libya's future.

**Attendance only possible by registration; see [our website](#) for details!**

**14:10**

Keynote Address and "EU's message on International Women's Day" H.E. Nataliya Apostolova, EU Ambassador to Libya

**14:20**

"Work of Libyan women: accomplishments and challenges of the Dastoor project and recommendations for a Gender-Sensitive Constitution" Ms. Salima Alfakhari, Chairperson, Women and Youth Empowerment Forum Libya.

**14:50**

**Panel Discussion** with Libyan Activists and Experts "Women and Libya under armed conflict and UNSCR 1325: opportunities and challenges posed, and the way forward" Ms. Hikmat, Chair of the Women for Democratic Transformation Platform, and other Libyan activists and experts

**15:50** Video Documentary "Our Revolutions, Our Constitution" and presentation of the document "Gender Sensitive Constitution"

**16:00** Concluding remarks and reception with refreshments

## PAKISTAN OFFICE

The local office of Gender Concerns International in Islamabad will be the base for operations in the region in 2015. The Pakistan office will serve as coordinator for the Bayan II project – Inclusive Governance and Improved Security through Policy Influencing activities in Afghanistan. The staff of the Pakistan office has shown great commitment and professionalism working hard to promote women's rights in Pakistan and the region. The Gender Concerns team there is determined to see the positive effects of increased female political participation.

## WHAT IS GENDER CONCERNS DOING IN 2015?

Don't miss our Q&A - *What is in store for Gender Concerns International in 2015?* Sabra Bano Director of Gender Concerns International shares her views on this year's initiatives.

Gender Concerns has continued good relations with representatives of the European Union, various Member States, the United Nations, the Dutch Government, partner organisations and civil society groups in post-conflict and developing countries. We are working to help make 2015 a year of continued global progress for women's equality.

Read the full interview on our website [www.genderconcerns.org](http://www.genderconcerns.org)

## UNSCR 1325 WOMEN: POWERFUL AGENTS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

As a signatory of the Dutch NAP UNSCR 1325 Gender Concerns representatives attended the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs conference on Women, Peace and Security in Amsterdam on 16-17 February. Gender Concerns raised the issue of deteriorating peace and security in Libya and pushed for continued support for civil society and women's organisations in the country. Director Sabra Bano called for more attention on Libya during the conference closing ceremony and Gender Concerns helped ensure Libya's place on the Ministry agenda. Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders highlighted the importance of security matters and the role that women play in peace processes in Libya, among others. Gender Concerns is glad to see the Dutch Ministry encouraging continued support in Libya and beyond. *For more details see our website.*

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***Libya and women in peace processes  
is on the Dutch Policy agenda***

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## INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT GENDER CONCERNS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2014?

In 2014 Gender Concerns had active initiatives in Afghanistan, Libya and Tunisia. Each project aimed at promoting women as agents of change and development in their respective societies.

**Check out the full *THROWBACK 2014: Highlights from Gender Concern's Projects* on our website!**



Director of Afghan Women Network, Hassina Safi, right, and Gender Concerns team at UNSCR 1325 conference Amsterdam



Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders,



Bayan project - Afghanistan

## LAUNCH OF BAYAN II PROJECT - AFGHANISTAN

Gender Concerns is launching the Bayan II project – Inclusive Governance and Improved Security through Policy Influencing in Afghanistan, together with two Dutch and seven Afghan partner organisations.

The two-year project aims to link national policy influencing to concerns such as inclusive security and political participation of Afghan women. Project activities focus on leveraging public outreach and awareness platforms; policy influence and advocacy; and awareness on an international level in Europe and in New York at the United Nations. Capacity building interventions with partners and programme target participants will promote women's rights in accordance with the Dutch NAP 1325.

Women are seen as significant change-makers for their own future. The long-term outcome aims to further increase the added value and influence women already have on their community as a whole. This additional influence ensures that, amongst others, the youth will be reached, represented by both girls and boys.

*Through Bayan II more women can take the lead and receive support in exercising their rights, by both the policy-makers and decision-makers, and the public at large.*



G-Concerns Editor – Emma Grylle

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Gender Concerns International promotes women as agents of change and development. Gender Concerns focuses on capacity building, lobbying and advocacy, training and support for women's organisations in fragile states – with the aim of improving the political, legal, social and economic position of women.