



A ROAD TO PARITY UPCOMING MENA CONFERENCE

Gender Concerns together with partner organisations are organising a MENA region conference in September. The conference will focus on the lessons learnt, exchange of ideas of the Tunisian Presidential and Parliamentary elections held in 2014. The event objective is to support and strengthen inclusive electoral reforms in Tunisia and the wider region. The conference will also be an opportunity to reward and recognise the work of the female election observers.

TRIPOLI, ALJAZEERA LIVE BROADCAST FROM MARBOUA CAFÉ – FOCUSING ON THE ROLE OF THE CONSTITUTION IN STABILISING LIBYA



More than fifty women and civil society representatives, lawyers, activists and journalists gathered at Gender Concerns Marboua café in Tripoli, Libya to discuss the role of the Constitution in stabilising Libya and the on-going dialogue in Sakherat, Morocco supported by the UN mission to Libya.

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TOWARDS GENDER – FOCUSED ELECTORAL REFORMS

As recommended in the final report of Gender Election Observation Mission (GEOM) 2014 Tunisia, 300.000 women, mostly living in rural areas, who have been excluded from the electoral process need to be given access to the vote for any future elections in Tunisia. The fact that these 300.000 women lacked the official identity card necessary to cast their vote reveals a gap in Tunisia's democratic system, especially for those committed to the gender parity agenda.

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Tunisian women after general elections Tunisia 2014



Mr. Driss el-Yazami – Chairman of the National Human Rights Council



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Ms. Zahra Sepehr – President DSAWCO



Celebrating International Family Day

GENDER CONCERNS INTERNATIONAL INVITED TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS IN MOROCCO

The National Human Rights Council of Morocco calls for reforms ahead of elections

The National Human Rights Council (CNDH) has officially invited Director Sabra Bano to send Gender Election Observation Mission (GEOM) to observe and report on free and fair elections in Morocco. Expressing her gratitude to the invitation of Mr. Driss el-Yazami - Chairman and admiring the work of CNDH, Ms. Bano has responded positively to this honourable invitation by confirming that a Pre Need Assessment Mission will visit Morocco before the beginning of Ramadan to determine the scope and scale of the Gender Election Observation Mission 2015 and 2016 in Morocco.

The National Human Rights Council (CNDH) and civil society organisations in Morocco are demanding constitutional and electoral reforms as the country moves towards municipal elections scheduled for autumn 2015, followed by general elections in 2016.

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AFGHAN WOMEN CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY: WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The crucial role of women in families was highlighted at a Bayan II event on 15 May, the International Family Day. The event was organised by partner organisation Afghan Women and Children Organisation (DSAWCO) by opening the discussions on the role of women in families. At this occasion many families that lived apart were united and Family photos sessions were organised to promote women's presence in Afghan family photos. Program included interactive activities engaging male family members on taking their responsibilities within the family, equality in gender, and children's rights and their notion about family unit in contemporary Afghanistan.

The event drew particular attention to the importance of women in the family and community. An open panel discussion followed about family and youth, which drew attention to the importance of family units and the necessity of a gender-equal society accepting women's inclusion at all levels in Afghan society..

The Bayan II project – *Inclusive Governance and Improved Security through Policy Influencing in Afghanistan* is a consortium with Gender Concerns, two Dutch and seven Afghan partner organisations supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

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EMPOWERING WITH A SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE

Addressing the gender gap in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Gender Concerns International is launching an initiative to strengthen women's economic empowerment through social entrepreneurship in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This multi-stakeholder plan aims to intervene in conditions of economic stagnation and poverty which may lead to the rise and recruitment of young people into armed groups and organisations. In addition, to advance on women's political leadership and economic empowerment there is a crucial need for systematic and sustained intervention that will strengthen the policy-influencing

capacity of women's organisations and women in civil society organisations.

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Ms. Samira Meraii Friaa – Tunisian Minister of the Promotion of Women of Family and Welfare

“Increasing the role of women in the society is a question of human rights, a question of social and economic inclusive development, and a question of stability and security.”

Delphine Borione - Deputy Secretary General Social Affairs and Civil Protection in the Secretariat of the UfM



Ms. Ibticem Kamoun (Gender Concerns), Mr. Fathallah Saijilmassi (Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean), Ms. Sabra Bano (Executive Director Gender Concerns)



Ms. Delphine Borione Deputy Secretary Secretariat of the UfM



Ms. Sabra Bano (Left) and Ms. Cherry Ohm

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MYANMAR PRE-ELECTION MISSION FINDS OPPORTUNITIES OF SUPPORT

As a follow-up to an invitation from the Union Election Commission of Myanmar, a delegation of Gender Concerns International experts conducted a Pre-Election Needs Assessment Mission (PNAM) to Myanmar in May. The PNAM delegation assessed the needs and opportunities for launching a Gender Election Observation Mission (GEOM) to work directly with local women's organisations to promote inclusive governance and female leadership.

Assessment mission meetings were held with various stakeholders from the international diplomatic community, the Union Election Commission, and women's and civil society organisations. The PNAM revealed a lack of a gender-specific democracy programme, while there is recognition of a crucial need to support women's electoral participation through a focused initiative such as the GEOM.

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ARE YOU OUR NEXT AFGHANISTAN COUNTRY COORDINATOR?

Do you speak fluent Pashto, Dari and English? Do you have experience of working in the non-governmental sector? Are you passionate gender and development questions in Afghanistan and Pakistan?

We are looking for a dedicated and committed candidate to work at our local office to coordinate activities in Kabul and Islamabad.

Please send your CV, motivation letter and references to our Regional Coordinator Mr. Van Geertsom:

johannes@genderconcerns.org

We look forward to your application!

Gender Concerns International promotes women as agents of change and development. Gender Concerns 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.