**CONFIDENT GIRLS, BRIGHTER WORLDS**

If all goes well, if all nations achieve the Sustainable Development Goals we defined together in 2015, we will have in 2030:

- put an end to all forms of discrimination against women and girls
- eliminated from the public and private sphere all forms of violence against women and girls, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other types of exploitation
- eliminated all harmful practices such as child marriage, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
- recognized and valued unpaid domestic care and work
- guaranteed the full and effective participation of women in leadership roles at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
- ensured universal access to sexual and reproductive health care
- undertaken reforms aiming to give women the same rights to economic resources and political participation as men
- adopted the relevant legislative provisions promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at every level, and reinforced existing provisions.
- Promising objectives that will lead women around the world see a light at the end of their tunnel; but how will we manage to get there?

Let us take our beautiful Mediterranean region as an example.

In terms of female literacy, equality with men has almost been achieved. Everywhere, except for some isolated rural areas – particularly in Morocco – the school enrolment rate of girls is equal to or is almost equal to that of boys. There are more, sometimes many more, girls than boys completing university degrees, because knowledge is a key route out for them – even if diplomas are losing their value.

The girls in our region thus have a good chance of dying in childbirth, of falling prey to disease, and have more chances of sending their children – their girls – to school, of being better informed and better paid.

However, after this brilliant showing in the world of education, women fall from view: their absence from political and economic decision-making positions is equally striking in all of the countries of the region.

So what has happened?

The fact is they are living in, and are the products of, a profoundly patriarchal society. Regardless of where a woman is born, men are empowered by the entire society – by shameless laws or more subtle biases – to dominate the women around them.

When they play, attend school, go out onto the street, girls are unceasingly reminded that they are inferior and play a subordinate role serving others.

This message is constantly hammered in, rapidly turning girls into beings filled with doubt as to their own value. How could they even dare to think that they are capable of leading a country?

Educated or uneducated, they are paralysed by this order intent on underestimating them.

It is only by becoming aware of their value and of the value of all women that educated girls will dare to spread their wings. Finally confident in their capacities, they will sweep away societal resistance and assume the place they are due.

So yes, we will achieve our goal of a brighter world.

Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière

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### 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

**“GIRLS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD”**

Let us honour girls in 2016, the girls of the Mediterranean, who are strong, creative and will change the world!

They are 5 to 13 years old, they are astonishing, bold, and resistant, they know they are able to lift mountains and they will lift those stopping them from going to school, playing, circulating freely, being considered equal before the law to boys their age, uniting with the person of their choice.

**THE COMPETITION IS OPEN**

From 31 MARCH TO 30 JUNE 2016

[www.medswomensfund.org](http://www.medswomensfund.org)

The contest is restricted to amateur photographers who live in Mediterranean countries.
DURING THE LAST SEMESTER, WE HAVE SUPPORTED SOME TWENTY INITIATIVES INVOLVING

**FIGHTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Femmes pour le Dire. Femmes pour Agir**

In 2003 in Paris, aims to promote the place of women with disabilities in society. The project aims to provide a hotline service adapted to handicapped women who are victims of violence.

**La Fondation Yto pour l'habilitation et la réhabilitation des femmes victimes de violence**

Founded in 2004 in Casablanca, aims to defend women's rights, particularly in isolated areas. MedWf supported the operations and activities of the Derb Moulay Chrif center, which works to help women victims of violence to become fulfilled and independent.

**Ma'an - The Forum for Bedouin women's organisations**

Founded in 1999 in Beer Sheva, supports Bedouin women who are subjected to gender-based violence and promotes the status of women in southern Israel. They have received funds for institutional support. The crisis hotline provides an easy and immediate first point of contact for Bedouin women victims of violence and sexual assault.

**DEFEETING SEXUAL AND BODILY RIGHTS**

**Hebûn (Existence)**

Founded in 2001 and based in Diyarbakir is a gender, sexual identity and sexual orientation studies organisation. They conducted a study named “Empowering Feminist Movement and LGBT” on the basis that the existence struggle of LGBTs will expand with the expanding of the existence struggle of women.

**STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND COLLECTIVE ORGANIZATION**

**The women association, Matica,**

Founded in 2002 in Otra Luka. Their mission is to improve the status of women in rural areas. The project “Empowering women in Ostra Luka to participate equally in the economic and social development of their community” aims at improving knowledge on gender issues, leadership skills and increasing self-esteem of women in rural parts of the municipality.

The collective of young feminists formed a discussion group for young women in 2015. A reflection meeting was held in October 2015 to define a strategy to better target the problems with which they are confronted at an individual and collective level.

**STRENGTHENING NETWORKS**

**Cairo Centre for Development**

Founded in 1999 in Giza, seeks to decrease the qualitative gap between women and men and raise principles of human rights amongst the public. They have organized an advanced training workshop for directors of women NGOs that aims at strengthening NGO’s interest in supporting women’s rights and combating violence against women and improving the quality of services provided to victims. After the end of the workshop, the participants will be involved in a workshop for the amendment of discriminatory articles in Egyptian laws.

**MONTENEGRO**

**ANIMA – Centre for Women’s Peace & Non-Violence Education**

Founded in 1996 in Kotor. Its mission is to create a non-patriarchal society of free individuals by spreading the culture of peace and non-violence as well as promoting gender equality. They have received funds for the Meeting of the witnesses (25-27 September) and ANIMA Peace and Non-Violence Action 2015 (28-30 September). ANIMA 2005, the Association “Helping women affected by war” was founded in 2005 in Zvornik primarily to provide support to women with war trauma and now is engaged in the analysis of the causes of discrimination against women. Their program is to support women, can strengthen their confidence and build peace consists of a series of segments: mutual support and solidarity, psychosocial support and help, women’s peace activism, solidarity of mothers for women, together.

Thanks to the Domaine d’O, which opened its doors to us, Air France, which offered the tombola prizes, and above all the generosity of our godmothers, Saud Massi and Marianne Aya Omar, who donated all of the proceeds from the show they gave before 600 people, we were able to raise 12,000 Euros. The proceeds were intended for associations combating violence against women and more particularly, repressed women. We divided it between the Pas de Calais branch of Family Planning (62), which helps migrants women in transit who are victims of gender-based violence, and a shelter for female victims of violence managed by Syrian women on the Turkish border.

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

**THE THREE-FIVE-DAY SESSIONS OF THE FEMINIST TRAINING IN COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE (FTCI) IN HAMMAMET, TUNISIA, IN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015 AND FEBRUARY 2016**

Twenty-five young women participated in all or some of the training. They were 20 to 34 years old (women between 20 and 25, and six between 30 and 50) and came from Tunis, Sfax, Sohna, Kerna- me, Caxila, Sidi Bou Said, Mednine, Ben Arous, Kebilia, Ariana, Thala and Paris.

They were members of the following associations: AFURTUD, Voix de la femme rurale, Thala solid- aint, Irisada pour le développement, Femmes pour la protection de la famille, Search for Common Ground, Femmes, société et politique, Ligue des Electricité Tunisienne, Association tunisiennes pour la protection de la nature, Oustouma, Consul des

**THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF FEMINIST FUNDS, MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK (INWF) ON 28-30 OCTOBER 2015 IN SAINT-MARTIN DE LONDRES**

13 feminist members of the INWF network, 12 of which European, Slovak-Czech Women’s Fund, Reconstruction Women’s Fund (Serbia), Ecumenical Women’s Initiative (Croatia), Mama Cash (the Netherlands), Women Win (the Netherlands), Women’s Fund in Georgia, Tato Found (Georgia), Ukrainian Women’s Fund, Cala- la-Fundo de Mujeres (Spain), Bulgarian Fund for Women, Fila Frauen Stiftung (Germany), Global Fund for Women, USA) and the Mediter- ranean Women’s Fund met for three days near Montpellier.

The meeting aimed to develop strategies to raise funds together in a difficult political context for women’s rights (hardening of attitudes against refugee movements, conservation, xenophobia, and racism), and a space for civil society. One day was dedicated to improving external communications of funds with the assistance of communication consultants.

AND OUR GALA, “THEY ARE MAKING WAVES FROM SHORE TO SHORE” IN MONTPELLIER IN NOVEMBER

Newsletter from the Mediterranean shores - N°13
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**... AND ORGANIZED**

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Thanks to the Domaine d’O, which opened its doors to us, Air France, which offered the tombola prizes, and above all the generosity of our godmothers, Souad Massi and Marianne Aya Oman, who donated all of the proceeds from the show they gave before 600 people, we were able to raise 12,000 Euros. The proceeds were intended for associations combating violence against women and more particularly, refugee women. We divided it between the Pas de Calais branch of Family Planning (GZ), which helps migrant women in transit who are victims of gender-based violence, and a shelter for female victims of violence managed by Syrian women on the Turkish border.
Is education enough for a woman to spread her wings and claim her place in society? — and what education?

Is education enough for a woman to spread her wings and claim her place in society? — and what education?

**FRANCE**

Female literacy rate (over 15 years old) 99.9%
Male literacy rate (over 15 years old) 99.9%
Rate of women enrolling in higher education 68.6%
Rate of men enrolling in higher education 76.1%
Rate of women working (15-64 years) 24.08%
Rate of men working (15-64 years) 26.04%
Rate of representation of women in decision-making posts (2012) 73,83%
Rate of representation of men in decision-making posts (2012) 71.30%
Rate of representation of women in parliament 23.5%
Rate of representation of men in parliament 70.5%

**MOROCCO**

Female literacy rate (over 15 years old) 62.6%
Male literacy rate (over 15 years old) 76.6%
Rate of women enrolling in higher education 61.3%
Rate of men enrolling in higher education 72.8%
Rate of women working (15-64 years) 23.6%
Rate of men working (15-64 years) 74.2%
Rate of representation of women in decision-making posts (2012) 39.4%
Rate of representation of men in decision-making posts (2012) 60.6%
Rate of representation of women in parliament 17%
Rate of representation of men in parliament 83%

**CROATIA**

Female literacy rate (over 15 years old) 48.3%
Male literacy rate (over 15 years old) 55.9%
Rate of women enrolling in higher education 51.8%
Rate of men enrolling in higher education 57.0%
Rate of women working (15-64 years) 27.6%
Rate of men working (15-64 years) 85.1%
Rate of representation of women in decision-making posts (2012) 15.2%
Rate of representation of men in decision-making posts (2012) 84.8%
Rate of representation of women in parliament 15.2%
Rate of representation of men in parliament 84.8%

**EGYPT**

Female literacy rate (over 15 years old) 68.3%
Male literacy rate (over 15 years old) 86.5%
Rate of women enrolling in higher education 63.3%
Rate of men enrolling in higher education 93.2%
Rate of women working (15-64 years) 28.6%
Rate of men working (15-64 years) 88.0%
Rate of representation of women in decision-making posts (2012) 40.66%
Rate of representation of men in decision-making posts (2012) 71.10%
Rate of representation of women in parliament 20.7%
Rate of representation of men in parliament 76.3%

**ALBANIA**

Female literacy rate (over 15 years old) 63.6%
Male literacy rate (over 15 years old) 76.6%
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Rate of men enrolling in higher education 73.6%
Rate of women working (15-64 years) 27.6%
Rate of men working (15-64 years) 70.9%
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Rate of representation of women in parliament 73.8%
Rate of representation of men in parliament 87.2%

They act in a climate of general regression which is the effect of radical conservative movements in societies undergoing changes and they are experiencing many difficulties in finding the necessary funding for their actions at a local or regional level. This is why in 2008, women from North Africa and Southern Europe have taken the initiative to create a Mediterranean Women’s Fund whose aim is to help with improving women’s condition and to promote gender equality throughout all those countries in the Mediterranean region.

In terms of female literacy, equality with men has almost been achieved. Everywhere, except for some isolated rural areas – particularly in Morocco – the school enrollment rate of girls is equal to or is almost equal to that of boys. And there are more, sometimes many more, girls than boys completing university degrees, because knowledge is a key route out for them – even if diplomas are losing their value.

The girls in our region thus have a good level of education and we can congratulate ourselves. It is established fact that education helps break the cycle of poverty, educated women are less at risk of marrying young and against their will, of dying in childbirth, of falling prey to disease, and have more chances of sending their children – their girls – to school, of being better informed and better paid.

...and what education?

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...and what education?

We will achieve our goal of a brighter world.

Let us honour girls in 2016, the girls of the Mediterranean, who are strong, creative and will change the world!

They are 5 to 35 years old, they are astonishing, bold, and resistant, they know they are able to lift mountains and they will lift those stopping them from going to school, playing, circulating freely, working, being considered equal before the law to boys their age, uniting with the person of their choice.

The competition is open from 31 March to 30 June 2016.

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Les femmes de la Méditerranée ont besoin de vous !

JE FAIS UN DON AU FONDS POUR LES FEMMES EN MÉDITERRANÉE

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□ PAR CHÈQUE
à l’ordre de : Fonds pour Femmes en Méditerranée
5 rue marceau - 34000 Montpellier France

□ PAR VIREMENT BANCAIRE
Crédit coopératif, Montpellier France - Compte 42559 00034 41020011495-42
IBAN FR : 76 4255 9000 3441 0200 1149 542

Le Fonds pour les Femmes en Méditerranée est une association reconnue d’intérêt général. Sur présentation du reçu qui vous sera envoyé avant la fin décembre, vous pouvez bénéficier d’une réduction d’impôt égale à 66% des versements pris en compte dans la limite de 20% du revenu imposable.

JE SOUHAITE RECEVOIR LE RÈÇU FISCAL
□ PAR EMAIL .................................................................
□ PAR COURRIER ..............................................................................

JE SOUHAITE RECEVOIR LA LETTRE D’INFORMATION
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