

POST

And why would we be wrong to believe we could all live more happily in an egalitarian world?

During the United Nations General Assembly of September 25, the States made major commitments to improve the lot of populations through the adoption of [17 sustainable development goals](#) for the next 15 years. Sadly, as emphasized by the [Post 2015 Women's Coalition](#), which followed the process very closely, while gender equality and the participation of women were mentioned, they still are not at the CENTER of efforts to achieve sustainable and equitable development and peace.

Those who make decisions for us – by a large majority, men – still do not consider equality to be a critical priority objective, and seem to think that the planet can do well enough without it.

However, if we consider the disastrous example of our beautiful Mediterranean region, all evidence indicates that to continue like this, making only superficial changes, will lead us over the brink.

The accumulation of catastrophic situations over the past few years has finally resulted in a cyclone carrying away everyone living around shores of the Mediterranean and their strange certainty that they do not share much in common.

We have all been led into a fatal waltz, an incessant cycle of violence and suffering to which only technical and short term solutions are offered. And rarely generous ones.

Millions of people have been forced to flee drought, misery, repression, torture, and war, and have taken refuge wherever they hoped life could be possible. They move around their own countries or go further afield in the Mediterranean: millions in Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Turkey, and hundreds of thousands in Greece, Croatia, Italy, Spain, France...

Once there, those who wish to live free from terror and violence encounter the inhabitants of these more peaceful lands bracing themselves against closed doors, seeking to stop them from entering at any

price, gripped with fear that their tranquil little world will be upset.

Yet this tranquil little world is fundamentally unfair and contributed greatly to the drought, misery, repression, torture and war in the region by its economic, ecological and political choices. And it exudes such ill-being that thousands of its youth leave to go persecute, under the cover of religious duty, the inhabitants of the countries next door, already tormented...and feed the maelstrom of the fatal waltz.

We who find ourselves in the eye of the storm are convinced that it is the result of the low participation of women in decision making and governance.

As our unequal world proves every day how absurd it is, why not try to build an egalitarian one for a change?

Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière

RESULTS FROM THE PHOTO CONTEST "THOSE WHO MAKE WAVES"

Under the patronage of French actress Nathalie Baye



"Liberty deep in the heart of the people", Rabat

1st prize : Mohamed El Hamzaoui (France)

In the movements shaking today's Moroccan society, women are usually on the outposts. Free to move and to dress how she wants to, this young woman claims for all a freedom that she herself embodies regarding her parents, brothers and tradition.

300 participants from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Libya, Palestine, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey.

TWO DISTINCTIONS FOR THE MED WOMEN'S FUND

We are proud to announce that the Mediterranean Women's Fund was awarded a Medal of the City of Paris by the Mayor's office of the XV arrondissement to recognize women who have contributed to promoting togetherness, and the "Prix France-Algérie 2015 de l'Excellence au Féminin", which awards women who stand out in their fields and who contribute to bringing France and Algeria, and French and Algerian people, closer together through their activities.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT ABOUT 20 WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE...

... COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



The mission of the **Democratic League of Women Rights of Ouazazate**, created in 2001, is to combat gender-based violence and to promote the respect of women's rights by offering the welcome and necessary support to women victims and survivors of violence or discriminations. The Incubator for Social Entrepreneurs is a project that consists in supporting groups of women to implement projects of social economy until those run autonomously.



The **Women's Security Index Coalition**, founded in 2010 in Haifa, is a coalition of Jewish and Palestinian feminist organizations, which promotes the security of women in Israel. The project aims at integrating the **Women Security Index** findings into advocacy and programs of NGOs & decision makers in Israel, and raising public awareness of women's security issues.



Mazid of Freedom, founded in 2011 in Giza, aims at building society's capacity and raising necessary awareness about fundamental human rights to address development challenges and to achieve sustainable development. The project **Women's Club for Combating Gender Based Violence** targets women in poor villages in Giza. This activity is expected to create a great impact in providing psychological support and legal awareness for victims of violence.



The **Center for Civil Initiatives Porec**, created in 1992, promotes human rights and active citizenship. They have received funds for **institutional support**. They provide direct protection to people whose rights have been violated, especially women's rights.



The association **Nova Zena** was founded in 2014, in Semizovac. Its mission is the economic empowerment of vulnerable women. The project **Prevention of domestic violence through the economic empowerment of women** consists in organizing English language courses (up to the level B1) and computer science courses (advanced level) for vulnerable categories of women from rural

areas whose families are subject to problems of unemployment and alcoholism.

BUILDING NETWORKS



Close to Adolescents created in 2004 in Tirana, aims to protect adolescents' rights, especially girls' rights. Creating the **network of women organizations operating in the Kombinati area** will strengthen organizations working there on similar issues.

REINFORCING ECONOMIC AND EMOTIONAL EMPOWERMENT



The organization **Taytamaines** was created in 2013 in Ait Kalla, an isolated region of Morocco. It implements a Women's Club by building its own premise and by organizing literacy workshops, generating revenues with weaving and teaching computer skills in order to fight against inequalities and violence against women.

Created in Ait Ourir in 2008, the organization **Tafoukte for Women's Development and Rehabilitation** encourages economic empowerment of women and their emancipation. The project titled **Economic empowerment of women to free their voices and give them the power to fight against discriminations** consists in developing a carpet production workshop for a group of craftswomen. They will also follow literacy lessons and awareness courses on the rights of women before learning how to organize the marketing of their work.



Founded in 2012 in Cairo, **Hatshepsut Foundation for development and human rights** works on developing strategies to outreach to local communities, creating

partnerships with local structures and women. The project **Al Mastaba** (platform) **for increasing women engagement in local development** has three components: 1. Capacity building for six women facilitators on how to address women's inequality at the local level, 2. Community meetings at a women venue to voice their concerns, challenges, opportunities and take action in the governance of their local communities, 3. Advocating for one priority local issue.

DEFENDING THE FREEDOM TO LOVE



Created in 1994, in Ankara, **Kaos GL** supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans individuals in embracing libertarian values, realizing their own existence, and in cultivating themselves in order to contribute to the development of social peace and welfare, together with the development of their individual, social and cultural life. They have received funds for the **feminist work of the network**.

MAKING WOMEN'S VOICES HEARD



The Coordination of the **World March of Women 13 PACA** is the regional branch of the **World March of Women**, a global movement of feminist actions launched in 1992 in the US that gathers grassroots organizations working to eliminate the roots of poverty and of violence against women. The coordination organized in September in Marseille, on the way of the European march from Turkey to Portugal, a euro-mediterranean meeting of the organizations based around the Mediterranean, titled **Women against extremisms**.

Les Ami-es de l'Egalité is an organization that manages **50/50 magazine**, an original information website that offers reflections, analysis, and debates on a number of topics linked to equal rights for women and men and their reality. 50/50 publishes information on women from the Mediterranean as well as information about partner organizations of the Mediterranean Women's Fund.

* To view all of the projects, visit the information page on our site www.medwomensfund.org

... AND WE HAVE ORGANIZED

A STRATEGIC REFLECTION MEETING FOR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBORHOODS IN CITIES OF FRANCE, ON THE 20TH AND THE 21ST OF JUNE 2015 IN PARIS

The aim of the meeting was to support the positive energy and determination of women who have been committed to these neighborhoods known as the "abandoned territories of the Republic" since the Charlie Hebdo attacks. There were 20 representatives of 15 organizations from Cergy, Dole, les Hauts de Seine, Gennevilliers, La Courneuve, Le Blanc-Mesnil, Lyon, la Castellane, Montreuil, Paris, Saint Ouen and Saint Denis who, for most of them, met together for the first time. They exchanged

about their experiences, that are often similar, and decided to elaborate a collective strategy in order to break free from their isolation. Conclusions were drawn on the necessity to call out to politics about the precariousness of women's associations. They have a key role to play in today's tensed social environment. Furthermore, it was concluded that organizations needed to work in networks and develop an open and inclusive feminist culture to address violent and dangerous movements such as racism and islamism.



A MEETING OF WOMEN ACTIVISTS FIGHTING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN LIBYA

on the 29th and 30th of May 2015 in Tunis, with the support of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF) and Development Organization Support Youth and Women. Because of the very difficult conditions of freedom of movement, only 14 out of the 20 women that were invited were able to participate. They came from Tripoli, Benghazi, Tobrok, Misrata, Garian, Zouara, Wadi Al Shati Sebha as well as Cairo and London.



11 organizations were represented: Libyan organization for judges; "My constitution protects me" network; Eshati Women's Union; Youth Change and the first Women's Forum; The Right's platform organization; Taletlymas people and women; Our parents association for charity and humanitarian; Development Organization Support Youth and Women; The voice of the right-Libyan women's organization; Capacity development center for Libyan Women, Darsaf/UNICEF Friends Association around the world.

After a day of analyzing the situation for women's rights in Libya, the women who participated in the meeting identified two main priorities on which they will mobilize and go into action together: obtaining a Constitution that includes women's rights and obtaining international support for women's organisations regarding finance, training, logistics, and equipment. Increasing awareness about women's rights was viewed by all as a priority and is taken into account in the two agreed priorities.

AND TWO SESSIONS OF OUR FEMINIST TRAINING IN COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE

in Morocco, in March, during which 20 young women aged 18-33 participated in the last session called "building and creating together". They came from 10 different locations (cities and villages, Casablanca, Rabat, Taroudante, Ait Kalla, Ait Ourir, Toundoute, Fes, Meknes, Azilal, Beni Mellal), and represented 7 different organizations (Fondation Ytto, Tafoukte, Taimatine Association, Association Ait Ouati Titrit, Women's association for rural development, Association Iltran association for development and families, Chouchouf women against sexual harassment)

and in Tunisia, in September, during which 21 young women aged 20-35 and coming from 18 different organizations participated in the first session "meet others and get to know oneself". They came from different parts of Tunisia: Tunis (7), Jenduba, Gafs (2), Sfax (2), Mednine, Ariana, Sousse (2), Korba, Kasserine (2), Ben Arous, Sidi Bouzid, Kairouan.



■ 113 WOMEN'S AND LGTBI ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKEY

gathered on 1 September 2015 to launch an appeal to both the Turkish army and the PKK for an immediate return to peace negotiations. "Stop searching for who is right or wrong, stop trying to blame those who started it, and just simply STOP!" awid.org/fr/node/4219

■ **THE WOMEN'S COURT-ZENSKI SUD**, event of major importance for women in ex-Yugoslavia in which the Mediterranean Women's Fund had the honour to participate,

took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia, from 7-10 May 2015 (www.zenskisud.org/en/). This alternative court of justice is the product of a five-year collaboration between 10 women's organizations coming from all over ex-Yugoslavia (Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia) and involved over 200 women's and civil society organizations in over one hundred towns of the region.

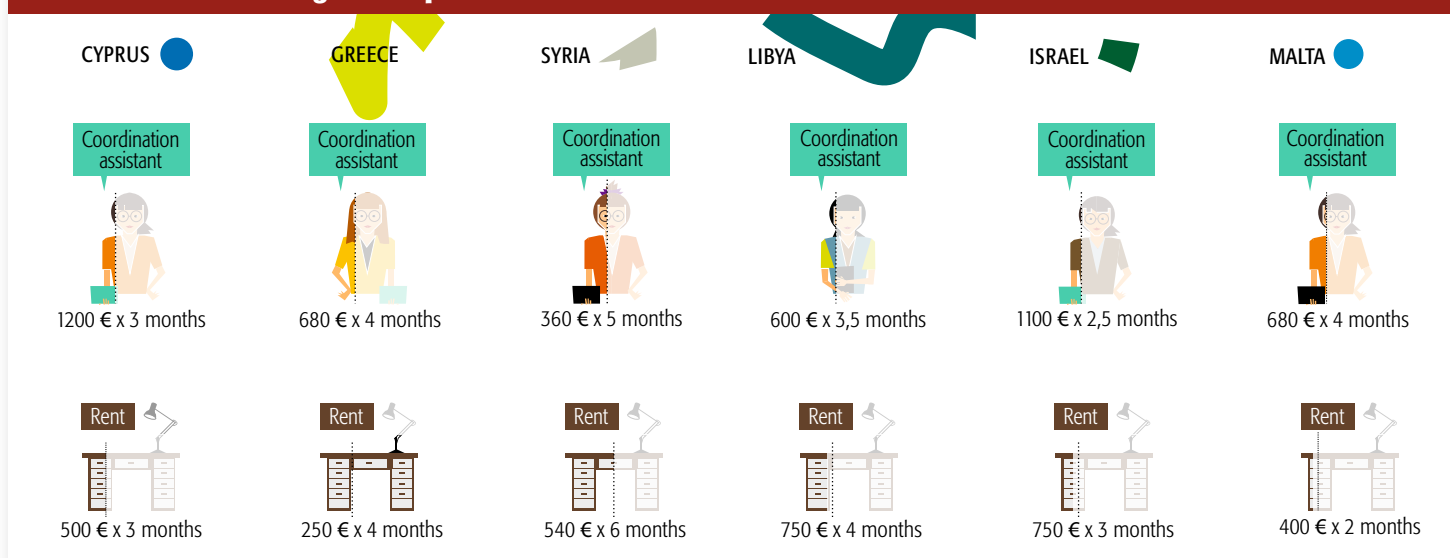
The Court gathered several hundred women from every region of the Balkans, including Albania and Slovenia. A feminist model of transitional justice by and for the women of ex-Yugoslavia, it offered a tribunal for testimonies from women

who have been victims of ethnic, sexual, military, economic, and discriminatory violence since 1990.

■ **THEY ARE MAKING WAVES FROM ONE SHORE TO ANOTHER: THE GREAT ARTISTS SQUAD MASSI AND MARIANNE AYA OMAC** will honor us by devoting their talent to support women's cause in November 20th 2015 at 8 pm at the Domaine d'Ô in Montpellier. The proceeds of the gala will go to organizations working to stop violence against women and Syrian women refugees ■

If we wish to establish a more just and harmonious society, we need associations defending women's rights. However, these associations cannot plan ambitious, long-term actions without a minimum number of salaried staff and level of resources.

How can a 5 000 euros grant help an association function?



WHY DO WE NEED A MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN'S FUND?

Belonging to the same cultural area, under the influence of three monotheistic religions, women from the Mediterranean region are subjected to a common form of patriarchy and despite living in apparently very different situations, share many similar aspects of their condition.

Whether they come from the southern or the northern shores of the Mediterranean, women know that they must not only fight to obtain equality but also to strengthen their existing rights which have been obtained thanks to their tenacity and their struggles.

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.

NEWSLETTER FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SHORES
Information letter from the Mediterranean Women's Fund

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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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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.

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D'avance, un grand merci pour votre soutien et votre générosité



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