The paradox and the awareness

But this would mean that these women, thanks to their positions of political and economic power, are clearly aware that they are dominated and on the path to emancipation.

However, self-confidence does not induce awareness: it is just one of the steps.

It is because they cannot free their consciousness from the dominant mindset which has forged them that they do not dare believe that what concerns women, and thus themselves, is essential and deserves financial resources.

Schooled in self-effacement and shaped by the banalization of inequality, they have integrated the lesson that women, whether they are running a household, a company, or a ministry, can manage perfectly well “with next to nothing”. Those working for greater justice for women in particular!

The next step, leading towards the raising of clear awareness, will therefore be to contribute to the evolution of society by daring to give resources to women who are changing the world.

The results of the Mediterranean Women’s Fund 2016 photography competition

“Girls will change the world”

The jury, made up of some dozen professionals and amateurs, had to choose between 157 very beautiful photographs submitted from Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Tunisia, Portugal and Jordan.


First prize: MOHAMMED EL HAMZAQUI for his photo taken in Imilchil (Morocco).

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.
END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Association to Combat Sexual Violence (CSVD), created in 2014 in Istanbul, works on all types of sexual violence. Their campaign, “Sexual violence thrives in silence, let’s talk about it,” aims to kindle a wide debate on sexual violence and make the question of sexual violence a social issue.

In vain tout(e)s, established in 2013 in Gosfins-Sainte-Honorine, works to prevent violence directed against youth, particularly violence committed against young women within the family. “Fight against domestic violence among the youth: the digital challenge” seeks to prevent violence through a mobile application and the creation of a digital information and crisis platform, with the opening of a space for young women victims of violence and a victims’ chat space: a digital alternative to national telephone help lines.

FINANCE

CROATIA

The Women’s Network of Croatia, established in 1996 in Zagreb, groups together 34 organizations. It was established to strengthen the capacities of women and women’s organizations. The network seeks to oppose the “conservative revolution” and counter government threats about women’s sexual and reproductive rights. It cooperates with other civil society organizations in Croatia, the Balkans, and at the international level. The MedWF funds its coordination.

FRANCE

Education feministe, established in 2010 in Caen is connected with organizations such as the Saut Ywa collective (Algeria), the feminist caravane, Once l’écume, and other European networks (United Kingdom, Serbia, Bosnia, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Austria, Italy...) The association organized a five-day feminist gathering in July on an eco-property attended by 300 people to discuss feminist and political questions.

TUNISIA

The Foundation of Women’s Rights Democratic League – Guelmim, created in 2003 in Guelmim, is a women’s rights association working mainly on legal, economic and political issues, as well as the fight to end violence. Its project is called, “Support victims of violence: awareness raising, training, gathering.”

MOROCCO

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DEFEND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Kontra Lesbian Group established in 1997 in Zagreb, seeks to support lesbians, encourage visibility and initiate social, political, institutional and legal change within a collective framework to fostered by extremist religious movements. Their advocacy work is based on concrete cases and the lesbian community’s needs. MedWF supports its operations.

ALGERIA

Social and Cultural Program and Promotion Promotion was founded in 1997 in Oran. Its project, “Awaert for the protection of Algerian women’s sexual and reproductive rights, challenges the State’s lack of involvement in the protection of women’s sexual and reproductive rights and seeks to help migrant women to access these rights and protect themselves against violence.

Egypt

The Association of Female Egyptian Lawyers (AXFL), founded in 2009 in Giza, advocates gender equality, justice and liberty in Egyptian society. Its campaigns against 4 practices harmful to girls – child marriage, excision, sexual harassment and domestic violence – encourages girls and women to assert their political and social rights.

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EGYPT

The pyramid of female leaders, projects carried out since 1996, seeks to empower women in rural areas to introduce them to the public life and represent them in political and social decision-making. The project, “Women’s voices” covers 4 rural regions in Sidi Bouzid and seeks to encourage women to make their voices heard by the end of the 2016 electoral season to enable them to participate in social and economic life not only as voters but also as candidates.

STRENGTHEN WOMEN’S CAPACITIES

Najat, established in 2015 in Bejaïa, provides training and professional education to women to help them become independent. It raises awareness about laws and is working on the constitution. It also provides legal counselling and psychological support to women in difficulty.

FRANCE

Rev’elles was established in 1993 in Montpellier. It aims to promote equal opportunity and job insertion for young women from working class neighbourhoods by helping them broaden their perspectives and seriously imagine their futures, develop a career plan and acquire the skills needed to implement it, develop their potential and capacity to act.

TURKEY

The Tunisian Women’s Coalition, established in 2012 in Tunis, is a network of associations that seeks to defend parity and equality between women and men. Female leadership (Female leadership) is a training program focusing on communication, presenting a case, networking, writing small project proposals, and developing a strategy for working in groups and in the regions to introduce them to the public life of young female leaders.

IN ZAGREB IN MAY A THIRD STRATEGIC REFLECTION MEETING...

The SEKA Women’s Groups Coordination was established in 1996 on the island of Brac to provide alternative forms of support: therapeutic vacations for women and children who were Balkan war victims, retreats and training for activists and people working with women survivors, a place for women’s groups to meet. MedWF supports the operating costs of SEKA House.

LEBANON

Future Syria, established in 2016 in Slikin in the liberated province of Idlib, has set up a school for 90 girls. It also offers home-based training to women, conducts awareness raising on reproductive health and provides psychological support. The association seeks to open a centre for juvenile girls to provide training and enable them to see doctors and benefit from humanitarin and psychological assistance.

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

The Association to Combat Sexual Violence (CMSVI), created in 2014 in Istanbul, works on all types of sexual violence. Their campaign, "Sexual violence thrives in silence, let’s talk about it" helps kindle a wide debate on sexual violence. Their campaign, "... SUPPORTED SOME FORTY INITIATIVES WORKING TO RAISE AWARENESS THROUGH ART AND CULTURE..."

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**TURKEY**
Victory for rural women was established in 2012 in Sidi Bouzid. The project, “Women’s voices” covers 4 rural regions in Sidi Bouzid and seeks to encourage women to make their voices heard by the end of the 2016 electoral season to enable them to participate in social and economic life not only as voters but also as candidates. **TUNISIA**

**TUNISIA**
The CURE Foundation, created in 2005 in Sarajevo, promotes equality and women’s rights for a society free of discrimination and violence against women. Since 2006, CURE has organized PitchWise, a festival celebrating women’s art and activism. It was held this year in Sarajevo on September 8-11 to celebrate women and their success, debate problems which they face and contribute to better visibility of women through art.

**LIBANON**
The FE-Male, established in 2012 in Beirut by some young women, trains young feminists in women’s rights and exposes the stereotypes in the media and on social networks. Fe-Male’s first initiative was, “Partners, but not yet equals”, the first feminist radio program in the Middle East. It aims to raise awareness about equality and the need to establish a civil state in Lebanese society. MedWF finances its operating costs.

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**SLOVENIA**
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**IN ZAGREB IN MAY A THIRD STRATEGIC REFLECTION MEETING...**

**LEBANON**
IN PARIS, IN JUNE A NEW STRATEGIC REFLECTION MEETING...
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First prize: MOHAMMED EL HAMZAoui for his photo taken in Imilchil (Morocco)

Second prize: GREGORY AUDUBERT « Sur la route de la victoire »

Third prize: SABINE BÉCARD « Oustada »

The jury said: “These photographs, imbued with the values of the Mediterranean Women’s Fund, present the challenges and achievements of women in their everyday lives.”

MOHAMMED EL HAMZAoui for his photo taken in Imilchil (Morocco)

 científico “The future feminists: build collective power for rights and justice”, took place in Brazil on September 8 to 12. Among the 2,000 participants were five young women from the region, three Egyptians and two Algerians, who received a grant from the MNIF to attend.

WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN FRANCE?

This is the question asked in the report, “Où est l’argent pour les droits des femmes ? une sonnette d’alarme”, produced by the Mediterranean Women’s Fund in collaboration with Fondation des femmes, UNIFEM, the High Council on Gender Equality, the Economic, Social, and Environment Council, and W4 (Women).

This report is the first step of a study on funding dedicated to the issue of equality between women and men. Organizations in the field know it well: in France, this is ridiculously low.

According to the Ministry of Gender Equality, “public support is needed to succeed.”

“The attitude of the private sector is no less paradoxical.”

Women’s rights: an alarm bell

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For men, it is clear that to commit to something that only affects them indirectly requires a dose of effort and empathy which is not within everyone’s reach, and, as whenever privileges are involved, is difficult to provide continuously. The idea of justice is lovely, but ultimately not exactly urgent.

As for women, it might seem more surprising that they do not recognize the importance of funding the movement which is paving the way for their emancipation.

They met each other!

72 women participants from our feminist training in collective intelligence came together in Marrakech for five days in July for the “Grande Rencontre des Femmes Formidablement Intelligentes et Créatives” (FFIC) (Major meeting of incredibly intelligent and creative women). There were 16 participants from Algeria, 22 from France, 17 from Morocco and another 17 from Tunisia.

Together, these young women, aged 19 to 35, represented 41 associations from 37 towns and villages in 4 countries.

How can one express one’s feminist commitment? How to create a group and how to work collectively? After the FFIC training, what victories did each of us achieve? How can one share what one has learned? What do we have in common when we have such different lives – from the well-educated city dweller to the uneducated farmer? And lastly how can a regional network be established? These were just some of the questions that were discussed.

A special edition will focus on this extraordinary event in which we take great pride!
Les femmes de la Méditerranée ont besoin de vous !

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