Mediterranean women, despite the worst, for the best

Despite the tragedy being re-enacted today by ‘the faceless sea wearing a hundred drowned faces’, the sea which has become the funeral shroud and tomb for thousands of people who set out in the tragic hope of finding a better life on the far shore; Despite an accelerating rise in sea levels averaging 3 millimeters/year and water temperatures increasing 20% faster than the rest of the world, both worrying records; Despite the recent announcement that the Mediterranean is the second region most impacted by climate change after the Arctic; Despite this heavy toll of pain and suffering, we are choosing to cultivate and nourish what is best in this region of the world in which we live.

Rather than donning a single identity confined within the cages of borders, we prefer to “stand tall in the immense space”, as Andrée Chedid, Mediterranean poet (1920-2011) put it: “la Mer sans visage aux cent visages noyés”. Idem “Dans l’espace infini je me tiendrai debout”.

We have little choice but to work together to find new ways to see, act, and think, to put love back into the heart of relationships and to weave bonds of trust, friendship, and respect with everyone and everything around us, be they humans, animals or plants. To be able to connect with the world in peace and tranquillity, we must shake up the human constructs built on the backs and in the flesh of women and the planet.

It was in this frame of mind that ‘Med-Feminiswya’, the Mediterranean Network for Feminist Information, was established in 2018. The network was further consolidated last July during a biennial meeting of PROSPERA (the International Network of Women’s Funds) held last May in Victoria, Canada, brought together 28 representatives of women’s funds from around the world, including the Mediterranean Women’s Fund.

All of them are devoting tremendous energy to finding financial resources to defend women’s rights around the world: they raised more than $100 million in 2018 from individual donors, private foundations, governments and businesses with an interest in women’s issues.

To build a more just world, and to truly change the lives of 3.8 billion women by helping them lift themselves out of poverty, we at PROSPERA believe that we must stand together with our women’s communities, in the world as well as in the Mediterranean.

The biennial meeting of PROSPERA held in Victoria in May 2019 brought together representatives of women’s funds from around the world, including the Mediterranean Women’s Fund.

Help women make a difference by making a donation!

And always citizens of the world...

...and at the moment, women are concerned...and at the moment, women are not managing at all.

According to UNODC, 87,000 women in the world were killed intentionally in 2017, meaning they were killed because they were women. Of these, 58% were killed by intimate partners or family members.

Lettre : Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière
Authors: Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière and Sarah Sweeney
Translation: Grace Celibello
Graphic design: https://mygraph.myportfolio.com/
The Association Democratic des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM, Democratic Association of Moroccan Women), which was established in 1985, positions itself as a force advocating for gender equality and full citizenship for Moroccan women. In July 2019, the ADFM Rabat branch organized a national seminar for women from Soualaite communities who are excluded from enjoying the right of usufruct and the collection of compensation in the event of collective land transfers. ADFM has been fighting for over 10 years to help these women, who seek equal access to collective land ownership in Morocco, and to urge the government to introduce amendments that would guarantee women effective equality of access to Soualaite lands.

The Tafouke association for the rehabilitation of Mnesiuwa women was established in 2008 in the village of Aït Ouar in Ouarzazate region in Marrakech province. The association works for the economic independence of women through carpet making and organizes literacy classes. The members of the association have considerable influence on the improvement of women’s rights in their region and continue their work despite the reservations of their neighbours.

Obiruzone Respinita, established in Pisa in 2017, fights against gynecological and obstetrical violence. It helps women to assert their right to abortion and emergency contraception in a country where 70% of doctors refuse to perform abortions (90% in some regions). The MedWF supports the operations of the platform, on which women submit their experiences in hospitals, clinics and pharmacies. These experiences are added to an interactive map in order to inform other women about access to abortion or emergency contraception.

The SEKAN Gorazle association was established in 2007 in Gorazle to raise awareness of the consequences of collective seat-related trauma, and to develop an innovative approach to psycho-trauma therapy, especially for women. The MedWF supports the operation of the SEKAN centre for education, therapy and the democratic process, which provides individual and collective psychotherapy services to women and girls.

The Association Taytmatines was established in 2004 in Pisa in Italy. It fights against gynecological and obstetrical violence. On 23 November 2019, the Effronté·es (the Bold) was founded by three women from Istanbul’s neighborhood of Taksim. The association was established in Pisa in 2007 to raise awareness about the presence of sexism in everyday life and its unacceptable nature. It seeks to expose ordinary and everyday sexism in the media, advertisements and public speeches through an extensive digital campaign.

The Effronté·es (the Bold) is a gender mixed association defending equality between women and men. Its four branches are located in Paris, Strasbourg, Rome and Marseille. It was established in 2012 to organize support for women in grave difficult situations. The Feministival 2019 is a feminist arts festival. For its 3rd season, Feministival has welcomed nearly 2,500 participants in Marseille for a weekend full of art, public education, and the blending of Mediterranean cultures.

Africa 93 (Association for Training against Racism and Active Citizen Intervention) was established in La Courneuve, a suburb of Paris, in 1987. It has set up many activities to consolidate social ties and work despite the reservations of their neighbours.

ASSOCIATION TAYTMATINES

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To become familiar with all of the projects, visit the information page on our website: www.medwomensfund.org

The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, established in 2004, fights against gender-based discrimination through research, advocacy, training and advisory services. It prioritizes the participation of women in political processes at the national and European level, and the engagement of excluded social groups in training programs and debates to help to promote socially diverse dialogue. They are planning to set up a new website.

The Center for Research on Women’s Issues – DIOEMA has provided legal and psychological support to survivors of gender-based violence in Athens since 1989. It works to prevent this violence through training programs. The MedWF’s support is dedicated to legal and psychological support activities provided free of charge. Since 2017, the association has supported 178 women survivors of violence, and also has conducted an extensive awareness-raising campaign called, ‘Don’t Skip’

The YFFO Foundation for the Shelter and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence was founded in 2004 in Casablanca. It works ceaselessly in the field to defend women’s rights and to fight against child marriages and girls being taken-out of school. Its Derb Moulay Chref Centre in Casablanca hosts women and girls who are victims of violence and in difficult situations, offering them legal and social assistance. The MedWF supports its overall operations.
Irtikaa, an association established in 2011 in Tunisia, focuses on women’s participation in elections and workplace decision-making bodies. It provides women the opportunity to acquire new skills and helps them to realize their full potential to actively participate in the life of the city. MedWF’s support is for strengthening the team and overall operations.

The Association Taytmatines pour la rehabilitation des femmes Aït Qalla (an association to empower the women of Aït Qalla located in the middle of the Atlas Mountains, came into existence in 2016 thanks to two young women determined to change women’s daily lives. They built their headquarters in the middle of the village, where women make carpets for direct sale, and organize literacy classes, encourage parents to send their girls to school, and advocate against child marriage. They are now planning to set up a maternity ward in the village to fight maternal mortality.

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The African Women’s Fund (Pan-Africanist Women’s Association, Africa 93) is lobbying for an inclusive democratic process in Africa. It has set up many activities to consolidate social ties and mediated between women and men. Its four branches are located in Paris, Strasbourg, Rennes and Marseille. It was established in 2012 to organize support for women in greatly difficult situations. The Feministan is an annual feminist art festival. For its 3rd season, Feministan has welcomed nearly 2,500 participants in Marseille for a weekend full of art, public education, and the blending of Mediterranean cultures.

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Our sea, our voices.

Mediterranean women, we have little choice but to work together to find new ways to see, act, and think, to put love back to build relationships and – who knows? – constitute the strength that our region needs!

500 million human beings who live around this sea. women and the planet.

Rather than donning a single identity confined within the cages of borders, we prefer to “stand tall in the wind rustling through fig trees, and the seamless clarity of the sky that is tirelessly shared by the tenacious hope of finding a better life on the far shore; this region of the world in which we live.

All of them are devoting tremendous energy to finding financial resources to defend women’s rights around the world: they raised more than $100 million in 2018 from individual donors, private foundations, governments and businesses with an interest in women’s issues.

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To build a more just world, and to truly change the world, including the Mediterranean Women’s Fund newsletter: https://mpbgraph.myportfolio.com/

And always citizens of the world...

The Mediterranean Women’s Fund aims to help improve the status of women and promote gender equality in countries around the Mediterranean by contributing to the strengthening of women’s rights associations at the local and regional level.

Help women make a difference by making a donation!

LETTER FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

The Mediterranean Women’s Fund newsletter

Free bimonthly newsletter

Authors: Caroline TakOUNE Brac de la Perrière and Sarah Swaydan

Translation: Grace Celeb

Graphic design: https://mpbgraph.myportfolio.com/

And this is what leads us to invite eco-feminists around the Mediterranean to meet for a few days in 2020 to build relationships and – who knows? – constitute the strength that our region needs!

The Mediterranean Women’s Fund newsletter

As early as the 1970s, feminists understood that type of homicide was related to being a woman, and called it “femicide”. At first strongly rejected, the term has gradually become officially accepted. In 2006, the UN General Secretary defined “femicide” as “the gender-based murder of a woman” and the “murder of women because they are women”. And in 2012, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, described “femicide” as “the culmination of pre-existing forms of violence, often experienced in a continuum of violent acts”. This is because the notion of “femicide” is inevitably linked to violence against women, from the most ordinary kind, such as society’s subtle and systematic devaluation of women, to more extreme forms, such as mass rape and murder.

Kafa (meaning ‘enough’), and Non Una de Menos (meaning ‘not one less’) are amongst the names that an increasing number of women’s associations have adopted to put a face and life stories on cold statistics. In so doing, they are trying to restore to these female humans the value that was stolen from them even before their lives were taken. For them, it is too late.

But many, many women (35% of all women in the world) continue to wake up each morning wondering where the first blow will fall, and whether the man with whom they have chosen to share the most part – to live will carry out his threats. To avoid a fresh humiliation, or a new blow, they give up part of themselves, become smaller, and reduce their ability to imagine themselves elsewhere.

For these women, every day is a living hell, and these tranquil households, which seem so peaceful and safe, are actually torture chambers from which they cannot escape because outside there are few places where their lives will be taken seriously. In our society, half of which is female, many women have experienced this hell or will live in it one day. We pass them on the street every day. They are among us. They are us.

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And always citizens of the world...
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**

A l’ordre de : Fonds pour Femmes en Méditerranée  
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D’avance, un grand merci pour votre soutien et votre générosité

Fonds pour les Femmes en Méditerranée  
5 rue Marceau, 34000 Montpellier - France

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www.medwomensfund.org
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