

INVITATION

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Side Event – Brussels VI Conference

5 May 2022 – 11:30 am to 2 pm

Venue: Hôtel Thon – Rue de la Loi, 75 – 1040 Brussels

In preparation of Brussels VI Conference “Supporting the future of Syria and the region” on 9-10 May 2022, EuroMed Feminist Initiative and Syria Gender Advocacy Group would like to invite you to a panel discussion on “Combating Violence Against Women and Girls: From Words to Action”

Although women carry heavy burdens in war, only 2 percent of post-conflict budgets target women’s empowerment or gender equality. Women are often excluded from the negotiation tables. In Syria, violence against women and girls (VAWG) is systematically practiced and cannot be separated from the Syrian context. It has been identified as a major barrier to women’s participation at all levels in the *Common Agenda for Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Syria*, developed through a one-year consultation process with more than 250 Syrian activists, gender, and legal experts from over 100 organisations and initiatives.

This panel which consists of Syrian women’s rights activists from the Syria Gender Advocacy Group promoting the implementation of *Common Agenda* will discuss the proposed actions to address the identified challenges, one of which is lack of sufficient dedicated funds and support to Syrian women’s organisations and initiatives to combat VAWG as a main barrier to women’s participation at all levels.

Opening Remarks:

Mr. Per Örnéus, Ambassador, Special Envoy to the Syria Crisis at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Panellists:

Ms. Sawsan Zakzak, Gender Expert, Member of the Gender Advocacy Group
Ms. Maya Al Rahabi, Gender Expert, Member of the Gender Advocacy Group
Ms. Doris Awwad, Women’s Rights Defender, Member of the Gender Advocacy Group

Closing Remarks:

Mr. Carl Hallergard, European External Action Service (EEAS) Director
Deputing Managing Director Middle East, and Northern Africa (TBC)

Moderator:

Ms. Lilian Halls-French, Co-President EuroMed Feminist Initiative

EU Representatives, International Organisations, experts, UN officials as well as representatives from NGOs and the press are invited. Please note that the event will provide English-Arabic translation. Following the remarks of the panellists, the floor will be opened up for participants. We look forward to engaging with you in this important discussion.