

Evaluation of the reports sent to the ECM in Malta

Highlights:

Main themes analyzed in the reports of the National Councils of women:

Luxembourg

- Shelter to answer women victims of violence: domestic violence, prostitution and traffic of human beings.
- Education levels: cooperation with UNESCO, Universities, Social Affairs, Schools.
- Equality in labor level. Precariousness of work for women.
- Decision working process, high level positions in the economy.
- MGF: zero tolerance: how to fight against together with EU. How to face urgency?
- Promotion of women and sport.

France

- Violence.
- Conciliation family and work.
- Better pensions for women who raise family.
- Ageing.
- Women and financial independence.

Lithuania

- Poverty and growing unemployment. (youth)
- Training sessions for career.
- Work for Romany people (Gypsies) = double discriminations: poverty and gender.
- Domestic violence.

Greece

- Women's participation in politics.
- Effect of the economic crisis on women. Gender equality firmly established does not protect women from violation of their rights.
- Campaigns for rights of minorities: migrants, refugees, Roma, handicapped.
- Women's health and continuing education.

- Seminar on “One Parent Families in the Period of Crisis”.

Israel

- Cooperation with the Parliament in matter of budgeting for women and children.
- Include women into the Appointing Committee of the Rabbinical Court.
- Intercultural and interfaith dialogue.
- Violence.

Netherland

- Lobbying the government (labor market).
- Violence.
- Economic independence: fair share of work.
- More women in local governments.
- Women at the top: they make the difference.
- **Lisbon Treaty on Violence Against Women CoE 2014.**

Russia

Family

- Program: Equality: strong family.
- Family, parenthood and childhood → principal issue, upraising of families, strengthen father’s role in upbringing of children.
- Project university of Motherhood
- Support of elderly. “Call your Mother” social project.
- Healthy generations in future.
- Violence in family: “White Ribbon”.
- Shelters and Centers: “Say No to Violence”, “Hope”, “Little Mother”.
- Unifying family policy over the country.

Rural areas

- Development of rural areas.
- Seminar: “Rural Women – Factor of National Stability and Wellbeing of the Country”.

Environment

- Action: “Clean House, Clean Country, Clean Planet”.
- The role of women by towards positive attitude to nature.

Peace

- “For Peace, International Cooperation and Friendship”.
- Collect of money for the Flood in Easter Europe and Russia.

Spain

- Concerned by the Restriction of the government about abortion possibilities.

Turkey

- Fund raising for scholarships.
- Assist refugees.
- Conference on kitchen and food hygiene.
- Encourage women to be candidates in politics.

Belgium

- Project “Empowerment of female asylum seeker.”
- Campaign: “Women’s power is peace power”. “La force des femmes: une chance pour la paix ».
- Campaign against rape: “Rise against Rape”.
- Campaign to denounce gender discriminations.
- Access of women to Justice.

Macedonia

- Women – Peace – Security.
- Gender based violence in the Western Balkans.
- Monitoring implementation of CoE Conventions.
- Involvement of rural youth in social life.
- Gender budgeting.
- Workshops to educate women on transitional Justice and reconciliation.
- Raise public awareness about social responsibility and philanthropy.
- Celebration of international Mother’s day / Father’s day.

Germany

- Seminar on “Reconciliation Process after War Crimes and Human Rights Abuse against Women”.

- Role of women in right-wing extremism.

Italy

- Struggle against stereotypes, against arrogant attitudes related to sex or physical imperfection, actions in schools.

Malta

- Lifelong learning process in the community.
- Seminar: “Children at Risks”, “Stop Violence against Women”.

Austria

- Anniversary commemorations of famous Austrian women.
- Exhibitions, lectures on Peace and War and gender issues.
- Celebration of 110 years of National Council Austria.

Lebanon

- Violence, no legal protection against domestic violence.
- Campaigns for Equal Pay, against early marriage and sexual abuse during armed conflicts.

Taiwan

- Training seminar for a better implementation of CEDAW.

New Zealand

- Lobbying the government for better support of care givers and children with disabilities.

Madagascar

- Violence.
- Lobbying government for implementation of CEDAW.
- Literacy campaigns for adults.
- Maternal health care.

Morocco

- New structure of UNFM and its regional centres.
- Literacy program.

- Health care for women.
- Family, Law and Justice.
- Women's leadership in rural areas.

Korea

- Campaigns for Women: "Be Safe and Happy".
- Women's leadership.

Great Britain

- "Giving Young Women and Girls a Voice".
- Attention to FGM.

Comments and Conclusion

For our National Councils of Women Violence and all forms of Violence (domestic, in armed conflicts, in unequal salaries, in natural disasters, rape, prostitution or traffic) are definitely one of the main concerns in every part of the World.

Violence is directly linked to inequality and gender discrimination.

Male arrogance, fail of Justice, impunity of crimes against women, organized crimes by mafia and the terrorist movements are the causes of this plague.

A situation of war and poor governance tend to aggravate this phenomenon in the recent years. This incapacity of some governments to impose Justice and Security incites terrorist movements to consider women as a merchandize and the actual political context in the Middle East and in Africa creates a modern form of slavery for women.

Another important concern of our Councils is the financial dependency of women who are proved to suffer more than men from the economic crisis.

Poverty increases also the Gender Discrimination.

A third important concern of our National Councils of Women is the access to Education, the increasing illiteracy even in the developed world.

The National Councils of Women organize seminars to raise the awareness of women of their own rights, preparing women for the future and inciting them to be able to face and to share their responsibilities in politics and in economics.

During the last decades, the general situation of women in both developing and developed countries has improved. ICW is proud of the quality and the accuracy of the reports received at the occasion of the Executive Committee in Malta.

ICW is proud of the visibility of its network.

As International organization, ICW is the voice and the think tank of its Members towards the international forum.

However, the challenge is still there: our voice needs to be louder when a war or a situation of conflicts creates violation of Human Rights for innocent victims among the population. Death, humiliations, assassinations among the civilians is not acceptable under any pretexts. Unfortunately one can notice that in the recent events in the Middle East and in Africa, the voice of women is hardly heard. Governments for all sides have not the slightest consideration for victims treated like inevitable consequences of the war.

One believed that conflicts were no more possible in Europe after the Second World War. One was wrong: the confrontation East-West, North-South, the religious and race conflicts seem to be even more acute than ever. Women's organizations should not fall into this trap by taking part in the political confrontation: our role is to deplore and to help the victims, but as NGO, it is important not to lose our neutrality and our reason to exist.

Our duty is to continue day after day our struggle for the implementation of the UN Security Council 1325 in all parts of the world.

Cosima Schenk

ICW President