

15-20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

Workshop Programme

Advancing Gender Justice for Girls and Young Women in the MENA region: a reflection of progress and pending challenges to collectively prioritize and address

Date	Thursday, 18th November 2021	
Timing	13:00 - 14:30 Geneva	14:00-15:30 Cairo, Amman, Beirut
Organiser(s)	Marta Gil	
Institution	Terre des hommes	
Type of Workshop	Panel discussion	
Topics	Discrimination due to gender, sexual and gender identity, a gender justice focus.	
Region	MENA	
Language	English	

Abstract

International standards have been established calling for the elimination of violence against children with a specific focus on gender-based violence pertaining the situation of girls and young women as well as a particular lens to acknowledge children male subjected to GBV. The above-mentioned includes the paramountcy of safety and dignity for victims and the empowerment of survivors while holding the perpetrators accountable for acts of violence. Recognizing and understanding entrenched violence based on age and gender at the same time in a holistically way and tackling appropriate responses that intersect child protection and gender-based violence is still pending to be addressed and remains urgent.

However, the political landscape in the MENA/Arab States region is shifting towards the acquiescence of a required approach based in gender equality and equity at the level of the justice sector. While shyly starting to take some weight, it is imperative that this process embeds appropriate child- and adolescents-related specialties and safeguards.

The panel will address the following topics focusing on progress, challenges, and proposals for prioritization the Gender Justice agenda in the MENA region:

- Justice mechanisms that can tackle gender-based barriers when girls and young women access to justice (MENA)
- Enhancing gender justice in law and law enforcement: key demands and practices required (Egypt)

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- At a crossroad: the intersection of gender justice and social norms (Palestine)
- Youth feminist social movements in the MENA region and how they can shape and foster Gender Justice (Jordan)
- Girls and Young Women deprived of liberty: actionable strategies to address discrimination in justice proceedings (Lebanon)
- The agenda 1325 Women, Peace and Security and the role of governments and civil society organizations to advance gender justice for girls and young women (Iraq)

Three key take-aways of the session

- Highlight progress, challenges, and priorities pertaining gender-responsive justice in the MENA zone.
- Amplify females’ voices shaping the priorities for the Gender Justice agenda in the MENA region.
- Enhance visibility on the gender justice agenda in the MENA region.

Output: Identify main collective regional priorities for mitigating and eliminating gender-based discrimination barriers that girls and young women face when accessing justice.

Speakers

- **Moderator**

- **Ms. Marta Gil**

- Marta GIL is the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Coordinator Programme at Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation (www.tdh.ch). GIL holds a double Bachelor of Law and Political Sciences from the University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain) and University of Liege (Belgium), a Master of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law from Harvard Law School, a Master on Gender Studies and a Certificate of Advanced Studies on Juvenile Justice from the University of Geneva. Dedicated international professional and passionate child rights and gender advocate working over 14 years towards lasting social change. She has worked for governments, law firms, academic institutions, (I)NGOs and UN agencies supporting efforts towards ensuring welfare and protection of vulnerable groups -particularly women, children and youth- across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and MENA regions. Her areas of expertise include policy development, advocacy and

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research, programme design, management and capacity building, both in development and emergency contexts. Thematically, GIL’s expertise is focused on child protection particularly on Access to Justice for Children and Youth and Gender Justice, including Child Marriage.

- **Panelists**

- 1. Ms. Nehad Abul Komsan**

Chairwoman of the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights.

She is a member of the National Council for Human Rights, the Director of the Gender and Legal Expert house, Chairwoman of the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights, columnist writer and T.V show presenter, former member of the World Bank’s Gender and Development Committee, former member of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group coordinated by UN Women, former Secretary-General of National council for women (NCW). In addition, she has obtained national and international prizes as follows: (i) Order of civil merit by King Felipe VI of Spain 2020, (ii) Winner of the Adel Abo Zahra Award for efforts in the empowerment of Egyptian women, 2008, (iii) selected by the Development Marketplace, World Bank, for the “Top 10 Worldwide Programs”, 2002 and (iv) named Best Idea in the Middle East and North Africa in V-Day’s 2001 competition for the booklet “Rape: the Safe Crime”.

- 2. Ms. Hebba Zayyan**

Gender Justice Expert, UN WOMEN Palestine.

Hanan Kamar is a Gender Justice Expert, with more than 16 years professional experience with the UN, international organizations and CSOs, in the filed of Rule of law, Access to Justice and violence against women. Hanan leads UN Women’s component within the UN joint Rule of Law programme, Sawasya II- ‘Promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine’, which focuses on enhancing women’s access to justice and empowering women victims and survivors of violence.

She started her career as a human rights researcher, where she published studies on issues related to democracy, human rights and women’s rights. She joined later women’s organizations in different capacities, including the Head of Advocacy Department, Executive Director and others. Since 2012, Hanan has joined the UN family, as she started with UNODC then moved to

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UN Women.

During the course of her career, Hanan has had the opportunity to work with and co-lead two of the biggest UN Rule of Law programmes in Palestine; the first was with UNODC- where she assumed the role of the Project Specialist for the programme of “Forensic Human Resource and Governance Development for the Palestinian Authority, and the second is her work with SAWASYA programme phase 1, inception phase and phase 2.

Hanan holds a Masters of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Portsmouth in the UK, and a Masters degree in International Studies from Birzeit University.

3. Ms. Salam Chreim

Salam Chreim is a Child Protection and Access to Justice Expert. She works at the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs as head of the Juvenile Child Protection Division since 2003. She joined the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education as a Child Protection expert to mainstream child protection and GBV into the Education sector and UNICEF Lebanon Country Office to participate in the Child Protection and Justice for children System strengthening. She is currently a member of the national team coordination with the parliament committee to amend the law of protection of children at risk and in conflict with the law. Salam holds a Research Master in School Counseling and a diploma in Social Development. She contributed to different researches for action in the area of child protection, Access to Justice and Gender Justice including the National Child Protection standards Operating procedures, the Child Protection Policy in school, the situational analysis of girl children deprived of liberty in Lebanon with a focus on GBV survivors with Terre des hommes Lausanne and the online training for judges on justice for children.

4. Ms. Hiba Alhejazi

Hiba Alhejazi is a Communication, Advocacy and Influencing Manager at Plan International’s Country office in Jordan. With over 8 years of experience, she helps drive change at the local, national and regional level by identifying, collaborating with, and supporting an engaged set of key stakeholders who will promote the improvement in policy and practices which aim to support the achievements of girl’s and women’s basic rights in the MENA region.

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5. Ms. Suzan Aref

Founder & Director of WEO, Coordinator of Iraq Cross Sector Task (CSTF) on UNSCR 1325.

Suzan Aref is a human rights and civil society activist, founder, and director of Women Empowerment Organization since 2004. She was the coordinator of the Iraqi cross-sector task force (CSTF) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2014-2019). She represented Iraq during her presence in the Security Council twice in a row in 2018 and 2019, to present women's situation and the progress made in implementing the First National Action Plan of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Mrs. Suzan Aref was selected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights among 30 human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. Mrs. Suzan participated as a main speaker at the European Union and Security Council Directors' meeting in The Hague on January 10, 2018, under the patronage of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been nominated internationally as one of the world's most creative women in 2020 for her efforts that stand out for diversity and gender equality. Mrs. Suzan works as the coordinator of the Alliance 1325, a large group of civil society organizations at the level of Iraq, which had a pioneering role in developing the first national action plan in Iraq. She is a member of regional and international networks, and holds many certificates of appreciation and honors at both national and international levels, with extensive experience in women's issues (including gender equality, empowerment, advocacy, and gender mainstreaming in policies and national plans), she has worked as a consultant for several national and international agencies in the region.