Ending Violence Against Women

With the spotlight on violence against women in India, the EU Delegation in Delhi outlines its activities

It’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and with gender-based violence making repeated headlines in India this last year, the EU Delegation is undertaking a number of activities to address both root causes and consequences of violence against women.

“Gender issues have been an important priority for the EU Delegation, long before the recent high-profile media coverage of the issue,” said Laurent Le Danois. “Nonetheless, we have sought to increase our activities in this regard and this year we issued a call for proposals on gender-based violence which will lead to new projects in the new year.”

The December 2012 beating, gang-rape and subsequent death of a 23-year old female student on a bus in Delhi, received national and international attention and condemnation. In India, the case sparked a wave of public protests against the national and state government, first in Delhi and then in cities across the country.

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Gender on the Agenda at EDD13?

Organised by the European Commission, European Development Days is Europe’s premier forum on international affairs and development cooperation. Women across the world are disproportionately affected by poverty, making this year’s event in Brussels from 26-27 November important for gender issues. Find out more at the event website, which also offers live webstreaming:


Or, follow EDD13 via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/EUDevDays and Twitter @eudevdays #EUDD13:

UNITE

“Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act.”

Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General

The UNiTE campaign aims to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.


Or, find out more on the UNiTE Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/SayNO.UNiTE

Follow International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on twitter:

@SayNO_UNITE #violenceagainstwomen
Ending Violence Against Women

The protests and outcry provoked a series of state and national level changes, including amending criminal law in regard to sexual assault cases and in one state setting up a special hotline for reporting of sexual abuse complaints.

Amid this climate of change the EU Delegation carried out a series of formal and informal consultations to see how the delegation could better respond to gender inequalities in India.

As a result, the Delegation in June launched a call for proposals on gender-based violence. The accompanying Guidelines for Grant Applicants state clearly the delegation’s commitment to tackling gender-based violence and discrimination.

“Discrimination against women and girls - including gender-based violence, limited access to opportunities, resources and power, unfair & unequal distribution of work, harmful cultural practices and skewed state policies - remains the most pervasive and persistent form of inequality. These inequalities have been perpetuated at the family, community, market and even state levels,” read the Guidelines.

A previously launched call for proposals, dating from October 2012, is due to see some 14 projects launched in January to improve access, delivery and quality of public services – tackling the root causes of some of the issues of gender-based discrimination and violence.

Addressing the Needs of Women Victims of War Crimes in Kosovo

As in many parts of the world, a 16 day campaign of activism combatting violence against women is being launched today in Kosovo. The campaign, launched on International Women Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, comes under the UNITE umbrella but is also part of a two-year programme intended to bring women squarely into post-conflict development planning.

That programme is a joint initiative of the European Union working with United Nations Development Programme and UN Women.

The joint initiative “Enhancing Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Planning in Kosovo” is funded by the European Commission’s Instrument for Stability, with similar pilot programmes launched in post-conflict Timor-Lest and Liberia.

It aims to build on UN Women’s institutional expertise in women’s empowerment and gender-sensitive post-conflict programming, UNDP’s extensive field presence and programming on gender equality and the European Union’s political leverage and access to decision-making processes.

“There is tremendous work underway in Kosovo,” said Thera van Osch, a gender specialist who recently travelled to Kosovo on mission to support the joint programme. “I would recommend those interested in gender issues in the post-conflict situation to follow Kosovo over the coming months.”

As part of that programme, efforts are being made to implement the ‘Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security’, available online here: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/hr/news187.pdf

An action plan is being developed to implement UNSCR 1325 with the full support of the Kosovo’s political leaders and is close to being completed.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, calls for the adoption of a gender perspective that includes the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

It is hoped that the programme will serve as a blueprint for future post-conflict activities, according to the programme newsletter, available in the capacity4dev.eu Public Group on Gender.

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Addressing the Needs of Women Victims of War Crimes in Kosovo

The Kosovo region of south-east Europe declared independence from neighboring Serbia in 2008, with partial international recognition. But since the end of war in 1999, the region continues to operate under the mandate of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, UNMIK.

Though the fighting ended in Kosovo more than a decade ago, the continuing problems of the region’s female victims of war have not been fully addressed.

The online 16-day campaign launching today is also part of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, launched by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2008. The campaign urges men and women in Kosovo to end gender-based violence and report acts of violence, whether against themselves or someone they know.

Inputs from last year’s campaign were compiled in an e-book, which can be downloaded free from the campaign website.

www.16days-noviolence-ks.com
www.16dite-jodhunes-ks.com
www.16dana-nenasilju-ks.com

Gender Trainings in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Vietnam

By focusing on expressed needs, trainers felt that they were working with an energised and animated group.

“I’m pleased to say that both the courses that I led – in Afghanistan and in Pakistan – benefited from being highly participatory. Whether experienced in gender issues or not, all those that attended the course contributed and enriched the learning process,” said Ms Dalak. “Participants in both trainings were eager to learn practical tools that they could apply in their daily work.”

In Vietnam, Gender, Energy and Climate Change were among the crucial areas for discussion. One of the groups developed outlines for a master plan with a set of gender-sensitive criteria for programming the energy sector. The feedback of this group has led to a tool for gender-sensitive programming of the energy sector, which is applicable in other EU Delegations.

Actions to end violence against women came up in both trainings in Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the latter focusing on violence against women in the context of conflict and civil unrest.

So far this year, three gender training courses have taken place in delegations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Vietnam. In each three-day training, participants had the opportunity to cover important areas like gender policy and planning as well as gender mainstreaming. And in each instance, trainers Thera van Osch and Eva Dalak worked with participants to discuss and address any particular challenges associated with each operating environment.

In all instances, the trainings were delivered at the request of the EU Delegations. In order to suit their needs and those of the participants attending, each delegation was asked to fill out a ‘Training Needs Assessment Questionnaire’, prior to the training. The results of this questionnaire were used to draft a tailor-made training programme, approved by the delegation.
Online Gender Training

Learn at your convenience with the assistance of a personal tutor. Two online gender courses have taken place in 2013 attracting scores of participants. Each course takes about 10 hours and can be completed to suit the participants’ own schedule. Missed out on this year’s courses? Keep an eye on Syslog and the Public Group on Gender on capacity4dev to find out about next year’s schedule!

The Online Trainings are prepared and delivered by the Gender Communication and Training Team:
Team leader/ Senior trainer: Thera Van Osch
Senior trainer: Eva Dalak
Online course tutor: Sarah Simpson

For more information about registration for the two online training courses, please contact: Anne Caudron
Anne.Caudron@ec.europa.eu
For information on the course content contact Marina Marchetti or Virginie Ramey
Marina.MARCHETTI@ec.europa.eu
Virginie.RAMEY@ec.europa.eu

Evaluating EU Support to Gender Equality

Continuing its commitment to systematic and timely evaluation of its programmes, the European Commission is carrying out an ‘Evaluation of the EU support to gender equality and women empowerment’ as part of the 2013 evaluation programme.

In total, 11 countries and three Member States are to be assessed.

The stated aims of the evaluation exercise, according to the ToRs issued in May 2013 are to:

“be a stock-taking lesson-learning, and forward-looking exercise, as well as an accurate assessment of achieved results. It aims to present information about the nature, extent and the effects of EU’s activities on gender mainstreaming and on the promotion and protection of gender equality & women empowerment in partner countries. The identification of learning lessons will help EU and notably the EC to understand what has and what has not worked, what has driven progress and what impedes it, to feed future planning.”

GAP III

The third report on the Implementation of the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development 2010-2015, commonly referred to as ‘GAP’ is close to being published.

The overall message that emerges from this year’s reporting exercise reveals that while progress is on-going, it is extremely slow and may need to be accelerated.

In total, 79 delegations contributed to the report, down from the 93 that reported in 2012, though this is thought to be due to the fact that the time needed to launch initiatives is generally longer than the reporting period – leaving some delegations with little information to contribute.

The report, which will be shared in the Public Group on Gender on capacity4de.eu in the coming days, also includes a number of case studies detailing good practice, such as this one from Chad:

Chad: a gender-sensitive water and sanitation programme

Following the gender analysis launched in February 2012 in the frame of the 10th EDF water and sanitation project, the gender perspective is being integrated in every step of the project’s implementation, i.e. women are recruited among the project staff; women are equally involved in the decision- making process about location of the drinkable water sources, about the price of water supply etc. A “gender team” has been created in the Ministry in charge of water and sanitation; gender training is being provided to several stakeholders involved in the programme implementation (for instance to the Cellules de Conseil et d’Appui à la Gestion (CCAG) and finally meetings with men and children are organised to open discussion about water and sanitation priorities.

Water and Sanitation in Chad ©EuropeAid

A seed recipient in Malawi ©EuropeAid

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