

ProtectDefenders.eu at the European Development Days 2018

Designing protection mechanisms that work for women human rights defenders

Improving rapid response programs and advocacy initiatives that focus on women human rights defenders' needs and specificities. Learnings and challenges from the field and ProtectDefenders.eu, the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism



Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are key actors for sustainable development, social justice, peacebuilding in post-conflict areas, and the rule of law in the most vulnerable and fragile communities. However, WHRDs are particularly targeted, and their resilience very often confronted with specific threats that demand gender-focused tools and strategies for ensuring their safety.

In this context, the development of protection mechanisms, capacity-building programmes and tailored advocacy initiatives that address WHRDs' particularities is an increasing demand to the international civil society and donors' community.

Through relevant examples from Mexico, Syria, and Kazakhstan, and the experience of ProtectDefenders.eu and other partnerships for the support of WHRDs, this panel will discuss how to respond to the specific challenges when supporting the work of women human rights defenders and how to improve the design of mechanisms that center their specificities and their particular challenges.

With the participation of



**Emilie de Wolf
(Mexico)**

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and International
Advocacy Coordinator
at Consorcio Oaxaca



**Weaam Youssef
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Human Rights Defender
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Officer at Gulf Center
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**Aigerim Kamidola
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**MODERATED BY
Meerim Ilyas**

Senior Programme
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ProtectDefenders.eu

After almost three years of intense activity and remarkable achievements, ProtectDefenders.eu, the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, has provided material and financial support to hundreds of women human rights defenders.

More than 200 WHRDs in the most difficult contexts have accessed emergency support to implement urgent security measures, and more than 115 at-risk WHRDs have been protected through temporary relocation schemes, with the support of host institutions worldwide.

Moreover, ProtectDefenders.eu has financially enabled women human rights groups to develop innovative projects, and to support their resiliency through flexible core funding. More than 1,000 WHRDs have accessed specifically designed training to better address their security needs when carrying out their human rights work. These trainings also included LGBTI and environmental defenders.

This support has reportedly contributed to the empowerment of WHRDs as key actors in their communities, and to the development of social cohesion, equality and access to justice worldwide.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

TOUR ET TAXIS, BRUSSELS

ROOM S3 PROJECT LAB

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018
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