



Governance and survivor/victim-centric approaches to gender-based violence in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

16 November 2021
14:00 – 16:00 CET
Via Zoom

KINDLY [REGISTER IN ADVANCE HERE](#)

Background

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic. Worldwide, more than one out of three women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Acts of GBV can impact upon many aspects of survivors'/victims' lives. GBV can impact upon, for example, mental and physical health, as well as survivors'/victims' access to education, employment, housing, health care, and legal support. While many governments have enacted policies and programmes to eradicate GBV and address its intersectional impacts, states' strategic planning, policy co-ordination, and long-term investment in services has often been uneven.

The COVID-19 crisis has increased gender inequalities and created conditions where women face higher risks of GBV during periods of confinement and social distancing. Indeed, lockdown and curfew measures have exacerbated the rates of domestic violence across the MENA region, and governments have taken targeted measures to address the surge in GBV and to provide support to survivors/victims during the pandemic.

Strengthening institutions, regulatory frameworks and coordination capacities to prevent and tackle violence against women in MENA countries is one of the main objectives of the MENA-OECD Platform on Gender Mainstreaming, Governance and Leadership.

With this aim, the virtual event, organised with the MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta, will gather government officials, OECD members, policy makers, experts from the MENA region, and representatives of NGOs and International Organisations to discuss ways to strengthen public governance systems, encourage the adoption of victim/survivor-centric approaches, and improve justice and accountability in order to effectively address GBV. The event will promote the exchange of relevant experiences, good practices and lessons learnt, especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

- **What are the legal, policy and institutional frameworks that MENA governments have in place to prevent, address, and penalise GBV in their countries?**
- **How are MENA countries creating survivor-centric approaches for reducing and eliminating GBV?**
- **How are MENA governments fostering a culture of information-sharing and cross-sector collaboration to address GBV in their countries?**
- **What are the identified challenges, gaps, and bottlenecks in addressing GBV?**
- **How did MENA governments respond to the needs of survivors/victims and GBV more broadly during the COVID-19 pandemic?**
- **What are the good and promising practices in GBV governance emerging from the pandemic that can serve as examples for other countries?**

The virtual event will address these questions in two sessions. This first session will explore legal, policy, and institutional frameworks relating to GBV governance. The second session will explore survivor-centric approaches to GBV.

Discussions will provide input for an expert paper examining the legal, policy and institutional frameworks in place to prevent, address and penalise GBV in MENA countries. The conversations will also contextualise government responses to GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in the areas of policy coordination, service delivery, and access to justice.



MENA-OECD Governance Programme

MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta

The virtual event will be held in English, with possible interventions in Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

Please **register in advance** for this meeting at [this link](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the connection details.

14:00-14:10

Welcome remarks

- **H.E. Antonio Bernardini**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **János Bertók**, Deputy Director, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

14:10-15:00

Session 1: Whole-of-state framework to prevent, address and penalise GBV in MENA countries: systems, culture, access to justice and accountability

Presentations

- **Fatima Barkan**, Director of Women, Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and the Family, Morocco
- **Amin Assi**, General Director of Planning and Policy, Ministry of Women, Palestinian Authority
- **Elisa Nieto Maestro**, Senior Advisor at the Government Delegation Against Gender Violence, Ministry of Equality, Spain

Moderator: **Dr. Tatyana Teplova**, Head of Division and Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Participants are invited to reflect on some of the following questions:

- **What are the successful examples of legal, policy and institutional frameworks that MENA governments have in place to prevent, address, and penalise GBV in their countries?**

- How are MENA governments fostering a culture of information-sharing and cross-sector collaboration to address GBV in their countries?
- What are the good and promising practices in GBV governance emerging from the pandemic that can serve as examples for other countries?

15:05-15:55

Session 2: Survivor/victim-centric approaches to GBV

Presentations

- **Hanen Benzarti**, Deputy Director of Family Support, Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors, Tunisia
- **Cynthia Chidiac**, Legal Advisor, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Lebanon
- **Ghaida Al Bitar**, Project Officer, Jordanian National Commission for Women, Jordan (TBC)
- **Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui**, Executive Director, CAWTAR

Moderator: **Dr. Tatyana Teplova**, Head of Division and Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Participants are invited to reflect on some of the following questions:

- How are MENA governments creating survivor-centric approaches to addressing GBV?
- How do MENA governments take an intersectional approach in policy development, program design, and service delivery?
- How did MENA governments respond to the needs of survivors/victims and GBV more broadly during the COVID-19 pandemic?

15:55-16:00

Closing remarks

- **Prof. Maurizio Mensi**, Executive Director, MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta

The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 38 member countries, a secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. We collaborate with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. We measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme and its Training Centre

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region.

In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become members of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects.

These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policy making and transparency.

The [Training Centre of Caserta](#), hosted by the Italian National School of Administration (SNA), supports the Programme in developing and conducting capacity-building activities aimed at MENA public officials in order to pursue efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector and good governance.

CONTACT

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