

SPECIAL SESSION 3

Social Norms and Gender Based Violence

Tuesday, 15th March, 2:45-4:15 pm Beirut time

Background and objective

The session will reflect on social norms as strong determinants of gender-based violence (GBV) in all its forms. It will investigate why social norms seem to play a role even stronger than religion and legislation in shaping people's opinions and behaviors as relates to GBV. The session will help us to develop a better understanding on social norms, identify the challenges standing in the way of creating positive change, come up with suggestions for policy making and steps necessary to be taken by various sectors to achieve progress.

Questions to be addressed

1. Can you clarify the link between social norms and GBV and why social norms seem to be more resistant to change in our region?
2. What focus and approaches should stakeholders adopt in order to influence social norms to achieve gender equality and end GBV?
3. Can you shed light on the Tunisian Government efforts to promote positive social norms through education curricula? (comprehensive sexuality education, human rights education)
4. What policies and actions should governments adopt to change social norms for gender equality and the protection of women and girls from violence?
5. Can you highlight success stories and also reflect on the challenges faced by women's CSOs to promote social norms change?
6. Can you elaborate on the link between religion and social norms as they relate to gender-based violence? How can religion be utilized as a tool to speed up the change based on the work and knowledge produced by Musawah?
7. What role do you see for young people in the quest to change social norms toward ending GBV in all its forms?
8. How can young men contribute to shift norms in favor of gender equality and ending violence? What are the most promising approaches to adopt when working with young men as partners for change?

Moderator

- **Ms. Mayssaloun Nassar**, Journalist, France 24

Panelists

- **Ms. Lina Abou-Habib**, Director of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- **Ms. Insaf Fathallah**, Education Inspector, Ministry of Education, Tunisia
- **Ms. Marwa Sharafeldin**, Senior Advisor, Musawah
- **Mr. Majd Ghraizi**, Project Coordinator, KAFA (enough) Violence and Exploitation, Lebanon

Discussant

- **Ms. Elena Panova**, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt

This Special Session will be organized virtually over Zoom. To join, please register via this [link](#).