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For Immediate Release

On International Women's Day: EU gender guidelines now in Arabic

From today, the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a key EU policy document on gender equality and the eradication of violence against women is available in Arabic, in a translation released by the Office of the EU Representative.

The **EU Guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them**, adopted in December 2008, mark the EU's clear political commitment to treat the subject of women's rights as a priority. In cooperation with all partner countries, the guidelines advocate specific actions for women and girls around four objectives:

1. Promote **gender equality** and **combat discrimination** against women;
2. Collect data on **violence against women** and develop indicators;
3. Devise effective, **coordinated strategies**;
4. Combat the **impunity of perpetrators** and facilitate **access to justice** for victims.

In the occupied Palestinian territory, the Office of the EU Representative has been actively supporting Palestinian women's and human rights' organisations in the struggle against gender-based violence and discrimination, mainly through the 'Investing in people - Gender equality' programme or the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Supported actions include the establishment of a referral system to coordinate governmental and non governmental stakeholders supporting women victims of violence, advocacy for access to justice, labour rights, inheritance and property rights of women and prevention of sexual violence among schoolchildren and youth.

Making available the EU guidelines in Arabic aims at raising awareness in the oPt on the need to eradicate this major human rights violation, sharing the EU's contribution in terms of policy commitment to the world-wide efforts against gender-based violence.

Background

Together with the 'EU Action Plan on gender equality and woman's empowerment in development' adopted in June 2010, the 'EU Guidelines on violence against women' represent the main EU policy framework for cooperation with partner countries on gender issues.

This publication is part of a wider effort to disseminate EU policy commitments in Arabic in the occupied Palestinian territory. Other texts also published in Arabic include the *Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders* and the *Guidelines to EU Policy Towards Third Countries on Torture*.

You can find all information related to EU-funded projects on Gender Equality:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/projects/overview/index_en.htm

For an electronic version of the Publication in Arabic please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/eu_westbank/hrp/index_en.htm

[Joint Statement by HR/VP Ashton and Commissioner Reding on International Women's Day:](#)

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