

Communicating the Mediterranean with a FEMINIST Gaze



**XARXA EUROPEA DE
DONES PERIODISTES**
Red Europea de Mujeres Periodistas

Index

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Barcelona, 2023

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04 | Presentation | |
| 06 | Opening | Alicia Oliver Rojo Senén Florensa Miquel Rodríguez Victòria Alsina |
| 20 | Communication, SDG and Agenda 2030 in the Mediterranean | Pilar Sampietro Nariman El Chamaa Dionysia Vovou Carme Gual |
| 44 | Social Movements, Peace and Migration in the Mediterranean | Cristina Mas Ala'a Karajah Sahar Talaat Jordi Solé |
| 66 | Professional situation of the women journalists | Laia Serra Sahar Talaat Burcu Karakaş Hayam Kamel Borka Rudić Zuliana Lainez |
| 94 | Good practices of non-sexist communication | Beatriz Villarejo Zoubaida El Fathi Lola Fernández Palenzuela Tona Gusi Cristina P. Fraga Jenny Rönngren Patricia Mayorga Marcos Rosa M ^a Rodríguez Quintanilla Teresa Velázquez |
| 124 | Closure | Alicia Oliver Rojo Maria-Àngels Roque Joan Maria Morros Tània Verge |
| 142 | Declaration | |

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS

From the year 1995, when we organised the seminars we called “The women journalists, the Mediterranean and the future”, we wanted create a network of women journalists around the Mediterranean with the goal of generate spaces of dialogue where we can share the information with a gender view and creating strong bonds to defend our rights. Now we took a new step in that direction with the support of the new technologies.

The publication we present now collect the speeches held in the International Gathering of Journalists “Communicating the Mediterranean with a Feminist Gaze”, the 4th, 5th of November of 2021 in Barcelona. 22 journalists from 14 different countries come to our city.

These encounters were possible thanks to the support of the Direction of Foreign Affairs of the Barcelona City Council. And this publication is made thanks to the support of the General Directorate for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights of the Department of Equality and Feminisms of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

We wish you an enjoyable reading!



Opening

COMMUNICATING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH A FEMINIST GAZE



From left to right: Alícia Oliver Rojo, Victòria Alsina, Senén Florensa and Miquel Rodríguez.

PRESENTS

Alícia Oliver Rojo

Coordinator of the European Network of Women Journalists

Senén Florensa

Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean

Miquel Rodríguez

Commissioner of the 2030 Agenda of Barcelona's City Council

Victòria Alsina

Counsellor of Foreign Action and Open Government of Catalonia's Generalitat

Alícia Oliver Rojo

Coordinator of the
European Network of
Women Journalists



Honorable Counsellor of Foreign Affairs and Open Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia. Executive president of the European Institute of the Mediterranean. Commissionaire of the Agenda 2030 of Barcelona's Council.

Welcome to all people following us from this room. Welcome too to all connected through online platforms and very specially to all our comrades' journalists from the Mediterranean Area. Thank you all for being here and welcome to Barcelona and to Catalonia.

Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Seminar "The women journalists, the Mediterranean and the future", an encounter which tried to establish connections between the Mediterranean Sea two shores in difficult moments for everyone working as a journalist if you were a woman.

It's 26 years ago and in spite we can say regarding women it has happened a lot of changes in the legal and social fields, the professional activity of women journalists is still violent threatened in some countries of the Mediterranean region.

To establish bridges and dialogues to communicate between the seas two borders and create links alliances and cooperation between women journalists are two of the main objectives of this meeting which wants to explain the Mediterranean from a feministic view and our contributions.

We want to participate in the construction of an own agenda with a main issue: the visibilities of the women and their work in the making of a society more equal, fair and sustainable.

Many issues make us concerned and worried. The journey of today was designed as a day to make possible the connection between journalists and institutions working in issues related to the environment, with the social movements, the construction of peace or the migration in the Mediterranean. We want advance in a changing transformation, and we can do it together.

Tomorrow it will be a journey for the exercise of our profession to know and reflect upon our situation as women journalists and communicators, which are our challenges and how we can confront them better.

It will be a day of pleasure and illusion and I expect many proposals to advance in a communication more equalitarian and less sexist.

I want finish remembering our dear friend, comrade and great journalist **Montserrat Minobis**, an important reference for all women journalists of this country. She was a part of this project too. We started to prepare this meeting at the beginning of the year 2019, a little before she left us.

I wish you a good meeting!

Senén Florensa

Executive President of the
European Institute of the
Mediterranean



Honorable Counsellor. I am very grateful to the Barcelona City Council, to **Alicia Oliver**, to **Maria-Àngels Roque** and, especially, to all the participants from the Euro-Mediterranean countries who have chosen the IEMed as a place to meet and create a network of women journalists and communicators. An incalculable value to help put an end to stereotypes and have the feminist vision advocated by these conferences.

Despite the progress that has been made, Euro-Mediterranean societies have not yet given women their due position. Both in the North and in the South, they are underrepresented in the economic and political powers, and overrepresented in precarious, unstable, poorly paid, low-regarded and insecure jobs, when not confined and invisible in unpaid family domestic work. Within the framework of the current economic, institutional and social crisis in Europe and the Mediterranean, we are witnessing a flagrant regression of women's rights, an increase in

inequality and a massive feminization of poverty. COVID-19 has only aggravated this panorama, including gender violence.

Even so, we are aware that political action, strategic mobilization and feminist solidarity, also between different regions and generations, are courageous responses to the questioning of the achievements and rights of women and the acquisition of their freedom and physical integrity. In this sense, I believe that the work carried out by women journalists, despite the difficulties in many countries, is very necessary to have that feminist vision.

The Istanbul Convention was the first consultation and the first inter-governmental regional dialogue process on women's rights. Ministerial conferences are a unique regional tool for the promotion of gender equality, as it was conceived and negotiated by all participating countries and not initially imposed by the European Union. The Istanbul Convention recognizes in its principles the role of civil society and has resulted in an extensive production of reports and documentation by the European Commission, as well as important contributions from civil society.

Since September 2013, the IEMed has been the headquarters of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (EMWF). This Euro-Mediterranean foundation, as a regional structure, seeks to meet various challenges to address the dispersion of knowledge, the lack of shared experiences and the isolation of egalitarian actors, with a single objective: gender equality. Its action aims to unify the actors of equality and allow them to work together through academic research, reflection with a vision of the future on gender and women, and support for projects that are part of this field. Among the many projects in the southern Mediterranean, the EMWF has produced two follow-up reports on the Euro-Mediterranean conferences, the first in 2015 and the second in 2018.

We look forward to the debates and work carried out by journalists coming from different parts of the eastern and southern Mediterranean, as well as from the north, during these two days will be very useful for the

next ministerial conference. We count on them to make new analyses. Their testimonies on the current state of the main strategic issues and, especially, all the recommendations, will be very useful and will serve all the actors of equality, since they will surely define, with precision, everything that slows down the emancipation of women and they are going to make proposals to eliminate the obstacles and move towards the ideal of full equality, both in the legal field and in reality.



Miquel Rodríguez
Commissioner of the 2030
Agenda of Barcelona's
City Council



Honorable Counsellor, appreciated Senén, appreciated Alicia, appreciated all.

It is truly a pleasure to have you here, in Barcelona, with us. And it is a pleasure, first, because you have finally been able to celebrate this meeting. You hoped to be able to celebrate it last year within the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, but as we all know, it was impossible due to the pandemic.

Despite everything, now you are here, in Barcelona, and I can say that it is not a pleasure, but an honor, that our city hosts this meeting. And it is an honor because gender equality is a priority in our city council. As well as any type of activity that pushes this wheel of equity, it is more than welcome in our city.

In Barcelona we are working hard to achieve gender equality. In relation to the 2030 Agenda, we are working to adapt the fifth objective of the Sustainable Development Goals: which is gender equality. And we are working to adapt this goal to our reality, at the same time that we promote policies in the city council to advance in the achievement of this objective.

In this sense, we have equipped ourselves with a strategy against the feminization of poverty with more than 70 measures focused, basically, on transforming the dynamics of gender inequality in the labour market. Likewise, we have established several internal measures, such as the process for awarding contracts that guarantee gender equality.

However, our work is not enough and the work that you do, as women journalists, with the ability to amplify all this fight for gender equality is not only more than welcome, but it is more than necessary.

So, we're delighted to have you here, and we hope you have very interesting discussions to ponder. And that the conclusions resulting from the meeting can be used by administrations, like ours, to improve our policies.

So, enjoy the conference, and thanks to all of you.



Victòria Alsina

Counsellor of Foreign Action and Open Government of Catalonia's Generalitat



President, Coordinator, Commissioner, journalists, friends.

Gaze & commitment

First of all, I want to thank you for helping us understand what is happening to us, Mediterranean women, but also what is happening in our societies as a whole.

Through your first-hand approach, we get direct access to what is happening in politics, conflict, social, cultural, and economic issues, but above all, it gives us the keys to understanding, unprejudiced and beyond stereotypes, why these events happen and how they affect our daily lives.

You have a powerful potential to influence not only public policies and public opinion, but also individual beliefs and behavior.

The position of women journalists in this setup is challenging, particu-

larly in places where press freedom is under threat.

In 2021, at least 50 women journalists around the world are imprisoned for their journalistic coverage.

Thank you for your professionalism, your gaze, and your commitment in such precarious contexts as is nowadays the job of journalism. You already know very well about the increase in cyber-harassment and threats to journalist women.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, only around a fourth (27%) of the 38 companies surveyed had adopted a company policy on gender equity.

Thank you for using the gender perspective as a tool for feminist journalism, to recover untold stories, show different visions, and create new meanings.

The media could not be representative without an equal voice. As subjects of stories, women only appear in 25% of contents in television, radio, and print news, a figure even lower in some Mediterranean states.

Journalists and media are both an essential driving force in transforming imaginaries from a feminist perspective.

Catalonia in the Mediterranean region

Catalonia prides itself on being a facilitator of platforms for dialogue as IEMed.

Gender and feminist perspectives are present in all the Catalan public policies.

The Catalan Foreign Action counts on two crucial tools: the 2030 Agenda and the Catalan Mediterranean Strategy, where more than 250 ac-

tions foreseen take into account the gender perspective.

We have incorporated a transversal gender vision and have ensured the coherence of policies with our development cooperation. Some projects ongoing:

1. **Libya.** Promoting prevention and response to gender-based violence in the humanitarian context through awareness-raising and community mobilization (UNFPA).
2. **Morocco.** Women's fund, led by a feminist organization (Union d'action féministe), to finance grassroots organizations in their struggle for equality. This fund has been refocused to support women, women's movements, and transformative economy initiatives that have suffered the hit by the pandemic.

Two significant milestones:

1. **Twenty-five years of Euromed cooperation.** Catalonia made some communication recommendations during last year's celebration of the side event with Mediterranean regions and cities in the framework of the Euromed Women's Summit promoted by the Union for the Mediterranean:

- The Euromed partnership should promote civic spaces beyond the north-south binomial and gender spaces.
- The Mediterranean media role helps to enhance safer and more inclusive societies.

2. **Transformations of the Arab uprisings** have brought actors such as young people, women, and LGBTBI+ groups to the forefront.

A renewed gender perspective

Gender equality means empowerment and equal opportunities, responsibility, and visibility at all stages of the media chain. The aim is challenging, to build a stronger Mediterranean political agenda by networking and partnerships.

Initiatives such as this meeting mean a space to open opportunities for exchange and shine a light on the importance of gender in the media agenda.

Women have become a powerful tool against dictatorship and patriarchy; but, also, this is an opportunity to address gender issues from a renewed point of view.

I encourage you to bring your thoughts forward to make the most out of this meeting. The Government of Catalonia is at your service to strengthen the Mediterranean women journalists' network, which becomes a driver of change to address the inequalities from a feminist perspective in and through the media.



Communication, SDG and Agenda 2030 in the Mediterranean



From left to right: Dionysia Vovou, Pilar Sampietro, Nariman El Chamaa and Carme Gual.

SPEAKERS

Nariman El Chamaa

Journalist and chair of the NGO Donia for the Sustainable Development, Lebanon

Dionysia Vovou

Communicator and feminist activist, Greece

Carme Gual

Director of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)

Moderator:

Pilar Sampietro

Journalist of RNE-Radio4

Pilar Sampietro

Journalist of RNE-Radio4



We are no longer in a time of climate crisis. We are in a time of climate emergency. The Mediterranean region is one of the most affected. We have the experience in our daily life, we know it when we see people fleeing the place where they are born because they can't live there any longer.

I know I am speaking from the perspective of an European white female from the Global North and my point of view is subjective and conditioned.

But because I am a woman my view is already feminist, eco feminist. I know very well that the roots of the domination of the women and the nature are common: among the humans we the women has always been the test field of other dominations, including those as the nature and other beings, the non human persons. I know very well that the climate crisis affects all, but more the less known: the women, the non human persons, the non binary, the ones not represented in the actual system.

With the social, climate and health crisis, that difference, the gap is growing.

And how explain what is happening to us? An ecofeminist view from female journalists allow us to understand the climatic crisis.

And who is in charge of keeping the life going? This is the time of making more visible the situation of the migrant women as caretakers but living in precariat situations.

And now we are going to listen how our comrades' journalists from the other shore work to keep the life going and share the situation in their homes.



Nariman El Chamaa

Journalist and chair of the NGO Donia for the Sustainable Development, Lebanon



An overview of the situation in Lebanon

To talk about the 2030 Agenda and its applications, it is necessary to give an overview of the current situation, which may provide greater clarity about the challenges and opportunities.

Lebanon has recently been going through major political, social and economic crises, described by the World Bank as one of the three most severe crises in the world since the mid-nineteenth century. This is a result of political corruption based on sectarian quotas, the absence of governance, and policies based on debt dumping and the squandering of public and private savings. Lebanon has been unable to pay its foreign debts and the Lebanese pound has lost its value by nearly 90%, which has led to the erosion of purchasing power. The minimum wage has reached about 33 dollars per month.

The economic and financial crisis that accelerated at the end of 2019 was aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the explosion of the Port of Beirut. It is also not possible to ignore Lebanon's hosting of refugees with approximately 40% of its population, which put pressure on its already dilapidated infrastructure.

With the accumulation of crises, the migration of citizens through legal and illegal channels has multiplied. The uprising began in October 2019, and fears of security risks have been rising in a country that bears a great legacy of civil war and is located within an explosive regional environment.

Agenda 2030 Applications

As for the 2030 Agenda, Lebanon committed itself to it in 2015 and developed a national plan for it, but it made little progress in its implementation. Some ministries have developed supportive policies, but these policies mostly depended on interventions with limited scopes and partial approaches that led to inefficiency and waste of resources. Also, some of them lack the adoption of laws, and didn't allow the participation of stakeholders and local actors except in some of the implementation stages.

Not all of the sustainable development goals received the same attention, whether at the official level or civil society.

The goals related to poverty, health and gender equality get the most attention, then decent work, peace and climate timidly.

But have these goals made progress? To answer this question, it is necessary to look at reality.

No Poverty, Zero Hunger

Among the most prominent interventions is the "National Program to Support the Poorest Families", which relied on health and food aid offe-

rings, did not address economic and social rights, and did not care about empowerment, which means continued dependence on aid and the inheritance of poverty. It also did not consider the gender dimension, especially the female breadwinners, in light of the disparity in the level of income, wages and jobs between the sexes.

Of course, this program is no longer sufficient nowadays, after poverty has reached nearly 74% of the total population of Lebanon, and 82% of the population has become multidimensionally poor.

Warnings of food insecurity have emerged (FAO), and the World Food Program has tripled its support for Lebanon. While government treatments come in the opposite direction, such as lifting subsidies on basic commodities. This has led to a significant reduction in the access of the most vulnerable population to diversified diets. Twenty-two percent of the Lebanese and 50% of the Syrian refugees suffer from lack of food. This may eventually lead to increased maternal and child mortality associated with maternal and child diseases, wasting and stunting.

Health

In the health field, the percentage of families deprived of health care increased to 33%, and the percentage of families unable to obtain medicine increased to more than half.

The lack of supplies of electricity, fuel and water threatens operations in hospitals, including intensive care.

The provision of health services also declined, which was reflected in particular on services related to children, mothers and reproductive health, in light of the fact that more than 38% of the Lebanese lack any type of health insurance.

This is in addition to the emigration of medical personnel, which puts the sector in a real dilemma. Noting that women constitute more than

80% of registered nurses and work in precarious environments and receive low salaries, in addition to bearing the burden of unpaid care for their families.

Gender equality

Here, when we talk about gender equality, we find that Lebanon has achieved gender parity in the field of education in terms of enrolment rate, and the percentage rises in favor of girls the higher the educational levels. However, there is a large disparity in the labour market, where women actually participate in less than 30%.

This is in addition to the severe lack of women's representation in the political sphere, where the proportion of women in parliament does not exceed 4.7% and 5.4% in municipalities.

Many civil organizations have submitted bills related to the women's quota in Parliament, but they were either rejected or delayed.

On the other hand, the accumulated crises of gender-based violence have intensified the severity of women and girls in general, and more sharpness towards marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities and undocumented refugees, in addition to elderly women.

Under these circumstances, child marriage is considered one of the negative coping mechanisms and tends to rise.

Environment and climate

On the environmental and climatic level, the Ministry of Environment has estimated that climate change will cause a 14 percent drop in Lebanon's GDP by 2040, after which it will drop to 32 percent by 2080.

Accordingly, Lebanon has signed on to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030, half of which is conditional on in-

ternational support. The ministry also announced seeking to develop a common concept of climate change and gender concepts under the title "Gender Response to Climate Policies". But in order to know to what extent Lebanon is able to achieve these commitments, we have to look at the gap between laws and practices. I will give some examples of the painful environmental reality, which contributes steadily to increasing emissions rather than reducing them.

1. Air pollution

Although Lebanon is a non-industrial country, the electricity and transportation sectors, open burning of solid waste, and cement factories are among the most polluting sources.

Also, after fuel prices have increased more than 12 times, household air pollution is expected to increase as residents increasingly rely on firewood for heating, bathing and cooking water. This will raise the risks of inhaling toxic fumes; whose victims are often women and children. In addition to destroying forests.

2 Forest retreat

Due to climatic changes and rising temperatures, fires began to break out earlier than usual. It also consumes more than a thousand hectares annually. Forests covered more than 35% of Lebanon's area in 2007 and are now less than 13% . But just last summer, it devoured more than 7.500 hectares. The state does not have the necessary equipment such as floats and others that are used to confront large fires.

3. Ground and coastal water pollution

As for the groundwater and the beach, it is enough to know that about 1.000 random solid waste dumps are spread all over, and their juices seep into the groundwater and riverbeds. Most of the

so-called sanitary landfills are in fact marine landfills, causing thousands of tons of waste annually to find its way into the sea.

This is excluding sewage and water used in factories. Which pour into the sea half a million cubic meters per day, without any prior treatment, after the delay in the completion of the treatment plants projects or their mismanagement. More recently, its inability to operate regularly due to the lack of fuel. Which violates the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

Challenges facing female journalists and activists

All of the above, in addition to the security strikes and the absence of law enforcement or its discretion, and its use as a retaliatory tool to silence mouths or physical assault, poses major challenges and dangers to journalists in general, and women journalists in particular. This is in addition to physical attacks. As journalists, we often fear being in certain places without the company of friends, especially in places of major environmental violations, where they are often in remote places surrounded by armed men.

Also, the lack of updated data is a major obstacle to monitoring the implementation of the sustainable goals' agenda. Data and collective analysis are still limited, despite efforts. Access to information is also difficult, as many public administrations refuse to give information, mostly for reasons related to corruption. Although the Access to Information Act was passed in 2017.

This is in addition to the fact that the media do not find it attractive to talk about sustainable development and climate issues, with the exception of talking about the waste crisis that they can employ politically.

At the level of civil society institutions, many of them are still not sufficiently familiar with the 2030 Agenda, and programs and projects are

subject to the available funding opportunities and their limitations.

Activists in general, including environmentalists, are also exposed to many risks, including arrest and physical assault, which limits their ability and motivation to continue.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, the current multidimensional crisis poses major challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially in terms of the ability to combine urgent humanitarian intervention to save lives and a sustainable development approach, especially in terms of implementing climate change interventions.

Although the scene is very dark, and I am convinced, like most Lebanese, that there is no effective change without changing the sectarian system based on quotas. However, some interventions at the present time may contribute to alleviating the impact of the crisis and making progress on the 2030 Agenda, including:

- Putting pressure on the government to bring about structural reforms, implement international commitments, and implement laws.
- Develop an updated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda in Lebanon under international auspices, considering the emerging changes and local priorities.
- Imposing the involvement of civil society and local actors in all stages of the strategy, from planning to implementation.
- Intensifying awareness programs about the 2030 Agenda and its goals, especially those directed to leaders, the media, and civil society.
- Reconsidering the priorities and size of grants, whether directed to the state or civil society organizations.

- Establishing an independent monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanism.
- Organizing a sustainable advocacy program for female journalists and empowerment programs related to local challenges.

In conclusion, a brighter future can still be achieved.



Dionysia Vovou

Communicator and feminist activist, Greece



We are speaking these days about global warming, environmental destruction, renewable forms of energy, on the occasion of the Glasgow international official conference on climate. We are also speaking about resistances to the commodification of the climate crisis, the entrance of the people, the movements, in the realm of the environmental crisis. We are also speaking in this conference about the presence of women journalists and women activists who have a pioneering role in the proposals of solutions, often at very dear and personal cost.

In my contribution, I would like to highlight some elements from a small country in the end of Europe, which has its own small history of environmental problems followed by capitalistic non solutions.

In Greece, there is a combination of many aspects of the environmental crisis, since it suffers from acute weather phenomena, with drought, fires and floods, which were the worst this last year. It is in the “green

transition” in the worst possible capitalistic way. It is “fighting” with the neighbouring country of the Mediterranean, Turkey, for the discovery of the “black gold” and gas, and is buying great weapon systems (only recently the agreement with France for the purchase of 18 Rafale war planes) in order to “confront” the enemy. We also have many earthquakes, which are not due to the environmental demise of course, up to now, but they contribute to destruction of local societies.

One of the big deals for the green transition, are the windturbines, which are placed every and anywhere. The ever more uncontrolled installation of REU (Renewable Energy Units) inside forests, virgin ecosystems, in NATURA protected areas, on shores, islands and Islets, within archaeological sites and landscape of unique natural beauty, causes an unprecedented destruction but also the occupation of public land, which is surrendered for free to big undertakers and phantom companies. The same model is followed for the photovoltaic which started spreading to agricultural land, but also to public forest lands and pastures, covering thousands of acres.

As a result of all these, there is a strong wave or reaction, in the whole continental country and the islands. Cities and villages, holiday or recreation resorts are undermined, productive activities like agriculture, livestock work, apiculture, tourism, are threatened with disappearance. In most of the studies for environmental impact a many objections are registered.

All experience up to now, shows that it is not enough to have renewable sources of energy in order to safeguard whether their use will be mild or not. There are crucial factors like the size, technology, spaces for installation, energy planning and the system in which they are integrated.

The ecological brochures of the last few decades wrote that the renewable sources, sun, wind, water flowing, are everywhere, in every state, in every place. Democracy, decentralisation, combatting of energy poverty are the advantages for their use. The access of local societies,

of local government, of co-operatives, of groups of consumers, even of self-producers of REU, would give the possibility to smaller social entities to gain democratic control, independence or even power autonomy.

In the mountain area of Epirus, there have been drills for the discovery of hydrocarbons, including in some natural areas, against the will of the local population, or what remains of it, since most young people leave for the cities, which will be accelerated after the demise of the mountainous environment and the agricultural, livestock and touristic activities. And even the method of fracking will be probably used, it is not excluded in the contracts, which apart from other destructions will cause earthquakes and landslides as has happened in other areas where this method has been used. Due to the recent developments concerning the gas prices, the project is at a standstill for the moment. A massive and strong movement of citizens fought for the last few years, now we know that one of the companies left, but the project is not abandoned, so the people are vigilant, and very worried, since these plans were supported by both right wing and left-wing governments.

A giant project in Chalkidiki area of Northern Greece, for the extraction of gold by the Company Greek Gold (Ελληνικός Χρυσός). There have been long term massive fights of the local population, embraced by environmental movements from all over Greece for the cancellation of the project, because it will cause, and has already caused, extended environmental pollution on the land as well as in surface and deep waters.

Unfortunately, the project is continuing despite some delay caused by the movement and long judicial struggles. There were many arrests of fighting locals, many court cases, strong terrorization of the protesters for years. Legal struggles are continuing, and it is characteristic that the company has lost some court cases and they have been convicted for pollution in recent years. The case reopened the last few days, as there is a court case against a woman journalist called **Stavroula Poulimeni**,

of Thessaloniki electronic alternative newspaper, ALTERTHESS. She is accused of writing in the electronic medium the names of the company people who are already convicted, and the plaintiff demands compensation of 100.000 euro, or if the journalist cannot pay it, she should go to jail for one year. Worth noting that very little is written against the harmful impact of the company's activities for the extraction of gold, since the company pays commercials to many newspapers and R/Tv. Here we must say again that, unfortunately, all recent governments, right and left, allowed the Investment and gave way to the company that made it.

The most important environmental destruction is foreseen in the Aegean Sea, where field research is taking place with boats that carry out drills for the discovery of gas and oil. And here we have the big antagonism of the two states, Greece and Turkey, which causes daily nationalistic discourse and poisoning of the peoples. In the end of 2020 the Greek Parliament voted in favor of the field research, with two parties expressing reluctance on the grounds that it is not carried out by state companies, while only one party (MERA 25) voted against based on the principle of environmental protection and with the call for the green transition.

The use of any kind of waste is another area of environmental destruction in Greece. Most of the waste, about 90%, are either burned or buried in the earth in certain spaces, and there are no plans and installations for ecological treatment of any waste, for recycle, reuse and limitation of the production of waste. There was a National Plan for the treatment of waste in the end of 2020, which was published, but according to analyses from ecological organizations, the only result of this Plan is the enhancement of the burning of waste rather than recycling and reusing. 80% of the European funding for investment in the field of waste use, is led to investment to the burning, and the creation of dozens of units for the treatment of waste. Only 20% will be directed to projects and actions for prevention of the production of waste, of reuse, compost, recycling. According to another study, about 90% will be buried or thrown uncontrollably and only a 5% will be led to recycling.

A large new city is planned in the broader Athens area, the old and abandoned for two decades airport called Ellinikon, where there is a big project for the "development" of this huge area, of 6.000 acres, so called Metropolitan Pole. One side touching the sea, is the bigger urban "development" plan in Europe today, and a huge destructive urbanization.

On the contrary, the plan of the progressive movement was and still is the creation of an open area for the people, a forest within the broader area of the capital of 5 million people (The area is located 8 kilometres south west of Athens which has very little green), with sports installations and recreation activities. Also, and very important the safety of the existing archaeological treasures.

The state's plan is for an inward-looking city of 35.000 inhabitants, offices, multi storey and huge buildings, 6 skyscrapers that can be seen even from the Acropolis, all kind of uses, and of course a casino. The high of the buildings will be up to 50 and 70 meters, and in some cases they will reach even 115 m. from the sea.

There was a big fight against this kind of "development" unfortunately with little success, this fight managed to curb some of the projected activities, but the heart of the project remains. And all this "development" area is donated by the Greek state to a private company called Lambda Development, which has hardly given any money. The Greek state gives away all this precious land, and the parties in government, both right and left, carry it out.

Speaking about women journalists focusing in particular about climate and environment protection, we can see that the only women focusing in environmental protection are the activists, as in Greece we may not have a strong environmental movement, but we have innumerable small and larger initiatives working in local areas where these threats existed and still exist. These activists are at the forefront of the information of the public about these dangers, on many occasions with scien-

tific analyses, and their presence is crucial for these movements. And the few women journalists working in progressive media that highlight these antisocial and antienvironmental activities, are often punished or led to courts.

I thank my friends' ecological activists who contributed to my presentation with information and analysis for my contribution, **Ms. Despoina Spanoudi, Ms. Kyriaki Klokiti and Mr. Ioannis Papadimitriou.**



Carme Gual

Director of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)



The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations in 2015 marked a fundamental milestone for global governance, in general, and for development cooperation, in particular. The 2030 Agenda establishes seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with which the international community intends to make a leap forward in the transformation of the world before the year 2030. The SDGs put the equality and dignity of people at the centre, with the will to update the development model from the respect of the environment.

This roadmap has meant a global reference in relation to development policies and constitutes a hopeful framework insofar as it is an ambitious attempt to put international cooperation back at the centre of political responses to global challenges.

Even so, the SDGs are not exempt from criticism: despite the extension of the 17 SDGs and the 169 milestones, more references to human

rights and their instruments -such as freedom of expression- are missing; more treatment of sensitive issues –such as migration and development–, and a feminist and transformative vision from the point of view of gender. In addition, they are based on a debatable assumption: that it is possible, maintaining the dominant economic paradigm, to make growth and sustainability compatible.

With the approval of the Development Cooperation Master Plan 2019-2022, the Government of Catalonia formally assumes the new global framework of the 2030 Agenda. It does so with the will to add, but also from a critical perspective, aware of everything that the SDGs they incorporate and, also, of what they do not incorporate, and of the assumptions on which they are based. This has also been the option chosen by other organizations that, from the defence of human rights and especially the human rights of women, have participated in the broad process of elaboration of the 2030 Agenda as well as subsequent debates. I would highlight here a powerful instrument for political and social advocacy, the 2030 Feminist Agenda, which works organically with a local-global approach (<https://www.agenda2030feminista.org/esp/>).

Catalan cooperation addresses the SDGs with its own learning and strategic options, the result of more than fifteen years of work and reflections. For this reason, the public cooperation policy of the Government of Catalonia chooses to frame the SDGs within the gender and human rights-based approach (EGiBDH); a theoretical framework introduced by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) from 2015, and which has already established itself as the backbone and definition of Catalan cooperation in the international arena.

Thus, the gender and human rights-based approach (EGiBDH) has been built in recent years from the approach to the structural causes of inequalities and violations of rights, and the passage of a vision of cooperation as a service provider to another that ensures accompaniment to change processes. The gender and human rights-based approach consists of analysing and transforming the structural causes that cause

inequality and discrimination towards women in all spheres (economic, labour, political, social and cultural) through strategies to eradicate them.

The EGiBDH claims its political component developed by criticizing the patriarchal system and involves placing the sustainability of human and environmental life at the centre of the debate, a new redistribution of care and productive work, a life free of violence, sexual rights and reproductive rights, and the economic, labour and political rights of women, among others. The confluence of the 2030 Agenda, the Gender and Human Rights-Based Approach and the Development Cooperation Master Plan has led the ACCD to concentrate work around six thematic axes. The axes respond in a very particular way to the application of objective 17 of the SDGs, which proclaims the importance of networking and promoting cooperative work with the maximum plurality of actors. Thus, alliances are consolidated around each of the axes, ranging from the grassroots feminist movements in the partner countries to the departments of the Generalitat with which policy coherence and joint work are promoted.

And what are these lines of work?

Violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights; human rights defenders; transformative economies; the culture of peace and the guarantees of non-repetition; environmental justice and refuge, migration and human displacement.

And how do we land these axes in the Mediterranean area?

One of the most powerful instruments and of which we feel most proud are the women's funds. In Morocco, the Unreserved Equality Fund is the first women's fund created by the ACCD. We launched it in 2019, with the aim of promoting gender equality, women's rights and the fight against all types of violence, through the support and strengthening of grassroots feminist organizations and movements. Through the Fund,

we have financed eight initiatives to defend women's rights in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al-Hoceima region, as well as awareness-raising and social mobilization actions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fund has been able to reorient itself towards other actions aimed at reducing the serious consequences on the situation of women and girls, especially those who live in precarious conditions.

Regarding the prevention of violence, Catalan cooperation works to promote a culture of peace. In the Mediterranean region, youth empowerment is being worked on with projects such as "Support for the advisory bodies responsible for studying issues relating to young people in the councils of the Moroccan regions", an initiative resulting from a collaboration between the ACCD, UNDP Morocco and the General Directorate of Local Authorities (DGCL) of the Ministry of the Interior of Morocco. This initiative is articulated with the work in Tunisia, through the UNDP, and this year, also, with the implementation, through an agreement with the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation, of a European delegated cooperation project to empower the vulnerable youth population through culture and sport.

If we talk about the field of transformative economies, there is no doubt that the COVID-19 crisis has corroborated the eco-dependence and interdependence of people and the need for a change in the model. In this context, the ACCD reinforces and promotes the Transformative Economies axis that promotes an economy that puts life at the centre from a human and environmental perspective, to move towards a new paradigm of consumption and production that is fairer, more democratic, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. The axis has been deployed with direct cooperation initiatives in Morocco and Tunisia, such as the program for the development and promotion of social and solidarity economy structures in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al-Hoceima region. Also, worth noting, in the area of refuge, is the work with the Palestinian refugee population, which has a long history of support, both through Catalan entities and United Nations agencies. This is the case of UNRWA,

which the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation has supported uninterruptedly since 2015. Also, in Palestine, the ACCD has recently approved a grant to support the Deir al-Balah health centre in the Gaza Strip. This is the second phase of a project started in 2020 and aims to improve the maternal and child health of the Palestinian population. With an economic endowment of 290,000 euros, the action incorporates work on the prevention of gender violence, which has increased as a result of the confinement measures by COVID-19.

The ACCD is also advancing in the definition of this line of work to include prevention, capacity building of public institutions in partner countries that receive an influx of refugees or migrants, coordination and coherence of policies, protection and care minors in vulnerable situations and the fight against racism as well as a greater role for migrant groups in cooperation policy. The experience and initiatives already developed in this regard in Lebanon and especially in Morocco stand out, where strategic alliances are being consolidated with multilaterals (UNICEF and IOM), Moroccan civil society (Asticude) and NGDO (Casal d'Infants).

And I do not want to end this speech without highlighting our program for women defenders, which is consolidated year after year and which allows us to welcome activists and human rights defenders from all over the world for 6 months in Catalonia. While it is true that the applications we receive come mostly from Latin America, the program is open to other regions. And, without a doubt, Mediterranean journalists are, today, defenders of rights that can and must be protected.

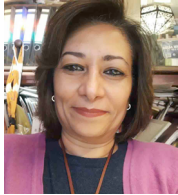


Social Movements, Peace and Migration in the Mediterranean



From left to right: Sahar Talaat, Cristina Mas, Ala'a Karajah and Jordi Solé.

PARTICIPATE



Sahar Talaat
Professor at the Future
University, Egypt



Ala'a Karajah
TV presenter at the
Palestine Broadcasting
Corporation



Jordi Solé
Member of the European
Parliament for the Esquerra
Republicana of Catalonia



Moderator:
Cristina Mas
Journalist for the newspaper Ara

Welcome to Barcelona, my name is Cristina Mas, I am a journalist and I am covering the Mediterranean area for a newspaper based in Barcelona. I feel very honoured moderating this conversation about social movements, peace and migration in the Mediterranean. I hope you can forgive us for some last-minute changes, and I present now our speakers.

Ala'a Karajah, from Ramallah-Palestine, she is a TV broadcaster in the Palestinian Broadcasting.

Sahar Talaat is a correspondent for different international newspapers in Egypt, she wrote about the 2011 Revolution. She teaches in the *Future University* in Cairo.

We have the only male member, **Jordi Solé**. He is part of the European Parliament for Esquerra Republicana. He is a member of the Commission for Foreign Affairs and the Commission for Women and Gender Equality.

This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 2011 revolutions, when in several countries the people said no to more inequality, unemployment, dictatorships and went out to the streets to reclaim social and democratic rights.

Later on we saw how the regional, local and international super powers reacted to stop the waves, slack down the fire and the lessons seemed to be: don't react, it can be worse.

But the people at the region didn't learn the lesson and we saw new waves of massive movements in Alger, Libya, Lebanon and later in Sudan, Iraq and in Iran too.

These new waves stopped with the pandemic. The coronavirus imposed what Alger and Iraq called a *health threat*. A sanitary truth which is ending now when we are in a new situation, probably augmented for the virus social impact, much deeper than the impact on the health.

Let me start with a question to break the ice and I should like pose a few questions to the audience and I ask you to raise your hands, are we agree?

How do you see the Mediterranean region now, ten years after the 2011 revolutions?

You have three possible answers;

- 1- **The Mediterranean is now a better place than for ten years ago.**
- 2- **This is a worse place**
- 3- **I don't have any idea about it**

(Three people raise their hands among the audience. In the table Sahar raise her hand)

Who believes the Mediterranean is now a worse place than ten years ago?

(A few hands are raised among the audience. In the table both Ala'a Karajah and Jordi Solé raise their hands).

Who has not any idea? *(The moderator, Cristina Mas, and the most part of the audience raise their hands).*

I give the floor now to our speakers and start with you, Sahar.

In a sentence Sahar, how should you describe the actual situation of the Mediterranean region?

S.T: Now the Mediterranean is a better place for people. We are exposed and look at each other clearly, without cover. At least both shores look at each other.

C.M: Ala'a, what do you think?

A.K: I should never say that the Mediterranean is the best place. I should say that now is an explosion of rage, because people see the dreams flee away and the hope is gone. People feel themselves betrayed and deceived. That's the case for most of the Arab countries, but the revolution is no tended it's still happening and we must carry on.

C.M: Jordi, what do you think?

I voted that the region is now worse than ten years ago, because I think ten years ago the people had still hope and I think the hope has almost being substituted by the deception.

And I should add that the Mediterranean region is a very complex region. In the Southern shore of it we have some countries adrift, which practically has not any relations among them or very poor relations. The distance between the Southern and the Northern shores is growing depending of the social economics and geopolitical issues.

C.M: The idea now is that both Sahar and Ala'a describe their ideas about the region and also about their respective countries. Then we will move on to Jordi, who has kindly accepted to be interviewed and questioned by our guests, and at the end some specific questions will be asked about the role of the European Parliament and the European Union.

So Ala'a, 10 years after the wave of 2011, what remains and what has changed?

A.K: You actually started with a very good question, is the Mediterranean a better or worse place now? This question is present in our daily debates. We are living a revolution where the disasters in the Arab region and the harsh political, economic and social conditions were invisible consequences of tyranny and woke in the people the search for change and justice. Either way, despite crushing its first wave, the revolution has yet to produce any consequences.

Opponents of the first wave of the revolution believe tyranny and marginalization are inevitable. They believe that the revolution produced in many states in the region dictators who took power for decades, a period during which they fostered endemic corruption throughout the state, which resulted in greater marginalization of a large sector of the population.

That is why they believe that the outbreak of the second revolutionary wave would generate more dictatorships in the Arab states. Opponents of the revolution argue that the current regime ensures stability in the countries of the region. I don't know if that's what Sahar thinks...

These opponents argue that a look at the reality of the Arab peoples is enough to see to what extent economic conditions have worsened compared to 2011. In that period, as you know, poverty and unemployment rates skyrocketed. They believe that the revolution was nothing more than a political conspiracy and this is heard from the beginning.

Regarding the idea of foreign intrusion, of course, the conspiracy theory is also promoted, arguing that the revolution has opened the way for foreign actors to take over and dominate revolutions according to their own interests.

Instead, the defenders of the revolution continue to believe in change. They argue that the current situation in most Arab countries is one of greater stability, despite being *de facto* living in a situation of repression and dictatorship. They defend, thus, that the revolution was destined,

precisely to fight against the unfair situations caused by an economy only at the service of certain minority groups, as we already know, widening the gap between rich and poor of the same land. Naturally, this was the main reason for the revolution, the struggle for justice and freedom.

In turn, these defenders of the revolution believe that this struggle has contributed to the unification of society. We have seen incredible experiences of collectivization of the popular classes. This was the case at the beginning of the revolution, what came to be called the "Arab Spring". Maybe now we would meet in the fall, or winter.

What I present to you is the sum of various forces in society with different affiliations, and as they show the rejection of any turning back, fighting for a change.

Initially the revolution offered inspiring models, but after five years, chaos broke out very quickly. And this is what we are experiencing now, after a decade of wanting to break the spirit of the revolution and questioning the intentions of this revolution.

This chaos is the consequence of questioning the intentions of revolutionary people, and serving the interests, ambitions and agendas of various actors such as those of some countries in the region, and also, of course, parties of other countries, such as Russia and others.

Of course, this is what happened in the Arab world, but in Palestine it is something different that I will talk about later.

C.M: Sahar, Do you agree with this picture, that winter is coming?

S.T: About the discourse about winter, we have been living it all the time, and actually, it is time to change it.

The main idea of change comes from youth. We have to know that young people in the Arab world are more than 65% of the population.

This means that they have to look for their future, it is essential.

To procure that future, we cannot be remembering and repeating the same narrative of: we live in a dictatorship, we have problems, we have chaos, and so on. We won't do it like that.

Finding a future for the youth, and I am very sorry for my students at the university, but we work long and hard to create our future, and creativity comes out of this work and young people are ready.

I am commenting on this because due to new technologies, social networks, the connectivity we have here, we are creating zoom meetings, etc. All our meetings or our virtual reality are now becoming reality and the offline society is now online, so we are offline and online at the same time.

Right now, we are online and offline at the same time, it means that everyone who wants to is participating with us, whether we want to or not.

This is what we need to know, and politicians need to know, the voices of these people have to be heard, not just here. It's a new *statu quo*. Politicians across the Mediterranean do not want to hear this, but they will.

We have to be prepared for the new generation, those who are now between 12 and 15 years old. They are very well prepared technologically and in their own way, they will change society. They will do it. They will completely eliminate the old ideologies and the old ideas. And if we are not prepared for it, they will surpass us.

So my idea that the Mediterranean is better, yes, it is better because now we face the problems as they are. We can't pretend. There is no time to lose. Time flies.

The pandemic has helped us a lot in this context. It hasn't been compli-

cated for us, on the contrary. The pandemic has helped us get to know each other more. For example, if we are in Spain, we can know how many people are infected in Brazil, South Korea, China, anywhere.

We have a passport, the passport of the future. We should not think of the world as an infected place, the world is us, and if we don't take control of this world, climate change is going to completely devastate us. This is what I think.

C.M: It is very encouraging to hear these words from someone who comes from Cairo. As for Palestine, we have been able to see this reality also last spring. About the journalistic profession and women, what can you tell us Ala'a?

A.K: Palestinian female journalists face gender-based social pressures that make it difficult to practice their profession. This translates into the violation of their rights, marginalization and the loss of their job.

For all these reasons, the media often prefer to employ male journalists, who are also offered higher salaries.

Given that women do not have a voice in decision-making in the media, their participation in the media is limited.

Statistics published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) indicate that only one woman holds the position of editor-in-chief of a local newspaper, out of nine men who serve as editors-in-chief. Statistics also show that women represent only 33% of editors in the West Bank, compared to 66% of men.

This situation affects the type of journalistic material produced by the medium, whether or not it is favorable to women. It also affects the media agenda, in the approach to gender issues, as well as the role and participation of women journalists in these, in addition to the rates of female employment in said media.

Although the professional role of women has changed as they have gained employment and economic independence, their traditional social role, focused on the domestic sphere, as caregivers and mothers, remains the same. This factor has a significant impact on the participation and access of women to make their voices heard in the media landscape.

Most of the time, women are not treated as independent and individual people in the society. They are forced to identify themselves by their family names (father's or husband's) and are always required to have male guardians. This also applies to female journalists, whose content is often hijacked by their male counterparts.

On the other hand, social networks have gone from being a tool that helps journalists to access the public and show their work and journalistic productions, to be a means used to intimidate them, belittle their production, ridicule their appearance and interfere in their privacy of their families.

The participation of women journalists in the field and the informative coverage of wars has broken the gender stereotypes that confine them to certain traditional domestic roles.

Their experiences in news coverage and in broadcasting positions have promoted a positive image of their ability to deal with critical situations, cover wars and other events.

The coronavirus pandemic has prevented Palestinian female journalists from participating in the media landscape. Although many Palestinian female journalists have demonstrated their merits in the media coverage of events during the pandemic, some media outlets have taken advantage of the circumstances caused by the health crisis as a pretext to fire them.

C.M: Which are the mayor threats for the European region?

S.T: The terrorism is the biggest threat for both the Northern and the Southern region of the Mediterranean.

A.K: I believe that the biggest threat is external intervention, control and domination. All these various factors from outside the region who want to take over the revolution, or try to divide us, keep Palestine divided. Since 2007 there have been foreign interests with their own agenda for the region. I think this is the main threat to us as Palestinians, but also to other countries in the area. Youth is our hope.

C.M: The figures show how the Mediterranean has become the border with the most inequality between one shore and the other. Probably much more difference than on the Mexican border with the US. It has become a massive graveyard for tens of thousands of men, women, and children. What do you think about it? What should be the role of Europe?

S.T: When we talk about European countries, which countries are we talking about? Of the European Union? Currently, the same political unit that there was at other times does not exist. There is a huge migration crisis all over the world. We have to face this fact. We must be very clear. What countries are we talking about? All-Union? Is there an agreement in the European Union on migration policies? I have many questions about it.

So, to the question, do European countries have responsibilities? Yes of course. They are accepting refugees, yes, but what is the situation of these refugees? This is the reality that we do not see. Inequalities exist all over the world, including in Europe.

We need to see these inequalities from another perspective, as human beings. In the previous session, we talked about how some families are selling their daughters to marry them off, for example. What are we doing about it? Where are the policies to stop this human trafficking? We know this trafficking is global, so where are the policies to eradi-

cate human trafficking?

A.K: I think it's really complicated. When we have these terrible humanitarian crises, we should all take responsibility. The EU as part of the Mediterranean, or as part of its coasts, should act and get involved to resolve this tragedy. And the question is, as Sahar said, for how long? Maybe Jordi Solé can answer this.

J.S: I have to say that it is a matter of priorities and political will. Right now, the Union has two priorities with its neighbourhood. One, to the east of Europe. The other, in the south, north of Africa and towards the Middle East.

When you read the newspapers, and the documents drawn up either by Parliament itself or by external services, it is clear that the Mediterranean region is a priority area. But when you want to look beyond words and rhetoric, you wonder if there really is a unified European strategy towards North Africa.

This is a problem for the EU when it comes to building external action, because it is very difficult to reach consensus. And in the European Council, consensus is needed to act on behalf of the European Union. To build consensus, hours of debate and effort are needed, and unanimity is always agreed upon under the lowest common denominator. So, it's frustrating because he's never ambitious.

I think that this is what happens to us in relation to the Mediterranean region. There is no coherent and ambitious common policy. Even worse, if we pay attention to the strategies of the different Member States, especially the old metropolises of the region, they have much more interest and clear strategies towards some specific countries within the region compared to the overall strategy of the European Union.

Therefore, a first point is that there is a lack of political clarity and strategy.

A few months ago, we approved a Mediterranean agenda that includes an investment plan for the period 2021-2027. A package of 7.000 million euros, a significant amount. But I think that this money should be invested according to certain criteria. For me, this is the key, conditionality. I believe that a majority of European citizens want stability in the countries of the southern Mediterranean. But not only stability, but also that human rights are respected, where inequalities are less and less, that there is democracy, where civil society can work.

I think every investment should be conditioned on taking steps in the direction of these goals, and I think we don't do that enough. We do not use this pressure to promote improvements.

C.M: **A concept widely used among European political leaders, when talking about the Mediterranean region, is the need for stability. What do you think about it?**

S.T: For me, stability means social development, education and the health system. If we protect and care for children and our youth, we will have stability, as well as the promotion of women's rights. Real democracy, but not imposed. When imposed, chaos ensues. For all this, real cooperation between countries is required, beyond good intentions.

A.K: I agree with everything said by Sahar. We can't have stability without social justice, a robust educational and health system and freedom of press and equal rights for women. That's our dream. We dream with freedom but we can't think about stability without all those rights we are fighting for since the beginning. We are only going to be a stable country when the major part of those rights are granted. We must grow the respect among us, in despite of our differences, we must respect the rights of women. We must work in several controversial situations. Our journey is long and demand many sacrifices, work, lots of time and social conscience.

C.M: **I would like you to comment a little on another great threat to**

the region, which is the climate emergency, already being one of the regions most affected by this emergency and when we see the forecast in a very short future, there is not much room for optimism. What do you think about it?

A.K: Actually, as a Palestinian woman and a journalist living in Palestine, I think that we are not contributing to climate change, but we are living the consequences of this climate change. Although it is not my field of work, I do believe that, as a journalist, I have a certain responsibility to raise awareness about the enormous problem we face. In Palestine, the summers are very hot, but last summer it was even hotter and there were more fires. As a mother and a journalist, my responsibility is to raise awareness about it.

S.T: We started a couple of years ago an awareness campaign on this issue, especially in schools and universities. There are many NGOs dedicated to the environment, activists who fight for this cause. In Egypt we have been suffering several problems related to the environment, right now, for example, we know that with the new dam that is being built in Ethiopia we will not have water in Egypt. We will have almost 100 million Egyptians who depend on the water of the Nile. This is a serious problem for us. We are starting to use new irrigation systems and to optimize the irrigation system and the use of water. We are working at the micro level, and also at the macro level. The use of public transport is also being promoted, conserving our forests, but we need many more people involved in defending the environment. I think now people are really becoming aware of this issue, also thanks to social media. The government is working on the issue, because we really have no choice.

C.M: **We are seeing increasing violations of democracy and human rights on both shores of the Mediterranean. How does this issue affect you as women journalists?**

A.K: The Israeli occupation forces systematically attack Palestinian

journalists, especially women. For example, during the latest attack on Gaza, and on the occupied West Bank, Israeli warplanes attacked 33 media outlets, injuring 117 Palestinian journalists: 17 in Gaza and a hundred in the occupied West Bank. The Union of Journalists in the occupied city of Jerusalem has denounced that the majority of injuries are caused by blows and tear gas.

They have also denounced other crimes committed by the Israeli occupation, which were reported and deleted from social networks, such as Facebook and Instagram, and restricted several Palestinian accounts, preventing them from writing about occupied Palestine.

So, with this attack on freedom of expression, it is not possible to have accurate information about what is happening in Palestine, and only the Israeli narrative is shown.

If we talk about Palestinian female journalists, and their fight for their rights, we cannot separate it from the fight for rights and the fight for the state. Women suffer double violence: the first, at the hands of the occupiers and the second, from the male-dominated Palestinian society. And of course, this is one of the biggest problems we face as women journalists.

Violence against women in Palestine will not stop if all areas of masculinity are not seriously addressed, just like everywhere else in the world. This issue has become more important and urgent than ever. The liberation of Palestine, on the horizon, will not come true without the liberation of Palestinian women. And of course, during the pandemic, cases of violence have increased at an alarming rate due to confinement, as well as violence against minors and the elderly. Especially women. So, we suffer multiple forms of violence as women, as Palestinians and journalists, and also women who are fighting to defend their land from the Israeli occupation, especially in the West Bank.

C.M: **Do you want to comment on the Palestinian Authority (PA)?**

A.K: Of course. The division between Hamas and Al Fatah has emphasized the lack of democracy and freedom of expression. Every time there is a demonstration or demand, each party accuses the other of working for third parties, of having other interests.

Since 2007 no elections have been called. There have been several attempts, but the PA argues that we should not hold an election without occupied Jerusalem, and this is the biggest stumbling block between the PA and Israel. This has caused the elections to be suspended and was a great disappointment for us. Despite everything, we believe that important changes are coming, but on the other hand, many people are afraid of changes, because they are afraid of chaos.

CM: As we can see, we have very brave women at the table. Sahar, you yourself have been threatened, how would you describe being a female journalist in Egypt today?

S.T: My presentation tomorrow will be about women journalists in Egypt, so now I am going to do a brief summary of what we have called our democratic process after the revolution, and at the end of this process, there was an election.

The first action was to vote, and that represented the first step towards social stability. It should be said that the results were not as expected when the Muslim Brotherhood gained power. That was a big disappointment. During that period, women were exposed to great danger, and in fact, it was women who fervently fought to oust this regime, and I want to stress this. Later, we enter what we can call a political transition.

Many people ask me, what has happened after 2011? How is the situation? There is a great ignorance. There is no transmission of what actually happens. In the journalistic field, a topic comes up and suddenly nothing more is known about it. Currently there is a great lack of awareness and monitoring of the news. After ten years of the Arab Spring, we are at the same point. No one asks, how have these countries changed

after the Arab Spring? Where are the people who took to the streets? Is there really a future for this process, or will we keep going over and over the same repetitive discourse?

I think this whole situation is related to establishing a real democratic process, not just elections. A democratic process with real political participation. A practice that should start in childhood, giving the youngest the opportunity to practice democracy, to express their opinion and understand how important it is to be able to express it. And that is what we do not have in our educational system and in our countries. We have to work on it, bringing knowledge and understanding from both shores of the Mediterranean. We need to prepare, train, but how? Who is helping us? You receive migrants here, how many times do you ask them what kind of knowledge they have? I'm not just talking about academic training; I'm talking about knowledge in a much broader way.

Today, the world is a global village and we must apply this new idea. We must stop building walls and more walls, and think that they may seem very far away, but it really is not.

We must work hard and conscientiously. Create new democratic policies, which are not just flashy and fancy words, but which mean nothing to the people. We need to create a real democracy, with and in society, because from the moment that people practice and incorporate the meaning and practice of democracy, they will not leave their places to go to die in the Mediterranean. Because they will also have acquired knowledge and will develop their life projects wherever they want. Now this is not possible.

C.M: Surely Tahir Square was a good school of democracy. Well, now it is the turn for our speakers to ask questions of Jordi Solé, as an elected member of the European Parliament.

A.K: My question is about climate change. It is clear that we all have our responsibility, but it seems that the big companies only care

about economic benefits. To help solve this problem, shouldn't there be a policy from the European Parliament that forces those responsible to stop damaging the planet any further?

J.S: In relation to climate change, there is a study from a few months ago on the effects it will have on the Mediterranean region. The conclusion is that it will be the area most affected by global change. This will have negative effects on the socioeconomic reality of the Mediterranean region. We have to take it very seriously. It is a global phenomenon that moves differently depending on the region.

Industry certainly influences climate change. But the sector that contributes the most is transportation. We have to act globally; everyone has something to do to reduce the effects. Obviously, we cannot ask the same thing of a simple citizen as of a large corporation. The responsibility falls on the big polluters. We have to resolve the use of fossil fuels, of course, but it is also a matter of attitude in which everyone can do something, even a small action.

The European Union has set itself the goal of being the first continent with neutral emissions by 2050. We need a global agreement on this issue.

The southern countries (Egypt, Algeria, Morocco...) have great solar potential to generate renewable energy and export it.

We also have refugees who are a consequence of climate change, and it is getting worse. It is another reason to have a global agenda against climate change.

S.T: My question for Jordi is very short, what is the future vision of the European Parliament on the Mediterranean?

J.S: It is not a unique vision. Mine in particular is to see the countries of the region as partners. But at the same time, we have to say in the respective governments that there are things that have to change, in relation to

democracy, inequalities, human rights. In this way we could work together on common challenges.

I don't like how the problem of Syrian war refugees has been dealt with. Europe has outsourced the solution by locating more than three million refugees in Turkey. This is not the way.

There is also no single immigration policy, and I am not optimistic on this point. I think Europe could make a bigger effort.

A global strategy is needed in the face of global issues, no country will have stability while there are social inequalities, without respect for human rights, while people are not free to say what they want.

Perhaps we will not see radical changes from one day to the next, but we would have to progress towards stability. In the same way, conflicts such as those in Palestine or Western Sahara, which occur in specific countries but have global repercussions, must end. As Europeans, we can do something.

A.K: A few final words for all the people, young, old, women who started the revolution in Tunisia. I believe that youth and women have the capacity and the strength to change society, to make the revolution. From the beginning, their participation has been decisive and continues to be so. We must count on them and them. Without youth and equal rights, there will be no change.

C.M: And now to finish this table and the day, we have the performance of the singer Marina Rossell who is going to interpret a song for us.





Performance by Marina Rossell.

Professional situation of the women journalists



From left to right: Laia Serra, Hayam Kamel, Burcu Karakaş and Sahar Talaat.

SPEAKERS

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Laia Serra

Equality Secretary of the Union of Journalists of Catalonia (SPC)

Laia Serra

Equality Secretary of the Union of Journalists of Catalonia (SPC)



What is the professional situation of women journalists? What is journalism like today? Where are the women journalists? How has the pandemic affected us? What can we journalists contribute? What challenges do we have?

These are some of the questions that we ask ourselves at this table and for this we have representatives from different countries and with different profiles: university professor, multimedia correspondent, television journalist, general secretary of a press association, and vice-president of the Federation of Journalists International.

Unfortunately, we have the absence, at this table, of the Algerian radio journalist, **Lynda Abbou**, who has not been able to travel since the Spanish Embassy in Algiers has not been able to manage her visa.

Thanks to your contributions, we hope to know the conditions of the exercise of the journalistic profession in your countries, both professionally and in matters of security. And if we have time, also learn about feminist struggles and how journalists can get involved.



Sahar Talaat

Professor at Future University, Egypt



Thank you very much for this invitation, I am very grateful to be here today with all of you. Yesterday I really liked the debate we had, with the great diversity of ideas raised.

Today I would like to do an update on the situation of female journalists in Egypt: What is their situation? Where are they? How can we classify them? Our perspective and vision of the future, and also, of course, all the challenges we face.

First, I'll give a quick overview of where we are right now.

Regarding the job market for female journalists in my country, we can say that we enjoy broad parity. Between 60 and 70% of journalism graduates in Egypt today are women. We can say that these women work in

many areas of journalism, however, many are in the specialized sections for women and family. We also have many online pages and social media communities that are about feminism.

Feminism is approached from two points of view: the first, from the NGOs that work on women's rights and that offer training to many journalists in the gender perspective, and addressing all issues related to feminism.

The other approach is the gender perspective from the media, private or governmental. In this group, the gender perspective is sometimes applied and sometimes not. For now, we do not have training centers that offer adequate and comprehensive training for Egyptian journalists, whether they are women or men.

Regarding professional criteria and the integration of technology, for example, the approach to its use during the pandemic was very important. They were doing their newsrooms and meetings online, so their presence in the usual places of work was not essential, and this fact is related to their efficiency.

The other point I want to share with you is about the new generation. In most cases, it is extremely well oriented towards processes and multimedia. They deal with various topics and with different interests, and they address directly the most important problems we are currently facing, whether in society, on the street... Problems such as sexual harassment, gender inequalities or environmental issues.

Any problem they face, they approach it in a different language. It is not the language we know and to which we are accustomed as journalists. We could say that we have three groups or communities of journalists, according to what we have observed lately: feminist journalists; journalists in general, who do not have a gender perspective; and then we have this young generation that is very focused on gender, social commitment and social problems.

We could say that we have three groups or communities of journalists, according to what we have observed recently. We see that there are direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. From a professional point of view, the pandemic has really helped a lot of people. During this period, many people have thought about how they could take advantage of the pandemic from a positive perception. Over the past two years, we have seen how journalists who were previously afraid of facing technology, especially those who worked in national or government media, have completed technology training. And there are examples of private media that have enabled journalists to add or modify content on their platforms, thus facilitating their work.

These changes in the labour market have modernized labour processes, adding new tools, many of them, of course, for the benefit of journalists, helping them to develop their talents and also to be quick in their actions.

There are many changes taking place on the Egyptian media map. Sections were usually used, and those sections were like “taboos”, no content could be modified. This is no longer the case at this time. Now we are constantly changing and developing, based much more on the interest of the content than on the hierarchy.

The idea of a pyramidal hierarchy that we had until now has ceased to exist. There is a tendency towards a more horizontal vision, and we depend a lot on the participation of young journalists. These young people create many group dynamics that contribute and improve the rest of the professionals, we could say more experienced ones, to change their style.

I forgot to tell you that lately, most of the graduate students of journalism or multimedia are motivated to be entrepreneurs and have their own private media companies. They work in public relations, advertising or specialized content, something that did not happen before. Also say that the government offers many facilities to help new entrepreneurs.

To finish, I will tell you about the challenges we face. It is true that we continue to have a stereotypical image of women journalists, since we still have a large part of the patriarchal perspective in our culture. This is changing, sometimes abruptly, others slowly.

In this sense, the stereotyped image of executive positions in journalism is still present, although we currently have between 35 and 40% female executives. The conditions for education and training in the media are also improving, but of course we need more training with a gender perspective. Work is being done on it, together with Arab NGOs and associations for women, the Egyptian Council for Women, and others, for the visualization of women journalists. We also need to show successful examples of women that are motivating.

In closing, I would like to say that we need to change the culture. The socio-cultural perception of many conventional journalists does not perceive the gender bias. We need to integrate more efficient tools, and finally, we need to be more interconnected and international, national and regional media content standards in order to better understand each other.



Burcu Karakaş
Deutsche Welle
correspondent in Türkiye



Good afternoon. Thank you very much for the invitation. I am very happy to be here today celebrating this meeting.

Naturally, I come to expose the situation of women journalists in Turkey, before but, I must show you a perspective of the women's movement in my country.

Right now, the women's movement in Turkey is the most important and best organized political movement in the country. This is very important, as it implies that the government fears the feminist movement. He not only fears us, he also hates us and I will talk about it at length later.

The political discourse in Turkey is affecting the practice. I will break it down when I talk about the Istanbul Agreement.

To start with, when we talk about women's rights laws in Turkey, they are not perfect, but you could say they are not that bad. If we talk about femicides, women's rights.... on paper, it can be said that we have good legislation. I am going to put, for example, abortion, this is legal in Turkey up to ten weeks, if you are single. You go to the hospital and ask to perform an abortion, and it's legal. Now we come to the facts.

In 2012 **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, when he was prime minister, publicly said that he was against abortion. I was calling various hospitals, as a woman who wanted an abortion. I called about seven hospitals, and only one told me that it could do it. The rest told me that abortion in Turkey was illegal, which is not true. I had the same responses with various doctors and nurses, all at those hospitals. And everyone said it was illegal. This is what I was referring to, public statements have an effect in practice.

Another example in Turkey, if you are a victim of gender violence, according to the law, you can go to the police or the courts and request protection. But what is happening since the Istanbul Declaration is in fact the opposite. I took the test myself, covertly went to the police to seek protection, claiming that my husband threatened to kill me. They told me that they no longer had that role, and that I should go to court. But they didn't pick up my request for protection there either. In other words, on paper we have rights, but *de facto*, this is not the case, and this entails very serious problems for women. In his day I wrote several articles about it.

In another statement, as you know, Erdogan said that the woman should have at least three children, and he has continued to say so for years.

The government has a very family-oriented policy, which means they put the woman at the heart of the family, and as an individual, they just turn a blind eye to that woman's rights. Another example: if I am single or divorced, thirty-something in Turkey, the government does not like

this. They want the woman to be living in the family. At the same time, they cannot force us to leave our jobs, because of the consequences it would have on the country's economy.

For these reasons, his political agenda is family-oriented, and he dislikes female empowerment so much that they abolished the Istanbul Convention.

So, when we talk about women's rights in Turkey, we must talk about victories. We have many achievements, but the current government is eliminating them, it is taking away everything we earned, so now, women are fighting to recover the achievements that were taken away from us, women.

When the withdrawal of the Istanbul Convention was discussed, the government gave us Poland as an example, saying that being a European country it applied the same rules as us. Please! Poland is the worst European country in terms of women's rights, even though it is the best country in terms of the women's movement. They gave us this stupid example.

Erdogan says he wants to establish women's universities, citing Japan as an example, which is also not the best country when it comes to women's rights.

The Istanbul Convention was a turning point, but I don't see it as something totally negative, if we talk about the women's movement. The government has declared war on women, and on the LGBTI+ collective as well, but they are failing. They attack, but the women's movement is getting more and more powerful, so it's not working for them. So, it is not the end when we talk about the abolition of the Istanbul Convention, although naturally, it is very important.

Currently, and from what has been said above, the women's movement is being unified, and we are still on the streets to demand a return to

the Istanbul Convention.

We are now going to talk about women journalists. I am a feminist journalist and I have been working as a journalist for eleven years.

When it comes to journalism, the 2013 protests were a turning point for freedom of expression and for journalism. It was a turning point for the mainstream media, because of everything that happened during the Arab Springs.

Those media lost their reputation, or so I think, and the same thing happened in Turkey with the "cleaning up" of the media through multiple dismissals. Naturally, most of those dismissed journalists were women, as happens in many other fields when we talk about dismissals. According to the Coalition of Women Journalists, they were following 75 cases of fired women journalists in that period; 75 that are known, but there must be more.

As I was saying, the government is waging a war against women, and of course, against women journalists as well. We are being intimidated, either with jail or with fines. But I would like to highlight something here, when they ask me about the situation of women journalists in Turkey, I answer that, now, the situation is so bad, that, naturally, we must talk about gender, but press freedom is so threatened in Turkey, that we are together in this fight men and women. I know you understand what I'm trying to say. The government is waging a war against women, and also against freedom of the press, which has lasted for more than ten years.

When we work on the streets, covering protests, it is clear that women journalists are more fragile than our male colleagues, and police forces feel more comfortable cracking down on women, and naturally know who is.

If we talk about the convictions of women or men journalists, the

charges are usually for terrorism. It's not like in the nineties, when we talked about the Kurdish question, now, anyone can be labelled as a terrorist, and it doesn't make any sense. So, when the government says: "this person is a terrorist", the society has no confidence in that sentence.

Finally, I would like to talk about social networks. Of course, they have many dimensions, but I want to talk about the positive part of social networks. In Turkey, as in other countries, the judicial system is a broken system, it just doesn't work. So what we are seeing are women raising their voices through social media.

I give you an example. A young woman, **Şule Çet**, is found dead and it's said to have committed suicide. Her friends did not believe it and started a campaign on the networks denying that Şule Çet had committed suicide. The campaign was so big that the prosecutor had to open the case, and finally, it was discovered that she was murdered by being thrown from the top of a building. This is just one example of many. If women insistently raise their voice, and it reaches public opinion, things can change.

Also, during the Istanbul Convention period, the women's movement used the networks as a powerful tool. It is true that we failed, despite this, I think it was very important to make our voices heard by the rest of the world. So social media can be very effective for the women's movement.

The other side, and now I'm talking about myself, is that the networks can also be a nasty place when they are used to defame or even threaten someone with death. Speaking from my experience, I am covering the migration of people from Syria, and every time I write about Syrian people, in a compassionate way, as human beings, it is crazy how many insults and threats I can receive.

In short, if you are a female journalist in Turkey and you also cover

issues related to people in vulnerable situations, or the Kurdish issue, or press freedom, corruption or migration, you are in the spotlight and now you can confront many problems.

Despite all of the above, I want to be optimistic, and in fact I am, because I have great hope in the women's movement, and I'm not saying it because I'm a feminist. Many people in Turkey think the same, because we are always on the street.

When people react online, the women's movement is always on the streets fighting, because they are fighting for their lives.



Hayam Kamel

Television journalist in exile, Libya



Thank you very much for the invitation. I am happy for being here.

I am presenting a television program here in Barcelona. I don't want to speak at length but I want to explain how the situation in Libya is, because I know you don't know very much about the country and you wish to have some inside information.

In Libya the women have a very special situation since they are totally separated from politics. Libya is a country without a State. We can't speak about liberties and the actual situation of the women is very ambiguous.

Libya's ranking in press freedom is between 164 and 165. A small example, I have been working in a media outlet with 141 reporters, only 3 were women. At the news desk were three broadcasters and more than 10 women at the time I worked there. Regarding the issue of abuses,

there are several kinds of violence against the women and specially to women journalists. There are many abuses, including sexual abuses and sadly in the country it's impossible speak about it since it's seen as a taboo.

Actually, there are 55 editors who had to leave the country for the abuses they suffered. Today Libya is separated between two different militias, the State is gone, and it is a situation of permanent conflict. There are trade unions associations and platforms defending the Libyan journalists, but many of them are banned in the country and operate from Egypt.

Between 2016 and 2017 four journalistic outlets were attacked in Libya, one of them one was the one I worked for. A fire was among the different attacks. The work of women journalists is very difficult in Libya, there are not direct abuses but many slanders and threats against the honor of the women journalists.

I left Libya in 2014, because of a book I published. There were family pressures that I was subjected to because of the book, and although it was not a political book, the fact of being a woman creates social pressures that prevent us from moving towards journalism and writing. With which, I had to give up many things because of continuing to practice this job. Just appearing in the Libyan media, looking like this, without a veil, like a woman showing her face and her hair, this put my family in constant danger as they live in an area controlled by militias. As I said, the fact of appearing in the media with an uncovered face, without a veil and talking about politics as a woman, poses a great danger in the case of returning to my country.

There is a well-known case in Libya, that of the journalist **Sarah AL Msallati**, she had to present the inauguration ceremony of the new Republic in Parliament. But the head of the Libyan National Transitional Council, **Mustafa Abdel Jalil**, ordered her replacement, forced her off the dais and out of the room, simply because she was not wearing a

headscarf. And the curious thing is that Mustafa Abdel Jalil inaugurated the legislature, saying that they believe in individual liberties, but of course, emphasizing that we are Muslims. And all those present applauded his intervention.

There are many examples of assaults and attacks. For example, in May 2014, journalist **Naseeb Miloud Karnafa**, who worked for the local radio station in the city of Sebha, in southern Libya, was murdered. His body was dumped in a cemetery on the outskirts of the city, along with that of his driver, with signs of brutal torture. And to the list must be added the many female editors who have had to leave the country, simply because some political leaders did not agree with what they wrote. Currently, there are mentions in the new Libyan constitution where it talks about protecting the freedom and equality of women and also the freedom of the press. Unfortunately, at present, we are militating individually to promote this type of freedom and demands.



Borka Rudić

General Secretary of the Association of Journalists of Bosnia-Herzegovina



Review of situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

BH journalists Association (BHJA) has developed very strong and consistent policies and programs to support gender equality in the media, as well as support and protection of female journalists, especially in cases of gender-based violence, including: threats, attacks, discrimination, and all other acts against to the professional and personal integrity of female journalists.

In the last three years, BHJA conducted three thematic studies: on the position of female journalists within media houses and the availability of managerial and other positions, then a study on violence against journalists in the online and offline spheres, and a study on the consequences of COVID-19 on female journalists and their ability to perform professional tasks during difficult pandemic circumstan-

ces. Systematically dealing in order to protect female journalists, BHJA established of the Female Journalists Network in BiH, which became a key mechanism for associating, protecting and promoting women's human rights in the Bosnian public and media landscape.

Position of women journalists in media houses

A study on the position of women journalists in Bosnian media outlets showed that 24% of women in management positions in media were represented. This percentage is not so bad considering that women in the media across the world are represented in 30 percent of positions, while this percentage in the European Union is - 38. The survey also found that two-thirds (2/3) of the positions of directors and editors-in-chief in the media belong to men, with only 1/3 women. The least women in director positions are in the TV sector - 15.8%. Most women in the positions of news editing, decision-making and media management are in the radio sector - 44.7 percent, and in online media and news portals - of which there are more than 600 in this country, it is 21.7 percent.

Exploring and analyzing the position of women in the media, BHJA and a team of researchers came across something we call a "vow of silence" in traditional Bosnian societies. It means that the position of women in the media is rarely discussed, that men are not ready to talk about this topic, especially those in directorships and members of management boards and other executive bodies in media houses. Also, the women in media and female journalism students would not to talks about its positions. During the investigation, BHJA invited 70 male editors, directors and board members to answer on our questionnaire. Only 16 (or 22.8 percent) responded and were willing to participate in the survey. At the same time, out of 70 female journalism students - only half (35 people) answered the questionnaire. Finally, we invited 100 women in the media (journalists, editors, freelance journalists, proofreaders, photojournalists) to participate in our survey - 51 of them participated in BHJA's survey.

From all of the above, we can draw three important conclusions: (1) the position of women in Bosnian media is discriminatory in relation to men, (2) media houses do not have developed gender policies or procedures for the advancement of female journalists, and (3) in media houses and Bosnian society are strongly discerning patriarchal patterns of behaviour that include both gender stereotypes and prejudices against women in the media. At the same time, *female journalists themselves are not sufficiently aware of their own abilities and the possibilities of "conquering" and accepting positions of decision-making and power in the media.*

Women journalists do not recognize gender-based violence

During the preparation of another study, a research team of BHJA conducted 28 in-depth interviews with women in the media throughout BiH. The general conclusion after the interviews is: women in the media veil negatively describe and perceive their own position in the media. Of the 28 interviewed, only one female journalist said that she was satisfied with her position, that she could fully consume her women's and professional human rights, and that she was protected as a woman.

The average grade that the respondents gave for the status of female journalists in the media in BiH is 2.5 (scale from 1 -to 5). More than half of respondents (53.1%) rated status of female journalists as "neither good nor poor", 44.9% rated it as poor or very poor, and only 2% rated it as very good. The majority of respondents believe that the number of women in journalism is increasing. However, in regard to the key positions in the media, women believe that these positions are still held by men. Therefore, they often feel discriminated just because they are women. For instance, they have been denied the opportunity to talk to important interlocutors, and the biggest challenge of this job for them is unknown working hours, and they sometimes find it difficult to balance their private life and business.

Some of them claimed that the editors or directors generally understand and support them, however such attitude is the result of good will of

their superiors rather than a status of female journalists which is regulated by internal regulations. The denial of rights to maternity leave and discrimination against mothers are only few of the problems faced by our interlocutors.

The average grade that the respondents rated the awareness of journalists about their rights is 2.8. The largest number of respondents (44.9%) believes that familiarity with that is “neither good nor poor”.

Considerably more of them evaluated this familiarity as poor or very poor (34.7%) than good or very good (20.4%). Although the majority of respondents believe that socioeconomic status of female journalists, as well as familiarity with journalists’ rights are not at an appropriate level, most of them (53.1%), are not members of any journalistic association though. The average grade the respondents rated the level of self-censorship in work is 2.6. The percentage of respondents who believe that self-censorship is partly present in their work amounted to 44.9% and is much higher than the percentage of those who consider that there is no self-censorship in their work (26.5%).

In regard to the defamation and verbal threats, only one of the respondents believes that journalists are not exposed to verbal attacks, and none of them think that journalists are not exposed to certain forms of defamation. Journalists interviewed in in-depth interviews generally agreed about the fact that they have experienced verbal threats or have been victims of defamation. However, most of them do not see a big problem in that, accepting it as part of their job. Concerning the male respondents, their assessment on the presence of political pressure, defamation and verbal threats as a way of violating rights of female journalists, is similar to rates of their female colleagues.

Some interlocutors explained that the situation of journalists in their work depends on the manner in which they present themselves in a given situation and to interlocutors, both men and women. For instance, one female journalist says that the position of female journalist “de-

pends on her character a lot. If she reacts immediately and shows that she does not like it, they withdraw.” Another female journalist describes: “We have a woman who works in marketing. She faces certain indecent proposals and insolent behaviour that comes from clients. But if you see her, it would be clear why.” These attitudes indicate the banalization of inappropriate behaviour towards journalists. In other words, even among female colleagues, there is an opinion that disrespect and insults directed towards female journalists are consequences of their inappropriate clothing style, a way of communication and similar.

Female journalists under COVID-19 pandemic

More than 10 percent of female journalists in BiH have lost their jobs and/or income since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the position of female journalists in BiH, conducted by the BH Journalists Association on a sample of 150 women journalists from across the country.

As many as 62.5 percent of female journalists stated that the scope of their work tasks increased significantly during the pandemic – 33.3% of respondents stated that their work obligations increased to 50 percent, while 5.4 percent of them worked twice as much as before the onset of a pandemic. However, despite the increased scope of professional tasks, only 13 percent of the surveyed journalists were paid extra for their work, while the rest remained to receive same salaries as before.

When asked how their work was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the interviewed female journalists emphasized increased anxiety and stress and a change in the topics they had been reporting on until then. 29.6 percent of respondents complained about poorly organized press conferences of crisis headquarters and competent institutions. Difficulties in finding independent sources of information (18.3%) were also a big problem in their work. More than 77% of women journalists stated that their mental stability and mental health were impaired during the crisis situation caused by the pandemic, and 25% of them

stated that their physical health was impaired. The predominant emotions were: fear of infection (42.1%), nervousness (50.7%), occupational stress (56.4%), burnout at work (23.6%) and fear for their family (48.6%).

About 18.2 percent of female journalists requested protective equipment (masks, gloves, disinfectants ...) from professional organizations/associations. Around 4.2 percent of them sought protection due to attacks or threats they received, and 1.4 percent sought access to free legal aid. These are some of the answers of the interviewed journalists to the questions what was the most difficult problem for them since the beginning of the crisis situation due to COVID-19, and why they think that female journalists, and women in general in the media, are more affected by the pandemic than their male colleagues:

“I never knew when I should go to work, when the Crisis Staff would invite me to the press conference, everything happened in five minutes, the phone was constantly ringing. Only stress and more stress.”

“The most difficult thing is that the media owners used the pandemic as an excuse for layoffs because there was no real need to dismiss media workers.”

“It is difficult for a woman to organize work from home. Her private and business obligations are intertwined, so most of them probably found themselves in the position that the weekday lasts from morning until late at night.”

In general, even before the pandemic, women were always exposed to greater public pressure, more frequent attacks and restrictions and obstruction of their work, according to one of the interviewed journalists: *“It simply came to our notice even more with the pandemic. Unfortunately, I have witnessed many situations, like most of us, that they have been exposed to many pressures, gender-based insults, name-calling, and even violence.”*

The largest number of surveyed journalists feels that direct financial support would be most useful to them in the coming period, but also psychological support, help and education, medical assistance and strengthening of physical health and free legal aid.

Notes

<https://bhnovinari.ba/en/2018/07/30/women-and-the-media-employees-and-management-structures/>

<https://bhnovinari.ba/en/2019/02/01/status-of-female-journalists-in-bih-2/>

<https://bhnovinari.ba/en/2020/06/22/covid-19-impact-survey-more-than-10-of-female-journalists-in-bih-lost-their-income-over-77-state-that-their-mental-stability-has-been-disturbed/>

<https://bhnovinari.ba/en/category/femalejournalistnetwork/>



Zuliana Lainez

Vice President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)



The impact of the feminization of the journalistic profession in Latin America and the Caribbean on the working conditions of the sector is terrifying. The equation does not fail: activity that becomes feminized, activity that becomes precarious.

An unquestionable feminization in university classrooms and newsrooms, which hits a “concrete ceiling” when it comes to making numbers in management positions in the media. In Argentina, an investigation published in 2018 by Communication for Equality indicates that in decision-making places and in hierarchical positions: 78% of the media is directed by men. The same average flows in almost all the territories of the region. A reality faced -at least since 2021 in the south of the continent- thanks to a pioneering Argentine law that promotes equality in management positions and trans quota. In the state media: obligation; in private: promotion.

Why don't women reach leadership positions? Answers can be tried for all tastes: the prevailing macho culture in our societies and newsrooms, the weak and elusive family reconciliation or even the hackneyed ruse of “women don't want to”. Seldom do we consider in the analysis the impact that bullying, and harassment has on professional progress. The woman -woman journalist- who suffers bullying and harassment leaves the workplace when she collides with the absence of protocols in the journalistic companies to denounce, for the development of the investigation and the sanction. It is the victim who ends up revictimized. Retirement from the media becomes for the journalist a sort of almost eternal start over. This prevents him from pursuing a career path in the company and reaching hierarchical positions. Deepening and documenting the line of study of this impact remains a pending task.

For one reason or another, according to the latest 2020 report from the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), it takes 67 years to close the average gender equality gap in the media. A time horizon that will cover more than four generations.

The pandemic -now that we are almost speaking from the post-pandemic- deepened the gender gaps. A survey carried out by the International Federation of Journalists, to more than 500 women journalists, in 52 countries, in June 2020, revealed that more than half recognized an increase in gender inequalities in companies with devastating consequences in their reconciliation of work and private life (62%), job responsibilities (46%) and wages (27%).

Seven out of ten women claimed to have suffered one of these attacks: insults, contempt for work, sexist comments, death or rape threats, or sending obscene images. More than half of those surveyed said their health had been affected, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of them saw their stress level increase, and half of them said multitasking was the main cause. Respondents listed various reasons as causes of stress, including working in isolation, bullying from bosses, caring for family and home schooling, domestic tensions, increased workload and usual tight

deadlines, long working hours, the psychological impact of COVID coverage, fear of job loss.

Cyberbullying, which was at the head of the upward curve as the main form of attack against fellow journalists in the pre-pandemic era, was legitimized as an obviously effective weapon in virtual times. The objective in focus: to get women out of public spaces because public spaces are not assumed to belong to women. Online and offline violence against women journalists demands a strategy in which the State, journalistic companies and journalists articulate to make the online space a safe place for women. In this task, there is a need to demand the responsibility of the large technological platforms, which cannot remain inert when they become benevolent territory for hate speech, discrimination and incitement to violence.

Among the pending challenges, one of the most urgent, co-responsibility emerges in each of our countries. The double or triple shift of women journalists is an outstanding debt; work around internal and external demands - not only are women journalists required to be over-qualified for the positions we apply for, but we ourselves are the ones who have zero compassion in the face of the possibility of failure or not being up to height, at home, at work, in the union. That emotional exhaustion of permanent self-demand is emotionally exhausting.

Particular monitoring is required on singular violence against women journalists who are attacked for being journalists, but also for being women. We are aware when a female journalist is targeted, her closest circle is targeted too.

The approach with a gender focus (with successes and development in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia) must be preponderant; not only mature feminist journalism, but also the need for non-sexist coverage in the general press.

Issues such as the wage gap, encouraging situations of harassment and

violence in the world of work to be considered in light of the laws on health and safety at work, coordinated efforts for the ratification and implementation of Convention 190 of the International Organization of Labour (ILO) in our countries -as an effective instrument to make the world of work free of violence-, support networks among women journalists, sisterhood and intersectionality are part of the daily notebook of reflection, discussion and action in a region that challenges and exhausts.



Presentations

COMMUNICATING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH A FEMINIST GAZE

Good practices of non-sexist communication



From left to right: Beatriz Villarejo, Patricia Mayorga, Tona Gusi, Zoubaida El Fathi and Cristina P. Fraga.

SPEAKERS

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Journalist for Radio and TV SNRT, Morocco

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Moderator: **Beatriz Villarejo**

Editor of the DF - Diario Feminista

Beatriz Villarejo

Editor of the DF - Diario
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The new information and communication technologies (ICT) have changed the world and have fostered contact between us. Currently, there are many networks and groups of journalists and communicators. How we work? How can we be more effective? Do we want to build our own feminist agenda? What proposals would we like to build?

These are some of the questions we ask ourselves after finding out where we come from, what our reality is, and sensing the horizon we want to reach.

At this last table, different journalists will accompany us with their proposals and good practices to achieve media that is more in line with our needs and with more real content, where the contributions of women are not made invisible.

Here are a few proposals. They are not all that exist, obviously, since there are more successful experiences.



Zoubaida El Fathi

Journalist for Radio and TV
SNRT, Morocco



First of all, thank you for the invitation because I feel at home. And I feel that way because I have built that bridge. And these types of events are organized precisely to build bridges, since it is very important that we are known. In Morocco, most of us know Spain very well. Although there are others who don't know it, and they are the ones who emigrate here, the ones who come across an unknown Spain, which they don't see in the media.

First of all, I want to tell you that I speak Spanish because I studied at a Spanish school in Tetouan, and also at the University of Seville. Thanks to taxpayer money we have been able to study Spanish culture in Morocco, and we have studied in this language, thanks to the Spanish educational system abroad.

I have been presenting a newscast for more than 30 years in Spanish, on the first Moroccan television channel, the equivalent of the first Spanish channel, so that you have an idea. Many people ask me and how is that?

Well, through this newscast, which lasts about 15 minutes a day, in which all the information we offer is in Spanish, it is aimed at the Hispanists in the country, but also at the second generation that lives in Spain and has emigrated with his parents. Many of them no longer speak Arabic because they were born in Spain or Catalonia. That is why we contact them through the news, to be able to inform them. And of course, once we are in the studio, since we are a totally female team, we are 5 women, apart from the camera team that are more men, although there are also women in the technical part, we have managed to give it a little more visibility. Moroccan women through this newscast. As? Well, changing that image that has always been conveyed to the oppressed Moroccan woman, a veiled Moroccan woman because that image sells more.

I follow the Spanish television news a lot and that image sells more because a news program opens with charged Moroccan women, for example in Ceuta. But it seems that other women who also exist in the country are not interested. And I am going to give you a last-minute example that surely has not yet reached Spain. I am referring to the election of three mayors of the most important cities in Morocco. After the parliamentary elections, on September 8, 2021, we have a mayor, **Fatima Zahra al-Mansouri**, in Marrakech, which is the city best known for being a very touristic city. **Asmae Ghlalu**, in Rabat, the capital. And also, to **Nabila Mounib** in Casablanca, the economic capital of the country. Obviously, none of these women has opened any newscast outside of our country, because it has not provided important information.

When we talk about the southern shore of the Mediterranean, I think we also have to give the opportunity to women who have achieved a lot, who have changed a lot and who have suffered a lot to change the situation of women on the south shore. We also have six ministers, it is not enough for other countries, perhaps, but obviously it is something important for us. But, speaking of changing and giving visibility to women on Moroccan television, our intention is to achieve that equality. In the newsroom, I think that it is more than achieved because we are more women than men in the newsroom of the first Moroccan channel. We have had, until

two years ago, a news director, and we try to do everything possible to give women more space and change those images, we are even doing it in advertising. Currently, we are avoiding those commercials that were seen until now, where the husband comes home and the wife is already preparing food for him, because that is no longer reality.

Most Moroccan women work, so when they get home they both come home and the one who sometimes has to prepare the food is the husband, or he has to go look for the children. And when we show that image in the media, in this case official media, it is a common thread for those women who are at home and when they see it they realize the change and try to follow it.

I know that I have little time, and I want to say so many things, but it is so difficult to talk about Morocco today since it is a country that has changed, and to explain in 10 minutes so many things that have changed and that we women have achieved is impossible. Therefore, I am going to try to summarize why these women who have managed to break that glass ceiling, are perhaps the salvation of others; that we take care of pulling the others and that they can find a place for themselves and not feel dragged down by traditions, by religion, by Islam... and I am not going to go into explaining things related to Islam, but it is true that we we pull those women. Because? We do not want to paint life rosy on the south shore either, since it is not like that. We have not yet achieved much, but we want to make that little that we have achieved known on the north shore, and also to talk about it so that when the information already circulating on social networks (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) arrives, those young people that today we see that they are killing each other in the Mediterranean, know what is happening in their own country. Because many times they don't even see it, and those women and men who are changing life in Morocco have not been given the opportunity to tell about it.

Also through the last elections, we have been very demanding and we have asked the political parties that every time they have to campaign,

they must necessarily be represented by a woman, at least once a week. There are some political parties that have not been able to comply with this rule because they do not have women to represent them, but it is already a slap on the wrist for them because in the next elections, they must necessarily have women to represent them.

I am going to give you a small example, a boy on a street in Tangier lifted up a girl's skirt while she was walking with her boyfriend or partner. This case, if it had not been for the social networks and the media in Morocco, we would not have found out, but there was such a stir that the boy was arrested in less than 3 hours. This in Morocco, 10 years ago, would never have happened because a woman's skirt is lifted thousands of times, and she is harassed millions of times. But this case, being so publicized, has been a great example and I think that, from today, any young man will think about it before lifting a girl's skirt on the street. It is simply an anecdote so that you can see the power of communication, the power of these social networks and the power they have to make us aware of some things that are happening in Moroccan society and that should be resolved as soon as possible.

And due to lack of time, I would like to tell you and tell you many anecdotes, not only in Moroccan society but also in the newsroom where I work daily. But I invite you to watch our news through the website (<http://www.snrt.ma>). There is an application that they can have on their mobiles to follow the news in Spanish, which is usually broadcast at 2:00 p.m. in Morocco, so that they know the other reality of the country that is unknown because it does not sell as well and does not open newscasts.



Lola Fernández Palenzuela

Communication Director of the Euro-Arab Foundation (FUNDEA)



As communication director, I want to talk about the role of communication and press offices or offices that are part of the information chain that reaches the public and that must adhere to what are the ethical and responsible practices of good journalism when transferring that information, understanding feminist journalism as good journalism. The cabinets must make this transfer of responsible and quality information. On the other hand, we must take into account when we talk about offices or communication offices, the importance they have at a time like the present, with extremely high labour and professional precariousness for women and men who practice journalism and when the percentage of information that is published, or broadcast on radio and TV, is more than 60%.

One more piece of information to take into account when we talk about the comrades who are in the communication offices and press offices, is

the high number of women there and who outnumber our male comrades. Within the good practices of non-sexist communication for journalists and communicators from press offices and offices, we must take into account two very important elements: that the media demand information from us, and that we are the offices that can propose topics, since they ask us who they can talk to about a certain topic.

These two points are really important for the practice of feminist journalism, which became clear in 2018 by the group of feminist journalists who took to the streets in towns and cities, and internationally. In Spain, the movement “Las Periodistas Paramos” presented a table of requirements that we also share internationally, demanding 7 points. For the specific case on which we are focusing today, I would like to point out two important points: opinion spaces and gatherings are highly masculinized, even though there are expert female journalists who can participate in those spaces.

And on the other hand, in the protest table there was talk of the partial look and the concern for the approaches that are given from the media. The vision of reality transmitted by the media is, on many occasions, partial and biased because it does not take into account, to the same extent, the experiences, ties and experiences of women who are often treated as secondary characters or with stereotypes.

As has already been commented here, every 5 years we have global monitoring of the media and every 5 years they continue to give us the same evidence that it is being done wrong.

Forty-one years ago, the MacBride Report, also known as “Multiple Voices, One World”, published by UNESCO in 1980, already stated that of all human rights violations, the most systematic and deep-rooted is the denial of equality Women’s. The Report also said that the communications industry reflected that inequality. Women are seldom given the opportunity to become political or business journalists, and few of them become senior directors or administrators. That was 41 years

ago. Then came the Beijing Conference, which is now 26 years old, and where there was a sphere on women and the media. The strategic objectives were to increase the degree of participation and access of women to decision-making spaces, and also to promote a balanced image of women without stereotypes. Well, it's been 26 years since Beijing and 41 years since the MacBride Report, and while we've made progress, of course, we still have plenty pending business.

In response to the questions that we are asked at this table about how we work, I believe that at this time, following the mobilizations of 2018, at the international level, and even before, for example, we have the International Network of Journalists with a Gender Perspective (RIPVG), where communicators and journalists learn from each other, and we also tell each other and denounce the cases that occur in our respective spaces; but with regard to the Mediterranean, I believe that important action is needed on the part of all of us that will allow us to unify the south and the north, the east and the west of this Mare Nostrum. We need to get to know each other, and from there we will make a proposal to build ties from one shore to the other.

The other point that we were asked was about the feminist agenda itself. Well, from my point of view, I think it is important and necessary to develop it and, in fact, the feminist media that are coming out, more and more, are contributing in a very important way to make this biased vision different so that we have spaces where count and where to make visible the action of women. But it is also necessary, and we have to work so that the voices of women are heard in all forums and at all levels, because we have the right, because women are there and we are part of society. We must be clear that our struggle runs along all roads and that we must occupy all spaces. Those spaces that we are denied. We must demand that the invisibilities of women in the media and the use of sexist and non-inclusive communicative language be ended.

We were also asked how we can be more effective. Well, doing good journalism, doing good communication. Given the lack of credibility

of journalism, today, it is necessary that we generate information of interest to the public. A journalism that is not patriarchal, not sexist, not racist, not xenophobic or transphobic. A committed, responsible, rigorous and quality journalism. With egalitarian models that make it possible to make women visible, offer disaggregated data and make equality a transversal and priority issue in which training and specialization are encouraged, a non-sexist use of images and language, and the obligation of a rigorous compliance with journalistic deontology. In other words, it is necessary to carry out a feminist journalism that fulfills the mandate of the fundamental right of citizens to the right to receive plural, rigorous, contrasted and quality information. And the proposal that you told us about, and that we would like to build, is a space where women experts from the Mediterranean are known so that they can be consulted as top-level information sources.

Information technologies and more, after this pandemic that we have suffered and that we are still suffering, have made us much more skilled in online use. This, without a doubt, will be a great tool that will allow, among other things, to generate that inclusive information coverage that we demand, and where the invisibility and underestimation that women are subjected to as information sources is eliminated. A space where women and women's organizations are registered that, on any issue that may be demanded by the media, can be top-level sources of information. Let it be spoken, let it be the women who speak in those spaces, in all the spaces of the Mediterranean, that nobody speaks for us.

Feminist journalism today is no longer an option, it is a reality that we are building together. Look, there are many of us here and those from here and there, those who live in the south or in the north, all of us, together with our coincidences, but also with our discrepancies, we have to create that common space in this Mediterranean, and I'm sure we're going to get it. We have to work for a better future, but above all, to eliminate from our present all the violence and invisibilities that are perpetrated against women in general, and in the case of our meeting,

with the women journalists and communicators of the Mediterranean. Defending and working for feminist journalism is defending and working for human rights, for women's rights. As has been claimed in the protests and public marches of women journalists and communicators, where the slogan is: "journalism will be feminist or it will not be".



Tona Gusi

Director of La Independent



In my speech what I want to highlight, from the outset, is the need to consolidate once and for all the Mediterranean Network of Information and Communication with a Gender Perspective. A network that we have been trying since the meeting in 1992 in Syracuse (Italy); going through the College of Journalists, in Barcelona in 1995; going through the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in 2007, in Marrakech; and finally, that of 2016, again at the IEMed.

Therefore, first of all our thanks to the European Network for their commitment to achieve this meeting, which is not easy. But if it is not easy to get funds for a meeting like this, imagine how difficult it is to get funds for a minimally stable network of journalists and communicators from the Mediterranean.

For us it is essential, and we also show it in our own communication agency where, at the moment, I think we have some 8.800 in-depth articles, and 10% are from the Mediterranean. In other words, when you make entries from the Mediterranean or from southern Mediterranean countries, we get this 10% of news of all kinds. I think there are about 600 from the Med-

iterranean, and later, from 60 to 100 for each country.

It has been proven that when there is a meeting like this, when we go to a world social forum, where we also meet journalists from different places; When we go to a women's event in any of these countries, the number of news stories skyrockets, not only in our media but also in others where we have contact, be they feminist news agencies and sometimes, in generalist media. For this reason, I defend this need so much and I criticize the institutions for having this political myopia or this resistance to giving aid to consolidate a network of Mediterranean women journalists, or at least with a gender vision. I don't want to exclude men, but at least with a gender perspective.

On the screen you can see the page of La Independent (<https://laindependent.cat/>) which is basically aimed at journalists, but there is also access for the general public.

Since 2010 we have more than 25 million visits. One of the most viewed articles has 120.000 visits, an article that is from a colleague from the International Network. There is another article by a colleague who is here, **Drina Ergueta**, which is a chronicle about **Marcela Lagarde**. And from the Mediterranean, **Julia López**, who is also present, has a job on a forum for women entrepreneurs in Cairo. And **Teresa Carreras**, who I also see in the room, has an interview with a Youtuber from Tunisia about the Arab Spring. So that you can see the usefulness of these networks, where we can communicate and then we can translate it into our agencies and our alternative media.

And to close, just say that this empowers us and allows us to dispense a bit with journalistic information agendas, assuming the international feminist agenda and even creating our own journalistic agenda for our medium.

So, I encourage all of you so that we can work towards the consolidation of a Mediterranean Information and Communication Network with a Gender Perspective.

Cristina P. Fraga

Director of AmecoPress



Due to lack of time, I am going to be very brief, I think the AmecoPress Agency is recognized and known throughout the State since we have existed since 2006, and we are an agency that we set up in a very traditional way. An agency that tries to cover information that seemed to us not covered by the general media: women's activities, etc. And we have kept that line a bit. We are not a portal or agency that provides specific information, no. We are an agency, we cover everything that arrives, we select it of course, we try to have a wide range covering the entire State and we have an agreement with those agencies that already exist in Latin America and Europe and with them we exchange what we publish.

We started in 2006, the truth is that we started very strong because since we arrived from Beijing, I remember that we saw that SEMlac was handling the communication of the Beijing conference and the NGO forum and we thought how we could do it. But it was impossible since starting it up had a tremendous cost. Seeing that there was a possibility in a call that the European Social Fund had made for digital citizenship, we pre-

pared a project and the financing was quite important, with which we were able to start it up, with a lot of work and for 3 years.

The truth is that we did not believe that we could last more than 3 or 4 years, and we have already spent 16 years. At the beginning, we were daily information, now we publish two information packages a week, we are fewer people and we rely, above all, on agreements that we have in the three universities of Madrid: the Complutense, the Rey Juan Carlos and the Carlos III, where we supply people for internships, paid and normally, there are usually four or six students per term, with which we have sixteen people a year, plus two permanent people who are the ones who run the agency.

In 2014, thanks to another grant, we presented a proposal to create a training school in gender and inclusive communication, and with a large amount of money we were able to start it up. At the school we also have an agreement with the universities. And they not only do the internships for AmecoPress, but, from the beginning, there are workshops on language, on gender perspective as a quality criterion and they end up being two projects that are closely linked.

At present, we continue here, we are increasingly accessible to all kinds of sources of women, with which we are improving in our elaboration, and we continue.

The Gender and Inclusive Communication Training School is a project launched and promoted by AMECO in 2014, with the aim of training the new generations of students in the different disciplines of Communication, from a gender perspective.

In communication, applying a gender approach or perspective consists of considering and pointing out how the facts and events we report on affect women and men differently. In addition, making the specific reality of women visible implies highlighting their contributions as news sources and, therefore, taking their point of view into account. Applying

the gender perspective is undoubtedly a quality criterion.

Fundamentally, it is implemented through specialized workshops in communication with a gender perspective, with different contents addressed in a theoretical-practical way by various professionals from the academic, journalistic and social political world.

These workshops are free and open. They cover a wide range of tools and themes: the dawn of feminism and its deepening of its main postulates; different recurring aspects in the development of journalistic work until the inclusion of social networks.

In addition, since 2004, AMECO has had collaboration agreements with 3 public universities in Madrid, which teach Information Science studies, and from which it draws to select students for paid internships.

These practices at AmecoPress are an extraordinary way of applying the conceptual tools received through the school. The students have the opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice to prepare the information taking into account the entire population; address gender violence, understood in all its complexity; apply non-sexist and inclusive language in their information; and give a universal value to the information.



Jenny Rönngren
Editor of Feministiskt
Perspektiv, Sweden



Many thanks to all the panelists for sharing your important work and experiences and thanks to the European journalist network for making this possible.

I'm Jenny Rönngren, a journalist in Sweden, and the editor of a digital news publication with a feminist perspective. I think we will need these initiatives until gender equality is a reality.

I am also a member of the International Network of Journalists with a Gender Vision (RIPVG). We are several members of this network here, sharing the objective to build bridges to strengthen our work as feminists and journalists. One of the objectives of the network from the beginning has been to support and encourage the growth of networks of women journalists in countries where they do not yet exist.

And one of the challenges to expand a network with no funding is the lack of access to interpretation. At the same time, we all do share a tool

globally to achieve gender equality in and through the media and that is Chapter J of the Beijing Platform of Action for the convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

For the 25th anniversary of this platform UN Women started the Generation Equality process. Unfortunately, it does not mention the crucial role of the media, which is also the case with the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030. This has been a big concern for our network.

So, to bring attention to this, in a collaboration with Feminist Perspective and support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the network is planning a campaign to raise awareness of Chapter J and its crucial importance for development of democracy worldwide but also the urgent need for governments to implement it. We plan to launch this campaign in connection with the Commission on the Status of Women's Rights at NGO Forum in March.

Our intention is also to make information from the RIPVG journalists network available in English and other languages. The website already has automated translation and we are also on the way to publish a Decalogue in Spanish and English with recommendations to promote gender equality and women's rights in communication and journalism. It was prepared by the research commission of the network and translated by our colleague in Uruguay, **Ana Valdés**. So please check out our website and feel welcome to join our network and the campaign.

In women's rights spaces, freedom of expression is seldom in focus, and vice versa in spaces that discuss freedom of expression, the feminist perspective is mostly lacking. That is why the persistence and insistence of this network on the subject is so unique and it would be good to make it known to more journalists, media platforms and people in power.

Although with different contexts, inequality in the media is global, and the struggle to democratize and pluralize them must also be global.

Patricia Mayorga Marcos

President of the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers (AMMPE)



Dear friends, the organization that I represent was created in 1969, in Mexico City, hence the initials in Spanish still remain. In the first instance, colleagues from 37 countries around the world were part of it, and although some of these associations have been left behind during this half century, others have been added, and the acronym in Spanish AMMPE remains.

At this moment we cover a large part of the Latin American countries, we could say from Río Grande to Cape Horn. And we are opening chapters in the United States and Canada, in Kenya, and we intend to expand in Africa, and in the Middle and Far East, where we have one foot, since one of the historical organizations is in Taiwan.

Our next congress, number 24, should have been held on November 25 in Rome, as a tribute to all the women who have suffered harassment and violence throughout history. The generic title of our congress

was “The challenges of journalism in today’s world with a view to the future”, since, we affirmed, the globalized society and its consequent scenario, although with specific nuances in each region, requires us to provide global responses. When we were writing these words, we would never have imagined the certainty of the arrival of this global threat that would not only affect us without distinction but would radically modify our lives to a great extent.

For us communicators around the world, the terrain has become even more rugged, and there is still a long way to go.

I would like to quickly tell you about the interesting research of an Italian feminist and writer, **Michela Murgia**, who in her latest book “Stai zitta” (“Keep quiet”) made a study on the two main Italian newspapers: “Il Corriere della Sera” and “La Repubblica” and discovered that women never or almost never sign on the front page, and if that is the case, it is about society or miscellaneous issues. They never sign editorials, nor economic or political analysis. Therefore, women do not explain reality. At most, they can interview men: they are capable of explaining it.

3 days ago, we held an international online AMMPE meeting with an Argentinian, an American, a Chilean and a Turkish colleague. I stop at the detail of the nationalities since they had to respond to whether there is parity at the level of the media. The answer was unequivocal, no, it does not exist.

Regarding the language that has been spoken before, in Italy, the word “troia” (the female of the pig) is used, a vulgar and denigrating term to designate a prostitute, but also as a derogatory connotation to indicate behaviour, and in the Social networks have proliferated, and although social networks have many positive things, they also have a lot of negatives because they have contributed a lot to the harassment of women.

I’m finishing my speech now because I don’t have any more time left,

so now I really want to congratulate the organizers for this wonderful initiative in difficult times due to the pandemic, and at a period in which these words hurt me: The only certainty is uncertainty regarding the future. But we are here, and this initiative demonstrates, as the poet **Antonio Machado** wrote, that “the path is made by walking.” I invite you all to participate in our next congress, because we also have a great dream challenge and I ask you all to help us, since we want to create a great international women’s agency to talk about women’s news, but not only of women as victims, but that all these small realities, as **Zoubaida El Fathi** recounted, which do not appear in the general press, but which are so necessary, can be told.



Rosa María Rodríguez Quintanilla

Coordinator of the International Network of Journalists with a Gender Vision (RIPVG)



I congratulate and thank the European Network of Women Journalists, the organizations that have made this meeting possible, for allowing us to share this space with you.

Of course, I greet all the colleagues present, with whom I join, in addition to affection, many years of walking together within the International Network of Journalists with a Gender Vision (RIPVG), of which I have been a part since its foundation, and currently, in collegiate coordination.

Today I have to share with you about the operation of the Alerts Commission of this International Network. It is a commission that was born 11 years ago; Its main task has been to record and make visible the different types of violence against journalists with a gender component, due to their status as women, and for practicing journalism and their human right to express themselves.

When the RIPVG was founded in 2005, it arose with the central objective of promoting the exercise of feminist journalism, free of discrimination and sexism, to contribute from the media to a cultural change to modify the condition of inequality that affects women.

However, 4 years after this Network was founded, when we arrived in 2009 at our III Meeting, based in Bogota, I remember that, at the tables where we were going to deliberate on the work plan for the following years, we found that, the clamor or the main concern of the journalists present, was the violence that we were facing in our respective countries. Particularly Mexican journalists. That's when reality exploded: they are threatening us with death, kidnapping, killing, and threatening our families.

This is how this commission was born, in response to a demand from those of us who, at that time, felt that the violence against journalists was not being made visible, was not being documented and reported from a gender and women's human rights perspective. There was not even sex-disaggregated data on violence against the press, even statistics and communications were still managed with generic masculine.

We came to detect that there were media outlets that, when they published the news about the murder of a journalist, referred to her as the wife of... The entire context of her journalistic work was made invisible and many fewer referred to the probable link between the femicide and her professional exercise.

The journalists, who were increasingly joining the newsrooms; the narrators of the injustices, of the corruption, of the multiple violence against women in the world, became the focus of the attacks.

Since then, the operation of the Alerts Commission has been based on the voluntary work of the journalists that make up this Network, with the support of CIMAC, a pioneering organization that, with a unique model, had already been documenting and providing accompaniment

with a gender perspective to the journalists who were being attacked in Mexico.

As an International Network we have accompanied, with different types of actions, more than 150 cases of violence against women journalists. Through different strategies we have demanded security, protection, access to justice, reparation for damage, conditions for the safe return of displaced journalists and those in exile, refuge and asylum for journalists who require it, zero tolerance for police abuse and repression against journalists who cover social protests or feminist demonstrations, or the end of the information blockades that increased during the pandemic.

In the last two decades, more than 120 women journalists have been murdered, and it is estimated that there are more than 60 imprisoned or suffering reprisals just for carrying out their informative work. Furthermore, at least 7 in 10 women journalists have experienced violence online.

Faced with the growing attacks on freedom of expression, impunity prevails at unacceptable levels, ranging from 80 to 98%, as is the case in Mexico.

We are convinced that networks of journalists save lives and that denouncing and supporting collectives and solidarity networks like this one always increases the political cost of the authorities and that the activation of alerts contributes to preventing threats from materializing.

That is why it seems important to me to value the organizational work of the collectives and networks of journalists, who have decided to unite to resist, to accompany us, to protect ourselves, to demand justice and above all, to remind society and those who are in power and take decisions that violence against journalists has highly negative effects on freedom of expression, access to information and democracy.

Teresa Velázquez

President of the Mediterranean Communication Observatory (OMEC)



Thank you very much for the invitation to be able to transfer the work we do from the organization that I represent.

The Observatory is a non-profit association, created in October 2004 and is part of the Laboratory for Prospective and Research in Communication, Culture and Cooperation (LAPREC), a consolidated research group of the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Department of Journalism and Science of Communication of the UAB.

It is an interdisciplinary network of people and institutions from both shores of the Mediterranean who work in the information, communication and ICT sector in the region, as a reference framework for actions aimed at promoting dialogue, human development and exercise from the human rights.

The Observatory has a virtual portal that offers information and resources on the different agents of the Mediterranean communication ecosystem, links, information, documents and tools on communication in the Mediterranean; communication for development and international cooperation; communication for human rights and democratic governance; and gender and communication in the Mediterranean.

It is a network where we have agreements of intent signed with the associations and organizations that you can see on our website (<http://www.omec.es>) and which are both civil society organizations and institutions, universities, etc.

Among the different activities that we have carried out on the promotion of communication for development in the Mediterranean, we carried out a project with the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD) and with the organization Consorcio Panos of Paris, where we reinforced the mission of the public audio-visual service in the countries of the Mediterranean region. This work was published and presented in Jordan. And it was very important since the media from eight countries of the Mediterranean region participated.

One aspect that we promote is training and awareness through international seminars on communication, development and human rights, and several have already been held. We also carry out “The week of cooperation and conflicts in the Mediterranean”, and we participate in the Mediterranean Forum of the Anna Lindh Foundation, since we are part of the Spanish network of this foundation.

We also organize communication, cooperation and development workshops, obviously on the subject of gender and human rights, and where we carry out different activities such as a photographic contest and an exhibition.

The OMEC conducts investigations that end up in reports that have more to do with action, not so much with basic-theoretical research,

Good practices of non-sexist communication

since that is carried out by LAPREC.

In addition to the workshops on refugees, the photographic contest or the international seminars, we hold the Aula Mediterrània at the IEMed, which is an inter-university program that aims to promote studies on the Mediterranean from as broad and interdisciplinary a perspective as possible.

We are currently carrying out a European project, *SHABABUNA, our youth; informed and well prepared to choose their future!* funded by the European Union and coordinated by the Department of Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Generalitat of Catalonia, and in which we are partners together with other organizations.

Every year we have some projects linked to teaching within our university in certain subjects such as cooperation and development, where the gender issue is always transversal. This year we have the project *Communication, migrations and social change: Europe-Maghreb and Africa dialogue*, a project carried out in the south of the Sahara to strengthen research and teaching innovation against misinformation. It is an inter-university cooperation project together with the universities of Mali and Tunisia.

And finally, we would be delighted to receive all the exhibitions and papers that have been presented in these two days in order to support and collaborate in their dissemination.



Closure



From left to right: Maria-Àngels Roque, Tània Verge, Joan Maria Morros and Alicia Oliver Rojo.

PRESENTS

Alicia Oliver Rojo

Coordinator of the European Network of Women Journalists

Maria-Àngels Roque

Director of the Culture, Gender and Civil Society area of the IEMed

Joan Maria Morros

Dean of the College of Journalists of Catalonia

Tània Verge

Counsellor of Equality and Feminisms of the Generalitat of Catalonia

Alícia Oliver Rojo

Coordinator of the
European Network of
Women Journalists



Honorable Counsellor, Dean, Maria-Àngels, good afternoon to all.

First of all, I would like to greet our Latin American colleagues who have followed this meeting when it is 5 or 6 in the morning in their countries, so a warm greeting to all of them.

We are already at the end of these journeys. Yesterday I said that today would be, precisely, an exciting day because we worked, debated and reflected on the professional situation of women journalists. And really, it has been exciting listening to you and stressful, too, because of the rush. Therefore, I apologize to the previous table for the lack of time. In any case, it has been quite a challenge to have eight comrades with their interesting experiences, and all this, explained in an hour and a half. It has been a challenge that you have achieved, I know that each one of you could have spent much more time, but, in any case, it was about giving brushstrokes about those good practices that exist, that articulated we

can achieve more, together we cover more and we arrive further away. They have been brushstrokes of each of the proposals that you have, but now it would be about creating ties and, from here, being able to face all these challenges that we have pending much better.

I have loved listening to the experiences of the colleagues who come from abroad, from the other shore of the Mediterranean, which is also where we want to locate ourselves. It is clear that we need more discussions. These bridges of dialogue and communication that we were talking about yesterday, I think, are necessary and it has been a very good proposal.

As good journalists you have contextualized the information. For example, **Burcu Karakaş** has told us about the situation in Turkey. He has also spoken to us about the Istanbul Convention, and about the lack of freedom that affects the media. Our colleague from Libya, **Hayam Kamel**, has explained to us the situation of women journalists in her country. A country where information does not reach us, since the media do not look that way. **Sahar Talaat** has made us a speaker at two tables. She is also a translator and has brought us closer to the vision of women journalists in Egypt. And I would like to thank all of you for your effort in trying to explain your realities in ten minutes. But, the important thing, I also think, has been to meet in person since we had not been able to see each other for a year and a half. And this is a turning point, from here we will continue to create and grow.

At the inauguration I spoke to you about the first Conference on the Mediterranean that we organized as a Network, at the College of Journalists, in 1995. What we have heard today is still the same as what I heard 26 years ago: the lack of representation of women in decision-making places. Invisibility in the media, and I give as an example the few women who are opinion-makers. The little role given to the opinion of women in the media. I have listened to what was practically said in 1995. With which, yes, it is true that we are advancing, but we are advancing so slowly that when **Zuliana Lainez** spoke of the gender gap and the 67

years it will take to close it, it really is true. The only thing that was not talked about then, in 1995, was the cyberbullying of women journalists. Obviously, because we weren't working online yet. There was no Internet, nor mobile phones, it seems incredible that we could work without current technology. This technology that is going to allow us to be linked, now, with many experiences and with all the networks that exist, which are many.

I do not want to extend more; you have done wonderfully. Thank you very much for the effort of synthesis in your exhibitions and, of course, for your participation here.

I would also like to thank **Mohamed Ahsissene**, **Ismail Zeryouh** and **Youssef Zeryouh** who have helped us these two days, facilitating the microphones and access to the room; Thank you very much for your collaboration. And the work of **Drina Ergueta**, who has collected a series of points from a declaration that we want to finish this afternoon, when we can meet. There are eight points that speak of the situation of women journalists, of the global crisis, of women, of care. The last point reads as follows: "We call for a greater involvement with the Mediterranean and, despite everything, to look at the future with optimism and hope, to rescue the ancient history, to value our present and its possibilities and to look at a future with unity and hope". I would also add, too, and look at the Mediterranean with a feminist look, as we say in the poster for these conferences, or rather, with many feminists looks.



Maria-Àngels Roque

Director of the Culture,
Gender and Civil Society area
of the IEMed



Honorable Counsellor, Dean of the College of Journalists, Coordinator of the Network.

I would like to start by thanking the feminists for their work. There have been great contributions in these days by our feminist colleagues, and it has been interesting because in addition to seeing the aspects that were negative and that continue, it is also important to value the new aspects. And among them, precisely, we find young people and women who actively participate in civil society who, as we know, are the ones who promote changes in the laws.

There has been talk of the Istanbul Commission, from 2006. And I would like to talk about this because we are precisely talking about the Euro-Mediterranean process. And it must be taken into account that, until 2016, there was no exclusive Euro-Mediterranean conference for women. And this is important, because it was done during the Finn-

ish presidency, which was headed by a woman, and so was the foreign minister. The two of them participated in a meeting celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Process, and there they asked why no Euro-Mediterranean meeting had been held to address such an important issue as that of women. From then on, different meetings were held on the subject, such as the meeting in Marrakech, the one in Paris, the one in Cairo, and next year another meeting will be held, precisely in Barcelona. And this is important, because in these Euro-Mediterranean conferences all the countries are represented, both those of the European Union and the Mediterranean, and decisions are made there. And it is true that, in these 15 years, legal aspects have changed, although there are many gaps and issues that have not been fully harmonized. For example, in Algeria you could have a female president and have political representation, and instead, to get married you need to have a guardian.

It is important to change mentalities, a topic that has already been discussed here and, precisely, we have a platform in the IEMed, of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation, and it is important that we increase our database of women journalists, and increase, also, the documentation, which is basic to form networks.

With the Foundation we have followed up on the conferences in Paris and the one in Cairo, and we saw that, although there were legal changes, resources were not allocated for those who have to apply it and for the change of mentality. If in Morocco or in another country, you are going to request a divorce, the judge or the police, as happened before in Spain, will ask you what you have done to make your husband beat you up. And the truth is, if important resources are not put in place so that there are these mentality changes in lawyers, in the police, in educators, in the media... it is very difficult for this transformation to take place. For this reason, I am very happy that it is women, more and more, who are involved in these issues.

In this sense, I want to congratulate you and, in fact, with Alícia, we had thought that from this meeting the Network of Women Journalists and

Communicators could be created, since we have a good participation. And also, I am happy because I see that there are also young journalists who have to take over, and we also see that in southern Mediterranean countries they are very necessary. In addition, they are going to make us change because we carry stereotypes, we have a vision that everything continues the same, that things do not change, and it is not true, because changes are taking place. Therefore, we have to value and support it, and it is precisely with these networks that we can support the values and knowledge that already exists. Because you have to work with the people of the country, contrary to what some think, since they know much better what is good for the country, and what are the systems to improve and change. And if we work together, we will have good results.

And I don't want to add anything else, I congratulate you all and I am happy that Counsellor **Tània Verge** closed this meeting, because she has an important council, that of Equality and Feminisms. A transversal council, for all people, because we do not want it to be only for women and only women come to the conferences. If we involve the whole of society, we can change this patriarchal mentality that is often confused with cultures and that exists both in the north and in the south.



Joan Maria Morros

Dean of the College of Journalists of Catalonia



Dear Counsellor of Equality and Feminisms, dear Director of the Culture, Gender and Civil Society area of the IEMed, and dear Alicia, Coordinator of the European Network of Women Journalists.

I should like to begin with my congratulations to the organizers of these journeys ending now for their contribution to a reflection about our profession. And specially for the analysis of the situation of women journalists in the whole world, more concrete in the framework of the Mediterranean. And to claim for the equality among journalists.

The reflection about journalism is imbedded in our DNA as collective and as school. And its the unconditional support to the European Network of Women Journalists, as we did since they started, as we did with the Association of Women Journalists of Catalonia.

We share the same goals with both organizations. We can say since the first meeting of the European Network of Women Journalists, 26 years ago, many changes have happened in the legal and social fields. In despite of it the professional practice of the women journalists is still being extremely fragile in some countries of the Mediterranean.

The College cooperate with the Association of Women Journalists since the year 2005 in the Global Project of World Monitoring of Media, the widest initiative of investigation and impact in the world about the equality of gender in the news and in journalism.

The 2020 Monitoring reflects how the visibility of women in the media continues to be lower than that of men and how this situation has not improved over time, rather the opposite. In 2020, women are only 26% of the subjects and sources of news in traditional media, and 31% in digital media.

Therefore, half of the population is underrepresented in the media. Although it is observed that there has been a considerable increase with respect to professionals, especially in radio and television. This is a situation consistent with the feminization of studies and the profession, but also with the context of precariousness both in terms of working conditions and remuneration.

This study also shows that it is essential to apply specific measures and actions to improve the representation and treatment of women in the media. In relation to legislation, it is necessary to promote equality plans for all the media and measures so that they are applied and monitored. The Organic Law for the Effective Equality of Women and Men has been a positive measure that has forced the Spanish media industries to implement gender equality plans. However, equality plans not only have to be legislated, but they have to be disseminated, have some form of control and, in addition, be evaluated periodically to be effective.

Realistically, journalism has a feminine gaze. This is evidenced by the

number of women who exercise it, often not sufficiently visible, or the students who want to be and who are in the Catalan universities. That is why today I feel like an exception. I am the only man at the closing of the act. And I hope and wish that it has only been done to cover the gender quota... From the College we know what this parity thing is, that is why we empathize with this stubborn reality that often does not let us see that the good professional is not for gender issue...

We have never wanted to stay away from the machismo suffered by journalists or the problems they encounter every day while carrying out their work. On the contrary, we have always covered issues about feminism and journalism in our media, especially in the Capçalera magazine. In the different editions we have dealt with topics such as the incorporation of the figure of the gender editor in the newsrooms, the carrying out of a study that reflects with data the underrepresentation of women in the main media, the stereotypes of women or the cyberbullying that journalists suffer.

We also have as a priority that the members feel represented in the councils. It is for this reason that we are promoting that they have more and more representation and more power. We miss that this scenario, in the 21st century, is not also taking place in the media... Senior positions are still mostly held by men and women have little representation. And that is why we join any initiative that serves to break the glass ceiling.

I would like to conclude by quoting the first dean of the College, **Montserrat Minobis**, and her famous phrase “you can never leave the profession of journalist, you love and appreciate it...” We honor this phrase, let us truly appreciate the profession, guaranteeing the same rights and opportunities to journalists regardless of their gender.



Tània Verge

Counsellor of Equality and
Feminisms of the Generalitat
of Catalonia



That's such a pleasure to be able to close these journeys where we have been working during two days with many journalists from all corners of the Mediterranean who has been sharing experiences and knowledge from the point of view feministic and engaged. And it is a real pleasure because these journeys were managed as a network; because the network is horizontal, and women share knowledges and experiences from the assertion of the different forms of feminisms.

Journalism has traditionally been that profession that explains what is happening in the world. We know, however, that without a feminist gaze, journalism ends up explaining to us what happens according to the gaze of the powerful, of the victors, of men; and women become invisible or are presented to us from the androcentric perspective, which places us as victims, but not as protagonists, as experts or as opinion-makers.

This fact has been verified in numerous studies carried out in different countries. At home, in Catalonia, the collective "Where are the women" has been denouncing the overrepresentation of men in the opinion spaces of the Catalan media for five years now. It is in these opinion spaces where the political agenda is created, where what is important and what is not is marked, and a state of opinion is generated to present the different issues under a certain perspective.

Since the beginning of the count, some media have made progress, but most are still far from parity, which, in fact, they only achieve exceptionally in their opinion spaces on designated dates such as March 8 or November 25, which are the days that the media are painted purple.

The invisibility of women is an act of symbolic violence, we have to call it as such. It is not a forgetfulness, it is not inertia, but it is the result of how institutionalized sexism infiltrates the way of proceeding in the media and also in professional associations. A form of sexist violence, the symbolic, to which is also added media racism, when we find that in these same spaces of opinion the presence of people of color does not reach 1%. And no matter how much work is being done to change this representation of women in the media, we cannot ignore that what is needed are structural changes, with resources and political will behind it, for a real transformation of the media.

The invisible does not have a voice without a journalism committed to the feminist and human rights perspective. Your work and your commitment are essential to make possible a fairer, more visible world, where everyone's voice has the same value. And the feminist gaze in journalism, but it is not only necessary to make women visible, but its vocation goes much further. Feminist journalism embraces the diversity inherent in this transformative movement to publicize the realities that escape hegemonic discourses, because it is only by using other approaches that we can begin to transform them.

And precisely from this committed journalism, there are many pro-

professionals who have put their lives at risk to explain forgotten realities or that those in power would prefer silenced. Voices that are as necessary for human rights as they are uncomfortable for the powerful, such as that of **Daphne Caruana Galizia**, a Maltese investigative journalist who was murdered in 2017 for shedding light on cases linked to corruption.

But, unfortunately, we don't have to go to these extremes to see cases of women journalists who see how their work poses an added risk to their safety. Sexual harassment and harassment for reasons of sex in the workplace, contempt by colleagues and the men interviewed, glass ceilings in newsrooms and the growing precariousness of working conditions in the profession, are the day to day of many women journalists. Digital violence has also become the "cost" to pay to be a female journalist, regardless of the ideological tendency of the medium; a violence that is a universal pattern and that especially affects racialized journalists.

Twenty-six years after the first conferences on women journalists and the Mediterranean, organized, as on this occasion, by the European Network of Women Journalists, there have been many advances in terms of gender equality and the incorporation of the feminist perspective in the media. There are still, but many pending changes, and they cannot be postponed. It is true that in no area have advances in women's rights occurred without the mobilization and transformation brought about by women themselves.

In Catalonia, at a European level, in the Mediterranean or globally, the drivers of this transformation have been women journalists with a feminist commitment, and they have often done so invisibly, unrecognized or with different risks. But the responsibility to put an end to these inequalities, discriminations and violence lies with the media themselves and with the public powers. Because it is the institutions that have the duty to ensure compliance with equality laws. We are in charge of making this feminist transformation a reality, also in the field of communication media, and we will do it with professional associations and the media, because it is a shared agenda and because we have a duty to

ensure that journalists can practice their profession free of discrimination and sexist violence.

To finish, I want to thank you for the work that each one of you does to help make visible the invisible, the uncomfortable, the dissidents, and to transform communication from within. Because we can only change the world from a feminist perspective and your work has been, is and will be key to achieving it.

My congratulations for these conferences, and I encourage you to continue strengthening this network.



CLOSURE



Final photo with the Counsellor of Equality and Feminisms, Tània Verge.



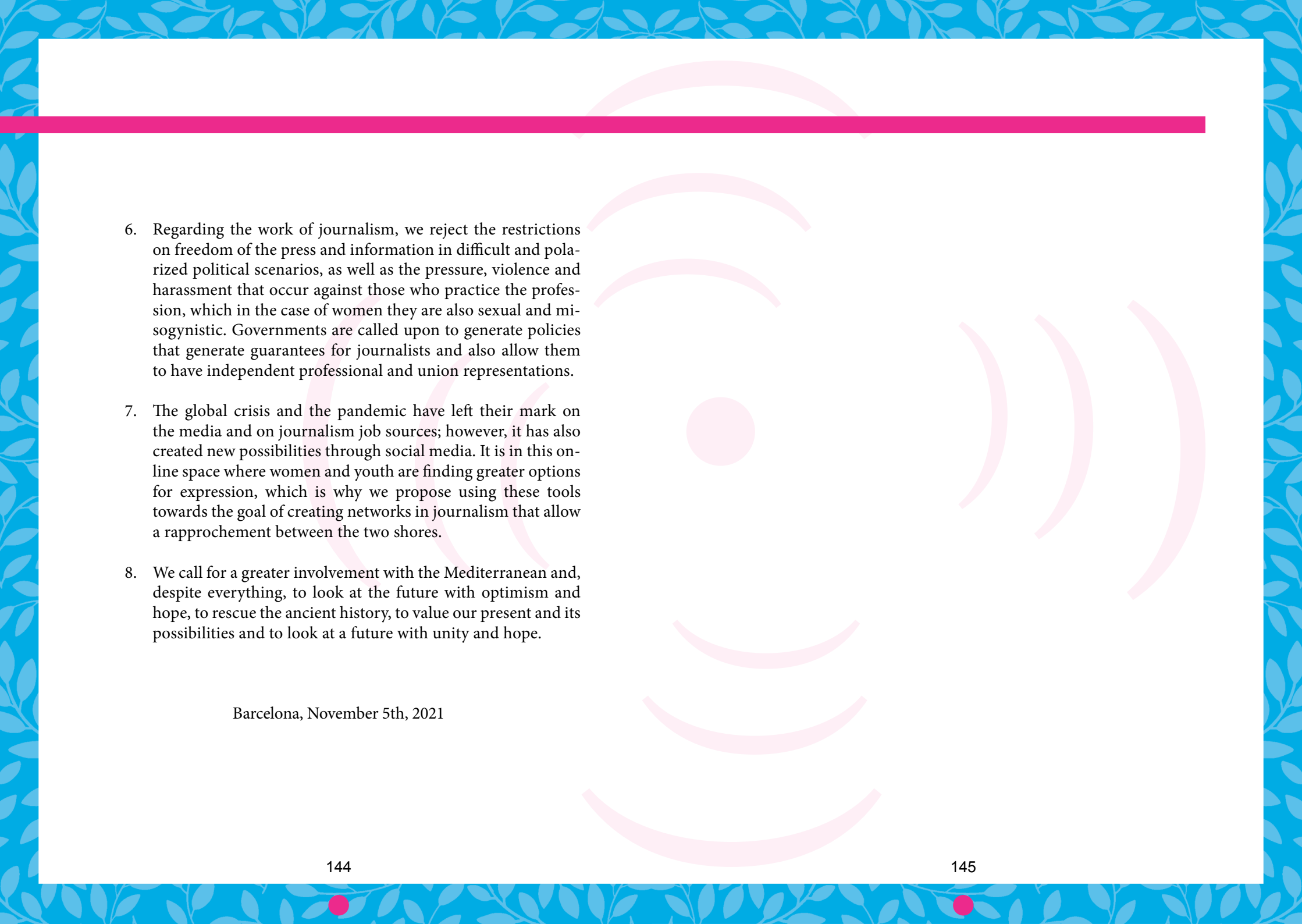
From left to right: Ala'a Karajah, Burcu Karakaş, Nariman El Chamaa, Patricia Mayorga, Sahar Talaat, Dionysia Vovou and Hayam Kamel.



Barcelona's Declaration

The International Meeting of Women Journalists and Communicators of the Mediterranean that we have called “Communicate the Mediterranean with a feminist perspective”, after joint work days held in Barcelona on November 4 and 5, considers it necessary to make the following declaration:

1. Given the perception of a distance between the so-called “two shores”, north and south, of the Mediterranean, it is essential to generate actions and policies aimed at a greater approximation with common objectives between the countries that make up this territory that is united by historical ties present difficulties and a disturbing and urgent future. In this approach, the generation of communication networks between journalists is vital.
2. The economic, social and political crisis that Mediterranean societies are facing in different ways, as a consequence of the pandemic, energy crisis, historical and political conflicts, cannot be ignored but made visible as a complaint and demand for answers. Of particular concern is what is happening in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.
3. The humanitarian crisis resulting from the war in Syria, the conflict in Afghanistan and the situation of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa has caused an unprecedented exodus of families seeking refuge and people who throw themselves into the sea in the hope of making a living better. The response to this has not been adequate or sufficient on the part of the European countries, which is why they are called to assume a more receptive and committed role, as well as to assume responsibilities.
4. In this exodus in search of refuge, the situation of vulnerability of women, who must endure and survive the added violence due to gender and, in particular, the situation of girls who are trafficked and/or married at a very young age. The denunciation of this fact and the demand for solutions and for the rescue of these girls is a commitment and an urgent task for journalism as well.
5. In environmental matters, the Mediterranean presents a critical outlook both due to insufficient and unequal policies and the consequences of global warming. It must be remembered that, in this framework, women are the ones who have a greater position of vulnerability, due to their daily activity in spaces such as agriculture, their relationship with water, domestic work, cleaning, etc. Journalism cannot remain indifferent, just as it must make visible and reject the judicial persecution and harassment that, in some cases, activists and journalists and their families suffer due to their work denouncing.

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6. Regarding the work of journalism, we reject the restrictions on freedom of the press and information in difficult and polarized political scenarios, as well as the pressure, violence and harassment that occur against those who practice the profession, which in the case of women they are also sexual and misogynistic. Governments are called upon to generate policies that generate guarantees for journalists and also allow them to have independent professional and union representations.
 7. The global crisis and the pandemic have left their mark on the media and on journalism job sources; however, it has also created new possibilities through social media. It is in this on-line space where women and youth are finding greater options for expression, which is why we propose using these tools towards the goal of creating networks in journalism that allow a rapprochement between the two shores.
 8. We call for a greater involvement with the Mediterranean and, despite everything, to look at the future with optimism and hope, to rescue the ancient history, to value our present and its possibilities and to look at a future with unity and hope.

Barcelona, November 5th, 2021

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**Departament d'Igualtat
i Feminismes**