



Political Influence for Egypt's Women

National Dialogue Forum in Alexandria, 13 – 15 May, 2015

From 13 to 15 May 2015, Peace Women Across the Globe is organizing a national dialogue forum on women's political participation in Alexandria. The three-day event is a first in Egypt: for the first time representatives of the government will work together with the civil society to elaborate a national strategy.

Parliamentary elections are scheduled for later this year and represent an opportunity and a challenge for Egypt's women. We are committed to ensuring that as many women as possible can take this opportunity. During three days, Egyptian and international experts as well as representatives of the government and the civil society are going to elaborate a strategy on how political equality is to be implemented in Egypt. The event is supported by different Egyptian organizations and UN Women. We expect about 200 participants.

We open niches for dialogue



Women who want a say have a hard time in Egypt. The country has numerous laws on the political participation of women and has ratified several international conventions. But these provisions are far from being implemented and in many cultural and religious views there is no place for women in the political arena. *PeaceWomen Across the Globe* is committed to ensuring the implementation of existing rules: As many women as possible shall participate in the elections, stand as candidates and be elected.

The Egyptian society is highly fragmented and people of different generations, religions and political orientations rarely have contact. Our commitment therefore requires sensitivity. With our project, which we launched in 2013, we create niches for dialogue in this tense situation. Specifically, we work with both the civil society as well as with government agencies (National Council for Women). Together, from 13 to 15 May, Egyptian journalists, ministries, experts and NGOs shall elaborate a national strategy and an action plan. This kind of exchange and cooperation is an absolute novelty in Egypt.

If you would like to report on the dialogue forum, there are following possibilities:

In Alexandria: The media event at the beginning of the forum will be held in the morning on 14 May. On May 16, at noon, the results (National Strategy and Action Plan) will be announced. If you are interested in participating, we will gladly send more information upon request. The rest of the event will take place without media.

From Switzerland: There is a possibility for interviews with our program director Tanja Mirabile and our project coordinator in Egypt, Yasmine Arafa, before or after the event. We'll inform the Swiss media about the results in the week after the forum. On request we gladly inform you directly after the final press conference in Alexandria (Saturday, May 16).

For further information:

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From May 13 to 17 we will be in Egypt. You can reach us at the following number: + 20/102 09 950 62

Further information about our project in Egypt:

www.1000peacewomen.org -> Activities -> Projects -> Dialogue Forums