



Training on Women's Human Rights Advocacy for Faith-based Organizations

Geneva, Switzerland
4-9 July 2016

Presentation

The expression “women’s human rights” echoes the fact that women and men are not equally impacted by the social structures and power relations that frame legislation, political and economic decisions and, ultimately, the social norms that determine and define women’s and men’s roles. Therefore:

A gender justice-based approach to advocacy is vital to ensure substantial policy changes

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are key stakeholders in many contexts, because they not only reach out to society by providing a spiritual perspective and guidance, but are pillars of discernment with regard to social and ethical norms and the intersection between cultural patterns and the promotion of human rights. Therefore:

This training is addressed to women and men from FBOs engaged in advocacy or actively involved in programs designed with a gender justice approach.

Methodology and assets:

- The training will take place in Geneva in parallel with the 64th CEDAW session. The participants will have the chance to meet CEDAW experts, to attend one of the reviews and to witness the interaction between the Committee, government representatives and civil society organizations.
- The sessions are led by staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and senior staff from Swisspeace, faith-based organizations with expertise in advocacy and gender mainstreaming.
- The training promotes ecumenical collaboration with regard to joint initiatives in the field of advocacy.

The training will enable participants to:

- Increase the effectiveness of their work by getting acquainted with the Committee and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Practical workshops for drafting shadow reports during the training will enable participants better to use this mechanism.
- Linking the CEDAW reporting process to the Universal Periodic Review and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals implementation, particularly the indicators of Goal 5 on gender equality.
- Design local advocacy actions that reduce women and girls’ vulnerability by adequately addressing issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Sharing and exploring successful strategies to relate to lay and religious leaders, authorities and other civil society actors.
- Articulate strategies to promote the crucial role of women in building peace and security in contexts of conflict/post-conflict, political or civil instability in dialogue with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and subsequent Council resolutions on this topic.

4 July	Tuesday 5 July	Wednesday 6 July	Thursday 7 July	Friday 8 July	9 July	
ARRIVALS	Welcome. General overview of the training Introductions.	Culture, faith, tradition: a dangerous mix?	Deconstructing taboos and fears about a feminist approach to human rights.	HIV/AIDS and religion.	DEPARTURES	
		The UN system. Instruments and spaces for the engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs	CEDAW and the Optional Protocol. Case studies and best practices.	Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR): A challenge and an opportunity for FBOS.		
	COFFEE BREAK					
	Faith-based organizations (FBOs) responding to gender-based violence (GBV) and women's human rights challenges. Panel with representatives of FBOs.	CEDAW Convention and ways to engage with the Committee. Tools for preparing shadow reports and engaging with governments and other civil society stakeholders.	Group work: Drafting shadow reports for the CEDAW Committee.	Group work by regions on SRHR.		
	LUNCH BREAK					
	Institutional best practices of the partner organizations.	Participation at the 64 th session of CEDAW at the UN Palais des Nations.	Forum theater as a tool to address gender-based violence.	Regional challenges with regard to achieving SDGs in relation to women's human rights: A UN and an FBO perspective. Evaluation of the training.		
	COFFEE BREAK					
	Accreditation and guided tour of the Palais des Nations.	64 th CEDAW session.	The role of women as peacemakers/UNRSC 1325 as a tool to counter violent extremism and other expressions of violence – Swisspeace.	Visit to the Red Cross Museum.		
	Free evening or visit of the Geneva old town.	Debriefing of CEDAW session with a group of CEDAW experts.	Continuation.			
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Participant's profile

- Women and men from FBOs (or in partnership with FBOs) with experience in advocacy and/or in gender justice oriented programs.
- Participants from countries under review by CEDAW in the second half of 2016 or in 2017 will have priority.

Training fees

Registration, training material, accommodation/meals (in double rooms), local transportation, interpretation (English/Spanish or English/French), local visits (Palais des Nations, International Red Cross Museum): EUR 1,660.

Registration deadline:

31 May 2016

For further inquiries:

Event link: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/training-womens-human-rights-advocacy-faith-based-organizations>

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