



Partnership Forum side event

COVID-19 and Gender Violence: Extra challenges need extra solidarity

2 February, 8-8:50 am EST

Introduction

Progress towards achieving the SDG 5 has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the challenges already faced by women, the pandemic has exacerbated their situation. This situation has had a profound impact on the efforts made by the NGOs working in the field of gender equality. Accordingly, this entails identifying the most prominent challenges and sharing experiences among women's organizations to promote solidarity and advance the situation of women in different regions. All this along with highlighting success stories and benefiting from the lessons learned since the rise of the pandemic.

On the sidelines of the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum, Maat for Peace in cooperation with Gals Forum International, The Kurdish Women Movement, The International Alliance of Women, The Women's Major Group and The NGO Major Group-Africa is organizing a side event to tackle the above mentioned challenge on the 2nd of February 2022 at 8 am EST/1pm GMT.

To register to the event: https://whova.com/portal/registration/ecoso_202202.

First: Thematic focus:

The side event will focus on a number of topics:

1. Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations in achieving target (5.1), which aims to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, especially with regard to unequal access to vaccines



2. The participation of non-governmental organizations in achieving target (5.2) to combat violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, especially in conflict-prone countries,
3. Sharing the experiences of NGOs in achieving target (5.3) to eliminate all harmful practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM),
4. Sharing challenges facing NGOs in achieving target (5.5) to increase women's participation in decision-making in political, economic and public life in Africa and the Middle East.
5. How women can contribute to the recovery from COVID-19 in the future, and involve women's organizations in developing plans and policies to respond to COVID-19 and design strategies with a deliberate focus on their lives and futures.

Second: Contribution to the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

The proposed side event is consistent with the main theme of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum: in terms of highlighting the role of NGOs in Africa and the Middle East in achieving the SDG 5 on gender equality, while emphasizing that women are not only the most affected group by the pandemic, but they also represent a cornerstone of recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

To this end, the role of women's NGOs, especially those led by women and working for women, must be emphasized, and the international and regional partnership between these organizations will play a major role in achieving better and more sustainable development results for all women, and encouraging a faster recovery.



Third: Event Agenda

Subject	Time
Opening speech Hagar Monsif Vice Chairman for SDGs at Maat Foundation	8-8:05
Strengthening the role of NGOs in eliminating discrimination against women and girls, especially with regard to unequal access to vaccines. Nalini Singh Pacific and SIDS Organizing Partner at the Women Major Group	8:05-8:12
Participation of NGOs in combating violence against women and girls in conflict-prone countries Dilar Dirik Researcher at Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford and feminist activist.	8:12-8:19
NGOs experiences in eliminating all harmful practices against women and girls Esther Namboka Executive Director Gals Forum International	8-19-8:26
Increasing women's participation in decision-making across political, economic and public life Marion Böker, Acting President at International Alliance of Women (IAW)	8:26-8:33
Questions & Answers	8:33-8:40
Recommendations: setting future priorities for women's contribution to recovery from COVID-19.	8:40-8:50



Fourth: Side event organizing partners

1. Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights
2. Gals Forum International
3. Kurdish Women Movement
4. International Alliance of Women
5. The Women's Major Group
6. The NGO Major Group-Africa

For more information on the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum:

<https://sdgs.un.org/events/ecosoc-partnership-forum-2022>