

WIDE Annual Conference 2011

Women's Rights and Gender Equality amidst the 'Arab Springs'

Challenges and Lessons Learnt across Regions

27-28 October 2011, Brussels, Belgium

What is now known as the 'Arab spring' has had a dramatic ripple effect all over the region, still in upheaval to different extents. Although women were prominent actors of those upheavals, issues of non-discrimination, equality and women's rights face difficulties to be included in the frameworks of ongoing and/or upcoming constitutional reform processes. Moreover, in many countries retaliation against women has been brutal, ranging from rapes to virginity tests to imprisonment and torture.

The international community is playing a significant role both in terms of diplomacy as well as direct support and selective media coverage. "The Arab spring" has created new international interests as well as new funding pots. What are the implications for the peoples of these countries and for women's rights in particular?

To discuss these issues with other women leaders from the region as well as with women activists from the European Union, the WIDE Network, in close partnership with the Collective for Research and Training for Development – Action (CRTD-A), is delighted to invite you to its Annual Conference **"Women's Rights and Gender Equality amidst the 'Arab Springs'"** to be held on 27-28 October 2011, in Brussels, Belgium.

A concrete aim of the conference will be to build a mutual understanding among participants of what is at stake so as to be able to identify possible joint efforts and ways forward to contribute to secure a transition that will address women's rights agenda(s) and put social concerns and women's proposals at the core of current important political processes in the region and also in the European Union.

We would very much like to be able to count with your presence and participation and will be very grateful if you could indicate your availability and willingness to participate as soon as possible, and in any case no **later than 15th of September 2011**. Please note, that there is a participation fee of 80 Euros for institutions and 40 Euros for individuals.

Please contact us for registration form and more details: Natalie@wide-network.org and [CC benedicte@wide-network.org](mailto:CCbenedicte@wide-network.org)

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