

## ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST VERBAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PUBLIC PLACES IN GUELMA (ALGERIA)

### Coordinating association

Information and communication among the youth of Guelma (INFO-COM Jeunes de Guelma)

### Partner association

March – Lebanon

### Target area

Guelma Province – Algeria

### Context

Verbal harassment, physical violence and sexual harassment against girls and female students are a widespread phenomenon in public spaces in Algeria. According to police reports, more than 9.000 cases of violence against women were reported in Algeria in 2015, including 278 cases in Guelma Province. 70.4% of which were cases of physical violence, 28.39% verbal and sexual violence, while 1.51% were cases of rape and sexual assault. Despite the fact that Algerian law, specifically Articles 333 (Bis 2 and 3) and 341 of the recently amended Penal Code of 30/12/2015, punishes these violences, many cases of abuse of women and girls in public places remain unreported or declared. Unfortunately, many families often think that to ensure women and girls' safety they must stay home. As a result, many girls are deprived of participating in sport, recreational or cultural activities, or even of going to school, especially if these schools are far from home. Some families also think that this topic should not be discussed in courts, because it may affect their reputation. This behavior gives a green light to abusers who think that they can do whatever they want without being punished.

### Objective

To disseminate and promote the new modified law which criminalizes verbal violence and sexual harassment in public places, and to encourage the victims to denounce this form of violence, reducing thus the number of cases of this kind of violence in Guelma province.

### Activities

The campaign includes a wide range of awareness-raising activities targeting the media, political and influential figures including local elected representatives and the heads of sport and cultural associations and educational institutions. In addition to that, an online petition against sexual harassment and verbal violence and outreach activities (distribution of flyers, sport and musical events) targeting young men and women will be organized.

### Start date

March 2017

### Links for more information

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/info.comjeunesguelma/>

<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/54190-ensemble-respectons-les-filles>

<http://www.annasonline.com/index.php/2014-08-17-13-22-10/2014-08-17-12-05-49/67751-2017-03-11-21-19-43>

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In partnership with:



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