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PROJECT n° 101095877

PROJECT TITLE: FATIMA 2: Preventing Honour Related Violence against women
through Social Impact Projects and Peer Learning led by
young men

Article 6

Launching the Transnational Expert Seminars to Combat Honour-Related Violence

The activities of the FATIMA 2 Project, focused on preventing and combating gender-based and honour-related violence, continue to progress.

Within Work Package 3 (WP3), the first expert online seminar was held, bringing together community practitioners, stakeholders, and youth with invited experts. These seminars - of which two more are planned - feature invited experts to discuss topics related to honour-related violence, sharing knowledge and good practices for combating this issue. These expert seminars are led by Rinova (ES) and are part of the FATIMA2 learning programme, aimed to foster a transnational network of communities of practice.

The first seminar was held online on the 21th of May 2024, and enabled participants to understand the manifestations and impact of HRV, strategies and good practices for early detection and reporting, and the importance of campaigning within community contexts. The objectives included fostering open discussions and gaining insights on strategies to combat HRV. Among participants were professionals with extensive experience in HRV, such as social workers, local authorities, academics, educators, and survivors, who shared their perspectives. The seminar was well attended - more than 50 people from the project partner countries: Folk Universitetet (SE), Rinova (ES), DAF (BG), FISPE (FR), Refugee Team (NL), ZRS Koper (SI), ARCI (IT), DIMITRA (GR).

Topics Covered

The first speakers, **Hilde Wiberg** and **Louise Niska** from Uppsala Ungdomsjour, shared their experiences working with young people in vulnerable contexts. Hilde introduced the Youth Unit in social services, highlighting the roles of community counselors, cultural interpreters, and young ambassadors in preventive social work for HRV. They emphasized the importance of collaborating with local authorities, anti-violence centers, NGOs, family units, NGOs and social services.

In the second part, **Janine Janssen**, a criminologist and anthropologist from the Dutch national taskforce for HRV, focused on raising awareness, early detection and reporting of HRV, sharing experience and innovative tools. She discussed the importance of understanding emotional violence, the engagement with migrant communities, and implementing educational programs.

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Janine highlighted the complexities of identifying HBV, which involves extended family dynamics and differs from domestic violence.

Finally, **Hibo Wardere**, an FGM survivor born and raised in Somalia, based in UK, author, and campaigner, shared her personal story and the significance of campaigning against FGM. She discussed the psychological, emotional, and surgical support provided by the National Health Service in UK, the important role of school in awareness and child protection, the need to change the narrative around girls as commodities, and the importance of engaging communities and educational institutions in this fight.

The invitation to participate in the seminar was disseminated by individual project partners and then the recording was made publicly available on the Project portal (<https://fatima2.eu/>), in line with the goal of making the developed learning materials accessible and facilitating the transnational network of communities of practice.

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