



**KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
Ministry of the Interior
General Direction
of Local Governments**

**Wellesley College
USA**



***Rabat Roundtable
Women Leading Change
in the Arab and Muslim World***

***Organized by the Ministry of the Interior
The Kingdom of Morocco
In Partnership with
Wellesley Centers for Women,
Wellesley College of Massachusetts - USA***

***May 16-17, 2011
Kingdom of Morocco
Headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior Amphitheater
Context***

"The evidence of history confirms and demonstrates that the status of women is inseparably tied to the status of a nation."
Qasim Amin, Father of Arab feminism

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you."
**Mohammad Ali Jinnah,
Founding Father of Pakistan**

If the place of women and men in Islam is generally built on a relationship of equality and equity prescribed in the Koran and the Sunna, the fact remains that this relationship between them is very complex in different Muslim countries due to different interpretations, history and traditions of each country.

The role of women is subject to a wide variety of complex and complicated interpretations especially as regards to marriage, divorce, legal status, civil rights etc.

Beyond these constraints, and despite discrimination against women, no one can deny that the role of women is crucial in Muslim society. It is at the core of all aspects of life in Muslim society.

The place and role of women is a theme that challenges us because it teaches us about the issue of equality between man and woman, and allows us to understand the gender dimension in every Muslim country.

On the basis of these various challenges the Directorate of Professional Training and Technical Administration of the Moroccan Ministry of Interior; in close collaboration with Wellesley Centers for Women has organized this forum on "the role of women in Moslem countries".

OBJECTIVES

- *Affirming the human rights of women under Islam*
- *Advancing women in political and economic participation*
- *Addressing different forms violence against women*
- *Strengthening equal protection for women under law and in the Family and Civil Code*
- *Creating a platform for exchanging information, laws and policies, strategies and collaborative action*
- *Celebrating the advances of women in the Muslim World*

Agenda

Chairperson: *Dr. Moushira Khattab, Former Minister for Family and Population, Egypt*
Moderator: *Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Ministry of the Interior, Kingdom of Morocco*
Co-moderator: *Dr. Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College*

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Arrival and installation at the Hotel Tour Hassan

Monday, May 16, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions:

The representative of the Minister of the Interior, Kingdom of Morocco

9:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Focus One:

New Awakenings and Women's Critical Role in Leading Change:

- *Women in the Kingdom of Morocco: Reforms, Achievements and What Remains to be Done*
- a representative of the Ministry of Family, Kingdom of Morocco
- *Political Transformations and Women in Decision Making in a New Tunisia*
- Ms. Monia Ammar, General Coordinator of Human Rights, Judge, Republic of Tunisia

Roundtable Group Discussion:

Summation - The Way Ahead: Dr. Moushira Khattab, Egypt

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tea Break

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Focus Two:

Reformist Efforts Towards a More Egalitarian Civil Code: Delinking Religion from Discrimination against Women:

- *The Making of a Model Civil Code (Counter Legal Draft) in Indonesia*
- Dr. Siti Musdah Mulia, Indonesia, architect of the Counter Legal Draft
- *The Mobilization of the Women's Movement to Reform the Civil Code in Iran*
- Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., USA
- *Reform of the Penal Code and Constitution in Turkey* - Ms. Selen Lermioglu Yilmaz, Turkey
- *The Landmark Revisions to the Children's Law in Egypt, 2008: Grassroots Mobilizing and Building Alliances with Men*
- Dr. Moushira Khattab, Egypt

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch:

Lunch time talk: My Prison, My Home: Her Powerful Story of Captivity in Iran and The Mobilization of the Global Women's Movement in Her Support - Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, USA; Introduced by Dr. Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, USA
"Obama's bedside reading should be Haleh Esfandiari's brilliant and shattering book." - *New York Times*

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Focus Three:

Advancing Women's Political Participation: Challenges and Opportunities:

- *Quotas for Women in Political Participation*
- Dr. Eman Al Hussein, former Councilor on the Greater Salt Municipal Council, Jordan
- *Challenging Patriarchal Forces in the Family* - Ms. Hayat Arslan, former political candidate, Lebanon
- *Women Negotiating Peace: The Application of UN Resolution 1325*
- Ms. Selen Lermioglue Yilmaz, Turkey and UN Consultant working on UN Resolution 1325 in Cyprus
- *Women's Political Leadership and Turkey's Upcoming Elections*
- Mutlu Alkan Kutukluoglu, Director of International Affairs of the AKP Party, Turkey's ruling party, Turkey

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Roundtable Group Discussion:

Summation - The Way Ahead: Hon. Zahira Kamal, former Minister for Women's Affairs, Palestine

Visit to the Monuments of the City of Rabat

8:00 p.m. Celebration Dinner (Moroccan Restaurant, Hotel Tour Hassan)

Dinner Talk: Transformation in the Arab World: The Critical Role of Women in Egypt's Revolution and its Aftermath
- Dr. Moushira Khattab, Egypt; Introduced by Dr. Rangita de Silva de Alwis, USA

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Focus Four:

Violence against Women:

- *Violence Against Women in Conflict* - Hon. Zahira Kamal, Palestine
- *Crimes against women in the name of honor* - Dr. Eman Al Hussein, Jordan
- *The Recent Landmark Bills on Domestic Violence and Sexual harassment in Bangladesh*
- Ms. Salma Ali, Bangladesh, Head of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Roundtable Group Discussion:

Summation - The Way Ahead: Dr. Eman Al Hussein, Jordan

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Tea Break

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Focus Five:

- *Women in Constitution Making and Democratic Reform* - Dr. Moushira Khattab, Egypt
- *Women in Constitution Making and Democratic Reform* - Dr. Eman Al Hussein, Jordan
- *Women in Constitution Making and Democratic Reform* - Ms. Monia Ammar, Tunisia
- *Leadership and Capacity Building: The Experience of Morocco* - Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Morocco
- *African Local Experience* - Milouda Hazebe, the President of the African Local Elected Women Network

Roundtable Group Discussion

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch:

Lunch time talk: Khawar Mumtaz, Head of Shirkatgah, Pakistan- Rural Women's Struggle in Pakistan for Equal Rights

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Focus Six:

- *Progressive Interpretation of the Shariah Law and the Impact on Women* - Dr. Siti Musdah Mulia, Indonesia
- *Reconciling the Koranic Injunctions with the Human Rights Framework* - Ms. Ferdous Ara Begum, Bangladesh, former CEDAW Committee Expert

Roundtable Discussion

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Developing a Platform of Action:

- *The strategies discussed in each focus group discussion will be developed into a Platform of Action.*
- *Formulation and Adoption of the Rabat Declaration of Action* - Moderated by Dr. Moushira Khattab, Egypt ; Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Morocco; Dr. Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, USA

Convention Signing

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Conclusion and Farewell

By Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Morocco

5:00 p.m. Return to hotel

5:30 p.m. Shopping in the old Medina

7:00 p.m. Return to hotel

8:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner hosted by the Ministry of the Interior, Kingdom of Morocco
Restaurant LE ZIRYAB in the Old Medina
National clothes are recommended.