

# 2010

The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights



## ANNUAL REPORT OF ECWR'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

Committed to its goals and aims, ECWR continued to expand and diversify its activities in 2010. The improvement of the political and human status of the women in Egypt is a task that requires lots of dedication and hard work. It also requires for NGO's and civil society actors to get together and work on innovative projects. ECWR initiated many such projects during the year 2010. Through various studies and research papers, ECWR contributed actively to the debate on human rights and more specifically women's rights in Egypt. In the field, ECWR reached people and created partnerships through trainings, awareness days and seminars.

As you will see while reading the following report, 2010 has been a busy and challenging year for Egyptian women.



The Egyptian Center for  
Women's Rights

135 Misr-Helwan El Zeraay,  
Floor 2, Ste. 3  
Hadayek el Maadi, Cairo, Egypt  
Email: [ecwr@ecwronline.org](mailto:ecwr@ecwronline.org)  
Website: [www.ecwronline.org](http://www.ecwronline.org)

## **I) THE INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ECWR IN 2010:**

### **Studies**

During the year 2010, ECWR launched a field study at the national level on the changes in public's perception towards sexual harassment in Egypt. ECWR is conducting this study in cooperation with the Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center. The study involves monitoring, studying and discussing sexual harassment at the national level. The work will continue until the end of 2011.

ECWR finished a study entitled "The Role of Law to Combat Violence against Women". It is an analytical study that examined 100 ongoing lawsuits. The aim of the study was to identify the actual elements that prevent women access to legal justice and thus to create a violence free society.

### **Women's Status Monitoring Observatory**



One of the most important aims of ECWR is to create a democratic society which respects women as a full partner and actor in the public life. The center refuses all forms of discrimination against women, and works towards the respect of the values of citizenship.

To achieve this, ECWR uses important tools including:

**Press releases:** ECWR issued 25 press releases in 2010.

**Periodical and annual Monitoring reports on Women's Status:** ECWR published 4 quarterly reports to monitor the progress of women's political status. These reports were entitled:

- A quarterly report on women's political status.
- Between State Council and Shoura Council ... Egypt for Men Only
- "The Egyptian woman is between the anvil of the parties and the hammer of the quota system"



- Egyptian Women Status Statement: ECWR issued a statement on women's status at the end of each year. The 2010 statement entitled "Postponed rights in the state's council and temporary rights in parliament"

### **Periodical Newsletters**

ECWR issued 11 electronic newsletters which included many topics related to women's social, political, and legal life.

### **Research papers**

ECWR persevered in preparing many research papers as follows:

1. The influence of the fundamental trends on Women's Movement in the Arab Region.
2. Sex Education in the Schools ... A step on the way of confronting sexual harassment.
3. The transformation of the Media discourse on sexual harassment using the studies of the Egyptian Center for Women's rights
4. The Health System's response to domestic violence and sexual violence
5. Violence against children
6. Sexual harassment in the Workplace
7. Sexual harassment in Egypt: Experts' analysis of the issue, and harassment as violence against women
8. Women's image in the Drama
9. Women's image in the Media
10. An analysis of the violent crimes against Egyptian women from January 2010 to March 2010.
11. How the school curriculums support the image of violence against women
12. Sexual harassment as a violence against women
13. Violence against women in the Egyptian law through the Nationality law, Islamic laws of inheritance, and the personal status code.
14. Violent Women under the Health System

## Raising awareness tools



ECWR worked on raising awareness on women's issues using creative tools such as booklets, pens, posters, T-shirts, bags, caps, cards. ECWR targeted a large section of the population: young people, house-hold women and literate women.

ECWR published many raising awareness tools in the "Safe Street for All" campaign including:



- **A Game Booklet** entitled "A Very Important Book" was published after being prepared in a simpler form for children. We considered accuracy and the best methods to reach the children during preparation and included questions that may help children to understand the problem of sexual harassment and ways to avoid it.
- **A Sexual Harassment brochure** for children was printed, entitled "The problem and ways to confront it."
- **Pens** imprinted with the following message "**What have you gained from harassing someone?!**" Pens are a good way to reach a large section of the population and spread the message quickly.
- **Bags** with the aim of reaching the beneficiaries' women in the houses. The bag is one of the tools that Egyptian women like to pass, and an easy tool to spread the information in a simple way.
- **2 different Posters:** The first one has the following inscription under the title of the campaign: "It's our right to have a law on our side". And the second one: "Because we are noble people... we will eliminate sexual harassment from everywhere"
- Republish copies of the animated movie that ECWR produced under the title "A Very Important Film"
- On the Radio: ECWR worked on raising awareness through broadcasting promos for the campaign and discussed the issue on Radio Misr, Middle East, Youth and Sport. The radio achieved unprecedented success, many youth have volunteered after hearing the ads on the radio. Furthermore, some famous figures helped ECWR in this campaign: Broadcaster Osama'a Monuir, female broadcaster, Bothina Kamel, and the actor, Mohammed Nagati. Radio is one of the most successful tools that the campaign used to confront the sexual harassment problem. The message of the campaign reached twice the amount of people than what we expected. This helped draw the attention of

more volunteers, sponsors, and different media means which became very interested in the campaign and followed the news related to it on a daily basis.

- ECWR published raising **awareness tools that support female candidates** in the elections (Shoura Council, Parliamentary Council) as follows:

2 posters and one sticker under the slogan:



- "Women's participation in the Parliament will lead to Gender Equality and will do a balance, our votes represent our future."
- "Support them for your interests in the parliament, and then you will gain their support."
- The stickers said "Our votes are our freedom; Women's participation in the Parliament will lead to Gender Equality."

### **The most significant publications of ECWR in 2010 are:**

- A booklet entitled "The Guideline of NGOs law in Egypt"
- The Egyptian Women's Status Report
- A booklet on Monitoring Women's Political Status Observatory

## **II) THE FIELD WORK OF ECWR IN 2010**

### **Trainings**

During the year 2010, ECWR held a lot of trainings in the frame of its various activities / programs as follows:

- The "Safe Street for All" Campaign aimed at combating Sexual Harassment



ECWR held trainings for teachers and social specialists on how to deal with the children in case they had bad experience of being harassed and how to protect them and deal with the problem. ECWR believes in the importance of reaching out to schools especially Primary Schools as it is at this age that the personality of the children is formed. Therefore, it was very important to work on providing trainings for teachers

and social specialists on how to deal with the problem and train the children on how to understand the problem. ECWR held 6 trainings for 180 teachers from different educational directorates in six governorates (Cairo, 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Alexandria, Ismalyia, El-Fayoum, Bani Swif).

- The “Democratic Transition for Egyptian Women” Program

This program aim is to increase the percentage of women’s participation in the parliament. Therefore, ECWR worked through many programs on preparing and training women leaders to run off the election and prepare a generation which is capable of representing women in the parliament.

ECWR worked with 100 female candidates in 18 governorates belonging to 12 political parties in addition to the independent females who have political history starting from a year of the actual participation in the political activities and more than 10 years of actual participation.

In August, ECWR started working on monitoring the nominations of women. The team did many visits on the field in greater Cairo to reach the biggest number of female candidates. We helped them realizing their propaganda, whether their constituencies are general, open, or quota constituencies.

ECWR also trained 100 female leaders who ran for the elections at the people assembly council in the 2010 parliamentary election. The training was entitled "Administration of Work Team on the Voting Day."

ECWR also prepared trainings for 100 monitors and field monitors to monitor the parliamentary election. This training, entitled “Mechanisms of Monitoring and Establishment of Coalitions” focused on monitoring techniques at all phases of the election process and specifically on how to monitor the work of real female candidates in their governorates. It stressed the importance of communicating directly with the candidates in order to monitor effectively their campaign on the streets in their governorate.

## Awareness Days for Youth

In the frame of “Safe Street for All”, ECWR organized 12 awareness days for youth in order to combat sexual harassment. 1500 participants and volunteers took part in the activities and discussions. The youths came mainly from 9 governorates ( Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailiya, Helwan, 6<sup>th</sup> of October, El-Qalubaya, Bani Swif, Al-Fayoum, Giza).

The most important outcome of the campaign is to consider ECWR as a main partner in the “Safe Cities Models Project”.



### “Free City of Violence against Women and Girls: Cairo Safe for All”

ECWR participated in the preparation of a march for the youths in Cairo University on November 22, 2010. ECWR considered this as a great day and a starting point for a global and unique program in Egypt and other 5 countries entitled “**Cairo Safe for All**”.

## Seminars

During the year 2010, ECWR held many seminars in the frame of its different programs to open a dialogue on different women’s rights as follows:

**The first seminar** concerning the Law of Exercising Political Rights was prepared and entitled "Towards a Fair Law to Practice the Political Rights" on May 11th, 2010 at Shepherd Hotel. About 75 men and women took part in the seminar. The participants included leaders of NGOs, heads of political parties, politicians, lawyers, activists, members of parliament, representatives of public and local councils, and



media experts.

ECWR held **the second seminar** entitled “The 2010 Parliamentary Election in the light of Quota System” in September 2010 the same day as the celebration of the

Democracy Day on Thursday 23, 2010.

**The third seminar** entitled “Combating the Violence against women from a legal perspective”. The seminar addressed readings in the legal procedures and different laws’ articles to try to amend them in a suitable way with the constitution and the international conventions. This could be done by monitoring the legal status of women and raising awareness on these issues and problems.

**The fourth seminar** was a legal awareness for women to empower them to get access to their legal and economic rights. The seminar entitled “ Legal and Economic



Empowerment for Women” as a part of the Access to Justice Campaign", was held for 100 simple women from Dar El-Salam, El-Basateen and the Association Madina Al –Wahda’ a in Dar El-Salam.

**The fifth seminar** was a legal awareness seminar to help women empower themselves and to get access to their legal and economic rights. The seminar entitled the “Legal Rights for Women” as a part of the Access to Justice Campaign was held for 25 female literacy teachers from the Directorate of North of Giza who educate the elders at Dar Al Monasabat.

**The Sixth seminar**, a legal awareness seminar, was held on Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 2010 and entitled “Women in The Egyptian Drama a lot of Trafficking ... Little of subjectivism” in the frame of the Access to Justice Campaign.

**The Seventh seminar** entitled “New Legal Gains in the Personal Status Code” was held on Thursday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 in Dar Al Monasabat in the Local Community Association in Tora Alhogara. About 120 concerned women who are interested in the personal status code attended the seminar.



**The eighth seminar** was held on Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. Entitled “New Legal Gains in the Personal Status Code” it took place in Dar Al Monasabat in the Local Community Association west of Helwan. About 75 women

attended the seminar.

## **Significant Campaigns**

### **Campaign Against Women-only Taxes**

ECWR called for stopping a project to establish women-only taxes. ECWR considers this as a backward step for the Egyptian Society. This campaign was part of a broader campaign aiming to fight all backwards ideas. One of the most important results was a letter sent to Dr. Abdul Azeem Wazeer, the governor of Cairo, which expressed the opinion of its governorate and rejected the implementation of women-only taxes and strongly supported women's rights at all fields.

### **Campaign to Support Women Judges**

ECWR launched a campaign against the decision of the general assembly of the State Council which denied women the right to be appointed to judiciary positions in the council.

## **Monitoring of the election from a gender perspective**

ECWR was the first institution to monitor elections from a gender perspective. Its experience in this field benefited Egypt but also the entire Arab region. ECWR has started this methodology since the local elections of 1997. It deepened and strengthened its experience with the follow-up of the local elections of 2002 and 2008 as well as the Shoura elections in 1998, 2003, 2007, 2010 and the People Assembly Council in 2000, 2005 and 2010.

### **The aims of monitoring the elections from a gender perspective are as follow:**

- Reduce the gap between media perception and the reality in the field when it comes to women participation as voters and candidates.
- Study the problems of women's political participation subjectively based on field facts.
- Provide practical analysis of the problems of the participation of all concerned people.
- Follow up the improvement of the participation and influence the concerned authorities especially the political parties may have.
- Study and compare the legal system in Egypt and in other part of the world. Assess the influence on women's political participation.

ECWR monitored the elections of the People's Assembly held on November 28 2010 through many activities that helped female candidates and voters to take part to the electoral process.

ECWR monitored the election from a gender perspective. This provides a vision concerning women's participation as a voter and a candidate, the influence of the election process on women's participation and the extent of the support provided by political parties or any other authorities at a political, financial and technical level. The monitoring of the ECWR takes place during all the phases of the election process.

On its website the ECWR published a comprehensive map which was as a window of Egypt and its governorates including lots of information about the elections as well as information follows:

- The history of women's participation in the parliament
- The 2005 parliamentary election
- Resumes and political history of the female candidates,
- Reports on the status of women in politics,
- The phases of the election process,
- Female candidates on the quota seats,
- Female candidates on the regular seats
- Press releases about the monitoring of the parliamentary elections from a gender perspective.



The map was in Arabic and English which was an opportunity to all concerned to read the information.

ECWR monitored the Shoura Council elections of 2010: ECWR noticed that 16 female candidates competed in the Shoura election. Two were excluded because they didn't complete their documents in time and three withdrew. There was then only 11 female candidates out of 454 candidates in nine governorates. Only three female candidates were affiliated to a political party: The National Democratic Party nominated one female candidate out of 92 candidates, El-Ahrar party nominated one

female candidate, El-Tagamo'a party nominated one female candidate. The eight remaining candidates were labeled as independent.

## **Press Conferences**



ECWR was involved in the Egyptian Coalition whose aim was to monitor the parliamentary elections. The four partners of this coalition are:

- The Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights
- The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
- Andalus Centre for Human Rights
- The Centre for Trade Union and Workers' Services

ECWR held 6 press conferences, in coordination with 134 non-governmental organizations in Egypt, in order to present all the works and preparations related to the monitoring of the elections. The press conferences purpose was also to share the outputs of the process of monitoring the elections in all the different stages of the election process: nomination, preparation by political parties and candidates, appeal phase, Election Day, and runoff elections. Below are details of each press conference:

- 1) The first one was held at the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights to announce that the Egyptian coalition will monitor the parliamentary elections. The coalition presented its goals and mechanisms of work, and filed many complaints and questions from male and female candidates in all stages of the electoral process.
- 2) The second one was held to announce the technological and technical methods used by the coalition to follow and monitor the electoral process in all the governorates, in coordination with 134 non-governmental organizations and 1,200 field monitors.
- 3) The third one presented the reports of the organizations on nomination phase and the end of all electoral appeals. Presenters also discussed the violations to which female candidates were exposed in all governorates in the first stage. ECWR presented its monitoring report of the stage. This was the result of direct communication with female candidates and the many complaints received in the stages of nomination and appeals.

- 4) The fourth one presented the report of field monitoring for the first Election Day on November 28, 2010 and the field violations male and female candidates were exposed to at all stages of the election. ECWR presented the field monitoring report and announced a number of important recommendations. ECWR also presented the primary results of the constituencies that it monitored in the runoff elections on December 5, 2010.
- 5) In the fifth press conference the coalition announced the report about the field monitoring of the electoral process on the runoff election on December the 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. Furthermore, the coalition highlighted some issues and problems faced by candidates.
- 6) During the last press conference, the coalition announced its final recommendations on the electoral process, the circumstances and the forging of votes, bullying and violent acts.
  - i. ECWR also presented the results of the annual report on women's status in 2010 in a press conference held at the ECWR on December 26, 2010 entitled "Postponed rights in the state's council and temporary rights in parliament".



## **Media Coverage of ECWR's activities during 2010**

During the year 2010, all ECWR's activities had huge media coverage at a local and international level (On TV, Radio, Newspapers and Internet). Egyptian newspapers covered extensively the Safe Street for All campaign at all levels including the prepared studies, the awareness campaigns, the seminars... etc. Here is a list of Newspapers that covered this campaign: Al-Masry Al-Youm, Nahdet Misr, RosalYousif , Al-Wafed, Al-Dostour, Al-Badeel, Al- Watany Al-Youm, Al-Ahram, Al-Ahrar, Al-Gomhouraya, Alyoum Al-Sabea'a, Hawa'a Magazine, Nesf El-Donia Magazine, Sabah El-Kheer Magazine, El-Massa'aya, Al-Hayah .

### ***At the level of visual media:***

The visual media addressed ECWR's ideas and activities in some TV programs as follow:

- Al Beet Betk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> channel on the Egyptian T.V
- 90 Minutes on Al-Mehour channel
- Al Ashara'a Masa'an on Dream channel
- Shababeek T.V program
- Kol Lela T.V program
- Sorry for Annoying "Assef 3ala el Ez3ag" on Dream channel
- Sefsafa'a on the 2<sup>nd</sup> channel on the Egyptian T.V
- Family and Children channel
- 1<sup>st</sup> channel on the Egyptian T.V
- The Nile News channel
- Al-Hayat Al-Youm on Al- Hayat Channel
- Al-Hourra Channel
- MBC channel

### ***Some Egyptian and foreign radio stations broadcasted programs about ECWR:***

- Al-Bernamg Al-A'am radio station
- Middle East Radio station
- Youth and Sport Radio station
- Greater Cairo Radio Station
- BBC Radio Station
- The German Radio Station
- Monte Carlo Radio Station