

Celebrating International Women's Day 2016

***Human Rights Without Frontiers* is celebrating International Women's Day by launching a specific newsletter that is dedicated to Women's Rights and Gender Equality.**

HRWF (08.03.2016) - Women comprise approximately half of the world's population. They wear many hats in life as community leaders, business owners, caretakers, role models, politicians, mothers, best friends, wives, and partners – just to name a few. Perhaps a lesser known role is that of women as refugee and peacekeeper.

In honour of International Women's Day, the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality dedicated their committee meeting on the 3rd of March to "Women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU." The event highlighted the pivoted role that women play in the current refugee situation facing the European Union and shed light on why more female voices need to be included around the peacekeeping and policy table.

Although asylum laws seem to be gender neutral on their face, upon closer look you'll see a different story. Reception centres for displaced people are – among various other problems – falling short on facilities to deal with the fundamental needs of the women they are receiving. Many times women have left their country of origin where they were "weapons of war," and they are subjected to much of the same when they try to escape it, falling into the hands of smugglers or traffickers. And then again when they reach a so-called "safe-country," they may continue to face abuse, discrimination, and/or neglect. Reception centres often lack separate housing accommodations for men, women, and unaccompanied minors. Health services available to deal with women's health, pregnancy, female genital mutilation (FGM) issues, etc. are inadequate to nonexistent. Psychiatric care is also needed to help survivors of gender based violence (GBV). Without the proper measures in place to ensure their safety and integration into the society of their host country, they will not be able to care for their children, their families, become part of communities, work or start business to contribute economically, and generally be a source of stability and peace that is very much needed at this point in our modern history.

There are, of course, many needs to be addressed and many stories to be told in order to shed the spotlight on a problem in order to find a solution. Woman as refugee and peacekeeper is just one of them. *Human Rights Without Frontiers* is celebrating International Women's Day by launching a specific newsletter that is dedicated to Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

It has often been said, and stays steadfastly true, that "**women's rights are human rights.**" And when the rights of women improve, this has a positive effect on the whole of humankind.

Additional reading:

[European Parliament study on Female Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#)

[European Parliament study on links between Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030: Goal 5](#)

[UN Women on International Women's Day](#)

[Interactive timeline: Women's Footprint in History](#)

[International Women's Day website](#)