



MINERVA PROJECT /

Syrian Refugee Women: in Gaziantep, a road towards autonomy and capacity for recovery

“Syrian Refugee Women. Educational paths, intercultural dialogue, employment: a road towards autonomy and capacity for recovery” is the 2-day Seminar organized by **MINERVA** and supported by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)** which will be held on **16th and 17th of March 2016, at Divan Hotel in Gaziantep.**

The aim of the Seminar, which is based on research centering on the situation of Syrian refugee women in Turkey and Turkish, Italian, European and international law, is to identify, define and promote effective actions to strengthen the protection and the role of women refugees, specifically in the host Turkish community. The thematic areas of the project involve actions and interventions on education, both formal and informal, overcoming cultural barriers and access to work.

Welcome Address by: Ms **FATMA ŞAHIN**, Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep; H.E. **LUIGI MATTIOLO**, Ambassador of Italy to Turkey ; Mr **MEHMET ALI EMINOĞLU**, Turkish Prime Ministry Office; Mr **PIERLUIGI SEVERI**, President of Minerva

The event, which will take place with experts from the civil society and the Italian Institutions, with the Central Authorities of Ankara (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Family and Social Politics) and with a large representation of the principal Turkish and Syrian Organizations which operate in Turkey and deal with Syrian refugee women.

The expert who will bring a speech at the 2 day Seminar: Ms **Fuji Kawata** - *UNHCR, Protection Officer, Community Based (“General Overview of the Syrian Crisis - The empowerment of Syrian Women in SE Turkey)*; **Prof. Gian Carlo Blangiardo** - *Professor in Demography at University Milano-Bicocca*; **Ms. Melek Cakiroglu** - *KADEM, Founder Member and Head of National Organization Committee*; **Ms Sofia Amoddio** – *Italian Parliamentarian, Justice Commission* ; **Mr Bora Özbek**, *UNFPA, National GBV Expert (“Women and Girls Safe Spaces”)* ; **Att. Zehra Sağlam** – *Gaziantep Bar Association, Attorney. Member of the “Refugee Rights Working Group” of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations*; **Ms Fatma Karagöz** - *Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Politics, Expert*

Psychologist (Advisory Services for Syrian Women Refugees); Ms Filiz Demir, IOM, Refugee Emergency Response Officer ("IOM activities in urban areas"); Ms. Aynur Yildiran - KAMER Foundation, President of Gaziantep Branch; Ms Anna Nava - Neuropsychologist, operator and trainer for MSF in Human Rights ; Ms. Melek Kasim - Syrian Activist, Alubi.Alnanasavi.Sy ; Ms Sümeyye Nur Düzcan - International Refugee Rights Association, Board Member; Ms Derya Merve Uslu - Turkish Ministry of Education, Expert (Refugee women and access to education); Mr Giuseppe Fusacchia - Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. General Directorate for Students, Integration and Participation - Office IV; Ms Rana Bitar - Syrian Organization "This is my life", Chief Executive Officer; Ms Ahlam Milacy - Syrian Women Union, President; Ms Sehadet Gercek - Mozaik Women and Family Ngo, President; Mr İhlas Müslüma - Damascus Orphaned Children's Organization, President; Ms Mehpare Şayan Kileci - Honorary Consul of Italy to Gaziantep; Ms Necla Uz - Turkish Ministry of Labor, Expert (Refugee women and employment); Mr Rodolfo Giorgetti - "Italia Lavoro", Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Head of Immigration Department ; Ms Ezgi Emre Stone - Hayata Destek, Şanlıurfa Community Center Manager ; Ms G. Hülya Akkaya - The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). Head of Women Entrepreneur Council South East Region; Ms. Perihan Cocelli - Board Member of KAGIDER, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey.

MINERVA is a non for profit cooperative which was initially created in 1984 by the Association of Women's Club as a publishing house to give a voice to women and more vulnerable segments of the society through a monthly journal by the same name distributed on national newsstands and by subscription. Over the years Minerva has expanded its mission to include projects aimed at: promoting studies, seminars, conferences and cultural, communication and training initiatives on themes of social, economic, political and institutional interest, concerning the condition of women, children and distressed categories both in Italy and Europe and internationally. Minerva established the first prize for women in Italy, the **Minerva Prize** ("Premio Minerva" - in November 2016 the 27th Edition, at the Capitol of Rome), and since the passing of its founder Anna Maria Mammoliti, carries her name as well. The prize is dedicated to Italian and International women involved in various knowledge-related fields and has the **high Patronage of the President of the Republic and the Patronage of major institutions.**

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