

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

WE ARE HER



Co-funded by
the European Union

PROJECT



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

GENERAL GOAL

WE ARE HER – ‘Ensuring Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through International Projects’, aims to contribute to the empowerment of women, girls, and young people to ‘fully utilize their rights and increase their participation in political, economic, and cultural life’ by addressing the structural causes of gender inequality as well as gender-based discrimination in different and diverse regions of the world.

The project aims to strengthen capacities and promote collaboration among six organisations in the Mediterranean region (Lebanon, Greece, Belgium, Turkey, and Albania), working directly with youth workers and young people from various backgrounds. This is achieved through various activities, giving young people the opportunity to participate in Youth Exchanges, co-creating their own global social media campaign, and constantly receiving mentorship from local WE ARE HER Ambassadors.



WE ARE HER LOCAL ACTIONS

"HER VOICE, OUR FUTURE"



GREENWAVE FESTIVAL, USB

As part of the Greenwave Festival, USB facilitated an engaging interactive workshop that explored the connection between environmental awareness and gender stereotypes. Participants worked together to create a large collective collage, visually mapping how gender and sustainability influence one another in everyday life.

The activity sparked meaningful conversations, encouraged creative expression, and invited the public to reflect on how equality and ecological responsibility go hand in hand. Through collaboration and open dialogue, the workshop highlighted how small actions and shared understanding can inspire more inclusive and sustainable communities.



BOOK CLUB

USB's young ambassadors launched a Book Club under the WE ARE HER project, creating a safe space to explore gender issues through literature. Their first session featured *Love Me Tender* by Constance Debré, sparking meaningful conversations on empowerment, autonomy, and social expectations.

YOUTH FESTIVAL OF ORAIOKASTRO

USB participated in the Youth Festival of Oraikastro with a dynamic series of workshops and interactive activities dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Young participants took part in discussions, creative exercises, and video-making activities that shed light on everyday gender stereotypes and explored ways to challenge them.

The sessions fostered open dialogue, critical reflection, and youth-led advocacy, contributing to the broader mission of the WE ARE HER project to inspire more inclusive and equitable communities.



WE ARE HER LOCAL ACTIONS

TURKEY

COACHING SESSION ON POST-VIOLENCE TRAUMA - BODRUM

Coaching Session on Post-Violence Trauma – Bodrum
In Bodrum, participants took part in a deep and transformative coaching session focused on navigating and healing from post-violence trauma. Through guided exercises, emotional awareness techniques, and supportive group discussions, the session provided a safe environment for individuals to explore their experiences, regain a sense of control, and learn practical tools for rebuilding resilience. This initiative highlighted the importance of compassionate support, professional guidance, and community in the healing journey of survivors.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS MEETING

BDK held a focused meeting with its youth ambassadors on March 25 to refine the policy recommendations developed within the WE ARE HER project. During the session, ambassadors reviewed key challenges, shared insights from their local actions, and worked collaboratively to strengthen proposals aimed at advancing gender equality at individual, organizational, and national levels. The meeting highlighted the ambassadors' leadership and commitment to shaping meaningful, youth-driven policies that can inspire real change.



LARP (LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAY)

BDK hosted a creative LARP (Live Action Role Play) workshop as part of the WE ARE HER project, using interactive storytelling to explore and challenge gender stereotypes. Through role-playing different characters and real-life scenarios, participants uncovered how biases shape daily experiences and reflected on ways to break these patterns. This February activity offered a dynamic, engaging space for young people to rethink norms, build empathy, and strengthen their advocacy for gender equality.



WE ARE HER LOCAL ACTIONS

EGYPT



ASPIRE'S ACTIVITY "SHAALEBHA" (FLIP IT)

Aspire's activity "Shaalebha" (Flip It), implemented under the Manhood Project in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands, challenges traditional gender stereotypes in a creative and family-centered way. During a special family camp, 14 trained facilitators guided Egyptian families through fun, role-reversing activities designed to spark reflection and open conversation.

In a playful twist, men took on cooking duties—traditionally viewed as a women's role in many Middle Eastern households—while women enjoyed time dedicated to self-care and skin routines. This intentional role swap helped participants experience, question, and rethink the expectations tied to gender in their daily lives.



The activity concluded with a facilitated reflection circle, where families discussed their feelings, insights, and observations. Many shared how gender norms influence their routines, responsibilities, and relationships as couples. "Shaalebha" continues to encourage families to see equality not as a theory, but as a practice built through shared understanding and everyday actions.

Participants shared insights from their local actions, and worked collaboratively to strengthen proposals aimed at advancing gender equality at individual, organizational, and national levels. The meeting highlighted the ambassadors' leadership and commitment to shaping meaningful, youth-driven policies that can inspire real change.



Co-funded by
the European Union



WE ARE HER LOCAL ACTIONS

ALBANIA



NATIONAL ACTIVISM FAIR

SIFD proudly promoted the WE ARE HER project at the National Activism Fair in Tirana, Albania.

Through interactive discussions and visual materials, the team engaged young people, activists, and civil society representatives in conversations about gender equality, women's empowerment, and the role of youth-led initiatives. The fair provided an important opportunity to raise visibility, share project results, and connect with new supporters committed to positive social change.

SIFD's presence highlighted the growing movement behind WE ARE HER and reinforced the importance of collective action in advancing equality and ending gender-based violence.



ROUNDTABLE ON GENDER STEREOTYPES IN LEZHË

The Lezhë Youth Center hosted an engaging discussion roundtable focused on gender stereotypes, bringing together young people eager to exchange ideas and reflect on everyday inequalities. Participants shared personal experiences, challenged common assumptions, and explored how gender norms shape opportunities and behaviours within their communities. The open and inclusive atmosphere encouraged meaningful dialogue, highlighting the important role young people play in promoting a more equitable society.



"HER VOICE, OUR FUTURE" EVENT

Youngsters from Albania took action as part of the Her Voice, Our Future campaign — raising their voices against gender-based violence and gender stereotypes. Together, they stand for a world where every woman and girl can live with dignity, safety, and equal opportunities.

Let's keep spreading awareness, inspiring change, and building a future free from violence and discrimination.



Co-funded by
the European Union



WE ARE HER LOCAL ACTIONS

LEBANON



#NOTBEFORE18

During a roundtable discussion organized by RDFL, the WE ARE HER ambassadors in Lebanon actively participated by sharing their insights and recommendations alongside other key attendees. Their contributions were directed toward influential stakeholders—including Members of Parliament, legal experts, judges, and civil society representatives—highlighting the urgent need to establish a law that protects children from early marriage.

This event formed part of RDFL's national campaign #NotBefore18, a long-standing initiative advocating for stronger legal protections and the safeguarding of children's rights across Lebanon.



#NOTMEGHLINORFAVOR

As part of the preparation for the national #NotMeghliNorFavor campaign, the WE ARE HER ambassadors in Lebanon held a series of meetings to discuss, plan, and develop their advocacy message on parental leave. Their work highlighted significant legal and social gaps: maternity leave remains limited to 70 days, leaving many women—especially those not covered by the National Social Security Fund—without adequate protection. In some cases, employers even attempt to bypass the law by shortening maternity leave or counting it as annual leave.

The ambassadors also drew attention to the fact that fathers are currently entitled to only three days of paternity leave, and many are unaware of this right. These disparities underscore the urgent need to reform Lebanon's parental leave framework, extend paternity leave, and ensure a fair and balanced approach to caregiving responsibilities for both parents.



Co-funded by
the European Union





“ WE ARE HER has been a truly enriching opportunity, as it allowed us to exchange ideas about the gender gap in workplaces with young people from diverse backgrounds and cultures , and how youth power can make the real change in society

Marwa Al Kayal - RDFL LEBANON



“ My participation in WE ARE HER program provided me with deeper insights into the state of women's rights in non-Arab regions, such as Eastern Europe, and offered a valuable opportunity to explore youth advocacy approaches in these new contexts.

ZAHRAA NAJJAR - RDFL LEBANON



SNAPSHOT FROM LEBANON - WE ARE HER AMBASSADORS

Our ambassadors in Lebanon are actively engaging in activities that promote gender equality, youth leadership, and women's empowerment. From interactive discussions to creative workshops, they are sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and inspiring their communities to challenge stereotypes and advocate for change. Their dedication and energy continue to highlight the impact of youth-led action across all partner countries of the WE ARE HER project.



“ Through my experience in We Are Her I gained meaningful exposure to youth exchange and cross-cultural understanding, collaborating with youth from across different countries to discuss social issues, share perspectives, and strengthen our collective voice.

NISRINE AL ASHKAR - RDFL LEBANON



“ My experience in WE ARE HER was deeply enriching. It allowed me to connect with youth from diverse cultures and overcome personal apprehensions, while also highlighting the shared challenges women face, especially regarding political participation and stereotypes, across different contexts.

LILIANE DIRANI- RDFL LEBANON



“ We Are Her was a turning point for me; it reshaped my awareness and broadened my understanding of my role as a Youth Ambassador, and as a young person responsible for transforming change from an idea into action.

AYMAN MOHAMAD - RDFL LEBANON



Co-funded by
the European Union





SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT



Belgium

WE ARE HER is a two-year international project dedicated to advancing gender equality and strengthening women's empowerment through youth engagement, cross-border collaboration, and community-based action. Bringing together organisations from Europe and the MENA region—YEU (Belgium), USB (Greece), SIFD (Albania), ASPIRE (Egypt), BDK (Türkiye), and RDFL (Lebanon)—the project empowered young people to become advocates for more inclusive, gender-sensitive societies.



Egypt

Through a series of international Youth Exchanges, national workshops, creative campaigns, and non-formal learning activities, participants explored key issues such as gender stereotypes, decision-making gaps, women's political participation, and gender-based violence. The project also trained a group of youth ambassadors, equipping them with leadership skills and opportunities to design their own advocacy initiatives.



Greece

A major outcome of WE ARE HER is the development of policy recommendations at individual, organisational, local/national, and European levels—reflecting the voices and experiences of young people engaged throughout the project. The initiative concluded with an International Final Conference in Brussels, presenting achievements, youth-led campaigns, and the collective vision for continued action.

Project overview: Results and Outcomes

- 6 partners engaged in a lasting Euro-Med network on gender equality.
- 100 youth ambassadors trained and mobilized for local campaigns.
- 4 international youth exchanges and 1 capacity-building training implemented.
- Launch of the WE ARE HER digital platform and transnational social media campaign.
- Policy recommendations and organizational guidelines on gender equality produced to be shared at the international conference in Brussels.



Albania

Project overview: ACTIVITIES

- Partners Meetings
- Staff training
- Capacity Building Training Course for Youth Workers
- Online workshops
- 4 International Youth Exchanges
- Local Events

Project overview: Dissemination Through the Project

- 6 WE ARE HER platform
- WE ARE HER social media accounts
- WE ARE HER newsletters
- Local campaign with mass marketing
- Multiplier events



Türkiye



Lebanon



“WE ARE HER”
#HERVOICEOURFUTURE

THANK YOU

The WE ARE HER project will continue making a meaningful impact in local communities through the dedication and leadership of its ambassadors. Their ongoing efforts to raise awareness, challenge gender stereotypes, and promote equality ensure that the project's mission lives on beyond its official activities, inspiring lasting change at the grassroots level.



Co-funded by
 the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them