



"Violence against women: Good practices in
combating and eliminating violence against women"

Expert Group Meeting

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in collaboration with:
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HONOUR KILLING IN EGYPT

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INTRODUCTION:

The Association of Legal Aid for Women (CEWLA) is situated in Beaulac el Dakrou, a densely populated low income area in Cairo, Egypt. A large number of the inhabitants of the area came originally from conservative rural Upper Egypt to look for jobs and to settle down in Cairo. CEWLA is always visited by girls and women who come to seek CEWLA's assistance in issuing identity cards or obtaining birth certificates, seeking free of charge legal aid, or seeking counseling with regard to female genital mutilation.

During their visits to the NGO, women and girls recalled several incidences of honour killing that took place in the rural areas they came from. They also mentioned that the same incidences happen sometimes to their relatives or friends in the urban area where they live.

CEWLA became interested in addressing this difficult problem in Egypt and which was never addressed before either by government or by NGOs. It was in fact a taboo. The struggle against honour crimes started by CEWLA ddrwiteca

with the result that FGM is universally practiced and veiling is increasingly imposed and honour crimes are acceptably practiced.

Honour crimes refer to the murder of a woman by her male family members for a perceived violation of the social norms of sexuality, or a suspicion of women having transgressed the limits of social behaviour imposed by traditions. This includes seeing or meeting a man even if this is only a suspicion or a gossip. Honor crimes include also a husband kills his wife whom he or other family members suspected her of adultery. It is difficult to estimate the overall number of honour killings that take place yearly in Egypt. An Egyptian report based on 1995 statistics counted 52 honor killings (out of 819 murders) reported.

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and kill their daught

In all ten court cases the penalties ranged from no verdict to imprisonment between 2 and 4 years except the first

