



## DARE TO DEFY SEXUAL HARASSMENT!

EGYPT - YOUTH AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### CONTEXT AND INITIATIVE

Women & girls in Egypt are confronted with sexual harassment in public and private spaces. Their safe mobility & equal participation on the societal, political, and economic levels are thus made difficult, affecting the advancement of gender equality and economic growth in Egypt.

The Egyptian-German project “Youth against Sexual Harassment (YASH)” commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) builds on the national interest to combat all forms of violence against women as stated in the “National Strategy to combat Violence against Women”, in the respective legal reforms as well as in the “Women Strategy 2030”. It aims to foster a critical public discourse on sexual harassment, stimulate behavioral change in the Egyptian society and mobilize youth and non-governmental civil society actors to engage themselves actively in combatting sexual harassment.

### CONCRETE MEASURES AND ACTION TAKEN

YASH strengthens the capacities of the Egyptian Ministry of Youth & Sports (MoYS) & its partners from civil soci-



ety in designing & implementing youth-oriented measures to combat sexual harassment in the facilities of the MoYS at national and local level.

The measures comprise of policy advice & grass-root activities with & by young members in youth centers and local communities. To stimulate public debate, national & local media campaigns & events are carried out in collaboration with celebrities.



In November 2018 a big music festival with renowned Egyptian musicians was launched under the auspices of MoYS, delivering advocacy messages against sexual harassment nationwide.

### RESULTS AND IMPACT

On the policy advice level, Egypt’s 1st Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy at ministry level was endorsed in February 2018 by the MoYS. Its high-level launch was attended by more than 1500 representatives from different governmental and international institutions and covered by local and international media and digital platforms. Ms. Caroline Maher, the youngest female member of the Egyptian Parliament and a world Taekwondo champion and the 1st Egyptian, Arab, and African female player to be honored in the Taekwondo Hall of Fame, rallies

for the MoYS Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy to be adopted and implemented by other Egyptian Ministries. In mid-2019 the Egyptian Parliament called for starting the mainstreaming process within the ministries of education, higher education and endowment. In parallel, the project implemented over 500 activities with male and female youth in 11 governorates. Approx. 70 young female & male trainers are qualified in gender awareness raising among male youth to combat sexual harassment and WenDo self-defense to empower girls and women.



The WenDo trainers are unique in the MENA region and their expertise is strongly sought after by other international organizations to teach specialized female self-defence techniques to locals and refugees.

In Nov 2019 YASH and MoYS partnered in the first multi-stakeholder digital campaign on combatting sexual harassment in public transportation. The 1-minute video produced for social media platforms attracted almost 1 million viewers.

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