



Canada supports the Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen and Equitas to Empower Youth, Women and Marginalized Groups in Tunisia

Tunis, July 26, 2018 – The Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen (TU-MED), an organization that builds the capacity of civil society organizations in Tunisia, is teaming up with Equitas, a Canadian organization that uses human rights education to advance equality, social justice and respect for human dignity worldwide, to launch a new three-year initiative, Rawabet: Technological Bridges for Citizen Engagement. This regional initiative is funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (C\$2,842,000). Through Rawabet, over 1,500 youth, women and persons with disabilities in Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco and Egypt will learn how to effectively use new technologies to engage with their communities and participate more actively in the promotion of social and economic rights.

Building on the results of various human rights education activities implemented by Equitas and its local partners in the Middle-East and North Africa region, the Rawabet initiative will bring together youth leaders to train to use innovative online tools to promote social and economic rights for positive change in Tunisia. Youth, women and persons with disabilities will be equipped with knowledge and skills to participate more actively in democratic processes, including engagement with decision makers, civil society organizations and members of their community on human rights issues, such as gender equality and inclusion.

The initiative is implemented in close collaboration with the regional partner, the Center for Victims of Torture's - New Tactics in Human Rights program (USA-Jordan), and the national partners RUWWAD – The Arab Foundation for Sustainable Development (Jordan), the Association marocaine pour l'éducation de la jeunesse - Fes (Morocco), and the Horus Foundation for Training and Development (Egypt).

Quotes

“Canada is pleased to support youth, women, marginalized groups and persons with disabilities so that they can participate actively in discussions on national issues, including economic and social rights. The use of Information and Communication Technologies will undoubtedly open up new spaces for freedom, enable them to make their voices heard, and advance democracy and empowerment.” - **Carol McQueen, Ambassador of Canada to Tunisia**

“Since its inception, TU-MED has supported local civil society representatives to get involved in decision-making processes in their regions, while focusing on gender equality and capacity building for women. Rawabet will strengthen this approach while adding a new element, that of new technologies, by widening the scope to include youth and people living a disability.” - **Ahlem Nsiri, Director, Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen**

“Rawabet, means ‘Connections’, and this is what the initiative is creating today with youth in Tunisia. At a time when voices of youth, women and other marginalized groups remain largely unheard, working with the Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen for the next three years will help remove barriers to meaningful participation and empower these groups, through technologies and connectivity, to be engaged.” - **Ian Hamilton, Executive Director, Equitas**

Highlights

- Regional as well as national-level activities in Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco and Egypt
 - online and face-to-face capacity building workshops
 - innovative online tools
 - community mobilization
 - regional dialogues/conferences
- In numbers
 - 4 countries
 - 14 community actions
 - 73,000 beneficiaries to be reached

Related Links

- [Rawabet online platform](#)
- [Rawabet program brochure](#)
- [Equitas work in MENA region](#)
- [Video: Youth Participation in MENA \(Mosharka project 2016\)](#)

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About the Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen

The Centre Tunisien Méditerranéen (Centre TU-MED) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2012 that supports Tunisian civil society through capacity building for the participation in public life and decision making. [TUMED Facebook page](#)

About Equitas

Based in Montreal, Equitas is Canada’s oldest and most active human rights education organization. We work for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human dignity through transformative education programs. 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of Equitas and our programs have reached over 2 million people worldwide during the last five decades For more information, visit www.equitas.org