**International Forum:** Women’s Voices in the Mediterranean and Africa: Movements, Feminisms, and Resistance to Extremisms

**Dates:** 5, 6, & 7 May, 2017  
**Venue:** Hôtel Les Mérinides, Fès

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**Languages of the Forum:** Arabic, French, English (with simultaneous translation)

Women’s voices in the Mediterranean and Africa are increasingly rising against mounting gender-based violence in the name of radical Islam. Academics and activists of both sexes are concerned about the fate of hard-won rights and seek solutions beyond the victimization of women. Through feminist discourses and activism, women and men are denouncing biases, asking for justice, reclaiming rights in public spaces of authority, and reconciling older and newer generations of feminists in the Mediterranean and Africa. Such creative resistance constitutes the focus of this 8th edition of the “Mediterranean Women” Forum. Four major themes are addressed:

*The contextualisation of extremisms and women’s resistances  
*Radicalized ideologies in the Maghrib  
*Radicalized ideologies in Africa  
*Islam and feminism/Islamic feminisms – Strategies of resistance

**P R O G R A M**

**Friday 5 May**

9:00 h   Arrival of participants  
9:30 h   Opening Session: Welcoming Speeches

**Keynote Speech**  
Women’s Fight Against Extremisms: From Resistance to Bold Action  
Assia BENSALAH ALAOU, Ambassador at large for His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco

10:30   Reception

11:00 h   Inaugural Lecture  
Moderator: Moha ENNAJI, President, International Institute for Languages and Cultures, Fez  
The Place of Religion in Delivery and Reception Discourses  
Driss FASSI FIHRI, Professor and Imam, Al-Qarawiyyn University, Fez

**1st Session:** Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistances I  
**Moderator:** Shirin EDWIN, Houston State University, USA
11:30 h Dissident Women: Authoritarianism, Feminism, and the State in Africa
    Alicia DECKER, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

11:45 h Radicalization and Youth in North Africa
    Moha ENNAJI, President, International Institute for Languages and Cultures, Fez

12:00 h – 12:30 h: Discussion

2nd Session: Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistances II
    Moderator: Adryan WALLACE, University of Hartford, USA

15:00 h Religious Extremism and Transformation in South African Universities: a Feminist Perspective
    Mary HAMES, University of the Western Cape, Bellville, South Africa

15:15 h Algerian Women and their Anti-Terrorist Struggle
    Zahia SMAIL SALHI, University of Manchester, England

15:30 h Contextualisation of Extremisms and Resistance in Egypt
    Sarah FARAG, University of Zurich, Switzerland

15:45 h Discussion
16:15 h Coffee Break

3rd Session: Radicalist Ideologies in the Maghrib
    Moderator: Kébir SANDY, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

16:30 h Le rôle de la société civile dans la lutte contre l’extrémisme
    Khaled MEHIZ, Président, Bureau d’Alger de l’Association Nationale De Volontariat, Algérie

16:45 h Femmes Jihadistes, actrices à part entière ou simples victimes?
    Nabila HAMZA, sociologue, activiste et experte en genre

17:00 h Preventing Women's Radicalisation through Empowerment and Inclusion in Morocco
    Mohamed MOUBTASSIME, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

17:15 h Discussion

Saturday 6 May

4th Session: Radicalist Ideologies in Africa
    Moderator: Tushabe wa TUSHABE, Kansas State University, USA

9:30 h Contextualising Gendered Dimensions of the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria
    Charmaine, PEREIRA, Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), Abuja, Nigeria

9:45 h Border Anxieties and Gender Identity in Post West Gate Kenya
    Awino OKECH, University of London, England
10:00 h  Imagining Change: Women in the Mediterranean and the Middle East
Kum-Kum BHAVNANI, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

10:15 h  Discussion
10:30 h  Coffee Break

5th Session:  Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Looking Back
Moderator:  Lisa ARMSTRONG, Smith College, USA

10:15 h  When History Is Written, the Cameroonian Women Will Have an Honorable Place in its Pages” : Writing Anglophone Cameroonian Women’s Activism
Jacqueline-Bethel TCHOUTA MOUGOUE, Baylor University, Texas, USA

11:30 h  Millenial Feminism in Ghana
Akosua ADOMAKO AMPOFO, University of Ghana, Ghana

11:45 h  Alice Lakwena, Founder of the Holy Spirit Mobile Forces
Helma PASCH, University of Koln, Germany

12:00 h – 12:30 h:   Discussion

6th Session:  Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Reconceptualizations I
Moderator:  Karima BELGHITI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

15:00 h  The Category of Religion as Substitute for Race and Culture. A Socio-political Phenomenon as Cause and Effect of Islamophobia and Extremism
Ulrike LINGEN-ALI, University of Oldenbourg, Germany

15:15 h  Global Campaigns Against Gender-based Violence as Transcultural Learning Experiences? Reflections on the Ambivalences of Activist Networks
Lydia POTTS, University of Oldenbourg, Germany

15:30 h  Funding Transnational Feminist Research: Learning from Case 173 in Egypt
Ebony COLETU, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

15:45:    Discussion
16:15 h   Coffee Break

7th Session:  Ways of Resisting Radicalization: Reconceptualizations II
Moderator:  Khalid BEKKAOUI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

16 :30 h  Sufi Epistemologies and Feminist Critique: The Short Stories of Alifa Rifaat
Hoda El SHAKRY, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

16 :45 h  Conceptualising Migration and Family
Zaheera JINNAH, University of Witwaterstarnd, Johanesbourg, South Africa
17: 00 h  The Missing Link: Women as Care-Provider and Countering Violent Extremisms  
**Fatma OSMAN IBNOUF**, University of Khartoum, Sudan

17: 15 h  Discussion

8th Session: Layla - Film (98 mins – Director – Mijke de Jong)  
Moderator: **Lenie BROUWER**, VU University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18 : 00 h:  Dutch-Moroccan Women’s Multiple Voices  
**Karen VINTGES**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18 : 00:  Women and Radicalisation: Agents or Victims?  
**Edien BARTELS**, VU University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

18: 15:  Film Screening

**Sunday 7 May**

9th Session: Islam and Feminism/Islamic Feminism I  
Moderator: **Gabeba BADEROON**, Penn State University, Pennsylvania

9:00 h  The Empowering Legacy of Women Saints  
**Aziza OUGUIR**, International Association of Religion and Gender, The Netherlands

9: 15 h  Gold Poured Off of her Hair: Interrogating Sudan’s Decolonial, Opposition Discourses from a Feminist Perspective  
**Nada MUSTAPHA ALI**, University of Massachusetts Bosto, USA

9: 30 h  Gender, Ethics and Islam  
**Sadiyya SHAIKH**, University of Capetown, South Africa

9:45 h  Discussion

10:00 h  Coffee Break

10th Session: Islam and Feminism/Islamic Feminism II  
Moderator: **Maha MAROUAN**, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA

10:45 h  A Curious Correspondence: Parallels between Roman and Islamic Marriage Law  
**Marjorie LIGHTMAN**, Senior Fellow, Women’s Research and Educational Institute, Washington DC, USA

11:00  Islamic Women’s Political Activism: A Bulwark Against Islamist Extremism  
**Hanane DARHOUR**, Ibn Zohr University, Ouarzazate, Morocco

11:15 h  Islam, Urban Poverty and Gender-based Violence: A Case Study of the City of Fez  
**Souad SLAOUI & Hassan EL HAJJAMI**, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

11:45h  Discussion
12:15 h  Poetry Reading: Gabeba BADEROON (English) and Fatima-Zahra ALAOUI (French)

12:45 h  Recommendations and Closure
Moderator: Fatima SADIQI (Director of the Forum)

13:00 h  End of the Forum

15:00-17:00  Guided Tour to the Medina (Old city) and Ville Nouvelle (New City)

21:00:  Farewell Party: Local Women’s Music

Organizing Committee

Fatima SADIQI
Helmut REIFELD
Abir IBOURK
Moha ENNAJI
Alicia Katharine DECKER
Gabeba BADEROON
Brahim AKDIM
Abdelilah BENLEMLIH
Khalid BEKKAOUI
Souad SLAOUI
Sadik RDDAD
Mohamed MOUBTASSIME
Mohamed YACHOULTI
Rachid ELOUARDI
Youssra BETTACHE
Loubna BARDA
Omar EL BOURKADI
Hind ENNAJARI
Othmane EL AMRI

Book Exhibit: Librairie Mékouar – Fez
Anouar Diffusion - Fez
Lefennec - Casablanca

Painting: Khadija MADANI ALAOUI, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez

Exhibition of feminine products: Rajae SLAOUI-HAMMOUDA, President, ESPOD, Association for the Promotion of small enterprises, Fez