



P R E S S R E L A S E

- Not to be used before November 12, 2013 -

A new project to strengthen the role of youth in building human rights and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean

Montreal - November 12, 2013. Youth organisations from five Southern Mediterranean countries team up with Equitas to launch a new three year project called *Mosharka* (the word for "participation" in Arabic). This project is funded primarily by the European Union (750,000 €) and Ford Foundation. It will build on the vital role played by young people in the Southern Mediterranean, who have been at the forefront of dramatic changes in the region, to integrate youth as active participants in the advancement of democracy, equality and fundamental rights and freedoms in their societies. **The project will also help young women and men better understand and apply human rights principles and values to promote equality, diversity, non-discrimination and access to justice for young people.** The *Mosharka* Project activities will roll out in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen involving at least 1000 young people in training and action-oriented activities with the aim to develop a common and inclusive regional agenda for youth.

The Project will be launched during the Regional Workshop in Fes, Morocco, which will bring together 26 participants from the 5 countries involved in the project. National sessions and youth initiatives will follow the regional session with the project culminating in a regional youth forum in 2015.

The project is implemented jointly by Equitas and six partner organizations: Arab Network for Citizenship and Human Rights Education (a regional organization based in Jordan), Horus Foundation for Development and Training (Egypt), Change Academy for Democratic Studies (Jordan), the *Association marocaine pour le développement de la jeunesse* (Morocco), the *Association Tunisienne des femmes pour la recherche et le développement* (Tunisia) and Youth Leadership Development Foundation (Yemen).

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equitas



A project implemented
By Equitas – International
Centre for Human rights
Education

666 rue sherbrooke Ouest,
suite 1100
Montreal, QC Canada:
Tel: +1 514 954 0382
Fax: +1 514 954 0659

This project is funded
by the European Union

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".

We invite you to attend the launch of the Project.

- What:** Presentation of the *Mosharka* Project.
Followed by lunch. Interviews available with Project partners and workshop participants.
- When:** Tuesday, November 12
10:30am – 12:00 pm
- Where:** Palais de congrès, Fes, Morocco

Please confirm your presence by calling one of the contact persons below.

For more information on Equitas, visit www.equitas.org.

To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact:

In Canada:

Ian Hamilton, Executive Director

Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education

T: + 1-514-954-0382 ext 234 or 1-514-795-2093

E-mail: ihamilton@equitas.org

In Morocco:

Karima Benjelloun Touimi

Association marocaine pour l'éducation de la jeunesse (AMEJ)

Tel: + 212 672 024 506

Email: karima_benj@yahoo.fr

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