Edraak
Foundation
For development and equality

Summary Activities 2025

Throughout a year of recognizing and articulating the realities of women, challenges remain unless full equality and justice–ensuring all their rights– are achieved.

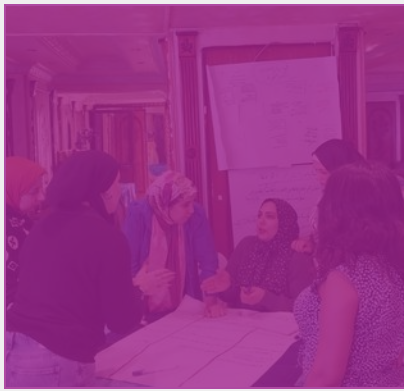









5 GENDER EQUALITY

About Edraak:

Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality is an Egyptian non-profit organization, officially registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity under No. 11014 of 2019. The foundation is dedicated to supporting women's presence and participation socially, economically, and politically in the public sphere, and to advocating for issues that enable them to obtain their full fundamental rights. It works to achieve gender equality and combat all forms of violence and discrimination in both the public and private spheres by providing support, protection, and social guidance to victims/survivors of violence, as well as delivering various awareness services.

The foundation engages with issues affecting women and girls through the design of advocacy and support campaigns, in addition to issuing analytical studies and monitoring reports since 2020 through the Observatory on Gender-Based Violence Crimes Against Women and Girls. The organization places strong emphasis on multi-sectoral partnerships with stakeholders concerned with women's issues, as well as with decision-makers and legislators. It also works to integrate and engage men in supporting and advocating for women's and girls' rights. Furthermore, the foundation gives special attention to programs on sexual and reproductive health, community development, and the economic empowerment of women and vulnerable groups within local communities.



Introduction:

This report stands as a testament to a full year of dedicated work undertaken by Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality throughout 2025, striving to understand the realities of women and express them with honesty and responsibility. Distance was never an obstacle, nor did challenges deter us from moving forward; with women and for women, we continue this journey—no matter how demanding—driven by our belief in their right to safety, justice, and to have their voices heard.

Over the course of the year, we implemented a series of workshops and training programs aimed at building the capacities of women and girls across a range of issues—from digital violence and protection mechanisms to bodily autonomy, as well as the development of digital advocacy campaigns for reproductive health and sexual rights. Our work extended from empowering women and girls in research writing to supporting them in producing audio content and podcasts as tools for expression and change.

From north to south, we engaged with doctors, children, young women, teachers, fathers, and mothers. We shared knowledge, listened to lived experiences, and created safe spaces for dialogue and collective learning. As we conclude this year and place this report in your hands, we feel a deep sense of gratitude and pride—for every step taken, every voice raised, and every woman who found a broader space to express herself and claim her rights.



Reports Issued by Edraak Foundation



Report of the Observatory on Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls – 2025

The Violence Crimes Observatory is a monitoring initiative launched by Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality at the beginning of 2020 to track crimes of violence directed against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its publications have continued beyond that period, as the rising rates, frequency, and forms of violence against women indicate a deeply rooted societal imbalance that requires further legislative and awareness-based interventions.

The Observatory serves as a platform for documenting officially reported cases of violence against women and girls. Its monitoring relies on information published by Egyptian public and private news websites, in addition to statements issued by the Media Office of the Egyptian Public Prosecutor (Public Prosecution and Administrative Prosecution). This approach aims to present a realistic picture of the prevalence and patterns of violence against women and girls, supported by data on the geographic areas where such crimes occur, the ages of the victims, the motives behind the crimes, and the gender of the perpetrators.

To download reports

PDF 2020 PDF 2021 PDF 2022

PDF 2023 PDF 2024

In 2025, a total of (1223) crimes of violence against girls and women in Egypt were recorded, occurring or discovered during this time period, distributed as follows:



Guidelines for Protection from Digital Violence

This guide was developed as part of the implementation of the project "Enhancing the Protection of Women and Girls from the Threats of Online Violence," in cooperation with Diakonia, with the aim of providing a safe and sustainable environment for women and girls in the digital space—one that enables them to express themselves freely and privately.

The project seeks to empower women and girls to understand their rights in the digital sphere and to strengthen their ability to take measures to protect themselves from online abuse and to combat the various forms of digital violence they may encounter on the internet. This is achieved by promoting a culture of digital safety, raising awareness of online threats and available protection methods, and focusing on providing support and assistance to survivors while encouraging a culture of reporting such crimes.

The project also emphasizes building partnerships with civil society organizations, feminist and student groups, and educational institutions to disseminate the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance digital security at the community level as a whole.



PDF

Study: How Do Women in Egypt Make Their Medical Decisions Regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health?

Edraak Foundation issued a qualitative study titled "How Do Women in Egypt Make Their Medical Decisions Regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health?" The study examined the experiences of 135 participants through focus group discussions conducted in three governorates (Cairo, Dakahlia, and Aswan).

The study highlighted the social, cultural, and economic dimensions influencing women's health-related decisions, most notably family pressure, the concept of virginity, the lack of comprehensive sexual education, fear of stigma, and the dominance of medical decision-making by healthcare providers.

The findings confirmed that the uterus is often perceived as a core component of a woman's gender identity, that postponing treatment until after marriage is common due to prevailing social norms, and that negative personal experiences with the medical system deeply affect women's trust in healthcare services.

The study recommended the need to reform the relationship between healthcare providers and women, improve sexual education, and empower women to make informed decisions that respect their privacy and dignity.



PDF

Study on the Challenges Faced by Digital Content Creators in the Field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Egypt



This research study explores the challenges faced by digital content creators working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Egypt, particularly across social media platforms.

The study examines the multiple dimensions of producing and disseminating health- and sexuality-related content, as well as the restrictions and harassment content creators encounter as a result of their work in this field—whether stemming from platform policies or from the surrounding social environment. It is conducted in light of the evident lack of information and services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights in Egypt, which makes the online space a critical arena for addressing these gaps.

The study also highlights the importance of the digital sphere as a platform for awareness-raising, audience engagement, and driving social change toward greater understanding and acceptance of sexual and reproductive health issues, particularly amid the challenges faced by offline spaces in this context.

Women from Victims to Perpetrators... Stories from Reality



A study prepared by Edraak Foundation reveals the painful reality experienced by women in our societies, where multiple forms of violence ultimately render them victims. However, during our work on the Observatory on Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls, we observed another dimension: women as perpetrators—women who commit crimes. Through monitoring incidents of violence, it became evident that women often shift from being victims to becoming perpetrators due to numerous factors, including the pressures they endure and the injustices they have experienced.

Advocacy Campaigns

Your Safety Is Your Right Campaign

Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality launched the "Your Safety Is Your Right" campaign on February 7, 2025, as part of the implementation of the Safe Link project. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the risks of digital violence and to strengthen the ability of women and girls to protect themselves and report online violations.

The campaign relied on diverse awareness content that combined visual simplicity with accurate information. It included seven posts using images and infographics to explain forms of digital violence and their psychological and social impacts, while also providing practical methods for protection, support, and reporting mechanisms.

In addition, the campaign featured five videos focusing on legal and technical aspects, clarifying the steps for reporting incidents, pursuing perpetrators through legal channels, and utilizing tools to enhance digital safety, supported by statistics and data relevant to the Egyptian context.

The campaign adopted an inclusive approach that considered accessibility, as the videos were accompanied by sign language interpretation to ensure that the messages reached persons with hearing disabilities. The campaign concluded on February 13, 2025, after reaching 98,215 people.















Talking About It Is Not Shameful

The “Important Talk Is Not Shameful” campaign was launched as an awareness space aimed at breaking the silence surrounding sexual and reproductive health, delivering a clear message that speaking about the body and health is neither shameful nor a cause for embarrassment.

The campaign sought to encourage women and girls to approach their sexual and reproductive health with awareness and knowledge, free from social stigma and misconceptions, by reframing the body as an inherent right—one that deserves knowledge, protection, and care.

It also highlighted the social and digital challenges faced by content creators working on sexual and reproductive health issues, including stigma, harassment, and restrictions on sharing this type of knowledge. The campaign presented a supportive discourse linking the right to knowledge with empowerment and the ability to make safe and informed health decisions, thereby contributing to a more open and equitable public dialogue around sexual and reproductive health issues.















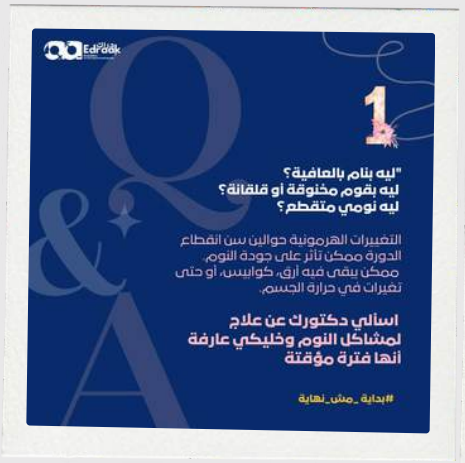
“A Beginning, Not an End” Campaign

This campaign addressed a sensitive and often marginalized issue, opening a window onto an experience that many women go through in silence amid a lack of understanding and societal support.

It focused on presenting simplified, human-centered content grounded in lived realities, explaining the concept of early menopause, its causes, and its various physical and psychological effects on women’s health. The campaign emphasized that this experience is not the same for everyone and should not be treated as a stigma or an ending.

It also aimed to empower women with practical knowledge on how to navigate this stage with awareness and confidence, seek appropriate medical and psychological support, enhance their sense of control over their bodies, and make informed health decisions—thereby fostering a more compassionate and equitable discourse around women’s health.













Safe Connection Campaign

Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality launched an awareness campaign to combat digital violence on June 29, 2025, as part of the implementation of the Safe Link project, in partnership with Diakonia and with the participation of several local and community-based organizations in Sharqia Governorate, including the Sharqia Youth Association and Hayat Foundation for Development and Community Integration.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the risks of digital violence and to enhance knowledge of protection, support, and reporting mechanisms through diverse and comprehensive content. It included 15 awareness posts that utilized multiple visual tools—such as motion graphics, animated videos, and infographics—to simplify technical and legal concepts related to digital violence.

The campaign also featured advocacy activities, most notably a webinar held on July 6, 2025, with the participation of experts and government representatives, which discussed the legal, technical, and public policy dimensions of the issue. During the campaign, the comprehensive Digital Safety Guide was published as a practical supporting resource.

The first phase of the campaign concluded on July 7, 2025, after reaching 252,549 people across Facebook and Instagram, reflecting the breadth of its impact and the growing community interest in the issue.







“It’s Natural, Not a Secret” Campaign

The “It’s Natural, Not a Secret” campaign addressed the societal stigma surrounding discussions of the body, health, and sexual rights—topics that are still considered “taboo” in many contexts and deemed inappropriate for discussion within families, schools, or even digital and media spaces.

The campaign sought to deconstruct this culture, emphasizing that silence and fear do not stem from the nature of these subjects themselves, but rather from social and educational patterns that have entrenched the suppression of questions and deprived young people of knowledge. It highlighted that health and sexual education are fundamental rights and sources of protection and empowerment—not secrets or threats to societal values.

Drawing on findings from a study conducted by Edraak Foundation, the campaign noted that more than half of young men and women resort to unreliable sources to obtain information related to their sexual health, in the absence of a meaningful role from relevant institutions. The campaign raised critical questions about who bears responsibility for this knowledge gap and sought to open a broader public dialogue on the importance of health and sexuality-related content, as well as the challenges of producing it within Arab cultural contexts, in an effort to break the silence and redefine the right to knowledge.





Not Every Cesarean Is Necessary- Campaign

Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality launched the #Not_Every_Cesarean_Is_Necessary campaign amid growing public debate over the rising rates of cesarean deliveries in Egypt, coinciding with the issuance of a ministerial decision aimed at reducing unnecessary cesarean procedures.

The campaign was grounded in a feminist, rights-based perspective affirming that pregnancy and childbirth are fundamental rights that include access to knowledge, informed consent, and freedom of decision-making. It sought to open a societal dialogue on the reasons behind the widespread use of cesarean sections, women's lived experiences, the role of the healthcare system, and the barriers associated with natural childbirth.

Implemented in collaboration with feminist and community-based organizations and initiatives, the campaign concluded with a panel discussion that brought together doctors, experts, and rights advocates. The discussion resulted in recommendations to strengthen women's right to equitable and safe healthcare based on informed choice.



Podcast

Gynecology Clinics Are for Married Women Only



In the second part of "Gynecology Clinics Are for Married Women Only", the discussion shifts to Morocco, where we listen to diverse voices and experiences that reveal how similar women's stories are across Arab societies, despite geographical differences.

The episode revisits pressing questions: Why does stigma around visiting gynecology clinics persist? Why is access to such care considered acceptable only for married women? Are gynecological diseases limited to married women alone? And crucially, are there alternative solutions that can be implemented to break cycles of stigma and ensure equitable access to healthcare for all women and girls?

Nothing Is Shameful Except Shame



This episode explores the stigma surrounding conversations about the body and why discussing sexual and reproductive health is often labeled as "taboo," frequently met with backlash, mockery, and incitement. It also examines the role of social media platforms: do they provide protection and safe spaces, or do they further silence voices through content control and censorship?

The episode features testimonies from activists working on sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness, who face online harassment, incitement, and restrictions on their content. Through these experiences, the discussion highlights the challenges posed by digital spaces to freedom of expression and access to information.

Featured guests: Dr. Yasmin Aboulazm, Mona Shaaban, Rozana Nageh, and Zahwa Essam.

Red Alert

This episode explores the growing use of period-tracking apps and their integration into women's daily lives. While many consider these apps helpful tools that offer accurate predictions and better health management, the episode also raises questions about the nature of this relationship—one that is not one-sided, but rather an interactive exchange between users and technology, requiring the daily sharing of intimate bodily data and symptoms.

The episode presents women's experiences with these apps, examining how useful and accurate they are, as well as the concerns and questions surrounding data privacy and the broader role of technology in women's sexual and reproductive health.



What's the Harm?

This episode begins with a common phrase many women hear repeatedly: "Have one child first, then delay." It opens a discussion on women's freedom to make decisions about their bodies and reproductive lives. The episode explores the experiences of women who wanted to postpone pregnancy early in marriage but were denied access to appropriate contraceptive methods by healthcare providers.

It raises fundamental questions: Is this denial truly based on medical reasons, or is it a form of control over women's bodies? How does society treat women's bodies as public property while stripping women of their right to choose? The episode also examines who holds the power to decide on contraceptive use and the types of methods available to women.



Motherhood Outside the Timeline

This episode explores egg freezing as a modern option that enables women to make more autonomous decisions regarding motherhood and the timing of childbirth. It examines why egg freezing has become increasingly discussed in recent years and how this option can be addressed without judgment or stigma tied to socially imposed timelines of motherhood.

The episode features Dr. Yasmin Aboulazm, a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist from Egypt, alongside real-life experiences shared by women from Jordan and Ethiopia, highlighting diverse contexts while revealing shared questions and pressures surrounding motherhood



El-Ghagaraya

In the first episode of the "El-Ghagaraya" podcast, Tahera Tarek takes us on a journey into the heart of what has long remained unspoken–everything we could not, or did not know how to, express.

Zār is not merely music; it is a complete ritual, a living passage between reality and the supernatural–between the richness, beauty, and artistry of popular imagination, and scientific interpretations, social scrutiny, and ongoing cultural and social change. Along these paths, many questions emerge: How and why did this ritual come into being? Why has it endured despite countless challenges? Why has it so often been associated with women? How does it affect them–and why?



Shadow Heroines

Can a dream be taken too soon... yet continue to live inside a young girl's heart?
In the first episode of Shadow Heroines with Fatma El-Sawy, we hear the story of a mother who began her life facing closed doors and responsibilities far beyond her age—yet she transformed oppression into strength and loss into light.
It is an honest conversation between a mother and her daughter, between a painful past and a present shaped by resilience. An episode about a voice that remained silent for so long... and whose time has finally come to be heard and brought into the light.



El-Mathal Afandi

In the first episode of the "El-Mathal Afandi" podcast, we ask a simple question: Why do we repeat popular proverbs without reflecting on their true meaning? From "She who gives birth to daughters carries a lifetime of worry" to "Better the shadow of a man than the shadow of a wall," these sayings were presented in the name of wisdom, yet in reality they have reinforced ideas of control, violence, and the diminished status of women. .In this episode, we take a closer look: How did these proverbs emerge? Why have they endured for so long?



Who Is This Woman?

In this episode of the podcast "Who Is This Woman? / Nem Te Te Esehemi" with Sara, we trace the legislative and legal evolution of personal status laws concerning Coptic women, while also examining the social position of women across different historical periods.
The episode thoughtfully recounts women's lived realities and social transformations, exploring marriage as an institution shaped at the intersection of religious, social, and political authority—and the impact of this intersection on women over time.



Things Left Unsaid

The first episode of the podcast "Things Left Unsaid"– from heart to heart... a safe, conscious space without embarrassment. This podcast is for women and girls –and for mothers searching for a simple and respectful way to understand and explain what happens at every stage of our lives.

We talk about the body... emotions... relationships... and boundaries–and about all the natural changes we sometimes feel afraid to ask about.

Today, we discuss child protection–not as policies, but as daily habits we can practice and turn into a way of life for ourselves and our children.

In every home... in every mother's and father's embrace... there is a small, hidden fear. How do we protect our children? How do we help them understand without frightening them? And how do we strengthen them without breaking their innocence? Today, we focus on the most important step in our relationship with our children: The step of protection, awareness, and safety. Not laws and terminology–but practical love, healthy boundaries, and communication that helps a child feel they are not alone.



A Man and a Half

In the first episode of the podcast "A Man and a Half," presented by Aya Abdelhamid, we explore when and how patriarchy took root in our societies–and how the patriarchal system affects and harms all of us on different levels.

We examine how patriarchy is neither a universal order nor an inevitable fate, but rather the product of historical, social, and cultural factors that have contributed to its persistence over time.

We also speak candidly about how we may be reproducing the same patriarchal structures in new forms–through movements within the so-called manosphere, such as the Red Pill, which present themselves as spaces for supporting men and addressing their concerns. In reality, however, they often reinforce the same patriarchal discourse in more extreme and aggressive ways–sometimes reaching the point of incitement to violence and crime



Seminars & Panel Discussions

Panel Discussion

Natural Labor: Health Policies vs. Women's Rights, Challenges and the Freedom to Choose



Edraak has collaborated with Amplify Change, to organize a panel discussion as a part of the "Enhancing Health Protection for Women and Adolescent Girls" project and served as the closing activity for the "Not Every C-Section is Necessary" campaign. The session brought together a diverse group of experts, medical professionals, members of parliament, and civil society and media activists.

The discussion focused on the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population's decree aimed at reducing unnecessary Cesarean sections, in light of the significant rise in such procedures. Participants provided an analytical reading of the decree within the context of current health indicators and the practical challenges facing its activation, ranging from community awareness to the training of healthcare providers. Furthermore, the session explored the role of civil society organizations in supporting the implementation of the decree and formulating practical proposals to ensure the protection of women's health and the safeguarding of their reproductive rights.

In the second pillar, the discussion centered on the integration of women and their rights into the decision-making process regarding sexual and reproductive health. This emphasized women's right to make informed health decisions free from guardianship, while examining the intersection of this right with medical practices and professional ethics. Participants also proposed practical measures to help build a medical system that respects and addresses the needs and rights of women and girls.

Click Here

To follow up on the recommendations

Panel Discussion

Women: From Victims to Perpetrators







Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized a panel discussion to examine the research paper "Women from Victims to Perpetrators." The session brought together a group of legal experts, lawyers, feminist activists, and media professionals.

Over the course of two hours, participants discussed the causes and contributing factors behind crimes committed by women and girls, as well as the legal, legislative, and societal barriers that can lead to the transformation of women from victims into perpetrators, with a focus on the Egyptian context. The discussion also included case studies of women who transitioned from victims to perpetrators, drawing on the professional experiences of the participants and data from the Violence Crimes Observatory.

The session concluded with a set of recommendations and proposed solutions aimed at addressing the issue.

The research paper is one of the publications of the Violence Crimes Observatory against Women and Girls, which releases an annual report documenting rates and patterns of violence-related crimes committed against women and girls.

To follow up on the recommendations Click Here

Webinar

“Digital Violence Against Women and Girls: Reality, Challenges, and Solutions”



During the "Digital Violence Against Women and Girls: Reality, Challenges, and Solutions" webinar held on Sunday, July 6, a panel of gender, legal, and technology experts discussed the escalation of digital violence and its disproportionate impact on girls and vulnerable groups in Egypt. The webinar examined the misuse of Artificial Intelligence in creating "Deepfakes," the hurdles survivors face when reporting incidents, and the role of government policies in securing digital spaces. The session featured Aziza El Taweel, a lawyer at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Nora Mohamed, Dr. Asmaa Saber, and Nourhan Tharwat. It provided a platform for participants to engage in discussions and share expertise, with a focus on enhancing digital safety and raising community awareness regarding the online rights of women and girls.

To follow up on the recommendations Click Here

Uniting to Amplify Our Impact

Justice, Not Leniency







Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality has joined the "Justice, Not Leniency" campaign, launched during the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence." The campaign comes in response to the escalation of domestic violence and femicide in Egypt, often met with judicial leniency and commuted sentences for perpetrators under the Egyptian Penal Code No. 58 of 1937. Rooted in a feminist critical analysis of the legislative framework, the campaign highlights domestic violence as one of the most prevalent yet least legally accountable forms of violence against women.

The campaign aims to expose legal loopholes that enable impunity, specifically Articles (7, 17, 60, 237, and 274), which are frequently invoked to justify violence or mitigate sentences under the guise of "leniency," "honor," or religious interpretations. Edraak's participation is part of a broad feminist coalition including Barah Aamen, New Woman Foundation, Egyptians Around the World (EAW), Ganoubia Horra, Superwoman Initiative, Sanad, Manara, Genderist, Sout, and Moannath Salem. The coalition seeks to unify the feminist movement's voice in demanding comprehensive legislative reform grounded in a feminist philosophy of justice—one that recognizes intra-family violence as a crime that no text or custom can justify.

Trainings & Workshops



Training on Designing and Implementing Community Initiatives – 'Wasla Amina' Project

As part of the project "Enhancing Protection for Women and Girls Against Cyber- Violence Threats" under the slogan "Safe Link" (Wasla Amena), and in cooperation with Diakonia, Edraak Foundation conducted a three-day staff training. Over the course of the training, sessions covered initiative planning, activity design, setting objectives and target groups, as well as implementation, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms. This training aimed to bolster the team's capacity to develop effective and sustainable interventions to combat cyber-violence against women and girls, while institutionalizing an approach rooted in strategic planning and organized community action.









Training Workshop in Sharqeya Governorate: Community Initiatives to Combat Digital Violence

Within the framework of the "Safe Link" project, Edraak Foundation, in cooperation with Diakonia, conducted a training program on needs assessment and planning for community initiatives to combat digital violence against women. The training targeted partner NGOs in Sharqeya Governorate. Spanning four days, the program aimed to strengthen participants' capacities to design, implement, and monitor effective initiatives that contribute to creating a safe and sustainable digital environment for women and girls. The sessions covered concepts of gender and positive masculinity, mechanisms for establishing initiatives, and problem and environmental analysis to ensure interventions are grounded in a realistic and practical understanding, alongside training on the fundamentals of digital safety.









Safe Internet Training: Pioneers of Change

As part of the "Safe Link" project, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality, in cooperation with Diakonia, conducted an intensive four-day training titled "Safe Internet: Pioneers for Change." The program targeted university students in Sharqeya Governorate, in partnership with Hayat Foundation for Development and Community Inclusion and the Sharqeya Youth Association for Development. The training aimed to raise youth awareness about the risks of gender-based digital violence and to strengthen their capacity to combat it by understanding its social and legal dimensions.

The sessions explored gender concepts and the impact of pre-defined societal roles on opportunities and choices, alongside the concept of gender justice and the importance of achieving equality. Furthermore, the training highlighted the role of men in supporting this equality through the adoption of "positive masculinity." The program also included a pillar on the fundamentals of digital safety to enhance participants' awareness of protection mechanisms within the digital space.









Capacity Building for Teachers on Cyber-Violence Crimes – Sharqeya Governorate

As part of the "Safe Link" project, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality—in cooperation with Diakonia and in partnership with the Sharqia Youth Association for Development and Hayat Foundation for Development and Community Inclusion—conducted a capacity-building training for teachers in Sharqia Governorate on cyber-violence crimes. The training explored concepts of gender, gender justice, and the role of men in promoting equality. It also covered the fundamentals of digital safety, including safe internet practices, privacy protection, creating strong passwords, and online tracking methods. Furthermore, the sessions reviewed various forms of cyber-violence and response mechanisms, along with laws protecting women in digital spaces and reporting procedures. The training concluded with a session on supporting survivors of cyber-violence, aimed at strengthening the role of teachers in fostering a safer educational and digital environment.









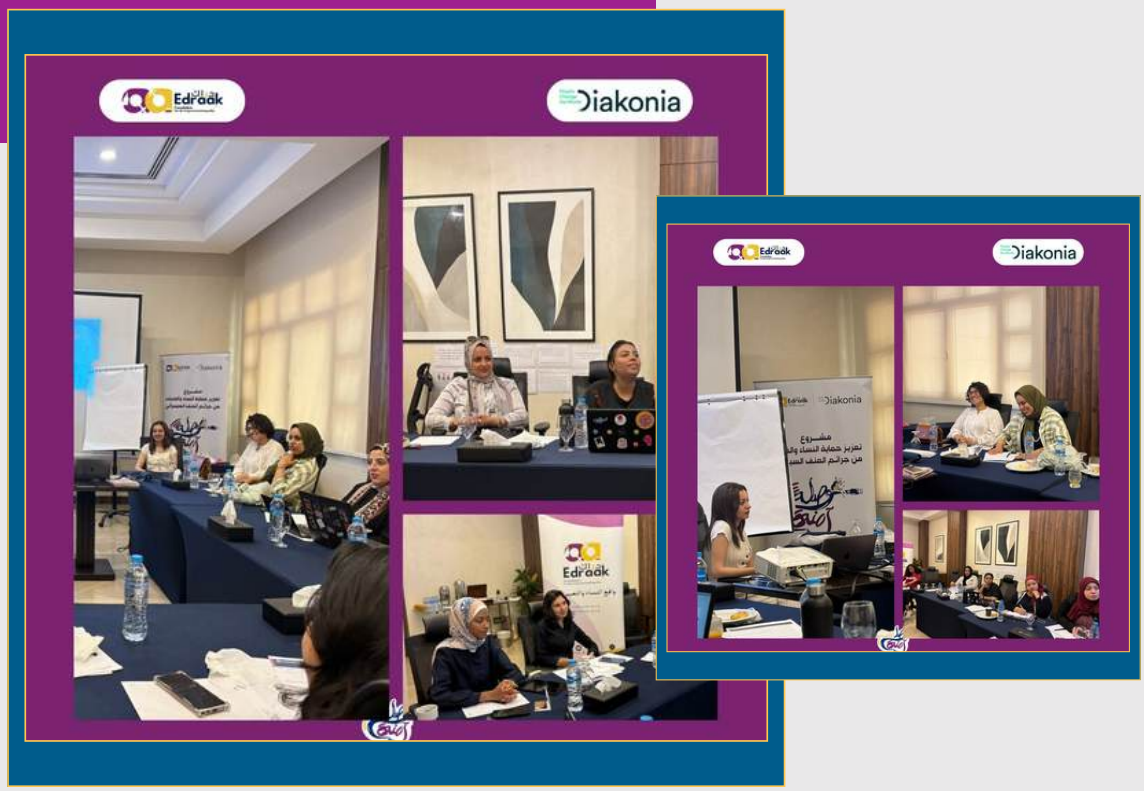
Feminist Principles and Policy Paper Workshop

In a training workshop organized by Edraak, in cooperation with Diakonia as part of the #وصلة_آمنة (Safe)project, feminist initiatives from across Egypt gathered to exchange knowledge and learn how to draft fair policy papers through a feminist lens.

Over the course of three days, we discussed: the meaning of feminism and the foundations of feminist solidarity, the various types of gender-based violence (GBV), public policy analysis from a feminist perspective, and the tools for writing and advocating for policy papers. The training was facilitated by researchers Shaimaa El-Tantawy and Gehad Rawy through interactive sessions that blended knowledge with lived experience, seeking to reshape digital policies to be more just and secure.







Workshop: Toward Drafting Policy Papers Grounded in Feminist Principles

Under the "Safe Link" project and in cooperation with Diakonia, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality conducted an advanced two-day workshop titled "Strengthening Feminist Initiatives' Skills in Writing Policy Briefs to Protect Women and Girls from Cyber-Violence." The workshop aimed to deepen knowledge and build practical skills among participants to draft impactful and actionable policy briefs in the field of cyber-violence.

The program featured hands-on activities focused on stimulating writing and presentation skills, proposing alternatives to existing policies, and evaluating their effectiveness. It also included practical exercises on formulating clear, implementable recommendations within policy briefs. Furthermore, the sessions reviewed core concepts and examined successful case studies of policy briefs, thereby enhancing the capacity of feminist initiatives to influence public policy and advocate for a safer digital environment for women and girls.







Training: Participatory Capacity Building for Content Creators on Online SRHR Issues





Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality conducted a four-day specialized training in Cairo titled "Participatory Capacity Building for Content Creators on Online Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Issues." The program brought together digital content creators dedicated to raising awareness in this field.

The training featured interactive sessions focused on rights-based digital storytelling, deconstructing stereotypes, and impactful social media strategies. Additionally, the sessions covered digital safety, understanding algorithms, the legal framework for publishing on sensitive topics such as abortion, content creation ethics, and inclusive language. This initiative is part of Edraak's ongoing efforts to foster safe digital spaces and empower content creators to deliver human rights-centered awareness messages that support the right to access information.



Thinking Together: A Deeper Understanding of Women's SRHR Needs in Dakahliya

Within the framework of the "Enhancing Health Protection for Women and Girls" project, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized an intensive training workshop in DakahliyaGovernorate, targeting NGO representatives and community activists. The workshop focused on developing skills to provide gender-sensitive health services, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, and understanding the socio-cultural contexts affecting women's needs. It also included practical training on drafting safe and effective messages regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and selecting appropriate communication tools, such as field workshops and social media. The sessions emphasized building trust between service providers and beneficiaries to ensure fair and inclusive services that listen to women's needs and place them at the heart of planning and implementation.

Additionally, the foundation organized an interactive workshop that brought together several doctors and medical service providers in the governorate to discuss how women make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Facilitated by Dr. Omar Al-Jabri and trainer Sama Al-Turki, the discussions focused on the importance of privacy, confidentiality, and "Informed Consent" before any medical procedure, as well as simplifying medical information to support patient awareness and the right to decision-making. The workshop also addressed the impact of assumptions and stereotypes on the quality of care, highlighting the importance of creating a judgment-free medical environment that ensures fair, humane treatment and provides a safe space for girls and women to express themselves and interact with confidence.



Thinking Together: A Deeper Understanding of Women's SRHR Needs in Cairo

As part of the "Enhancing Health Protection for Women and Girls" project, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized an intensive training workshop in Cairo Governorate, targeting NGO representatives and community activists. The workshop focused on developing skills to provide gender-sensitive health services, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, and understanding the socio-cultural contexts that influence women's needs. It also included practical training on crafting safe and effective health messages regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and selecting appropriate outreach tools—such as field workshops and social media. The sessions emphasized building trust between service providers and female beneficiaries to ensure fair and inclusive services that listen to women's needs and place them at the heart of planning and implementation.

Furthermore, the foundation organized an interactive workshop that brought together medical doctors and healthcare providers in the governorate to discuss women's decision-making processes regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Facilitated by Dr. Omar Al-Jabri and trainer Sama Al-Turki, the discussions focused on the importance of privacy, confidentiality, and "Informed Consent" prior to any medical procedure, as well as simplifying medical information to support patient awareness and their right to decision-making. The workshop also addressed the impact of assumptions and stereotypes on the quality of care, highlighting the importance of fostering a judgment-free medical environment that ensures humane treatment and provides a safe space for girls and women to express themselves and interact with confidence.



Thinking Together: A Deeper Understanding of Women's SRHR Needs in Aswan

As part of the "Enhancing Health Protection for Women and Girls" project, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized an intensive training workshop in Aswan Governorate, targeting NGO representatives and community activists. The workshop focused on developing skills for providing gender-sensitive health services, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, and understanding the socio-cultural contexts that influence women's needs. It also included practical training on crafting safe and effective health messages regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and selecting appropriate outreach tools such as field workshops and social media. The sessions emphasized building trust between service providers and female beneficiaries to ensure fair and inclusive services that listen to women's needs and place them at the heart of planning and implementation.

Additionally, the foundation organized an interactive workshop that brought together several doctors and medical service providers in the governorate to discuss women's decision-making processes regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Facilitated by Dr. Omar Al-Jabri and trainer Sama Al-Turki, the discussions focused on the importance of privacy, confidentiality, and "Informed Consent" prior to any medical procedure, as well as simplifying medical information to support patient awareness and their right to decision-making. The workshop also addressed how assumptions and stereotypes impact the quality of care, highlighting the importance of fostering a judgment-free medical environment that ensures humane treatment and provides a safe space for girls and women to express themselves and interact with confidence.



Workshop on Capacity Building for Young Female Lawyers





Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality conducted a three-day workshop to strengthen the capacities of young female lawyers in supporting women and girls affected by violence. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide legal aid and counseling to survivors of violence.

The first day covered fundamental concepts of human rights and women's rights, facilitated by human rights lawyer Ms. Heba Adel. The second and third days focused on women, gender, and the foundations of providing legal support, facilitated by human rights lawyer Ms. Aziza El-Taweel. As a direct outcome of the workshop, a legal counseling unit was established and operated for two months, receiving cases and providing legal advice to women and girls.





Youth Initiatives to Combat Digital Violence – Sharqiya Governorate





As part of the "Safe Link" campaign, and through the collaboration between Edraak Foundation and Diakonia, and in partnership with Hayat Foundation for Development and Community Inclusion and the Sharqiya Youth Association for Development, young men and women from Sharqia Governorate launched 2 pioneering community initiatives to combat digital violence against women and girls, successfully organized awareness sessions reaching approximately 500 beneficiaries to enhance digital safety awareness.

The first initiative, "Digital Safety Ambassadors," involved creating a visual identity and awareness messaging, training the team on digital advocacy and violation monitoring, and conducting 8 face-to-face meetings targeting youth, parents, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), alongside a Facebook campaign featuring participant-produced content. The second initiative, "Don't Stay Silent" (Matsoskotish), implemented 12 awareness activities, including meetings with parents, National Council for Women (NCW) pioneers, child protection committees, girls aged 14–25, volunteers from the Directorate of Youth and Sports, and persons with hearing impairments. These efforts reflect a vibrant youth movement contributing to a safer and more supportive digital society for women and girls.



"Safe Link" Conference... Toward a Safe Digital Space for All

Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality, in cooperation with Diakonia, organized a conference titled "Safe Link... Toward a Safe Digital Space for Women and Girls," with broad participation from representatives of civil society, government institutions, members of parliament, and feminist and youth initiatives.

The conference presented the achievements of the project's first phase and discussed the challenges of digital violence within the rapidly evolving digital landscape, avenues for influencing public policies, mechanisms for awareness and reporting, and the role of networking among civil society organizations. It also addressed issues related to law enforcement, developments in reporting mechanisms, and the impacts of artificial intelligence, particularly those associated with bias and stereotyping.

The sessions included opening remarks and presentations on the project's accomplishments, alongside contributions from experts, officials, and representatives of partner institutions—underscoring the importance of collaborative action in building a safer and more equitable digital environment for women and girls.









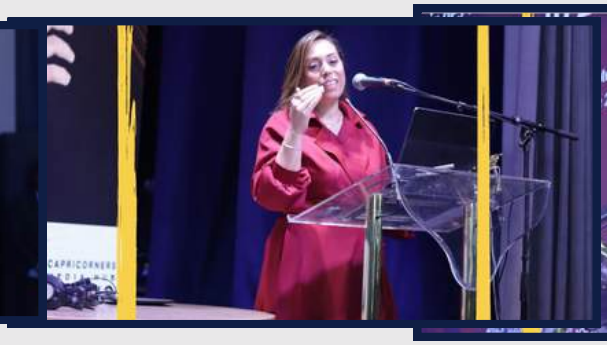
Closing Ceremony of the "Women's Voices Without Borders" Project

The closing ceremony of the project "Women's Voices Without Borders", implemented with the support of the French Embassy in Egypt and in cooperation with Aide Humanitaire et Journalisme, was held in conjunction with November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The event celebrated the graduation of the project's first cohort, during which the trainees presented the outcomes of their training in podcast production techniques, showcasing work that reflected the strength of their voices and their ability to narrate their experiences and create more inclusive and equitable media spaces.

The ceremony included honoring the trainees in the presence of the French Ambassador to Egypt, Éric Chevallier; Ms. Nagwa Ibrahim, Executive Director of Edraak Foundation; Ms. Shaïda Hassami, Founder and Director of Aide Humanitaire et Journalisme; and Ms. Fatma El-Sawy, Project Manager. The event concluded with a musical performance by soprano Sofia Hilal, in a celebratory atmosphere that underscored the importance of empowering women and amplifying their voices in the media and community spheres.







جائزة وبرنامج مي جمال



Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality launched the "Mai Gamal Fellowship for Feminist Research" in appreciation of her struggles and in recognition of her significant contributions to advancing women's issues and combating violence.
This fellowship aims to pave the way for young researchers and place them at the beginning of their research journeys. Mai's own path—marked by persistent self-education and determined effort—was not an easy one. For this reason, we sought to ensure that the passion that guided Mai throughout her life would become a source of inspiration and support for young women, enabling them to continue her legacy of producing knowledge for the Egyptian feminist movement.

Award Ceremony Announcing the Results of the "Mai Gamal" Feminist Research Program and Prize – First Cycle



In December 2025, Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized the ceremony announcing the results of the first cycle of the "Mai Gamal" Feminist Research Program and Prize, launched in November 2024 in commemoration of the late feminist researcher Mai Gamal and in support of producing feminist knowledge in the Arabic language.
The event opened with speeches highlighting Mai's scholarly and human legacy, and presenting the philosophy of the program and its training track, which included 36 training hours and 35 individual mentoring sessions, resulting in the production of rigorous feminist research papers. The ceremony also featured a panel discussion on the challenges of feminist research in Egypt.
The foundation honored the researchers who won the top three places:

- First place: "Obstetric Violence in University Public Hospitals in Cairo."
- Second place: "The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Women's Access to Mental Health Care in Egypt."
- Third place: "Discrimination in Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Unmarried Women in Egypt."

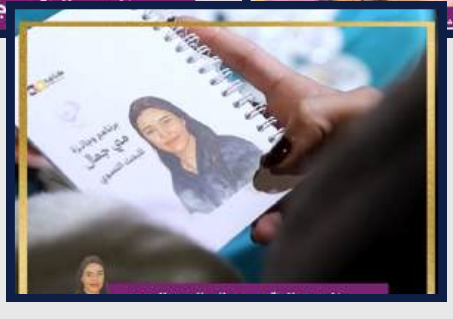
The event concluded by recognizing the trainers, reviewers, and supporters, and by extending appreciation to Mai Gamal's family—affirming the program's continued commitment to supporting young researchers and advancing feminist knowledge grounded in the lived realities of women in Egypt.











أنشطة التشبيك إقليميًا



African Women's Conference

African Women in Dialogue

The foundation participated in the African Women in Dialogue (AWID) conference, which brought together leaders, activists, and experts from various African countries to promote cross-border feminist dialogue and build women's leadership capable of advocating for women's rights across diverse contexts.

Our participation stemmed from a strong belief in the importance of regional feminist solidarity and in the role of African women in leading pathways of social and political change. The conference discussed ways to empower women to become more aware of their legal, economic, and social rights, as well as mechanisms for transforming this awareness into impactful practices and initiatives at both local and regional levels. It also addressed the progress made in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +30 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), particularly in relation to the challenges African women face in political participation, economic justice, and combating violence.

During the conference, Ms. Nagwa Ibrahim delivered a speech emphasizing the importance of investing in the development of young feminist leaders and affirming that solidarity among African women is not an organizational option but a strategic necessity in confronting shared challenges. Our participation provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships, exchange expertise, and consolidate our position within an African feminist network working toward more inclusive and sustainable justice.



The Foundation's Participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

As part of our active participation in the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), Edraak Foundation for Development and Equality organized a session titled "Resisting Backlash in the Middle East and North Africa: Challenges to Upholding the Principles of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" as part of the NGO parallel events.

The session was organized in cooperation with Tahseen Community for Development and Peacebuilding and Manon Daniels, within the framework of the Women of the South Speak Out (WOSSO) coalition, and in partnership with the Arab Network for Feminist Civil Society. It served as a vital platform for young feminist activists and women's rights defenders from across the region to discuss the rise of anti-rights rhetoric and policies, share strategies for resistance, and strengthen regional commitment to implementing the principles of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action amid current political and social challenges.

The session contributed to expanding spaces for dialogue and networking, and to strengthening the presence of Arab women in international decision-making arenas—reflecting the foundation's commitment to supporting cross-border feminist leadership and advancing a rights-based discourse grounded in accountability and solidarity.



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