

**Advancing women's human rights outside the EU:
A case study of the EU external action towards Algeria and
Tunisia.**

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Abstract

Is the EU external action effective and efficient in promoting women's human rights in third states? This thesis explores the question in a case study on Algeria and Tunisia. A process-tracing methodology is employed to determine the trends of the EU external action in terms of input and output. The input refers to the use of the EU external action to advance women's rights in Algeria and Tunisia, while the output consists in their actual advancement.

After defining the methodology used, this thesis focuses on three aspects of the EU external action: (1) the effectiveness, (2) the efficiency, (3) the current reform.

In all three aspects, findings show to what degree the EU external is living up to its commitments relative to women's rights and development cooperation.

By collating, analysing and evaluating the past and present EU actions on the question, this thesis aims to contribute in an unprecedented way to the growing literature on women's rights in the context of the Arab Spring.

Keywords:

European Union, Algeria, Tunisia, International cooperation, conditionality, aid effectiveness, aid efficiency, women's rights, measuring human rights, Euro-Mediterranean partnership, external action.

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List of Abbreviations

Art. Article
CEDAW Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNFFPA The National Council for Women, the Family and the Elderly
CFSP Common Foreign And Security Policy
CSO Civil Society Organisation
Doc. Document
ENPI European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EC European Community
Eur. Ct. H. R. European Court of Human Rights Report
ECHR European Court of Human Rights
ECR European Court Report
ECJ European Court of Justice
ENP European Neighbourhood Policy
EU European Union
GAP Gender Action Plan
Ibid. Ibidem
Et. Al. And others
JO Official Gazette
MAFFEPA Ministry for Women, the Family, Childhood and the Elderly
MDCFCF Ministry for the Family and Women's Affairs
MEDA Mediterranean countries development co-operation programme (Financial and technical accompanying measure)
NGO Non-governmental Organisation
NIP National Indicative Programme
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
p. Page
Para. Paragraph
TEU Treaty on the European Union.
TFEU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
UN United Nations
UNGA United Nations General Assembly
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM United Nations Development Fund for Women
UN Women United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNSCR United National Security Council
Res. Resolution

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