

Nicosia, 23 November 2018

The Role of Media in the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The European Commission will highlight the role of media in the elimination of violence against women with the “Gender Sensitive Reporting” seminar on Monday 26 November 2018 from 17:30 to 19:00 at the Cyprus Turkish Journalists Association in Nicosia. The seminar will host a keynote speaker, Prof. Sevda Alankuş and is being organised within the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Prof. Alankuş, in her presentation will examine the media, the masculinity of the language of the media, the incomplete representation of women, and patriarchal discourses on the female body. Prof. Alankuş will underline the need for another language and representation policy for women, with a particular focus on how violence against women is reported in the local media. Prof. Alankuş will also cover this topic in her presentation with various examples, providing alternative methods and tools for reporting cases of violence against women in the media. The event aims to bring together journalists, media specialists, researchers, local stakeholders and communities, NGOs and practitioners in the field to explore and generate a discussion on gender sensitive reporting.

The European Commission financed a research project in the Turkish Cypriot community on this issue which was carried out by non-governmental organisation KAYAD. The statistics in the Turkish Cypriot community are the same as Europe with one in three women experiencing some form of violence throughout their lives.

Academic and Peace Research Fellowship award winner Prof. Sevda Alankuş has produced and contributed to several studies on rights-based journalism, peace journalism and representation of women in different genres of media. Prof. Alankuş has numerous articles and conference presentations on the representation of women in media. She has also contributed to the Gender Sensitive Reporting Handbook published by Bianet. Since 1999, she has been advising and coordinating the vocational trainings of Independent Communication Network Project (bianet.org) that address the local media, journalists and journalism students in rights-based and peace journalism. Prof. Alankuş is the editor of handbooks in Human, Women, Children rights-based Journalism and author of Peace Journalism Handbook published by Bianet.

Background:

Violence against women is a brutal manifestation of gender inequality and a violation of human rights. One in three women (33 %) in the EU has experienced physical or sexual violence, or both since she was 15 years old.

Women and girls who are victims of violence need appropriate support and protection, which is reinforced by effective and deterrent laws. More information on the EU policy can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-violence/index_en.htm, http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/link/index_en.htm

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