

# EgLex Association

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION FOR PROTECTION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAMILY VALUES IN MONACO  
AND INTERNATIONALLY



Dear EgLex members and supporters,

We are delighted to address you with our first anniversary newsletter with the report on our activities for the past year and our initiatives for the next.

The EgLex Association for human rights and family values has been registered in Monaco on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018 and we are glad that the date of our 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary since creation falls on the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Women's Day!

We would like to congratulate our supporters, especially women, on this hallmark day in the process of women reclaiming their rights as equally valuable members of society, of promotion of leadership in policy and decision making in family, employment and community! Although 100 years could not correct the disbalance of the millennia in the history of humanity, women are already benefiting from the fuller inclusion and appreciation of their contribution at home, office and society. However, we have still ways to go before achieving substantive equality.

With every start-up organization – commercial or non-profit – the first year is always key, like the first year in the life of the baby.

Will we be supported? Will we be heard? Will we be of service? Will we survive beyond our initial motivation?

As we have already reported in our New Year's Facebook post, we have had quite a few achievements in 2018. Our biggest work last year was in analysing all the observations by European and UN human rights bodies for Monaco, matching them with the real-life stories on ground and advocating a targeted change. We are advocating not only legislative amendments (for example, relating to economic protection of mothers even outside official marriage, protection of women from economic violence, psychological and physical abuse) but also insuring the respect of procedural implementations of the achieved advancements.



In 2018, we assisted with a few cases of complaints in Cote d'Azur and internationally, gathered information about them, had our first participation in two UN review processes, submitted two reports, participated in 2 trainings, met with CEDAW secretariat members, observed the UN sessions, made a public presentation on International Law and on Monaco's membership in different International Conventions in Casa d'i Soci. We also met with a few Monaco officials, including the Ministers of Social Affairs and External Relations, High Commissioner for Human Rights and introduced our initiatives to them through constructive dialogue. We have also met and established partnerships and collaborations with other associations in Monaco and internationally.

In 2018, Monaco has made some important positive steps towards Women's Rights with de facto start of functioning of AVIP (Monaco Victim Support Association) and creation of the Committee for Protection of Women's Rights at the end of October 2018.

In 2019, EgLex have already met with the Secretary of the new Committee for Protection of Women's Rights in Monaco and offered our recommendations and suggestions on protection from and prevention of domestic violence. We have met with Monaco Welcome Office explaining the importance of informing the new residents about differences in legislation in Monaco compared to other countries. We have also met with the Family Mediation office, and discussed the importance of the mediation tool during break up and child custody determination. Mediation is essential in ensuring healthy functioning of co-parenting upon separation, the best interest of the child and the opportunities for self-development for partners post break up, especially for mothers non-nationals. We plan to meet with the Department of Social Welfare and Social Services, including those for children, to better understand the services they can provide in order to help our cases.



We have also been delighted to receive the UPR outcome report from Monaco's 31<sup>st</sup> session review following our participation in a pre-session, and to note with great satisfaction that some of our recommendations have been heard and included in the State recommendations for Monaco to be implemented in the next cycle period of 4.5 years! This gives us great enthusiasm that Civil Societies can have influence via international diplomatic mechanisms and make impact.

As Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan lawyer, diplomat and human rights advocate, noted: "...for human rights to be effective, they have to go beyond the normative, textual essence and become a part of the legal culture of a given society..." Our mission is to ensure that our countries of focus (Monaco, France, the former Soviet bloc countries and others) go beyond the rhetoric of the popular media's celebrations and posters, but create an implementation machinery that works towards dismantling the old patriarchal stereotypes and values towards true inclusion and validation of women's and girl's contribution in family affairs, workplace and policymaking.

For 2019, we have bigger and better plans of continuing with Human Rights initiatives with more focus, experience, knowledge, and hopefully, with your undying support. We are currently seeking support from donors to keep us going, accountable, effective and most importantly, independent. As our kids were born here, our ambition is to promote the image of Principality as the leader of progress in education and human rights' protection and for that, a lot of work needs to be done.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and proposals and appreciate your referrals of confidential cases. We will try to be of help and service as much as we can.

We will keep you posted with all our updates. Please JOIN US: <http://www.eglex.org/joinus/>

