

Women Draw the New Moudawana Poster

Global Rights Morocco Field Office
English Description

The Global Rights Morocco Field Office produced our *Women Draw the New Moudawana* poster in collaboration with a diversity of local NGOs from across the country in order to illustrate recent changes to the *Moudawana* (family law) to women who don't know how to read and write. Global Rights and our partner NGOs elaborated the poster in a participatory process involving consultations with women beneficiaries of our human rights education program for illiterate women.

Following the reforms to the *Moudawana* in February 2004, Global Rights held a two-day workshop in the small town of M'diq (northwest coast) in May in collaboration with our partner NGO in Tetouan *Association de recherche féminine pour le développement et la coopération* (ARFEDEC). During this workshop, local lawyers made detailed presentations on the legal reforms made to the *Moudawana* on marriage, divorce, child guardianship and custody, and marital property. Representatives from nine of our partner NGOs participating in the workshop then each selected one legal change for which they took responsibility to produce an illustration.

Following the workshop, each of the nine partner NGOs in this initiative invited a local artist from their community to work in collaboration with groups of illiterate women beneficiaries of our human rights education program to discuss and elaborate together an illustration on the specific reform selected by their NGO. The nine illustrations produced by the beneficiaries of our nine partner NGOs and local volunteer artists are presented in this poster.

Our partner NGOs in the production of this poster are :Association Amal pour la femme et le développement (El Hajeb) , Association el Amane pour le développement de la femme (Marrakech), Association Amna pour défendre les femmes victimes de violence (Tanger), Association de recherche féminine pour le développement et la coopération (Tétouan), Association Tasghimout pour le développement et l'environnement (Ait Ourir) , Assaida Al Horra (Tétouan), Initiatives pour la protection des droits de la femme (Fes), Association Tafii Moubadarat (Taza), La Liaison de Global Rights au Souss Massa Draa (Agadir), and le Réseau Amazigh pour la citoyenneté.

The text in the poster is written in three languages –

1. French
2. Arabic
3. Tifinard (the Amazigh or “Berber” language)

An English language translation of the poster text and a brief explanation of the reforms depicted follows in the below chart.

Women Draw the New Moudawana (Family Code)

<p>Text: Age of marriage: 18 years for women and men</p> <p><i>Explanation: The new Moudawana raises the minimum age of marriage for women to 18. Under the previous Moudawana, the minimum age of marriage for men was 18, while the minimum age for women was 15.</i></p>	<p>Text: Polygamy: an exception granted only by authorization of the wife and the judge</p> <p><i>Explanation: Polygamy is now subject to prior authorization by a judge, granted only under exceptional, stringent legal conditions. A woman can either place a clause in her marriage contract obligating her husband to refrain from taking other wives, or obtain divorce should she not agree to her husband's subsequent marriage.</i></p>	<p>Text: Conjugal domicile: a right of both spouses to reside (in)</p> <p><i>Explanation: Both spouses have the right to reside in the conjugal home, and neither spouse can be thrown out by the other.</i></p>
<p>Text: Marriage without a written contract: 5 years to prove (it)</p> <p><i>Explanation: The new Moudawana gives couples who have concluded oral marriage contracts a 5 year delay in which to prove their marriage by all legal means and obtain and register a written marriage contract.</i></p>	<p>Text: Custodial mother: a right to housing</p> <p><i>Explanation: Mothers granted custody of their children upon divorce have the right to reside in the conjugal home with their children until the father pays the mother a sum to cover housing costs for herself and her children.</i></p>	<p>Text: Division of (marital) property: determined by a written contract between the spouses</p> <p><i>Explanation: While separate marital property is the norm, spouses can draw up a written contract at the time of their marriage establishing an alternative financial relationship (for example, community property).</i></p>
<p>Text: Marital tutor: women of legal age can conclude their marriage contract themselves</p> <p><i>Explanation: Under the previous Moudawana, women needed a marital tutor (a male relative) to conclude their marriage contract in their name. Adult women can now conclude their own marriage contract.</i></p>	<p>Text: Obedience of the wife to her husband: eliminated!</p> <p><i>Explanation: Under the previous Moudawana, women had a legal duty to obey their husbands. This has been eliminated.</i></p>	<p>Text: Divorce: Only in front of a judge</p> <p><i>Explanation: Previously, men could practice verbal, ex parte and extra-judicial divorces (repudiation) without cause, merely registering the divorce afterwards. Now all divorce proceedings, even those initiated unilaterally by the husband without cause, must be held in front of a judge and in the presence of both spouses.</i></p>

(A list of our partner NGOs in this initiative)