



PRESS RELEASE

Urgent Call for Action: Protecting Women and Girls Amidst Gender-Based Violence Surge in Morocco's Earthquake Aftermath

[Rabat, Morocco] - On September 8, a seismic event of unprecedented magnitude struck the nation of Morocco, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. The epicenter was located in Southwest Marrakech, but its tremors reverberated across the entire nation, particularly affecting remote mountainous villages near the origin. As of now, the death toll has surpassed a staggering 2900+ lives lost, with over 5500+ individuals suffering from injuries.

Amidst the chaos and devastation, Politics4Her has been deeply concerned by a disturbing and heart-wrenching trend that has emerged in the aftermath of this earthquake - an alarming increase in risks of **gender-based violence**. Shocking videos, pictures, and posts circulating on social media depict a deeply troubling narrative. Individuals are suggesting that men should marry or adopt underage girls who have lost everything - their families, their homes - due to the earthquake. These vulnerable girls are being portrayed as needing to be "saved," with suggestions that they should be employed as maids and cooks. Many **young girls** are now at risk of being trafficked and subjected to sexual harassment, falling victim to pedocriminals who exploit their vulnerability during these challenging times.

Politics4Her urgently advocates for a gender-sensitive approach to disaster relief in Morocco in order to combat the increasing risk of human trafficking and sexual violence. Women and girls, who are already disproportionately affected by the earthquake's impact, are now facing the added threat of gender-based violence. We recognize that they are especially vulnerable and must be provided with the necessary support and protection.

As an organization dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of women, Politics4Her calls upon international news outlets, relief organizations, and the global community to prioritize the safety and security of women and girls affected by this devastating earthquake. We urge immediate action to shed light on the ongoing gender-based violence and trafficking, and to ensure that women are included in all aspects of disaster relief efforts.

About Politics4Her

Politics4Her is an intersectional feminist platform and global youth-led movement advocating for the inclusive participation of young women and girls in politics, civil society, and decision-making processes.

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