

JORDAN CONSULTATIONS
JANUARY 2019

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA
AND THE REGION

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE III



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

INTRODUCTION

Ahead of the Third Brussels Conference “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”, 12 -14 March 2019, the **Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**, the **EuroMed Feminist Initiative** and **UN Women Jordan Country Office** supported a number of Syrian activists and Jordanian civil society organizations active in the field of women's human rights and the Jordan Response Plan to the Syria Crisis to convene and discuss their strategy for policy advocacy on gender equality and women's empowerment ahead of the Brussels conference. The consultations took place on 21 and 29 January 2019 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Amman. A list of individuals and organizations endorsing these key messages and policy recommendations can be found at the end of this document.

The participants in the consultations discussed needs and priorities in Jordan in six identified areas: education, health, legal protection, social protection, livelihoods and the role of women in the future of Syria. Based on these, they produced key messages and recommendations to the Brussels Conference.

EDUCATION

The recommendations were made based on data and information originating from relevant government authorities and civil society organizations, in addition to the practical field experiences of Syrian activists, Jordanian civil society, and local community actors.

- Review and develop educational policies to ensure access to education for people with disabilities, residents of remote locations and people with limited income; ensure the provision of an educational infrastructure that is gender-sensitive in the host communities.
- Ensure equitable distribution of financial and educational assistance by international organizations, taking gender equality into account.
- Build capacities of school counselors and teachers in terms of teaching skills, providing counseling for girls and gender-sensitive education.
- Raise awareness of local communities on vocational education/training and ensure its compatibility with the needs of the local market.
- Enforce compulsory education in schools and introduce sex disaggregated reporting mechanisms for dropouts.
- Raise the marriage age to 18 years.
- Legislate fines to prevent registration of marriages contracted outside courts.
- Enforce mandatory kindergarten.
- Raise the age of compulsory education to cover the completion of high school.
- Review negative impact of late shifts at schools for Syrians, especially for young girls, as they discourage Syrian families from sending them to school.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

Parliament

Government of Jordan

The Ministries of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research of both the Jordanian and Syrian governments in respect of recognition of certifications

International and local organizations that provide services and funding in the area of education

THE ROLE OF SYRIAN WOMEN IN THE FUTURE OF SYRIA

The recommendations are based on the experiences of activities and the absence of Syrian associations in Jordan, due to administrative regulations that make registration of such associations difficult. The fact that most programs that target Syrians in Jordan adopt a humanitarian, charitable or religious approach, rather than a human rights approach, was emphasized as a concern. Furthermore, the absence or under representation of women in the Constitutional Committees on the development of the current constitution was underlined.

- Facilitate the registration procedures for Syrian associations concerned with organizing and empowering Syrian women in Jordan so that the ratio of Syrian female/male members is not less than 70%. The goal is to empower women and provide them with the skills and capacities of public participation.
- The programs of international and local organizations should include projects concerned with raising awareness, exchange of expertise and empowerment in the field of political participation and civil society engagement, as well as human rights of Syrian women in Jordan. This means projects should not only provide funds, but also empower, build capacity, and follow-up.
- Involve Syrian women, whether from inside or outside Syria, through a women's quota in any committee for the drafting of the constitution to ensure equal participation.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

The Jordanian government

Donor States and International Organizations

The European Union and The United Nations bodies

The Syrian Government and the Syrian opposition

LIVELIHOODS

The recommendations are based on the experiences of Syrian women and activists who have participated in livelihoods initiatives related to the Jordanian labour market.

- Regulate work in civil society organizations and associations for Syrians in order to provide minimum wage and social security registration according to the Labour Law.
- Reconsider the list of professions that restrict non-Jordanian labour, especially for women, including entrepreneurship registration and licensing.
- Develop a needs based unified protocol among organizations working on livelihoods and skill-building of women to enter the labour market.
- Ensure a safe and supportive working environment for women, taking into account needed legal provisions, especially on requiring private companies to introduce complaint procedures to curb harassment in the workplace.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Ministry of Labour

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Social Security Institute

Ministry of Social Development

International and Local CSOs

LEGAL PROTECTION

Data and information involving the following issues were considered during the discussion: number of unaccompanied Syrian children who were hosted and deported outside the country; child marriage; forced marriage, and compulsory labour; the number of workers in unorganized sectors, especially in the agricultural and unlicensed business sectors, taking into account the difficulty of access of all marginalized groups to legal information, either out of fear of social stigma or ignorance of legal channels.

- Pass a law on the rights of children regardless of their nationality, taking into account the best interests of the child, especially children who lack family support. The law should follow and respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Jordan.
- Expand and improve access to legal services and programs and build capacities of service providers on gender related issues including confidentiality of cases.
- Ensure sustainability in the provision of legal services. This requires strengthening the legal environment of civil society institutions, taking into account the need to build the capacities of social and legal workers in gender sensitive case management.
- Call for the implementation of the laws criminalizing harassment in public places and ensuring protection from domestic violence.
- Enforce inclusion of women in agriculture in the social security plan, in addition to the Syrian female workers in small and medium-sized business (unregistered businesses) and raise the role of labour inspection in these businesses, particularly with regard to ensuring appropriate work conditions for Syrian female workers and women from host communities.
- Amend the Personal Status Law and Penal Code to address existing discrimination against women in legislations and ensure justice for women.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

Senate and House of Representatives

Government of Jordan

Media

Ministry of Labour

Ministry of Justice

Labour Directorates

Social Security

Chambers of Industry and Commerce

Amman Municipality and other municipalities

International and Local CSOs

SOCIAL PROTECTION

The study of the UNESCO on harassment in the workplace and the guide on the safety and protection of journalists were taken into consideration in drafting these recommendations. The scattered and separate documentation of GBV/VAWG cases was also noted with CSOs and governmental institution having own database.

- Ensure the voluntary and safe return of Syrian female refugees involved in projects concerned with the empowerment of Syrian women.
- Promote the role of the media and media institutions in Jordan by providing specialized training to cover human rights issues, incorporate the gender perspective, and ensure protection of female journalists against violence and harassment.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Ministry of Social Development

- Expand the geographical coverage and increase the number of shelters for female survivors in Jordan, and improve the qualification of personnel supervising these shelters to enhance the protection and ensure the dignity of survivors.
- Establish a National Unified Database for reported cases of GBV/VAW to ensure proper documentation of cases, referrals and support the development of national strategies and actions with evidence.
- The conclusion of an agreement of partnership between the Jordanian government and the Syrian government with regard to social security.
- Increase and ensure a fair distribution of financial aid in cases of emergency relief and protection of unaccompanied and isolated girls, as well as women with disabilities.

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

National Council for Family Affairs

Department of Statistics

The Syrian and the Jordanian governments

International and local CSOs
Humanitarian organizations

Media organizations, Media Commission

HEALTH

Withdrawing the support for the government health sector had a significant impact on Syrians as it has limited access to quality health services, prompting international organizations to work on providing health coverage. Despite the assistance of international organizations in providing health services, there are still gaps to be addressed. In addition, there are structural weaknesses in the public health sector in Jordan with shortage of medical staff, challenges in providing quality services and limited number of hospitals. Accordingly, the following recommendations were made:

- Restore health coverage of Syrians in the public health sector providing them access to all health services.
- Incorporate health awareness, especially with regard to reproductive and sexual health in all schools and universities.
- Ensure the presence of medical staff (female/male nurses and general physicians) in all public schools.
- Facilitate the access of Syrian women to health services through the establishment of medical services points all over the governorates including mobile clinics.
- Streamline and speed up the administrative procedures for access to the needed medical services, particularly in relation to the referral of patients.
- Support the establishment of specialized psychiatry clinics with properly trained specialized personnel.

Concerned Actors and Agencies

The Jordanian Government

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Ministry of Health

UNHCR