

# Recommendations of the Working Groups

## “Civil Society Consultation – Syrian Crisis: Developing Guidelines for Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) in the South Mediterranean.”

Beirut, 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Recommendations of Working Group One: Legal Reform

- Forming a body to oversee the quality of legislative drafting to achieve legislative stability and legal security
- Issuing a new law allowing freedom of association for non-governmental organizations in order to create a public opinion base
- Forming a dedicated body to review the legislative system and amend and repeal texts and laws that violate international humanitarian and human rights law
- Reforming the composition of the Constitutional Court and its access mechanism
- Enacting a non-discriminatory personal status law
- Eliminating special criminal courts and reforming military justice
- Enacting non-discriminatory personal status and nationality laws
- Amending the Penal Code to ensure the elimination of all discriminatory articles that incite violence against women
- Enacting a law to combat violence against women and girls
- Reforming and rehabilitating law enforcement agencies (police - family rehabilitation centers - juvenile institutes ... etc.)

#### Additional comments:

- There is no judiciary independence in Syria. Therefore, legal reform must come after constitutional reform, as the constitution determines the powers and guarantees their independence.
- There is neither a Family Protection Law nor a Child Protection Law in Syria
- A law preventing hate speech must be put in place
- The entire Syrian legislative system must be reformed because all laws are interlinked (Labor Law, penal law and personal status law for example), and therefore it is difficult to define which of the laws must be amended first

### Recommendations of Working Group Two: Administrative Reform

#### On the Participation level:

- A 30% quota for women in the administration must be achieved in order to reach parity
- A female-male co-presidency in all departments to guarantee the ascension of women to these positions
- Activating the role of women and supporting their role in neighborhood and development committees

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- Securing adapted infrastructure (kindergarten, safe access)
- Taking concrete measures to help women enter the formal labor market and political life
- Reforming the Associations Law and stipulating the need for a quota for women in the Parties' Laws
- The necessity of having an electoral law that guarantees equality and rotation in lists

### On the Protection level:

- Providing protection for abused women while preserving their privacy
- The necessity of establishing a hotline
- Fighting administrative corruption in state institutions
- Including women in police forces and rehabilitating the police and security services to enable them to deal with gender-based violence
- Training judges and medical personnel to deal with cases of gender-based violence
- Taking measures related to protecting women's private property

### On the Prevention level:

- Tightening measures to prevent girls dropping out of school and ensuring their access to higher education
- Providing a safe environment in schools and ensuring safe access
- Modify curricula in a gender sensitive way
- Training teaching staff to have a more gender-sensitive human rights perspective

### On the Relief level:

- Respecting the property rights of women during the return and reconstruction process
- Making places of accommodation more adapted to the needs of women
- Ensuring safe access and maintaining the dignity of women while providing relief services
- Ensuring women's participation in the reconstruction process

### Additional comments:

- There is an increase in the percentage of women running for elections in Syria despite all the pressures
- Entering the local authorities could constitute an important gateway for women to decision-making positions
- Syrian women have reached the constitutional committee and many important decision-making centers
- A higher council for women that deals with women's issues at all levels should be created
- There are many projects that improve the status of women on the legal, administrative and educational levels, but they are not approved and are not implemented
- EuroMed Feminist Initiative has produced an "ABC for gender sensitive education" and the partner organizations should benefit from it.

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## Recommendations of Working Group Three: Constitutional Processes

- Neutrality of the state towards all its components
- Committing to the International Bill of Human Rights as a main reference
- Unity of the Syrian territories
- Equality between all citizens, regardless of belief, gender, color, or ethnicity
- Full equality between men and women in law and before the law
- Enacting women's quota, in order to reach parity in the economic, social, political and administrative sectors
- Adopting a strategic plan for all civil organizations, including feminists, to push for the spoken and verbal gendering of the constitution
- Pressing for the necessity of continuing the constitutional process and urging the implementation of equal citizenship and gender equality
- Pushing for the criminalization of all gender-based violence and the creation of support and protection institutions
- Establishing a women's economic quota of at least 40% to enter the labor market, with laws and protection mechanisms against all types of violations that may occur against women
- Establishing a national committee for women and men refugees to protect their rights
- Forming a justice body to deal with the files of female and male detainees, kidnapped persons, missing persons, disabled persons, persons wounded in war and everyone affected by the Syrian conflict
- Ensure the independence of the authorities and the implementation of the constitution
- The constitution should be detailed regarding women's rights, their protection and empowerment, given the supremacy of the constitution over other laws and legislation

## Recommendations of Working Group Four: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Recognition and licensing of women's civil society organizations (reforming the Association Law)
- Training and enabling civil society organizations in the reporting, monitoring and evaluation processes
- The independence of civil society organizations vis-à-vis donors
- Ensuring female and male workers' rights

### In terms of ownership:

- Eliminating security approval in legal agencies and in buying and selling
- Ensuring property rights
- Creating a financial fund to support housing rehabilitation
- Emphasizing the role of organizations in monitoring corruption cases and their role in assessing needs

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- Fair and gender-sensitive compensation for expropriation
- Ensuring the rights of men and women refugees, establishing their ownership, monitoring their safe and voluntary return, and following up on this by civil society organizations

### Additional comments:

- Monitoring requires a national strategy for women in Syria, along with a national plan for the implementation of 1325, then identifying monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- One of the most important problems we face is the difference between the donors' priorities and the national side's priorities.