



IFE-EFI Statement

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

July 2015

SOLIDARITY WITH GREEK WOMEN

The on-going global financial and economic crisis has its severe consequences in Greece with disastrous effects on people's lives and disproportionately hits women. Women are especially affected by public sector cuts, unemployment and they are expected to step into more traditional gender roles as caregivers. According to Lois Woestman, a Greek American feminist academic, women are socially required to behave as *nikokira*, i.e. the ever-giving homemaker, whose duties are now piling up because of fewer resources for childcare, healthcare and home help. Furthermore, another hidden cost of Greece's economic crisis is increasing gender-based violence. Domestic violence is on the rise, discrimination is rampant, and the rate of prostitution in the country has climbed by 150 per cent during the economic crisis as stated by the National Centre for Social Research. Indeed, many women are forced to turn to prostitution in order to support themselves and their families.

The austerity program imposed to Greece by the Troika ([International Monetary Fund](#), [European Commission](#), and the [European Central Bank](#)) has been devastating and the results of the referendum held on July the 5th reflected Greece's strong will to refuse additional punitive and regressive measures that are triggering economic meltdown and maintaining Greece in depression. The way to go out of the crisis is sustainable growth combined with gender equality and solidarity.

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI argues that structural adjustment programs have not taken into account a gender perspective while austerity measures do not resolve the crisis generating hardships that hit women the most.

In light of the above observations Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI calls upon the Euro-group to reopen the talks with the Greek government, to renegotiate the debt of Greece, to show in their acts that democracy is a founding pillar of EU.

Furthermore, in order to reduce the impact of the crisis on the Greek people, particularly on women, Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI supports the actions of women's human rights organizations and political leaders to:

- Fully integrate gender equality and women's rights into policies aimed at resolving the economic crisis;
- Implement actions to fight all forms of discrimination and violence against women;
- Connect international organizations and Greek organizations in order to develop adjustment programs with a gendered lens;
- Create jobs particularly in the public sphere and invest in social services (education, health, child and dependent persons care) that would also help women to juggle with professional and private life;
- Build solidarity networks between women's organizations in Greece and internationally

Paris, 08 July 2015

Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI is a policy network of women's rights organizations from the two shores of the Mediterranean advocating for gender equality and women's rights as full part of democracy and citizenship, for the right of people to self-determination, against militarism, war and occupation.

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