



# STATEMENT

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**EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE**

7 December 2017

## **FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WITH EAST JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL**

Euromed Feminist Initiative condemns the unilateral decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This dangerous step in the escalating violations of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Jerusalem, in particular Resolution 476, is a new attempt to legitimize the Israeli occupation and settlements, as well as the cultural, social and political changes of Jerusalem by Israel. This decision undermines any attempt to build peace. It opens the door for more tension and conflicts in the whole region, which will have consequences for millions of civilians, in particular women and children. It also undermines the attempt to establish an independent Palestinian State in the 1967 borders with its East Jerusalem as its Capital.

Euromed Feminist Initiative calls upon the US administration to return to the frame of International Law and UNSC Resolutions related to the Palestinian and Israeli conflict; calls upon all States to continue pressing the US administration to discourage the implementation of a decision, which threatens security and world peace.

The ongoing Israeli aggression is against the Geneva Conventions and denies the basic human rights of Palestinians. Benjamin Netanyahu continues to violate the International Law and commit crimes against humanity, declaring that Israel will never accept a return to the 1967 borders and will never renounce a unified Jerusalem. For several years criminal acts of violence of the Israeli military against Gaza have kept the population under siege, effectively blocked by land, and sea in what has been called an "open-air prison." The "collective punishment" imposed on the population of Gaza, the increasing numbers of settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem, the continuous arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings; the house demolitions, and on-going restriction on people's mobility take place while the world political powers remain silent.

Euromed Feminist Initiative calls upon:

- All States that have diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw their missions from the Holy City.
- All States who have not yet recognize Palestine as a State to take a direct step and recognize the independent State of Palestine
- The UN Security Council to hold an urgent meeting to re-affirm the status of Jerusalem and all relevant resolutions.

The UN system which we expect to be an international actor against violence and militarization, must demand from all countries, including USA, the respect of International Law as a necessary step and a precondition for transparent and participatory comprehensive peace process in the whole Middle East which will facilitate political changes towards democracy and enhance the respect of human rights for women and men in the region.

*Euromed Feminist Initiative advocates for gender equality and women's human rights as inseparable from democracy and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, the right of peoples to self-determination.*

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