



## *IFE-EFI STATEMENT*

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

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### **EUROMED FEMINIST INITIATIVE SUPPORTS THE SYRIAN WOMEN APPEAL**

**Euromed Feminist Initiative** stands strongly beside the signatories of the **Syrian Women Appeal** that claims for 30% quota in all the Syrian political processes.

In all the processes of transformation, participation of women in the formal decision making and peace negotiations remains a challenge. Peace processes, as political processes, are still building on a combination of specific patriarchal legacy of the society and universal patriarchal values, which reproduces and maintains women exclusion from the political sphere, from the structures of political parties and from the formal peace processes. This poses a major hinder in reaching substantive democracy.

**Euromed Feminist Initiative** expresses full solidarity to all the organizations and movements in Syria that unveil and address the structural barriers to women's equal representation and participation in politics and the ongoing peace negotiations, and that strive to favor common elaboration of basic strategies to overcome the difficulties in promoting women's rights as a political issue.

**Euromed Feminist Initiative** will continue to support our Syrian feminist colleagues who are confronting these specific and universal patriarchal patterns of exclusion and their work to:

- Sustain a pressure dialogue with stakeholders for adopting gender quotas mechanism to enable women's entering to political life;
- Strengthen women's networking to build common strategies towards ensuring women's participation;
- Raise awareness and provide education to reach social and political interest and motivation towards promotion of women's participation in places of power, including among the emerging new political formations;
- Unveil and address pertinent gender stereotypes undermining women's capacity to work in politics and limiting the role of women in the public sphere.

The new political context demands more than ever solidarity and networking among women internationally, regionally and locally. It is a needed mechanism to stand against political and religious fundamentalists that often use quota systems to push forward their own agendas.

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

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