



URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED IN IRAQ AND KRG

In Solidarity with Iraqi Women's Rights Organizations and "YES" Campaign for Rescuing Captured Women by Terrorist Groups

European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI, recently enlarged to Euro-Med Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI, is a Euro-Med policy network encompassing women's rights organisations from 25 countries from the two shores of the Mediterranean and from Caucasus. IFE-EFI advocates for gender equality and women's rights as full part of democracy and citizenship, for the right of peoples to self-determination, against militarism, war and occupation.

IFE-EFI stays side by side with the women's rights organisations in Iraq and KRG and supports firmly the demands of the **"YES" Campaign for Rescuing Captured Women by Terrorist Groups**.

IFE-EFI expresses full solidarity with Iraqi women's rights organizations that are calling for cooperation of all Iraqis, calling for the support of all political forces and parties, to all civil society organizations and media, to international institutions to mobilize all for the security and safety of Iraqi people, women and men, to provide immediate protection for women and girls from sexual violence.

Iraq is now suffering awful tragedy. After the United States invasion war, Iraq's already entrenched divisions between communities, mostly created by a successful "divide and rule" strategy, were even more exacerbated. Now a large part of the country is submitted to the brutal law of extremist political Islam. As in all armed conflicts, women are the first victims and the most affected by the consequences of the present situation; rape, sexual torture, slavery are being used to humiliate and subjugate not only women but whole community.

IFE-EFI reaffirms our determination to act with all other components of the democratic movement in order to exert pressure on European governments, UN and all international institutional actors to take immediate political and diplomatic steps to stop this massacre and to act for a non-violent transition in Iraq towards sustainable and just peace and towards democracy installed by the freedom loving people of Iraq. The European States via EU must organize now a wide humanitarian operation in Kurdistan and firmly condemn Saudi Arabia and Qatar that are financing the jihadist movements. The UN should support financially and politically the Iraqi women's rights organisations to monitor the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan for the implementation of the USCR1325. All the political solutions must urgently be examined to stop the jihadists before they impose the atrocities in the whole country.

IFE-EFI

Paris, 22 August 2014