

*International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*

**STOP TO WARS, STOP TO VIOLENCE**

**25/11/2023**

**Each year on 25th of November the international women’s rights movement reminds that violence against women and girls (VAWG) is among the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations. No country is free from that plague.**

When geopolitical and economic crises start to be resolved by military interventions, wars and occupations, women are double exposed to aggression, displacement, sexual abuse. This has been made known worldwide for the past hundreds of years.

Today Gaza population is facing a large-scale massacre and genocide. Women and children are the first victims, several thousands of them already killed these last few weeks. It is not now a matter of inequality, exploitation, disruption in education, sexual violence, which year after year, one armed conflict after another we denounce. It is a matter of life and death!

The war waged by Israel against the population and infrastructure in Gaza has resulted until now officially in over 14,500 deaths, of whom 74% are children and women. 1,7 million has been displaced since 7th of October. <sup>1</sup>

Hospitals are targeted by the Israeli army in straight violation of international humanitarian law and without accountability. The United Nations Secretary General speaks of “a cemetery for children” and a “crisis of humanity”. We once more state that the agreed “four days humanitarian pause” is cynicism.

**Today our only words are immediate ceasefire. STOP this genocide. Put an immediate end to the inhumane siege which is strangling the population of Gaza.**

*EuroMed Feminist Initiative continue to demand more than ever, for political solutions of all conflicts, where women’s rights defenders are a full part of all political and peace negotiations.*

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<sup>1</sup> UNRWA situation update as of 22 November 2023