



EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

STATEMENT

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EuroMed Feminist Initiative

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8 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: VIGILANCE AND ACTION!

Women's rights are in decline in many countries, as recent international news shows. Femicides are making the headlines and impunity is still the rule. The right to control one's own body is being challenged and women remain under-represented in decision-making bodies. In this context, EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) is more than ever mobilised on both shores of the Mediterranean to protect the achievements of feminist struggles.

On this International Women's Day, EuroMed Feminist Initiative expresses its deepest concern about the regression of women's rights, the explosion of violence against women and girls (VAWG), the threats to women's organisations and calls upon for women's rights to be made a political priority. Women's rights organisations must be supported in their role as driving forces for the transformation of the patriarchal model for more egalitarian societies.

Active policies must be put in place to facilitate women's access to the labour market. Similarly, VAWG must be fought relentlessly, particularly through adopting comprehensive laws on its elimination in all countries and through widespread education. This will be the topic of the events organised by the EuroMed Feminist Initiative, notably on the occasion of the 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

In the Euro-Mediterranean region, many conflicts or prolonged crises persist in breach of international law. EuroMed Feminist Initiative is fully committed to an agenda of feminist diplomacy that aims at a better representation of women in peace and transitional justice processes and to the use of political means to solving conflicts.

Women's organisations have a key role to play in addressing violations of women's rights and security, which are particularly severe in times of crisis, and there is an urgent need to make the fight against such violence a political priority for the benefit of all society. Today we reiterate: Zero Tolerance for VAWG!

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network that provides expertise in the field of gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.