

LEBANON'S FEMINIST CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

Demands for a fair and equitable space for women in the public sphere

Beirut, 29th September 2021

In light of the economic and infrastructural collapse in Lebanon and pursuant to the formation of a new government tainted with an appalling under-representation of women in ministerial positions and further to the patriarchal statements made recently in public by several politicians including the Prime Minister, Lebanon's Civil Society Feminist platform has convened and expressed its concern about the drastic regression of women's representation in ministerial positions. The current 4% female representation in government as opposed to the previous 30% and the likelihood of this decline being replicated in parliamentary representation requires immediate action.

Lebanon's Civil Society Feminist platform demands that women's rights and opportunities to equal participation in decision-making should be institutionalized. Moreover, legally binding measures should be implemented to avoid backlash and preserve the gains achieved after long struggles by the feminist movement.

In light of the above, The Platform has therefore issued the following list of demands that must be met in order to truly encompass a fair and equitable space for women in the political sphere:

1. Respect Lebanon's commitments under all international conventions and instruments including CEDAW, Beijing Resolution and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and SDG5, and UNSCR 1325.
2. Establish parity in both upcoming parliamentary and municipal elections.
3. Lower the campaign finance threshold and maintain transparency in funding apparatuses and spending.
4. Ensure female candidates have equal access to the media and are portrayed in a fair, non-stereotypical and non-discriminatory way during the electoral campaign period.
5. Put the proper measures in place to prevent and punish gender-based violence against women candidates and voters in elections.
6. Ensure polling stations are accessible and equipped in such a way that enables people with special needs to exercise their voting right, in particular women with disabilities and pregnant women.
7. Ensure equal representation of women in the appointments of the supervisory commission for elections and in all the inter-ministerial, decision-making and coordination committees formed to discuss reforms or recovery and reconstruction plans, as this recovery is impossible without the participation of women.
8. Mainstream a gender perspective/lens into all public policies and reforms indicated in the ministerial statement and in the negotiations with the international financial institutions. This includes ring-fencing spending on health and education, and ensuring measures are put in place to retain women in the paid economy.
9. Implement the 1325 national action plan which was endorsed by the government of Lebanon in September 2019.
10. Implement the national plan to combat violence against women and enact a comprehensive law to combat violence against women.

Lebanon's Civil Society Feminist platform will monitor the performance of the government and will hold it accountable for its actions/ inaction towards upholding women's rights and achieving gender equality, equity and freedoms.

The signatories

ABAAD	HELEM	National Association for Disabled Persons (NARD)
Abnaa Saida Al Balad association	Haven for Artists	Ondes
Al Jalil Organization For Development	Joumana Haddad Freedoms Center	Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO)
Arab Forum for the rights of people with disabilities	Justice Without Frontiers (JWF)	Safadi Foundation
Arab foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE)	KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation	Seeds for Legal Initiatives
Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship	Khateera	Soins Infirmiers et Developpement Communautaire (SIDC)
Association Najdeh	Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)	The Arab Institute for Women (AiW/ LAU)
Auberge Beity	Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)	The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Woman (LECORVAW)
Center for Inclusive Buisness and Leadership for Women (CIBL.W/ AUB)	Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (LUPD)	The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL)
Collective for Research & Training on Development - Action (CRTDA)	Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development and Empowerment (LFPADe)	Women Now For Development
Dar Al Amal	Madaniyat	Dr. Carmen Geha
FE-MALE	Maharat Foundation	Dr. Halimé El Kaakour
Fiftyfifty	Marsa Sexual Health Center	Ms. Abir Chebaro
Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL)	M-Coalition	Ms. Manar Zeaiter
	Mousawat Organization	Ms. Diana Moukalled
	Mouvement Social	

Lebanon's Feminist Civil Society Platform is formed of 50 feminist civil society actors and activists who were convened by UN Women in the aftermath of the 4th of August blast and issued a unified [Charter of Demands](#) to put women's issues at the center of the disaster response plan. Since then, the Feminist Platform conducted various advocacy efforts including the contribution to the development of the Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF) sector plans as well as meetings with representatives of the donor community in Lebanon and the leadership of the United Nations, European Union, and the World Bank to share their gendered priorities and demands.