



Joint Statement from the League of Arab States and United Nations Gender Theme Group on the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women #HearMeToo

League of Arab States, November 25, 2018

On the occasion of the launch of the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women (EVAW), which commences on November 25, the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, and the launch of Her Story's 16 Days activities that aims at producing and disseminating knowledge about gender equality issues and women and girls' lives and contributions in the Arab region.

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is not only a grave violation to human rights but also results in massive health, social and economical implications, and that violence hinders women's contributions to development, peace and security, and is a barrier to achieve gender equality, women's and girls' fundamental rights and their advancement, which is a threat to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs), and

Under the recent deep political changes and mutations under conditions of instability, armed conflicts, internal displacement, asylum status, kidnapping and murder, that deeply affects the conditions of women and girls who bear the brunt of negative impacts by being exposed to physical and psychological forms of violence,

Partners and Member States reiterate their commitments on unifying their stance on regional and national levels to end violence against women and girls, to ensure a future with no violence against women and girls in the Arab region, and to work on providing necessary protection for them.

Partners calls upon national women machineries to develop legislations and policies that criminalize violence and guarantee women's and girls' protection, and to develop national comprehensive strategies and workplans to refer cases of violence against women and girls to the formal justice system, providing a holistic



range of adequate aid and protection services for female victims and survivors in alignment with the internationally agreed standards, improving data collection and analysis as a basis to end violence against them in a manner that ensures women's recovery and empowerment to overcome the multiple consequences of violence in order to ensure a quality life. Partners also call for taking preventative measures that are inclusive, accessible, affordable measures with high quality and socially acceptable.

Member States urge for mainstreaming women's needs in the comprehensive national development plans and poverty eradication strategies that address the social, structural and macroeconomic issues, and for ensuring that such strategies address violence against women and girls.

In line with the League of Arab States efforts to empower women and girls and build their capacities in all domains in the Arab States region as a milestone for the Arab community's progress, the League of Arab States has developed the "**Cairo Declaration for Arab Women**" and the Strategic **Executive Action Plan "Women's Development Agenda in the Arab Region 2030"** that were " were endorsed during the 28th ordinary session of the Arab summit in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on March 28th, 2018 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as a comprehensive strategic framework to promote women's status in the Arab States region during the period from 2015 to 2030, with a special pillar on the significance of "women's and girl's right of a society free from all forms of violence against women, and providing the legal and social and health protection for women and girls who are exposed to or survived from violence."

The League of Arab States exerts tremendous efforts with its partners to draft the first Arab Convention to end violence against women and girls and domestic violence, with the aim of strengthening women's and girls' protection in the region through developing legislations, plans and strategies, reviewing codes, reinforcing partnerships and coordination between all stakeholders working in the field of protection of women and concerned institutions, as well as establishing multisectoral approach to end the cause of violence against women pursuant to the Arab Women's Committee's recommendations in its 35th, 36th and 37th sessions.



The League of Arab States further cooperate with all concerned parties on national, regional and international levels to implement the Regional Strategy and Executive Action Plan “**Protection of Arab Women: Peace and Security**” endorsed by League of Arab States at the Ministerial level during the 144th Ordinary Session on September, 13th 2015 .

In addition, the League of Arab States in its partnership with UN Women supports the youth-led HerStory initiative that aims to produce and promote knowledge on gender equality issues, women’s and girls’ lives and their contributions in the Arab States region. In this regard, it is worth a moment of appreciation and admiration to all women who are standing still in the face of systematic violence in wars and conflicts, and female activists who are working continuously despite all obstacles and challenges for ending violence against women and girls and for equality to guarantee a safe future for the next generations, and a better tomorrow that holds values of prosperity and advancement for all mankind.

While we emphasize that there are no rights without safekeeping of women’s rights, neither progress, stability nor advancement without decent and dignified status of women and girls in a community free from all forms of violence, we cherish and appreciate all efforts exerted and currently being done for making women’s and girls’ lives without violence or threats.

#16Days #oranjetheworld, #HearMeToo, @arableague_gs, @unwomenarabic#اسمعي

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