



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DELEGATION ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND UNSC RESOLUTION 1325

To the attention of the EU, Member States and European Civil Society

Brussels, 30 November and 1 December 2015

In the context of the EU policy on the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Syria, Israel and the oPt, EuroMed Rights, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and their Palestinian and Syrian member and partner organisations call on the EU, Member States, and European civil society organisations to ensure that Women, Peace and Security issues are mainstreamed in the framework of the EU's work on Syria, Israel, the oPt, notably within the Human Rights Dialogues, through implementing the following recommendations.

General Recommendations

Peace and Women's Participation

- Support a peaceful political solution to the Syrian and the Palestinian conflicts and ensure women's participation in peace negotiations, political transition and peace-building;
- Recognising that sustainable peace can only be achieved through ensuring that women are adequately represented in delegations of negotiating parties with a percentage of no less than 30% and as an independent party at the negotiating table, notably in any EU-supported negotiations;
- Prioritise demilitarisation and enhance measures to control the production and export of arms to countries in conflict, and respect and implement related treaties.

Justice and Accountability

- Ensure accountability for perpetrators of human rights violations, particularly those committed against women, and combating the widespread impunity, in accordance with UNSCR 1325, International Humanitarian Law and CEDAW, particularly in light of CEDAW General Recommendation nr 30;
- Take urgent measures to provide funding for mechanisms aimed at providing women who have been exposed to serious violations, including sexual assault, with adequate social, medical, psychological and economic rehabilitation;
- Increase the focus on combating violence against women in the oPt and Syria, by ensuring access to justice and reparation for all women victims of sexual violence, as well as access to reproductive and sexual health services and support programmes.

Humanitarian Aid and Refugees

- Empower women from crisis-affected populations to participate in the planning and implementation of humanitarian aid and recovery programmes, and provide

sustainable funding and support to ensure the engagement of local women's rights organisations in humanitarian action;

- Ensure compliance with international obligations towards asylum seekers by keeping borders open and preventing human rights abuses, the risk of trafficking or recruitment that have special and disproportionate impact on women;
- Respond to the human security needs of refugees in neighbouring countries by providing adequate funding to ensure protection of human rights: access to food, water housing, education and rights to employment.

Empowerment

- Support capacity-building of women and girls, as well as women-led civil society groups in Syria and the oPt, and enhance the EU involvement and liaison with them in a public and visible manner;
- Recognise the importance of programmes on women's rights and development and detach them from those on counter-terrorism and extremism, as well as all military planning and military processes. All efforts to empower women should take place through civilian assistance, development and human rights agencies;
- All counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism interventions should take women experiences into concern and should undergo gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.

Specific Recommendations

EuroMed Rights, WILPF and their Palestinian and Syrian member and partner organisations also call on the EU, Member States and the European Civil Society organisations to put in place specific actions to better protect women and girls in Syria and the oPt, and effectively enhance their role in conflict resolution and peace building.

In particular, EuroMed Rights and WILPF call on **EU Member States** to:

- Ensure that adequate funding is allocated to achieve full implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) of the UNSCR 1325 by all EU Member States, that monitoring mechanisms to ensure implementation are embedded in NAPs, that women in conflict regions are systematically consulted and due attention is paid to the role of men and masculinities;
- Acknowledge and abide by national responsibility regarding the Women, Peace and Security agenda that might contradict Member States' engagement in military agreements and operations in the countries in conflict;
- Make concrete efforts towards a timely peaceful political process to the conflict in Syria and ensure active and effective participation of women in all phases of political transition;
- Advocate for justice, accountability and reparations for crimes committed against women in conflict, particularly sexual violence, and for such crimes to be addressed by the ICC and other international accountability mechanisms;
- Recognise sexual violence and gender-based violence as legitimate grounds for granting women international protection, in line with Article 60 of the CoE Istanbul Convention and Article 9 of the EU's Qualification directive of December 2011;
- Increase the number of women among Heads of EU diplomatic missions, staff in UN Peacekeeping and CSDP missions and operations, as well as the number of gender advisors or focal points thereof;
- Make sure that accountability is pursued and reparations for victims are granted in all cases of sexual abuse or exploitation committed by CSDP staff.

EuroMed Rights and WILPF call on **the European External Action Service** to:

- In the framework of the EU-Israel bilateral dialogue, address the specific impact of Israel's violence against women under the occupation, notably within the Informal Working Group on Human Rights and Political Sub-committee;
- Increase information and reporting on Women Peace and Security in all EU Special Representatives' reports, notably the EUSR for the Middle East Peace Process, by ensuring that information and data are collected through the systematic consultation of women's organisations and civil society;
- Ensure that anti-terrorism laws and regulations on countering violent extremism do not burden civil society organisations and groups.

EuroMed Rights and WILPF call on **Members of the European Parliament** to:

- Systematically call on the HR/VP Mogherini, the EEAS, the EU Delegations and Member States to place human rights and the rights of women at the centre of their relations with Syria, Israel and the oPt;
- Call on the EU, the EEAS and Member States to follow the recommendations made in the different European Parliament resolutions on the situation of girls and women in conflict areas, particularly the last resolution of 2 February 2012 on women's situation in war;
- Recognise the role of Palestinian girls and women in working for peace and statehood in all future resolutions on the subject of the Middle East Peace Process or Palestinian statehood, after failing to recognise their role in the 12 December 2014 EP resolution on recognition of Palestinian statehood (2014/2964(RSP));
- Use all possible channels at their disposal such as press and blog articles, speeches, public statements, parliamentary questions and influence at national level to raise awareness on Women, Peace and Security in the relevant countries, combat the stereotypical image of Middle Eastern women and stress their agency and role as key actors in peacebuilding and political transitions;
- Give Palestinian and Syrian women's rights organisations a platform to increase their visibility, support their work and relay their calls, concerns and experiences;

EuroMed Rights and WILPF call on **the European Economic and Social Committee** to:

- Support Palestinian and Syrian NGOs, particularly those dealing with Women Peace and Security, in the framework of its cooperation with civil society organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Prepare an Information Report on the EU policy on the UNSCR 1325 and its impact for the women's groups and civil society organisations dealing with Women Peace and Security.