

Lebanon's Feminist Civil Society Platform

Statement in Solidarity with Human Rights Associations and Organizations Against the Systematic Campaigns Against Them

Beirut, September 9, 2024

Solidarity Statement Issued by the Platform Against the Systematic Campaigns Against Them

The Feminist Platform asserts its full support for human rights associations and organizations against the systematic campaigns that target them. These campaigns will only strengthen these organizations' determination to promote human rights principles and respect for diversity.

Those who campaign systematically against society's institutions, are they aware of the violence, in all forms and kinds, women and girls are subjected to? Yet, no one is taking action. Do they know how many cases of sexual harassment and rape occur every day? Do they have statistics on the number of women who have been thrown out of their homes, denied the right to see their children, and deprived of all rights? Do they have solutions or plans that would mitigate these problems? Our hand is extended to all, and there must be constant intervention to put an end to these problems and social ills.

Lebanon is a country of diversity and cannot be confined to a single ideology. It is a model of coexistence and cultural pluralism. Its constitution stipulates that freedom of belief is absolute, and therefore everyone must respect the opinion of the other, and no one can eliminate anyone else. Instead, we can cooperate to create safe and strong societies and complement each other. The role played by civil society institutions and organizations is of great importance in confronting the problems facing society in light of the crises that the country is going through and the almost complete absence of official institutions. Therefore, the second important role of civil society institutions is to fill the gaps and shortcomings in the country, which must be rewarded with gratitude and cooperation by everyone.

The history of Lebanon bears witness to the prominent role of women in achieving independence and engaging in political and human rights work and to their ongoing struggle to obtain their natural and human rights, including their right to vote and run for election, their right to education and equal pay, maternity leave, and other rights. This ongoing feminist struggle enhances the protection of women from discrimination and violence and contributes to achieving balance within the family and society from the perspective of partnership and complementarity between women and men.

There must be a revival of awareness and change, as modernity and progress are always moving forward, contributing to the development of societies, the establishment of human justice, and the achievement of full equality among all members of society.

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The Feminist Civil Society Platform in Lebanon consists of 47 rights organizations and activists in the field of feminist work. UN Women Lebanon brought together these organizations and individuals in the aftermath of the August 4 explosion to unify efforts and activities supporting women's issues. Since its establishment, the members of the platform have carried out multiple advocacy efforts and contributed to the development of reform, recovery, and reconstruction plans for Lebanon. UN Women Lebanon serves as the secretariat for the platform, with its role limited to facilitating the platform's work without intervening in decisions, content, data, or any materials produced, published, or presented by the platform.