

Statement by civil society organizations and women's groups from Middle East/North Africa and Europe to World Humanitarian Summit participants

20 May 2016

“Women on the Move” move the world

World leaders from governments, international organizations, civil society and business, will gather on 23-24 May for the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and agree on key commitments to restore the safety, dignity and rights of people in crisis. In view of this historical event, representatives of women's groups, volunteer and humanitarian initiatives from 15 countries spanning from the Middle East, North Africa (MENA) to Europe came together on 16-18 May in Istanbul to discuss how to empower and protect women and girl refugees and migrants.

Faced with the failure of States to resolve conflict and end war; the erosion of international humanitarian law and human rights; the lack of responses to ensure the dignity and well-being of the displaced, which affect in particular women and girls on the move from MENA to Europe, we call on WHS participants to:

- Eliminate the root causes of displacement, especially armed conflict and inequalities
- Ensure the protection of women and girls living in conflict zones, and ensure access of humanitarian aid to besieged and hard to reach areas
- Secure safe and legal passage for forcibly displaced, speed up family reunification, and fully respect the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, especially the right to individual consideration of asylum claims
- Ensure greater participation of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, conflict resolution and the provision of assistance to refugees and migrants
- Improve women's and girls' access to education, work and other essential services, including health.
- Focus on the prevention of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the protection and empowerment of survivors
- Strengthen legal systems to end impunity, ensure access to justice and reduce the dangers of the proliferation of small arms

We have agreed that we will continue to work on these issues, monitor and cooperate across borders, within a new regional coalition of civil society and women's organizations, until women on the move have their rights and dignity restored.

Signatories

AkiDWA & Wezesha, Ireland

Amnesty International, Turkey

Arab Women Organisation, Jordan

ARDD – Legal Aid, Jordan

Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), Turkey

Basmeh & Zeitooneh - Relief & Development, Syria

Belgrade Center for Human Rights, Serbia

Bint Al Rafidain Organization (BROB), Iraq

Bulgarian Platform of the European Women’s Lobby, Bulgaria

CEE Network for Gender Issues, Slovenia

Columbia Global Center, USA- Turkey

European Women’s Lobby – Coordination for Turkey

Foundation for Support of Women’s Work (KEDV), Turkey

Greek Forum of Refugees, Greece

Health Education and Research Association (HERA), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

InfoPark, Serbia

International Supporting Women Association, Syria

Jordan Women’s Union, Jordan

Kamer Foundation, Turkey

Keshmalek, Syria

Kvinna Till Kvinna, Sweden

Legis, Macedonia

Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Macedonia

Mother & Child Education Foundation (ACEV), Turkey

NGO Atina, Serbia

NGO Praxis, Serbia

Open Gate/ La Strada, Macedonia

Oxfam

Praxis

Refugee Aid Miksaliste, Serbia

SAWA for Development and Aid, Syria

Section Terre d'asile Tunisia

Support to Life, Turkey

Supporting Women Association, Syria

Syria Relief and Development, Syria

Syria Relief Network, Syria

Women Empowerment Organisation, Iraq

Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways, Turkey

Women Now, Syria

Women Rehabilitation Organisation, Iraq

Women's Solidarity Foundation (KADAV), Turkey

Zemljani - Are You Syrious?, Croatia