

**United Nations Human Rights Committee**  
**Resolution on women in the Arab Spring**  
**16 February 2013**

Sponsors: Spain, Netherlands, United States of America, Sweden, Denmark, Egypt, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Lichtenstein, Cyprus, Romania, Portugal, Finland, China, Cuba, El Salvador, Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Syria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Australia, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Colombia, Mexico, Ukraine.

*The Human Rights Committee,*

*Recognizes* the gender specific problems of women in the Middle East and sees the need for the international community to aid the countries of the region to improve the current situation,

*Reaffirms* their commitment to UNSCR 1325, the Beijing Declaration, the CEDAW, the CCPR and the United Nations Resolution no. 14/12 (2003),

*Expresses its appreciation* of the UDHR 1948, and Articles 6A, 9A and 9B of the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam 1990,

*Draws attention* to the operational mandate of the UNHRC as prescribed by the UNSC,

*Alarmed by* the fast-approaching 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goal Number 2 which aims to achieve universal primary education,

*Emphasises* the need for capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with all interested stakeholders in order to give these Arab societies the means to secure a framework for the development of civil society,

1. *Encourages* the constitutional guarantee of women's rights and its implementation in a manner which is:
  - a. Tailored to each country,
  - b. Mindful of different outlooks on life,
  - c. Recognizes the need for fully functioning, transparent and accountable legislative, executive and judiciary branches;
  
2. *Urges* the creation of the MENA regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Egypt in order to uphold stability and Human Rights in this region while, further reminding all member states that external intervention should be comprehensive of the state's sovereignty, to be non-invasive and be respectful of the values set out by each member state;
  
3. *Endorses* the strengthening of state infrastructure, such as:
  - a. Forming judicial structures which incorporate gender equality and stronger law enforcement which provides for greater protection of women's rights, through institutions such as but not limited to UNDP, UNHRC, and UN Women training programmes,

b. Implementing public education by means of training local teachers in order to decrease illiteracy and increase the capacity of women in decision-making processes and elevate their status in society, with the effect being that societies' awareness of the matter, both men and women alike, will improve;

4. *Further reaffirming* the significant role of education as a long-lasting solution to abating the distress currently plaguing the Arab nations, and as such:

a. Calls on states to secure access for all girls to have equal education, as recognizing that education of girls will be vital to increasing the position of women in society,

b. Urges the further facilitation of inter-cultural exchange programmes for teachers, students and practitioners;

5. *Urges* the involvement of all local stakeholders, including civil society, grassroots movements and community leaders at local, regional and national levels;

6. *Declares accordingly* that promotion of women's rights should be regarded comprehensively in both rural and urban areas with sensitivity to cultures and traditions;

7. *Strongly encourages* cooperation and collaboration between the UN and local governments for the implementation and protection of women's rights, while:

a. Recommending the further implementation of National Action Plans which outline the protection of women's rights,

b. Calls upon individual nations to adhere to international law (particularly the UN Charter) and enforce existing national legislation adequately and in relation to their sovereignty,

c. Proposes guidelines provided by the Arab League to shift towards further long-term development, promotion and protection of women's rights in Arab states;

8. *Encourages* competitive economy based on free and open markets for better integration of women in employment laws as they are important to facilitate the entry into the workforce to build their own income.