



ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

**2<sup>nd</sup> Statement of**

**Minister - Ambassador/ Mervat Tallawy**  
**President of the NCW Egypt**

**Tuesday 20 August, 09.00 – 10.00 hours**

Plenary Session on

**VIOLENCE**

**ISTANBUL 31<sup>st</sup> Conference 2013**  
**Women's Role in Achieving a Sustainable**  
**Future: Education, Urbanization, Violence**  
**and Human Rights**  
**16-21 August 2013**



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**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Choosing the title "Women's Role in Achieving a Sustainable Future" for this conference is very imaginative and significant. We all should admit how women could shape the future of the nations. Women are not only half of the society but they are partners as well in forming the present and drawing the future.

Since the 25<sup>th</sup> revolution, Egyptian women of all ages have been at the heart of the political scene. Their astonishing participation in all referendums and elections of the president and the parliament proves their determination to bring about change in Egypt and draw their future. Yet, they suffered the most during the last regime with evidences of violence and isolation from public sphere.

Once again in the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, the voice of women has been described as the voice of the revolution. Women contribution over the years to maintain their hard-won gains, despite conservatism trends and even repression has not faded. Since ruling of Muslim Brotherhoods women were marginalized from power when;

- only men were appointed to draft an interim constitution,
- no fairly representation of women existed within the Founding Committee for Drafting the constitution,
- the 64-seat quota for women's representation in parliament was abolished,
- the number of women in the first people's assembly were 9 out of 508,
- radical Islamist members of the previous parliament attempted to change the existing legal instruments concerned with women's rights.
- the new constitution ignored the basic rights of women politically, socially and economically.
- they removed the only women judge from the Supreme Constitutional Court,
- they refused to put women on the political party list of nominees.



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Meanwhile, religious-based groups encourage violence against women through calls for;

- veiling women,
- early marriage for girls,
- legitimacy of FMG,
- revoking divorce laws (Khouli, the right of women to divorce herself),
- changing the age of custody of the child from 15 to 7.

Lack of security led to the increase of violence against women after the 25<sup>th</sup> revolution along beside the use of a new political weapon against Egyptian women protesters, to assault them and frighten them from taking part in demonstrations.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June millions of Egyptians women and men poured into the streets due to all such suppression. The popular uprising threw the regime out of power and there was a consensus of the people's will to make this change.

Unfortunately, some Western media ignored the will of millions of Egyptian people and referred to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June revolution as coup d'état, despite the fact that people asked their military forces to back the majority and preserve their right in changing the regime. We refuse our revolution to be entitled "a coup d'état".

Moreover, the Western media is portraying one side only and did not identify the instigator of violence while referring to Muslim Brotherhood only in their rally ignoring their crimes in Egypt. MB tortured and shot innocent people, used women and children as human shield, burnt churches, government buildings, schools, homes and police stations and killed more than 43 Egyptian policemen. All these are evidences of violent not peaceful demonstrations.

### **Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Since its inception in 2000, the NCW in Egypt has been exerting unremitting efforts with many competent bodies to combat violence against women. With the restructure of the NCW in 2012, a set of



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activities was implemented in cooperation with different stakeholders among which is NGOs, media, and ministries' officials.

▪ **National plan to combat VAWG**

The NCW is implementing a National Strategy to Stop Violence Against Women with three strategic objectives, five projects, and 24 steps. The Three Strategic Objectives are; (1) Strengthen laws and regulations to prevent and redress violence against women; (2) Protect and empower women survivors and their families; and (3) Prevent all forms of violence through public awareness and education. Several sequential and sometimes overlapping steps were prioritized to address these objectives.

▪ **Ombudsman Office**

The Ombudsman Office is a unit at the NCW and had branches across the country. It is the official channel through which any Egyptian woman may report any discriminatory practice or violence to which she is subject. It monitors, examines and addresses any violation of women's rights also provides hotlines and legal advice, refers complaints to the competent agencies, and raises cases to court for victims.

▪ **Organized** twenty seven conferences, held at the same time in all governorates, to discuss all sorts of violence on the grass root level, based on the results of a survey covered 15000 woman & girl, which demonstrated that 61% of the violence was at home followed by violence in the streets 38% then at work place.

▪ **A Protocol was signed with the Ministry of Interior** in which the ministry;

✚ Established a specialized unit for combating VAW with trained female officers to provide proper psychological atmosphere to women during reporting and interrogation.

✚ Increased security patrols all over the cities and streets;

✚ Modernized the surveillance cameras to trace perpetrators since girls or women often fail to report sexual harassment;

✚ Provided policemen and civil servants extensive training courses on human rights issues;



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- **A new legislation** has been prepared by the NCW Legislative Committee which is addressing VAWG with accurate definition of sexual harassment to cover all forms of violence against women, to intensify penalties and fill the gap in the application of existing laws. During drafting this legislation, the council invited certain European experts to make use of their experience in finalizing the document.
- **Organized** several meetings with different ministries as well as religious institutions (Mosque and the Church) targeting the activation of procedures taken by these ministries to fight violence against women.
- **Launching** a campaign for collecting million signatures of Egyptian women and girls for confronting violence against them.
- **Organized** and participated, with concerned NGOs, in a number of demonstrations to address violations and condemn all harassment incidents.
- **Broadcasting** promo and announcements on criminalizing VAWG.
- **Addressing** VAWG through ethics and religious leaders' sermon.
- **Works** with different UN concerned organizations to apply the initiative of "*Safe Cities*" aiming to create models for cities free of violence.
- **Future Actions**
  - A legal observatory unit for women's rights will be established to monitor all legislations and ensure its adherence to the principle of equality and respect of women's rights, while tracking any violation or deviation in the implementation of laws.

# Thanks



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