



ANND's Feminist Working Group

Working Group

Founding Members





Arab Institute for Human Rights

The Arab Institute for Human Rights was established in 1989 in Tunis, on the initiative of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Union of Arab Lawyers, and the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights. It is a regional, non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of human rights, democracy, and active citizenship across the Arab region. In 1992, the Institute was awarded the UNESCO International Prize for Human Rights in recognition of its contributions in this field.

The Institute's vision is grounded in the universality and indivisibility of human rights, as well as in the principles of participation, inclusion, equality, pluralism, and diversity. It seeks to foster a culture that embraces civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, and to advance democratic values throughout the Arab world.

The Institute's strategic objectives include promoting human rights education and awareness, strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations, supporting legal reform and public policy development, and protecting the rights of women, minorities, refugees, migrants, and persons with disabilities.

To achieve these objectives, the Institute implements a wide range of programs and initiatives, including the "School of Citizenship and Human Rights" model, Human Rights Clubs in schools, a Master's Program in Child Rights and Human Rights, and the "Anabtawi" Program—a specialized regional human rights training course designed for actors across various fields of civil society and national human rights institutions.

The Institute works in close partnership with feminist networks, civil society organizations, and regional partners to implement programs addressing women's rights, political participation, sexual and reproductive health, and the elimination of violence against women. It ensures that all initiatives are context-sensitive and culturally grounded.

Amid growing challenges to human rights in the region, the Arab Institute for Human Rights continues to consolidate its role as a key actor in defending fundamental freedoms, building civic capacities, and supporting human rights initiatives at both grassroots and policy levels across the Arab world.



The New Women Foundation (NWF)

The New Women Foundation (NWF), established in 1984 in Egypt, is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting women's rights, equality, and social justice.

Guided by the values of gender equality, freedom, and social justice, NWF links women's empowerment to broader civic participation, youth leadership, and democratic engagement, emphasizing that women's rights are inseparable from collective social and political progress.

The organisation's strategic objectives focus on advancing legal frameworks, policies, and reforms that promote gender equality; engaging women across civil society to increase participation in public life; fostering youth leadership in support of women's rights; and strengthening economic, political, and social protections for women.

NWF implements these goals through a diverse set of programs, including Women, Labor, Economic Rights; Combating Violence Against Women; Anti-Discrimination; and International Mechanisms. Activities include research, workshops, advocacy campaigns, training, policy analysis, and the development of tools to combat gender-based violence, with particular attention to women in agriculture, media, and trade unions.

The organisation collaborates with local, regional, and international feminist networks, civil society organisations, and human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, to amplify its advocacy and strengthen its impact.

Positioning itself at the intersection of grassroots and policy-level action, NWF links local struggles to regional and global feminist movements, promoting solidarity, systemic change, and collective victories for women's rights across Egypt and beyond.



The Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD)

The Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD) was officially established in 1989 in Tunisia as a non-governmental organization dedicated to defending women's rights and promoting gender equality. Its primary purpose is to protect women from violence and discrimination while promoting their full and effective participation in civil, political, social, and economic life.

ATFD is guided by a feminist, secular, and progressive vision rooted in the values of freedom, equality, social justice, and human rights. The association focuses on dismantling patriarchal structures, combating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, and supporting women's empowerment and active citizenship.

The main objectives of the association include preserving and advancing women's legal and social gains, promoting full citizenship and public participation for women, combating gender-based violence, and supporting public policies and mechanisms that guarantee equality and strengthen women's rights.

To achieve these goals, ATFD implements a wide range of programs and activities. The Ahlam Belhaj Listening and Guidance Center, established in 1993, provides psychological and legal support to women victims of violence, and the association operates three additional listening centers in Sfax, Sousse, and Kairouan. The Asma Fanni Observatory for Equal Opportunities and Women's Citizenship monitors economic and social violence against women, conducts field research, and supports advocacy and policy influence.

The Ilham Marzouki Feminist University (UFIM), founded in 2009, provides training programs for young people and professionals in feminism, human rights, equality, and women's activism, while the Young Women's Club offers workshops, creative spaces, and intergenerational knowledge exchange. The Safia Farhat Documentation Center, established in 2011, conducts studies and critiques of national, regional, and international feminist movements and maintains the association's archives, including conference proceedings, intellectual production, and historical records.

ATFD maintains extensive collaborations with national and international feminist networks, civil society organizations, and advocacy platforms, enhancing the reach and impact of its programs and strengthening its influence on public policy and women's rights initiatives.

Through its programs and advocacy, ATFD positions itself at the forefront of feminist action in Tunisia, contributing to structural change, the promotion of equal opportunities, and the full empowerment of women. Its work aligns with broader struggles for gender equality, social justice, and women's active citizenship in the Global South context.



Jordanian Women's Union Association

The Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), founded in 1945 in Jordan, is the country's first organization dedicated to defending women's rights and promoting social justice.

Guided by principles of equality, human rights, and social inclusion, JWU envisions a society where women and men enjoy equal citizenship, traditional gender roles are challenged, and civil society thrives on democratic values.

The Union's strategic objectives include strengthening women's and children's status by addressing structural barriers, promoting active participation in public and political life, advancing legislative and policy reforms aligned with international standards, and supporting regional and global women's rights initiatives.

JWU translates these objectives into action through advocacy campaigns for legal reform, awareness-raising programs to challenge gender stereotypes, and community-based initiatives that foster public support for equality. It also provides protection and support services to women experiencing violence, particularly in marginalized areas, ensuring that rights-based approaches are reinforced by tangible assistance.

The Union collaborates with other civil society actors, feminist networks, and regional organizations, strengthening partnerships that amplify its advocacy and policy influence.

Through its work, JWU positions itself as a key actor in Jordan for advancing gender equality, promoting women's civic engagement, and integrating women's rights into broader social, economic, and political development processes.

The Iraqi Al-Amal Association was established in 1992 as a voluntary, non-political, and non-sectarian civil society organization in response to the humanitarian crisis that followed the Second Gulf War. It began its work in the Kurdistan Region and later expanded to various parts of Iraq, opening its main office in Baghdad in 2003. Today, the association operates nationwide to support local communities and contribute to building a modern civil society.

The association aspires to be an influential actor within civil society and a partner in decision-making processes and public policy formulation. Its work is grounded in the principles of citizenship, social justice, equality, transparency, and accountability, serving all Iraqis without discrimination.

Its strategic objectives focus on combating all forms of violence and discrimination, promoting a culture of human rights, supporting legal reform and the rule of law, and enhancing the participation of vulnerable groups in public life.

To achieve these goals, the association implements training and capacity-building programs, provides health and psychosocial support services, develops income-generating initiatives, and conducts research and advocacy activities. It also engages in reform efforts through cooperation and partnerships with volunteer groups, other organizations, donors, and relevant state institutions. Its projects are based on needs assessments and incorporate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency.

The association is officially registered with the competent authorities in both Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, reflecting its institutional presence at the national level, and it holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Through its mission and programs, the Iraqi Al-Amal Association positions itself as a committed civil force working toward building a democratic state, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting inclusive, rights-based development and active participation in Iraq.

The Gender Studies and Research Center was established in 1997 in Sudan as a civil society organization dedicated to advancing women's rights and promoting gender equality.

The Center is guided by the principles of human rights, social justice, and inclusion. It seeks to integrate gender perspectives and a rights-based approach, in line with international conventions and treaties, into development processes and public policy to ensure the representation and protection of marginalized groups.

The Center's strategic objectives include strengthening analytical understanding of gender issues within development and policymaking contexts; generating knowledge on gender equality and development rights; building strategic alliances to influence political processes and macro-level policies; and supporting rights-based social movements advocating for the interests of women and marginalized communities.

To advance these goals, the Center implements training programs, research initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and coalition-building activities. It also engages in networking and policy dialogue to promote inclusive, rights-based development agendas.

The Gender Studies and Research Center maintains strong partnerships with national and regional women's networks and civil society organizations. It currently serves as a founding member and active participant in several national and regional networks and initiatives, including the Sudanese Women's Platform to Stop the War and Build Peace; the Sudanese Women's Initiative to End All Forms of Violence Against Women; the Arab Feminist Network "Ru'ya"; the Regional Democratic Women's Coalition "Nidaa"; and the Regional Coalition for the Dignity and Rights of Women.

The Center was also a founder and active member of the Sudanese Women's Civil Society Network for Peace; the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) network; the Sudanese Network for the Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation (SUNAF); and the Human Rights and Legal Aid Network (HRLAN), thereby strengthening its impact through collaboration and partnership with national organizations in general and with women within political parties in particular.



The Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)

The Democratic Association of Moroccan Women (ADFM) is an independent organization established in 1985 in Morocco. Its primary mission is to promote equality between men and women in law and in practice and to protect and advance women's human rights as universally recognized, with a focus on advancing the strategic rights and interests of women across society.

ADFM is guided by principles of gender equality, human rights, social justice, and solidarity. Internally, the association cultivates a culture of volunteering, active listening, knowledge sharing, inclusive decision-making, respect for diverse skills and capacities, and solidarity among members and with all women affected by discrimination. Externally, it emphasizes citizenship-based engagement and collaboration with actors working to promote women's rights.

The association works toward several strategic goals: advancing policies and mechanisms that promote gender equality, combating all forms of violence against women, ensuring laws and practices respect women's citizenship and equality, and fostering mindsets and social attitudes that are open to change and supportive of equality.

ADFM's programs and activities include advocacy for legal reform, monitoring public policies in accordance with international human rights standards and UN recommendations, and supporting women's civil society organizations, including youth associations, to understand and apply international women's rights frameworks. The association also conducts awareness campaigns to challenge social stereotypes, promote a culture of gender equality, and carries out research, monitoring, and alternative reporting to strengthen evidence-based advocacy.

The association collaborates actively with civil society actors, women's networks, and national and regional organizations to build alliances and amplify advocacy efforts. These partnerships enhance ADFM's ability to influence public debate and advance the gender equality agenda at both national and regional levels.

Through its work, ADFM positions itself as a central driver of gender equality in Morocco, combining advocacy, networking, and social mobilization to ensure that women's rights are recognized, protected, and integrated into sustainable development processes, contributing to broader social justice and inclusive progress.



Egyptian association for collective rights

The Egyptian Association for Collective Rights (EACR), founded in 2009, is a civil society organization based in Egypt that seeks to build an inclusive and open society grounded in justice, freedom, equality, and social equity. The association rejects violence, intolerance, and hate, and promotes community-led approaches to resource management as a foundation for sustainable development and human dignity.

EACR's vision is rooted in human rights, social justice, and democratic participation, emphasizing the protection of natural resources, environmental sustainability, and the equitable treatment of all communities.

The association's strategic objectives focus on defending land and water rights, preserving biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and fostering environmental citizenship. Through these goals, EACR seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities to participate in sustainable development, protect their livelihoods, and advocate for their rights.

EACR implements a range of activities, including the creation of the Arab Region Water Forum in 2009 in partnership with civil society organizations across the MENA region, to defend the right to water for drinking and food production. The organization also conducts advocacy, awareness campaigns, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to empower local communities and influence policies related to environmental and resource management.

The association maintains strong partnerships with regional civil society organizations and global networks, including the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), La Via Campesina, and the People's Health Movement, to advance economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly those of small-scale farmers.

Through its work, EACR positions itself within broader struggles for resource justice, sustainable development, and social equity, promoting the rights of marginalized communities and small-scale farmers while challenging inequitable power structures in environmental governance.

Espace Associatif was established in 1996 in Morocco as a civil society organization dedicated to strengthening and promoting the civil society movement as a key actor in democratic development. The organization works to enhance the role, effectiveness, and sustainability of civil society actors to contribute to democratic governance and foster social change.

Espace Associatif is guided by the values of democracy, civic participation, social justice, and human rights. It seeks to provide an enabling environment that allows civil society organizations to operate freely, professionally, and independently, contributing effectively to inclusive and democratic development.

Espace Associatif pursues its mission through several objectives: improving the material and democratic conditions related to the institutional and legal environment necessary for the functioning of civil society organizations; developing the skills and capacities of civil society organizations working in democratic development; stimulating public debate on key issues related to democratic development; contributing to and supporting civil society initiatives in monitoring public policies and governance at the national, regional, local, and sectoral levels, in connection with regional and international dynamics; and advocating on issues aligned with the organization's mission.

Building on its role in monitoring and evaluating public policies, Espace Associatif implements a range of programs and projects aimed at strengthening the capacities of civil society actors, advocating for improvements in the legal and institutional environment for civil society work, building alliances to advance comprehensive human rights, and mobilizing for a society founded on justice and equality.

Espace Associatif collaborates with a wide range of actors in civil society at both national and international levels, including development partners and public institutions, strengthening strategic and sustainable partnerships, supporting collective action, and amplifying the voice of civil society. Through its activities, the organization consolidates its position within broader struggles for democratic governance, civic engagement, and grassroots participation, advocating for a strong, independent, and professional civil society as a driving force for democratic transformation and social progress in Morocco.

The organization employs a human rights-based approach, a gender perspective, and participatory methods in its work. Its programs focus on capacity building and skill development for civil society leaders, supporting advocacy and policy dialogue, fostering collaboration among associations on shared democratic issues, and implementing initiatives to improve governance, accountability, and the quality of civil society interventions.



The Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (LUPD)

The Lebanese Union of People with Disabilities (LUPD), established in 1981 during the Lebanese Civil War, is a non-sectarian organization led by persons with disabilities, dedicated to advancing equality, participation, and the full rights of persons with disabilities in Lebanon.

Guided by principles of human rights, social justice, equality, and solidarity, LUPD envisions a society where persons with disabilities can fully realize their potential and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

The Union's strategic objectives focus on promoting equal opportunities, protecting fundamental rights, fostering inclusion, and advocating for systemic changes that shift public policies and societal attitudes from charity-based approaches to rights-based frameworks.

LUPD's main activities include rights-based advocacy, awareness-raising, and inclusive community development initiatives, encompassing areas such as rehabilitation, educational inclusion, and economic integration.

The organization collaborates closely with other civil society and disability rights groups to strengthen advocacy, share knowledge, and amplify the voices of persons with disabilities, ensuring their concerns are represented at local and national levels.

Through its work, LUPD positions itself as a leading actor in advancing disability rights in Lebanon, combining grassroots activism and policy influence to promote a culture of inclusion and to affirm disability as an integral dimension of human rights.