

ANND Working Group for Women's Rights: Toward a Discourse that Reshapes the Reality of Women

18/03/2025

In response to the growing challenges facing women in the Arab region, the General Assembly of the Arab NGO Network for Development has decided to launch the Working Group dedicated to women rights. This group aims to analyze current feminist discourses and to reassess what has been achieved – and what remains unachieved – for women in light of ongoing political, social, and economic transformations.

The Vision of the Initiative:

This group focuses on rebuilding a feminist discourse that reflects the realities and aspirations of women in the Arab region, while strengthening its connection with other social movements. We seek to explore the structural factors that weaken the presence and impact of feminist movements and isolate them from broader societal issues, with the aim of reclaiming the feminist struggle's political and activist role in the region.

Main Objectives:

1-To critically assess current feminist discourses in order to evaluate their effectiveness and responsiveness to ongoing crises.

2-To strengthen collaboration between feminist movements and other social movements in addressing shared challenges.

3-To develop a feminist discourse that genuinely reflects the real needs of women, inspired by the region's context and historical experience.

4-To confront the negative impacts of certain international projects with exclusionary and colonial undertones, by building a discourse grounded in dignity and rights.

Why Now?

The Arab region is facing major challenges, including ongoing wars and armed conflicts (in Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Libya, and Somalia), as well as the rise of neoliberal policies that deepen social and economic inequalities. These crises have had a profound impact on feminist discourse, calling for a moment of reflection and rethinking. What is needed now is an inclusive, critical discourse capable of driving real transformative change.

Key Questions:

- How can Arab feminist movements reclaim their political role in confronting racism, colonialism, and neoliberal policies?
- What kind of feminist discourse is needed to challenge renewed forms of patriarchy in the context of globalization?
- How can we build a discourse that reflects the aspirations of all women, not just those of the elite?
- What principles should guide the relationship between feminist movements and both Arab states and countries of the Global North?
- How can we develop a critical feminist perspective on development and human rights strategies?

Call to Action:

This initiative is not merely a space for discussion, but a platform for analyzing our realities, building new visions, and shaping concrete solutions to achieve justice and equality. Together, we will work to develop a feminist discourse rooted in the experiences of women in the region—one that connects to their daily struggles and contributes to building a more just and inclusive future.

Expected Tasks:

- Develop research papers, conceptual frameworks, and training materials on issues agreed upon by the group, in line with the agreed work plan.
- Collaborate, alongside experts, in the institutional development tasks for the network and its partners.
- Promote the knowledge products developed by the group.
- Coordinate and collaborate to develop activities for events such as International Women's Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and other related occasions.