

HOW SWEDEN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325 IN YEMEN - *VIEWS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY*

The following recommendations have been developed by Operation 1325 and the Yemeni organization All Girls Foundation.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

- Yemen consistently features at the bottom of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index revealing significant gender differences in access to education, political and labor force participation, and high levels of violence against women and girls.
- Since 2014, intensified conflict in the country has resulted in 100 000 fatalities, including over 18 400 civilians killed by direct attacks.
- The conflict has made Yemen the scene of one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN SHORT

- Ensure women's meaningful participation in all further peace negotiations.
- Implement an arms embargo against all active parties of the conflict in Yemen.
- Support civil society to monitor key protection issues, including the protection and defense of women activists.

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Considering the ongoing conflict in Yemen, meaningful participation of women in forthcoming peace negotiations is essential for long-term sustainable peace. During the previous National Dialogue of 2014, women's participation was unprecedentedly high which resulted in that women's rights issues received significant attention. Despite efforts by UN Women to establish a Women's Pact, women's participation in the subsequent negotiations, including the ones hosted by Sweden in 2018, has been low, and mainly concentrated to sideline meetings in parallel to the official talks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should advocate and provide resources for broad consultations with Yemeni women's rights movements ahead of future peace negotiations to ensure an inclusive and participatory peace process.
- On the EU and UN level, Sweden should advocate for gender quotas, in line with the previous National Dialogue, with 30 % women in all future formal Yemeni peace negotiations.
- Sweden should ensure that women of different ages, geographical origins and political affiliations are represented at future Yemeni peace negotiations in order to ensure an intersectional approach.



Operation 1325 is a Swedish civil society organization working for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Founded by several Swedish women's and peace organizations in 2003, the organizations objective is to increase women's influence at all levels of peace processes and in conflict resolution.

All Girls Foundation for Development is a non-profit organization founded in Sana'a City, Yemen, in 2003. The organization focuses on development and humanitarian aid and is founded on the principle that change is the people and people are the change.

IMPLEMENT AN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST ALL ACTIVE PARTIES OF THE CONFLICT IN YEMEN

Currently, there is no official arms embargo against the export of arms to state actors involved in the Yemeni conflict. So far, the conflict has resulted in more than 100 000 fatalities including over 18 400 civilians killed in direct attacks and at least 27 unlawful attacks carried out last year by Saudi Arabian-led international coalition on civilian homes, educational and health facilities, businesses and gatherings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should cease all arms export, including follow-up deliveries, to countries currently involved in the conflict in Yemen in accordance with the Arms Trade Treaty obligation to prevent violations of human rights.
- Sweden should advocate that the EU imposes an EU-wide arms embargo on Saudi Arabia and all other active parties to the conflict. Swedish development cooperation with Yemen should include support for technical and vocational training for women, in-line with labor market demands.
- Sweden should advocate that the UN Security Council widens the current arms embargo on Houthi-aligned individuals, UNSCR 2511, to include Saudi Arabia and all other active parties to the conflict to hinder further civilian casualties and create conditions for sustainable peace.

SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO MONITOR KEY PROTECTION ISSUES, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION AND DEFENSE OF WOMEN ACTIVISTS

Civil society in Yemen is currently unable to adequately monitor and report on protection issues, including attacks against women and human rights defenders, in areas affected by conflict. Civil society ought to be supported to function as watchdogs and provide essential information about abuses against civilians, in order to hold perpetrators accountable and identify necessary protection measures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should scale-up direct multi-year funding to civil society organizations in Yemen to enhance their capacity to monitor key protection issues, including defending women's rights activists.
- Sweden should highlight the importance of allowing civil society actors to actively monitor areas affected by the conflict in diplomatic dialogue with Yemen and actors involved in the ongoing conflict.
- Sweden should advocate that the EU establishes a monitoring mechanism which investigates alleged threats, attacks, and acts of intimidation against women, human rights defenders, and civil society in Yemen, in addition to establishing an action plan for protecting Yemeni human rights defenders.



Operation 1325 is a Swedish civil society organization working for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Founded by several Swedish women's and peace organizations in 2003, the organizations objective is to increase women's influence at all levels of peace processes and in conflict resolution.

All Girls Foundation for Development is a non-profit organization founded in Sana'a City, Yemen, in 2003. The organization focuses on development and humanitarian aid and is founded on the principle that change is the people and people are the change.