

WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN PEACE PROCESSES IN YEMEN

CONFLICT BACKGROUND: THE WAR IN YEMEN

Yemen, which has been in a civil war since 2014, enters a new phase of its conflict with a shift of power. In June 2022, President Abd Rabu Mansur Hadi stepped down from power and appointed a new presidential council. The new presidential council has expressed that they will focus on peace negotiations in Yemen and bring an end to the conflict. If peace negotiations take place, the Yemeni people are presented with the ideal opportunity to incite a shift in the society, such as women's inclusion and influence in the decision-making of the peace talks.

According to a UNDP report from 2021, women's empowerment proved to have the greatest effect on the development and lives saved in Yemen. The "Empowered Women" scenario presented in the report, including women's inclusion, on Yemen's pathway to recovery could improve the GDP per capita by approximately 30% per cent by 2050.*

*T. Hanna, D. K. Bohl, J. D. Moyer. Assessing the impact of war in Yemen: Pathways for Recovery. UNDP, November 23rd 2021.



Operation 1325's partner organizations in Yemen have compiled their recommendations for future peace negotiations.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY ALL GIRLS FOUNDATION

In June 2012 the first preparatory meetings of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) were held. The NDC was a joint effort between the United Nations and various Yemeni political parties and leaders. 565 delegates representing all Yemeni constituencies, including groups of Houthis, women, youth and civil society, participated in the NDC. The NDC concluded on 25 January 2014 with the adopting of an outcome document detailing a roadmap of the full transition of Yemen into a state based on democracy, freedom, rule of law, human rights and good governance. The outcome document stipulated a 30 % inclusion quota for women in all government positions, including delegations and committees.

General recommendations to ensure participation of women in peacebuilding processes:

- Urge all actors participating in peace dialogues to uphold the Yemeni National Dialogue Conference outcome document's provision on a 30% inclusion quota for women in all government positions and in all delegations and committees.
- Consultations with women should ensure representation of women from all governorates of Yemen and the diaspora and ensure that the expressed issues and interests of the women are included in any upcoming peace processes or transitional period.
- Ensure women's participation in all committees and bodies that will be formed during any transitional period.
- Women led community initiatives working on conflict resolution need to be identified and connected with official negotiating processes.
- Support and strengthen civil society efforts pushing for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO UN WOMEN AND THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY- GENERAL TO YEMEN:

- To strengthen the role of women in peacebuilding, and request women's participation in all negotiation processes.
- Ensure that UN Women's programs address the needs and priorities of all Yemeni women and that all programs are contextualized and realistic.
- Programs and measures put in place need to target all Yemeni governorates, ensuring rural and urban areas are included.
- Request that the UN operate in a transparent manner and ensure that journalists and researchers are allowed insight into programs supporting women.
- Support research to study the impact of women's participation in peace processes.
- That UN Women continue supporting civil society organizations' work on peacebuilding to enhance effective work.



RECOMMENDATIONS BY YANABIA AL-KHAIR CHARITY FOUNDATION:

- Urge for an adequate use of gender as an analytical tool in the entire peace process leading to the development of policies ensuring women's meaningful participation.
- Request representation of women survivors of violence, including women of all ages.
- Consider the needs of the survivors in the design of programs and use a gendered lens in the design of programs.
- Urge decision-makers to implement the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and ensure women are represented in all military and security sectors and in peacekeeping forces.
- Create accountability mechanisms so decision-makers are held accountable for their actions.
- Strengthen women's capabilities in methods of mediation and negotiation and ensure women are represented in local mediation and conflict resolution processes.
- Create school reintegration and education programs for girls who have been affected by the conflict and based on the needs of the girls.

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