



US Federation for Middle East Peace

Connecting Continents for Peace

“Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC and DPI of the United Nations”

Non-profit Organization

Statement by the US Federation for Middle East peace (USFMEP) in the Subject of "women in conflict and post-conflict situations"

In accordance with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the occasion of its 49th session, to be held in New York from 11 July to 29 July 2011, The US Federation for Middle East Peace is submitting the following statement to the Committee:

For many years, The US Federation for Middle East Peace has successfully hosted cross-cultural and inter-religious dialogues at the UN, the US, and throughout Europe and the Middle East, promoting understanding and tolerance. Our organization has worked on women empowerment, inter-faith dialogue, the convention on the Right of the child and youth rights.

Indeed, in the aftermath of the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, women have been sidelined from the formation of the new governments. That is why it is imperative to Empower, Educate and train Women in the region. We have to listen and be responsive to the needs of the women on the ground to support them in their fight for freedom, Justice and Security. The USFMEP wants to make sure that the new democracy will include the women in decision making for Peace, justice and security and equal rights for all. Therefore we recommend the following:

- 1) Increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making
- 2) Literacy projects in the Middle East region for women's and young girls.
- 3) Leadership training in areas of personal growth and development: communication skills, teen's programs, principles of counseling, accessing and using community resources for women, cultural sensitivity, personality assessment, women's social and legal issues, mentoring young women, creating potential leaders.
- 4) Bring attention to specific protection needs of women and girls due to gender violence and discrimination in the Middle East region, in other words we stress on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, it is a sub-theme of the USFMEP Theme: General Women, Peace and Security, and forms
- 5) We list these widespread action programs to demonstrate that our work here at USFMEP must be more than words. There must be action and follow-up. Without tangible activities, we are just voices in the wind with no practical result. It is our conviction that "faith without works is dead" and so we work to fully engage with all these vital societal issues, especially those that are the main focus of our attention at USFMEP. We stresses that this action plan should be implemented on International and national scale, and not to limit it on the local level.