

We, a group of Libyan women representing various spectrum and organizations, have met during the past few days to formulate a consolidated document for peace in which we agreed on the minimum demands that ensure the participation of women in peace building and reconstruction in Libya. It also paves the way for consensual peace that ensures Libya's security and unity.

Due to the ongoing conflict in Libya, decline of the economic situation, and escalation of threats against the rule of law, and in realization of the threat to Libya in general and women in particular, we decided to rise above our political and social differences as well as our multiple affiliations to stand before you today with an agreement that represents everyone.

We may be divided by politics, but we are united by the suffering of the Libyan women who are displaced, prisoners, or family breadwinners without any source of income that supports their new responsibilities. It is, therefore, unacceptable for the Libyan women to be excluded, their role marginalized, and rights alienated when they are the partners who have incurred the bulk of damage due to the conflict.

Accordingly, our agreement today stresses our right to participate in building the future just as we were forced to endure the mistakes of the past and threats of the present ... Today, we emphasize the right of women everywhere to shape their future, and the ability of women to change from being victims to the conflict to peacemakers.

Our agreement today also underlines that there is a minimum that can be agreed upon among the various actors in Libya to constitute the core of real consensual peace that represents everyone without discrimination.

The document focuses on strengthening the role of women in building peace and social peace in respect of the important and sensitive issues that affect the peace process in Libya, including the security situation, constitution, political participation, social peace, transitional justice and national reconciliation, return of displaced persons, economy, media and violence against women.

The document builds on our role as women of influence in our communities and activists in the Libya public life to invest in our relations to create effective networks that push towards placing the demands of women on top of the priorities of local, regional and international actors, and strengthen the role of women in peace-building process, disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration.

It is imperative to include the right of women in political participation in the elected councils, judicial authorities and decision-making positions through a quota no less than 30%, not only because it is our right to equal representation, but because it is the only guarantee of women's rights in the new Libya.

Necessary support should also be provided to the victims of conflict and those physically and psychologically affected to reintegrate them into society, as well as to the return of displaced persons and protection of women from all forms of abuse and violence particularly those resulting from displacement, migration and absence of breadwinner. This is in addition to monitoring and documentation of abuses against women, and provision of economic support to enable them bear the new responsibilities in light of the increasing proportion of women breadwinners in Libya.

In this conference, we overcome our differences to reach an agreement, and we pledge today that we continue building on what we have started with the assistance of the international community and peace supporters to push towards putting this document in action so that it becomes the nucleus of genuine consensual peace for the entire homeland.