

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales



Equal Rights

IAW ACTION SHEET - July 2011

IAW motion accepted unanimously by the European Women's Lobby on: **The role of women in the democratic transformation of their societies in the Middle East and North Africa**

In the recent uprisings that launched the Arab spring, women have emerged as key players. It remains to be seen whether their rights will improve. The current transitional period is bringing opportunities for change and worrisome trends concerning women's participation in the emerging states.

We call on the EWL members, the European Commission, EU External Action Service and any other relevant EU and national authorities to support women to promote their rights and establish, together with men, sustainable democratic change.

We also call to ensure that the voice and participation of women in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with SCR 1325, are respected especially in the condemnation of all forms of male violence against women

Uprisings and protests are continuing in the Middle East and North Africa and affect the stability of the entire region. Women are playing an active part but have also been seen to be marginalised in the struggle for democratic transformation of their countries and are harassed and brutalised by the regimes.

An example is Egypt where women were very present and forceful during the occupation of Tahir Square. However, no woman was included in the large committee appointed to draft the new constitution.

We call upon the EWL and its members to do everything in their power to ensure that the European Commission, EU External Action Service and any other relevant EU and national authorities take all steps to give voice and participation to women.

Joanna Manganara, IAW Vice-President for Europe

It is important for IAW members to lobby governments to -

- **ensure that the rights of women in the Middle East and North Africa are respected and are established within the sustainable democratic transformation of their societies**
- **ensure that the voice and participation of women in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with SCR 1325, are respected especially in the condemnation of all forms of male violence against women.**