



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**  
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

**3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights**

Special Task Force on Gender Issues and Equality

**“The Role of Women in the Arab Spring”**

Rapporteur: Hon. Najat Abu Baker (Palestine)

Resolution unanimously adopted during the 8<sup>th</sup> PAM Plenary Session in Marseille, 21 January 2014

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Having regard to* the role played by women in the Arab Spring;
- b) *Convinced* that women play a main role in keeping the fabric of societies closely knit;
- c) *Deeply concerned* by the deterioration of the social, economic and political rights of women, as well as their education level, in the aftermath of the Arab Spring;
- d) *Convinced* that the inclusion of women would be of benefit for all the aspects of the social life;
- e) *Deeply Concerned* by the reduction and, in some cases, the cancellation of parliamentary quotas for women;
- f) *Considering* equality of opportunities between men and women as an indicator of democracy;
- g) *Concerned* by the very low presence of women in many of the decision making bodies created after the Arab Spring;
- h) *Strongly condemning* the sexual crimes committed during and after the Arab Spring revolutions;
- i) *Considering* economic empowerment of women strongly connected with women’s freedom;
- j) *Having regard to* the “Universal Declaration on Democracy”, the 1981 “UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, the “UN Women Annual Report 2010-2011” and related texts;

k) *Considering* the lack of women's rights as one of the main reasons hampering progress in the Arab world;

l) *Convinced* that cooperation between the countries of the two shores of the Mediterranean, aimed at facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, will be of benefit for the Arab countries of the region;

**I. *Calls*** member parliaments to secure and safeguard women's right in society and restore their dignity through concrete constitutional reforms;

**II. *Urges*** the countries concerned to bring to justice and use a "zero tolerance approach" towards those who committed crimes against women, such as sexual harassment, rape and torture in prisons;

**III. *Urges*** the national and international parliaments concerned to keep the issue of women's rights high in their agenda;

**IV. *Welcomes*** the numerous initiatives in support of women's rights and empowerment in the social, political and economic sphere;

**V. *Invites*** governments and parliaments of PAM member countries to further support the initiatives mentioned in paragraph IV of the report, and to launch other activities with the same objective;

**VI. *Urges*** all countries concerned to ensure women's participation in the processes of negotiation, decision making and re-ordering society in post-conflict situations;

**VII. *Calls*** on its member states to make women an integral part of their political, economic and social system, especially in post-revolutions societies, as well as to reinforce education and capacity building for the benefit of women's empowerment;

**VIII. *Invites*** the parliaments of the Northern shore to cooperate with the Southern parliaments of the region to promote best practices and lessons learned;

**IX. *Urges*** all member countries to take immediate actions to guarantee equality of opportunities between men and women in the sectors of education, political representation and salaries.