

# LEBANON'S FEMINIST CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM: Demands for candidates in the 2022 parliamentary elections

Beirut, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

In the run-up to the 2022 parliamentary elections, we, the members of Lebanon's Feminist Civil Society Platform, demand the election candidates running to be future members of the parliament, to commit to achieving full equality between women and men as one of their top priorities. Furthermore, we request them to strive for guaranteeing the full participation of women in every level of decision-making, and assure they are free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

More specifically, we urge the candidates to take the pledge for the full realization of the following gender asks:

1. Commit that their public speeches, media appearances and electoral campaigns are not sexist, stereotypical or discriminatory, and do not promote patriarchy or misogyny.
2. Ensure that a gender perspective is included in all future strategies, legislation and budgets.
3. Ensure women's effective and meaningful representation, leadership and participation in political and public life, including decision-making, dialogue processes, and matters of peace and security, in particular:
  - Enact special measures such as quotas, benchmarks and targets to accelerate the equal representation of women in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life.
  - Adopt a law protecting women from political violence, including any act which is intended to deprive or prevent women from participating in political, partisan, or association activities.
4. Advocate for gender-responsive macroeconomic reforms and ensure all recovery efforts consider and address issues of gender equality and women's rights.
5. Support key legislative reform measures that are critical for preventing and responding to gender-based violence:
  - Enact a law to combat child marriage and mandate 18 years as the minimum marriage age.
  - Amend articles 503 and 504 of the Penal Code to ensure that marital rape is criminalized.
  - Repeal articles 534 and 521 of the Penal Code, which are used to criminalize same-sex relations and Transgender women.
6. Adopt a unified civil personal status code applicable to all women and men in Lebanon.
7. Amend the nationality law to ensure Lebanese women have the same right as men to pass their nationality to their children and foreign spouses.
8. Revise labour, social security and taxation laws to address gender discrimination, specifically:
  - Amend article 24 of Law 46/12017 to increase paid maternity leave to a minimum of 14 weeks and pass legislative amendments to endorse paternity leave.
  - Repeal article 26 of the labour law, which prohibits women from working in certain occupations considered arduous or hazardous.
  - Amend Article 14 of the social protection law, which guarantees insurance coverage for a non-employed wife of a contributing husband but only allows a contributing wife insurance coverage for her husband if he is over 60 or disabled.
9. Enact a law to regulate the employment of domestic workers, dismantle the Kafala system and enforce a range of critical labour protections laws.
10. Amend Law 164 on anti-trafficking to align with the UN protocol on anti-trafficking to maximize protections for survivors.

## The signatories

### **ABAAD**

Abnaa Saida Al Balad association  
 Al Jalil Organization For  
 Development  
 Al Najdeh Association  
 Arab Forum for the rights of  
 people with disabilities  
 Arab foundation for Freedoms  
 and Equality (AFE)  
 Arab Institute for Human Rights-  
 Lebanon branch (AIHR)  
 Auberge Beity  
 Center for Inclusive Buisness and  
 Leadership for Women (CIBL.W/  
 AUB)  
 Collective for Research &  
 Training on Development -  
 Action (CRTDA)  
 Dar Al Amal  
 DARAJ  
 Fiftyfifty  
 Global Compact Network  
 Lebanon (GCNL)  
 Haven for Artists

### **Helem**

Joumana Haddad Freedoms  
 Center  
 Justice Without Frontiers (JWF)  
 KAFA (enough) Violence &  
 Exploitation  
 Khateera  
 Lebanese Association for  
 Democratic Elections (LADE)  
 Lebanese League for Women in  
 Business (LLWB)  
 Lebanese Union for People with  
 Physical Disabilities (LUPD)  
 Lebanon Family Planning  
 Association for Sustainable  
 Development  
 Madaniyat  
 Maharat Foundation  
 Marsa Sexual Health Center  
 M-Coalition  
 Mousawat Organization  
 Mouvement Social  
 National Association for  
 Disabled Persons (NARD)

### **Ondes**

Palestinian Women's  
 Humanitarian Organization  
 (PWHO)  
 Seeds for Legal Initiatives  
 Soins Infirmiers et  
 Developpement Communautaire  
 (SIDC)  
 The Arab Institute for Women  
 (AiW/ LAU)  
 The Lebanese Council to Resist  
 Violence Against Woman  
 (LECORVAW)  
 The Lebanese Women  
 Democratic Gathering (RDFL)  
 Women Now For Development  
 Dr. Carmen Geha  
 Dr. Halimé El Kaakour  
 Dr. Lina Daouk-Öyry  
 Ms. Diana Abu Abbas  
 Ms. Lina Abou Habib

Lebanon's Feminist Civil Society Platform is formed of 52 feminist civil society actors and activists who were convened by UN Women in the aftermath of the 4th of August blast and issued a unified [Charter of Demands](#) to put women's issues at the center of the disaster response plan. Since then, the Feminist Platform conducted various advocacy efforts including the contribution to the development of the Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF) sector plans as well as meetings with representatives of the donor community in Lebanon and the leadership of the United Nations, European Union, and the World Bank to share their gendered priorities and demands.