



US Federation for Middle East Peace
Connecting Continents for Peace

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

July 17, 2011

Subject: "Women in armed 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 in New York from 11 July to 29 July 2011, organizations in general and special consultative status are encouraged to submit written statements.

The US Federation for Middle East Peace is submitting the following statement to the Committee:

Inspired by its own mission and objectives, the US Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) strives to empower women and ensure their role and involvement at all decision-making level, both domestically and globally. Women are mostly portrayed as victims of conflict. The landmark resolution of the UN Security Council 1325 of 2000 has reaffirmed “the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and *stressing* the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security”. It further affirmed “the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution”, USFMEP is confident that the efforts utilized towards achieving CEDAW goals are on the right track, as we have been working on major events at the UN and outside the UN to support and empower women in many regions of the world. Towards this objective, we emphasize that peace and human security are undeniable human rights that can enable women to participate more actively in their communities and nationally. We value and respect the unheard voices and experiences of women globally. I am delighted to inform that USFMEP is planning on a workshop to promote these principles issues in the Middle East region.

In the context of the issue under consideration, USFMEP, therefore, recommends the following:

- 1) Increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making in peace negotiation and political processes. We stress on the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
- 2) Bring attention to specific protection needs of women and girls due to gender violence and discrimination.
- 3) Organize reconciliation workshops, briefings, and discussions in the Middle East to help empower and prepare women assert their rights and due share in the decision-making as the region is experiencing momentous opportunities for positive change and equality.
- 4) Call upon the Member States, as was done in 1325, “to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes,” in particular the United Nations Women and United Nations Children’s Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- 5) Call upon the UN Women to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding measures.

We believe that CEDAW should demonstrate leadership to ensure that these goals are achieved. In implementing the United Nations resolutions relating to women. It is not enough just to state that women should have a greater role and assume that peace will be achieved. We need to make that possible.

With heartfelt thanks,

Sally Kader
Sally Kader, President