

Egyptian women constitute half of Egypt. They have been active in January 25th revolution and side by side with men, they demonstrated in main squares of Egypt, they spent the nights on streets to make sure that the revolution will not be hijacked or stopped, they nursed the wounded, lamented the dead, chanted and danced when they became victorious and also cleaned the aftermath when they withheld the demonstrations. They in brief, have put an end to the corrupt regime and to the dictatorship. They are still active in translating the slogans of the revolution: freedom, dignity and social justice to a reality in every Egyptian citizen's life. They are still participating in all Fridays' demonstrations in public squares confirming that democracy that they and men promised Egypt to achieve will be fulfilled soon. They want to see the themes of the revolution -Freedom, Dignity and Social Justice, opening new opportunities for them to obtain equality and justice.

Egyptian women have agreed that the following are their demands:



### First: Representation of women

**“There should be no exclusion of women or discrimination against them; women’s representation in the various fields is a right.”**

- Women should be represented in the committee that will be entrusted with drafting the constitution. Such representation should take into consideration their size in the population and their past, present and future role in building the society.
- Women should also be participants in all legislative committees and in all dialogue forums that discuss national issues.
- Women should occupy at least 40 percent of the ministerial positions and should be in decision making positions and in political parties electoral lists.
- The new constitution should spell out clearly full equality between men and women in all spheres of life and the elimination of all sorts of discrimination against them.
- The parliamentary elections should be

run through proportional electoral lists which have at least 30% women.

- Selection for leadership posts and all positions should be based on qualifications and objective professional requirements and not on basis of gender.
- Women graduates of law schools should have equal opportunity to acquire judiciary posts and climb the ladder up to being judges to be able to effectively contribute in the judiciary.

### Second: International Conventions

**“Government should hold its commitment to all international human rights conventions including the convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.”**

- The Egyptian government should also hold its commitment to all international human rights conventions including the convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. In addition, Egyptian representation in International human rights committees should include women from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### Third: Social and Economic Rights

**“Women have the right to equal opportunities, fair and just laws, human security, education and healthcare.”**

- Egyptian women particularly the poor ones should have access to basic services to enable them to combine their roles at home and in society.
- It is shameful that 40 percent of Egyptian women are still illiterate in the age of information and technology. Without the use of technology the 25th revolution would not have succeeded.

- Only 16% of Egyptian full time workers are female. In the current times of insecurity a preference can be observed to first support men as the “traditional breadwinners” in getting out of unemployment. Therefore, now even greater efforts are needed to support women claiming their economic rights. Women should have equal opportunities in accessing the labor market. At the work place women should enjoy decent working conditions, prospects for advancement as well as protection from any kind of sexual harassment.

### Fourth: Legislations

**“All discriminatory legislation against women should be reviewed and redressed on basis of equality and justice.”**

- All discriminatory legislation against women should be reviewed and redressed on basis of equality and justice. The Family Law in particular needs to be reformed to reflect human dignity and justice for all members of the family and to protect the children.

### Fifth: National Women Machinery

**“The establishment of a national women’s machinery linked to all ministries and governorates to support and activate the role of women.”**

- Egyptian women demand strong national women machinery along with other mechanisms like gender focal points in all ministries and governorates, Gender equality committee inside the parliament and an Ombudsperson for gender equality to ensure gender mainstreaming in all policies, plans and programs of the government, of the legislative and judiciary systems.



### Sixth: Media and Women

**“Media should support women’s role by representing a true and positive image through raising awareness, changing stereotypes and opening up opportunities for discussion.”**

- A national policy should be formulated to reflect a positive image of women and to help create a culture with no discrimination against women.

**The Alliance for Arab Women and the Egyptian Women Coalitions discussed this Women’s Charter in 27 governorates in Egypt. An amount of 3000 men and women from the different governorates of Egypt have registered in the first National Women’s Convention, which took place on Saturday 4th of June, 2011. And, a signature gathering campaign has been conducted, which reached 500,000 signatures up till the 4th of June 2011.**

