

الجمعية التونسية للأمهات

منظمة وطنية ذات صبغة عمومية وصفة استشارية عامة لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي للأمم المتحدة

Association Tunisienne des Mères
ONG Nationale à Utilité Publique
ONG / ONU/DPI/GONGO
ECOSOC / Statut Général



Tunisian Mothers Association
National NGO Public Utility
NGO / UN, ECOSOC / DPI / GONGO

Tunisian Mothers' Association's report on Women's rights in law and practice

Women's presence achieved a successful trend in launching a sustainable development cycle in Tunisia thanks to their defiance to all challenges. Such challenges are mainly the cultural heritage as well as the traditional norms which preferred men to women, hindered women and excluded them from practising their rights and benefitting from their achievements. Subsequently, those challenges deprived women of their full participation in the comprehensive development. Nowadays, women occupy their deserved place as full human beings with full rights. On top of this, women's position switches from the status of full equality to that of full effective partnership with men. Tunisian Women's status is considered as a pattern on the Arabic and the international levels.

The mechanisms which support women's rights :

-Reforms of the legislative codes are considered as a first mechanism that promotes the state of law, the principle of equality and the effective partnership of both sexes men and women.

-Education is the second mechanism. Hence there is not any development, or any equal opportunity or any equality or any effective partnership of women with men without depending on the mechanism of education.

-Education plays a key role in enlightening women and making them aware of their rights and responsibilities whether inside or outside their country so as to be effective agents in the course of development.

-We record with all confidence the mechanism of launching the institutions and associations in order to effect the participation of women and empower them so that they can have an access to the real integration in the process of sustainable development as well as to the decision-making process.

-We remark also that among these institutions there is the Ministry of the Affairs of Women, Family, Children and Elderly, which was established in 1993, whose role is to prepare the government's policy in the field of women's and family's promotion. Besides, it works hand in hand with the National Council for women and the family to promote the respect of women's rights and the equilibrium of the family. Different representatives of the various activities of the country's sectors participate in this National Council. Furthermore, its main roles are the supervision of women's image in mass media and the practice of the legislative codes concerning the principle of equal opportunities for both sexes.



- Next to those mechanisms we find the mechanism of the Center of Research Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF) whose role is to conduct research surveys and studies.

It also gathers information on women and contributes to the economic and social development programs which in their turn include a section which is dedicated to women and which determines the national strategies in the field of women's promotion

-Together with those mechanisms we may state the mechanism of the development programs which work to enhance the further development of women's abilities and integration in the economic life in a way that maintains women's abilities of employment and their adjustment to the necessities of the future jobs as well as to the realities of the world of information and knowledge. To achieve this aim, these development programs work to maintain women's presence in the scientific and technical branches as well as in the institutions of the education and formation. Moreover, they give an access to women to reach all the new technologies and master them in a way that enables women to integrate effectively in the process of building the non-material economy which in its turn contributes to the success of the integration of the national economy in the international economic cycle.

Tunisian laws in the field of women's rights

-We record that amendment and reform on legislative codes such as the Code of Personal Status, the Penal Code and the Labor Code help reinforced the launching of a cooperative spouse's relationship in the process of the foundation of the marital and family life instead of women's obedience to their husbands. In addition, we can state the reinforcement of women's right to breastfeeding, custody, part-time job with a 2/3 of the salary and to transmission of their nationalities to their children if they are married with foreigners.

-On top of this, we record the reinforcement of women's rights to divorce, partnership the spouses' property ownership and to the acknowledgment of their witness in front of courts.

-We state the creation of a fund ensuring payment of alimony and child support to divorced women and their children together with the reinforcement of the family judge's scheme.

Women's participation in political, economic and social lives:

-We remark the rooted educational reforms in order to reinforce the effective women's partnership in all the levels of political, social, economic and scientific lives as well as to reinforce the full equal opportunities of climbing the ladder of the highest decision position

-We also point to the compulsory education for all social categories whether they are handicapped or needy or even elderly by the means of the eradication of illiteracy.

-We record the government's access to the fast development of the new communication technologies by the mechanisms of formation, education and training which are oriented to women.

-We also appreciate the government's efforts aiming at the promotion of women's abilities as well as skills by using a comprehensive national policy so as to sensitize and spread the numerical culture.

-Those mentioned mechanisms prove to have a positive impact on the development that characterizes women's presence in the ladder of educational level subsequently, in the labor market's as well as in the decision-making fields.

-The percentage of boys and girls reaches an approximate level in basic education in all the states of Tunisia.

From 1992 to 2005 the proportion of girls during the first stage of basic education reached a peak compared to boys. As for second stage of basic and secondary education the proportion of girls rose to become 53% in 2006.

The schooling rate of girls for 6 to 14 years old went up to 90% during 1995- 2006.
 Besides the girls presence was also sustained in all the scientific branches .
 The number of girls students multiplied during the two last decades more than 15 times.
 Meanwhile, the proportion of post graduate girls rose from 34 % to 56,7 %.
 The highest proportion of post graduate girls was in the branch of superior technician. As for the doctorate degree girls' rate represents 21.8 % .
 The percentage of girls who have the doctorate of medicine reaches 59.5 % .
 During 1992-2005 the percentage of girls' schooling failure in the first educationnal stage decreased to 21,4 %
 The number of those who are liberated from illiteracy during 200,-2006 reached 311.532 among whom we find 236.572 women.
 Thus, thanks to the mechanisms of education women's presence strengthened especially in the decision making positions
 We record the development of women's contribution to the civil and political life
 Women's rate in the parliament has multiplied for about 20 times since the independence.it rose from 1.1 % in 1959 to 22.7 % now.
 Actually women's percentage represents 15.2 % of all members of the Councillors Council
 Women's proportion in the central committee of the democratic constitutionnal assembly was estimated to be 26% in 2004.
 Women's presence in the municipal councils has been intensified from 1987 to 2007.
 Thus, women represent more than 1/4 of the municipal councils' structure.
 Women occupy honourable occupations²² in diplomatic and ministerial fields.

Lately, we remark the progress in women's presence in the municipal and legislative electoral lists which reaches 30 %

We also remark that thanks to Education the rate of the working population who have secondary and higher educational levels for both girls and boys increased while the percentage of the working category who do not have any educational level decreased.

The proportion of the working women who have a higher educational level increased in comparison to that of of men who have similar level.

We remark also the consolidation of women's participation in the fields of production, agriculture, industry and services thanks to women's abilities of benefitting from the incentives , the facilities and encouragements provided by the government in the field of investment loans and microcredits. Subsequently, urban as well as rural women managed to launch their economic projects .Therefore, they contributed to the consolidation of the comprehensive development .

Tunisian women's presence percentage has been consolidated in the educational sector in the responsibility position and in the decision making position in the public administration and mainly in education and health domains.

Indeed, those mentioned measures , mechanisms and laws enabled tunisian women to be the pioneers in occupying the precedence in their embodiment of the full human rights in the total absence of sex-discrimination

Tunisian women's place was deeply consolidated by the humanitarian revolutionary decision taken in november7th 2007, which endowed the imprisoned pregnant and the breast-feeding mothers with the right to spend the period of punishment in special institutions so as to provide them as well as their children with protection and full human dignity.

Ambitions and suggestions

The Tunisian Mothers Association aims at intensifying the efforts of the integration of the rural women in the process of the sustainable development by the means of the further integration of them in a way that enables them to comply with the requirements of globalization society.

The tunisian mothers association wants to prepare more effective programs so as to promote the image of the rural women via the mass media and their integration and rehabilitation in further training centers.

-The Association aims at strengthening the integration of Rural Women so as to be effective and beneficiary elements in the associations' work by the means of further coordination of the activities and programs offered to them. In this concern, the association also aims to bring the various services close to them and enable them to benefit from the new technologies and mechanisms.

-Our Association seeks to further making the Rural Women aware of the necessity family planing, family health, reproductive health and protection from AIDS.
The association aspires to further care for the single mothers by reinforcing the legislative protection.

-The Association suggests the assistance and recommendation of the young adolescents.

-The Association appeals to make the tunisian women abroad aware of the necessity of the preservation of their gained human rights as well as of the protection of those human rights from any forms of sex descrimination and violence depending on mass media key role.

-Our Association aims at intensifying its assistance to tunisian women abroad by providing special cultural and social supportive programs for the benefit of the second and the third immigrant generation .Furthermore, our association encourages those women to be more involved in the associative and non-governmental organizations activity.

-The Association aspires to intensify its assistance to the mothers with special needs and limited revenues , to the mothers who are in shortage of family support, to old mothers and the handicapped mothers by the means of a mechanism of an effective program of solidarity which works, against all forms of social marginalization and exclusion which face those women's categories and hinder their complete integration in the comprehensive development .

-Our Association aims at the absolute eradication of illiteracy by the means of enabling the women who are liberated from illiteracy to have an access to knowledge and benefit from communication and computing technologies.

-Our association aims at calling the legislator to further reinforce the principle of partnership between the divorced spouses so that they manage to endure the same responsibilities towards the child in custody. Hence, such responsibilities for instance, health care and educational services can be unbearable and exhausting especially when the child in custody is handicapped.

-Our association aspires to intensify its comprehensive care for the servant -girls as well as the servant-women and making them aware of the importance of the illiteracy courses and education. It aims also at making them aware of their personal rights. Moreover, it seeks to make them aware of their essential role in protecting themselves from the dangers resulting from the housework such as the illegal pregnancy and the home accidents which lead to handicapping, deformity or death.

-Our Association aims at encouraging the legislator to provide more legal protection to servant girls and women so as to provide the further social coverage in social insurance 's as well as in sickness insurance's funds for them. By this way they can ensure the basis of decent life.

-Our Association seeks to intensify its campaigns of awareness and its meetings inside its sections abroad so as to make women abroad aware of their effective role in conciliating between their roles of child upbringing who should be successful outside their mother country and their role in maintaining and building the citizenship values in their children

-Our Association seeks to strengthen the islamic identity of women abroad by the means of imposing didactic programs that fortify the islamic values and the tunisian arabic identity's values and transmit them from mothers to their children as well as from generation to the other

-Our Association aspires to make tunisian business women abroad aware of the necessity of the profitable investment in their mother country/Tunisia mainly in the technological, service and industrial sectors, so that they push the employment wheel and participate in the economic development of Tunisia.

-our Association aims at making women abroad aware of their effective role in encouraging tunisians abroad to activate Tunisian tourism. This can be achieved by introducing our cultural, civilizational and historical heritage such as the traditional handicrafts.

-The association calls the tunisian women inside and abroad to challenge all forms of terrorism, immoderation and violence, so that they introduce a honorable image of themselves together with their mother country abroad. This mentioned honorable image can be provided on condition of reconciliating between authenticity and modernity values without forgetting the protection of their achieved women's rights.