

# **Joint UPR Submission: Feminist and Women's Groups in Egypt**

**Related to: Egypt**

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This UPR submission has been jointly prepared by a coalition of stakeholders including Nazra for Feminist Studies, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, the New Women Foundation and the Centre for Egyptian Women Legal Assistance. This submission includes a series of human rights violations facing women in Egypt, in private and public spheres. This submission also includes a review of Government policies and actions since 2010. The main concerns regarding women in Egypt include the negative consequences of Personal Status Law, the barriers to employment and discrimination in the workplace, the challenges to accessing sexual and reproductive rights, the challenges to meaningful political participation, and the grave incidents of sexual violence against women and women human rights defenders.

## **Summary of key concerns regarding women in Egypt**

### **Personal Status Law**

1. Egyptian Personal Status Law (PSL) has gone through several attempts of reform starting from 1920 till 2005. In 1920, PSL #25 was issued which was concerned with alimonies; it was reformed later by PSL #25 for the year 1929. Afterwards, PSL #100 for the year 1985 was issued, followed by PSL #1 for the year 2000, and finally PSL #4 for the year 2005 that is concerned with age of custody which applies only on the Muslim majority; however, it is applied automatically on interreligious marriage cases (Muslim husbands and non-Muslim wives). Despite all these laws and attempts of reform, the discriminatory texts against Egyptian women (Muslims-Christians) remain inside these laws. For example:

#### **2. Marriage:**

According to PSL #1 for the year 2000, the court is allowed to accept "inspection requests" on whether a female needs a guardian's approval to contract her marriage or not (article 7 of clause 9) "the district court is concerned with the issues of self-guardianship which are [...] and permit contracting the marriage for whoever does not have a guardian"

Informal marriage is not forbidden; however, it does not guarantee any rights for the wife as the husband does not have to commit to provide financial support to his wife. In addition to that, if the marriage contract was destroyed by the husband, women can get accused of having sexual relationships outside marriage. Moreover, most of the time the husband refuses to admit paternity of children resulting from this marriage; accordingly, women have to go through all judicial steps and degrees to obtain a paternity proof.

#### **3. Divorce**

According to the amended PSL #100 for the year 1985, a man has the right to verbally divorce his wife up to three times and officially document it within 30 days. However, a woman is asked to present before the court by herself and prove any of the following defects:

1. Illness; including mental illness or impotence.
2. The husband is not providing financial support.
3. Absence or imprisonment.
4. Harmful behavior, such as physical or psychological abuse. (articles 7 to 11)

Since 2000 and according to the reformed PSL #1 for the the same year, a woman has the right to obtain Khul' (woman's right to divorce herself) without giving reasons; however, she has to pay back her dowry and forfeit her financial rights. Nevertheless, several cases were documented where judges' intransigence against women demanding khul' was obvious.

As for divorce for Christian citizens, Code 1938 was taken into consideration which enlisted 9 reasons where Christian men and women can refer to when filing for divorce through court. However, the church refused to ratify the divorce verdict.

#### 4. Custody

According to PSL, article 20 (amended version in 2005), the mother is granted the custody of her children until they reach the age of 15 or the mother re-marries. As a result, many single mothers reject second marriages to be able to keep their children's custody. However, when the child reaches the age of 15, and even though he/she prefers to stay with the mother, the mother is legally required to leave the custody house. Such a decision is supported by a judicial verdict.

#### 5. Inheritance

According to inheritance law #77 for the year 1943, a female has the right to inherent half of her male brother's share based on the Islamic Shariah Law; which is also applied to non Muslim in case of disputes. Despite the fact that Christianity guarantees equal share of inheritance for brothers and sisters, many Christian men resort to erupt disputes so that they can apply Islamic Shariah Law and accordingly their sisters can get half of their inheritance share only. In addition to that, non-Muslim women who are married to Muslim men do not have the right to inherent their husbands' inheritance.

#### 6. Testimony

Despite the penal code accepting the full testimony of women, PSL states that two women's testimonies equals to one male testimony; whether in contracting marriage, or in testifying before Family court or Personal Status court.

#### 7. Freedom of movement

Despite the decision from the Constitutional Court in 2000 that guarantees women's right in traveling and movement without prior permission from the father or the husband, this right can be undermined by a judicial verdict if one of the male family members asked for it according to PSL #1 for the year 2000. Article 1 clause 4 of the law states that "The interim orders' Judge only is to review the following disputes: [...] and disputes regarding travelling abroad after hearing the testimonies of the stakeholders. Whereas "stakeholders" is usually interpreted as the male family members".

The law concerned with Family courts fails to take into consideration those dealing with this area of law i.e. family, lawyers, NGOs, psychological and social workers, legal personnel is resolving family disputes offices, and psychological and social experts.

In regards to alimonies that are taken from the Fund Family, we find the Bank Nasser, the bank which is responsible of alimonies, does not deal with private businesses' owners or free professions, but only deals with employees and specific businesses' owners, even if the wife is holding the legal form that is considered a main requirement to implement the alimony verdicts.

## **Barriers to employment**

8. Over the past four years, successive governments failed to take any action or measure to improve the situation of women at work. Women workers are still exposed to the same forms of violence and discrimination they were exposed to in the past years as a result of the same economic policies that did not contribute to the creation of employment opportunities, and the same biases of business owners at the expense of men and women workers' rights. The State did not commit itself to protect and provide suitable conditions of work and achieving equality and non-discrimination.

9. According to statistics issued by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the percentage of unemployed women in 2010 22.6%, increased in 2011<sup>1</sup> to 22.7%, grew in 2012 to 24%, to reach 25.1 % in 2013.

10. Women at work are subjected to various forms of discrimination, including poor representation of women in certain professional fields, for example in the fields of the judiciary, senior officials and managers. According to estimates in 2013 by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization<sup>2</sup> and Statistics, there is a wide gap between men and women, as the percentage of men is up to 97.4 % while the percentage of women is only 2.5%.

11. The ruling period of President Morsi witnessed a systematic trend of excluding women from occupying leadership positions. The New Women Foundation as well as the National Council for Women documented the number of women workers who were dismissed from leadership and executive positions, or have been subjected to abusive transfer or denied promotions to higher positions. Official reports of the New Woman Foundation<sup>3</sup> indicate that the gender gap of salaries has increased between men and women in favor of men by approximately 13.8%.

12. Women workers in most governmental institutions, the private and investment sectors still do not enjoy their rights concerning their reproductive role. There are important violations of the labor law regarding the right to nurseries at the workplace and women workers are deprived in most of the private and investment sectors from their right to maternity leave and child care.

13. Moreover, Women farmers, domestic workers and the like remain excluded from legal protection, and thus deprived of any social protection (health and social insurance). According to the statistics of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in 2012<sup>4</sup>, the number of women in rural areas who are involved in unpaid family work has increased to 62.6%. The percentage of paid work for women living in urban areas is of 14.9%, while it does not exceed 4.1% in rural areas. Up till now there is no legislation to protect women workers from sexual harassment in the workplace

## **Epidemic level of sexual violence: virginity tests, rape and sexual harassment**

14. Following its 2010 UPR, Egypt agreed to recommendation no. 32 and 41, which read as follows:

“32. Further intensify its efforts to promote gender equality, to combat violence against women and girls, sexual harassment and abuse, and recognize the important role of non-governmental organizations in this field (Finland).

41. Consider elaborating an integrated national strategy to address the different forms of violence against women (Palestine).”

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<sup>1</sup> Men and Women in Egypt in 2011, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Quarterly newsletter about the labor force, third quarter, July-September 2013, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, November 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Website of the New Woman Foundation: [www.nwrcegypt.org](http://www.nwrcegypt.org)

Website of the National Council for Women: [www.ncwegypt.com](http://www.ncwegypt.com)

Adly Howayda, PhD, Women in the Labor Market (2) – Women Workers in the investment sector, The New Women Foundation 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Annual growth rate of the labor force for 2012, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, April 2013.

15. However, four years later, no significant progress has been made in regards to combating violence, sexual harassment, assault and abuse. Women, as well as women's rights activists and women human rights defenders (WHRDs), continue to be survivors of rape, sexual assault and abduction, especially the period after February 2011. The government continues to fail to prosecute perpetrators of these crimes or hold them accountable in any way, shape or form, whether the perpetrator is a normal citizen, policeman or soldiers.
16. On 9 March 2011, the armed forces dispersed demonstrators' encampment in Tahrir Square and arrested at least 190 demonstrators. On 10 March 2011, according to statements of the survivors, virginity tests were conducted systematically on 7 detained female protesters. Since all crimes related to the armed forces fall within the jurisdiction of the military courts, the cases were subsequently referred to them. However, while the Court of Administrative Justice issued a ruling calling on the military to cease such illegal testing on December 27 2011, the military dismissed this ruling. In continuing to deny redress to any of the survivors and to investigate the violation, a military court acquitted the army doctor Ahmed Adel on 11 March 2012.<sup>5</sup>
17. During demonstrations on 25 January 2013, assaults on women and women human rights defenders reached its crowning point. Nazra for Feminist Studies (Nazra) documented<sup>6</sup> 19 cases of gang rape in Tahrir Square and its surroundings alone, including two cases of rape using sharp objects. The authorities' reaction constituted a statement by the Human Rights Committee of the Shura Council (the upper body of Parliament), which condemned women for "choosing to go to areas where there is a lot of prostitution." This measly reaction was exceptionally alarming as the Shura Council constituted the only legislative authority at the time, as the People's Assembly was dissolved according to court order.<sup>7</sup>
18. By mid-2013, sexual violence, including assault and rape, was evident in Tahrir square and its vicinity during the demonstrations demanding the removal of Morsi, where 186 cases of sexual violence was reported to have occurred between 28 June and 7 July 2013.<sup>8</sup> The state of impunity as well as the social epidemic of sexual violence has led to the escalation of these crimes. There have been no impartial or independent investigations carried out into these incidents and perpetrators were not brought to justice by the authorities. This renders the authorities complicit in vehemently increasing the rate of sexual violence, especially assault and rape. Furthermore, the authorities have failed to provide immediate legal and medical support to survivors, nor have they ensured effective and proper procedures in medical facilities in dealing with survivors.
19. Most recently on the third anniversary of the 25 January Revolution on 25 January 2014, there were three cases of sexual assault documented. Two cases of sexual assault were documented in Tahrir Square, one of which was a girl under 18 years of age. Meanwhile, a third case was documented in which the survivor required an urgent surgical intervention.
20. While a new special unit of female police officers was also formed by the Ministry of Interior to combat violence against women and provide psychological help to them in May 2013, protection remains virtually non-existent. Moreover, the inner workings of the unit remain nebulous, unclear and unknown. During the signing of the protocol with the National Council of Women, Ambassador Mervat Tellawi, spokesperson of the concerned council stated that security is not just the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, which indicates a continuing pattern of the state downplaying its responsibility in addressing crimes of violence against women.
21. While the unit is a welcome response to the issue of sexual violence, it also takes away the attention from much-needed reforms and restructuring in the police. Moreover, the male-dominated police force

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<sup>5</sup> For more information on violations under the SCAF's rule, see Nazra for Feminist Studies, 'Year of Impunity: violations committed against human rights defenders in Egypt from August to December 2011' (September 2012).

<sup>6</sup> Nazra for Feminist Studies, 'Sexual Violence against women and the high rates of mass rape in Tahrir Square and surrounding areas', Research Paper (February 4, 2013). Available at: <http://nazra.org/node/196> [Arabic only].

<sup>7</sup> For more information on violations under the SCAF's rule: One Year of Impunity: Violations against Women Human Rights Defenders in Egypt from August to December 2011 - Nazra for Feminist Studies – September 2012 - <http://nazra.org/en/node/142>.

<sup>8</sup> Brutal Sexual Assaults in the Vicinity of Tahrir Square and an Unprecedentedly Shameful Reaction from the Egyptian Authorities: 101 Incidents of Sexual Assaults during the Events of June 30th 2013 - Joint Statement (July 2013) - <http://nazra.org/en/node/244>.

does not encourage women to report cases of sexual violence in fear of how the police would respond to reported abuse. Meanwhile, without the much needed and urgent police reform and accountability, the recruitment of more female officers will remain irrelevant and ineffective.

22. The national independent fact finding committee issued by presidential decree no. 698/2013 by the interim president Adly Mansour to investigate events accompanying June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 and after remains largely ineffective . The Fact Finding Committee is under no obligation to make its findings public and its recommendations remain advisory not binding. Furthermore there is no real guarantee (even though it was stated verbally) that a gender perspective will be integrated into the investigations, particularly regarding sexual violence.<sup>9</sup>
23. Impunity is further entrenched due to the definition of crimes of sexual violence in the Egyptian penal code. The current law circumscribes crimes of sexual violence as either an act “against morality” or an “indecent violation”, rather than classify them as crimes against the survivors themselves. The law neglects to denominate crimes for what they are according to international human rights conventions and does not employ the term “sexual assault”, which is rather labelled as “indecent violation”. Meanwhile, “sexual harassment” is not mentioned or defined. Rape for instance is mentioned, however it is defined only as penile penetration and it does not recognize anal penetration or oral rape (whether the survivor is male or female), regardless of whether tools, sharp objects or fingers were used.

### **Restriction on freedom of assembly/forced dispersal**

24. The violent dispersal of protests has become common practice as peaceful protests are consistently met with the excessive use of force, water cannons, rubber truncheons, tear gas and live ammunition. Below is a selection of cases of attacks against WHRDs. In all these cases, no proper investigation was carried out.
25. On 14 August 2013, police forces, protected by the army, started to disperse the sit-in in Rab'aa Al-Adaweya in the district of Nasr City, and the sit-in in Nahda Square in Giza. Nazra researchers were able to confirm 19 deaths among women during the dispersal of the Rab'aa sit-in. Testimonies of the female sit-inners, in addition to paramedics who were carrying the injured and dead bodies in Rab'aa show that the use of live bullets was prevalent, as most deaths were the result of the use of live ammunition in the upper part of the body (head – neck - chest), while the provision of safe exists did not take place.
26. The recently passed demonstration law (Law 107 of 2013 on the Right to Public Meetings, Processions, and Peaceful Demonstrations), issued by interim President Adly Mansour on 24 November 2013, and severely restricts freedom of assembly. Consequently, protests at the Shura Council, protesting Military Trials of Civilians and the new protest law on 26 November 2013, were met with excessive force, violent dispersal and the use of water cannons and rubber truncheons. Over 50 activists and human rights defenders were arrested, 26 of which were women activists and WHRDs. During their short detention, the female detainees and WHRDs were assaulted, beaten and sexually harassed.

### **Targeting of Women Human Rights Defenders**

27. Following its 2010 UPR, Egypt also agreed to recommendation no. 48, which read as follows:

“48. Better disseminate the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and ensure its full observance (Norway).”

However, WHRDs continue to face impediments in their everyday activism and are neither protected nor enabled to carry out their peaceful and legitimate work. The policy of targeting WHRDs is part of attempts by those currently and previously in charge of the country, the various security agencies, and the remnants of the former regime to expel women from the public sphere. The documented violations committed against WHRDs include arbitrary detention, beatings and kicks, at times with military boots, dragging, attempted choking, sexual harassment and violence including attempts to strip women, rape threats during detention, insults of a sexual nature, and all manner of degrading, inhumane treatment, as well as the temporary confiscation of personal property.

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<sup>9</sup> Recommendations to the Independent Fact-Finding Committee Tasked with Investigating the Events that Accompanied 30 June to Ensure its Success and Effectiveness - Nazra Feminist Studies - February 2014 - <http://nazra.org/en/node/285>.

28. On 2 January 2014, WHRD Mahinour El Masry was sentenced to two years in prison and 50,000 EGP in fines for demonstrating in front of the Alexandria Criminal Court in March 2013 in violation of the protest law during the hearing of the trial of accused of killing Khaled Said. Mahinour El Masry is currently under the threat of being arrested at any time.
29. In an effort to intimidate and silence Mona Seif, on 5 January 2014, the North Giza Criminal Court sentenced WHRD Mona Seif along with 2 other HRDs to a suspended sentence of one year in prison on trumped up charges of participating in the attack on the campaign headquarters of former presidential candidate, Mr. Ahmed Shafiq, on May 28, 2012. Since the sentence is suspended for three years, if Mona Seif is found to be guilty of any other charges in the meantime, this one-year term would be added onto any subsequent sentences.

### **Restrictions on women's political participation**

30. Egypt agreed to the following 2010 UPR review recommendations regarding women's political participation:

“60. Continue its efforts to promote the political participation of women at all levels ..... (Palestine)

33. Consider further steps to ensure a high number of women in decision-making positions (Norway)”

Despite the commitment made by Egypt to implement the recommendations pertaining to political participation, there are clear flaws within the current government's approach to enabling women's political participation. One of the problematic policies taken up by the government is the current quota system for women. The quota system was adopted for the first time in 1979, by reserving 30 seats for women. This quota system was applied once more in 2010, by reserving 64 seats from 518 seats in the parliament – additional seats in excess of the original seats.

31. This procedure was far more advantageous for the ruling party, which stood to benefit the most by winning the most seats in the parliament. Women belonging to the ruling National Democratic Party were the only ones who benefited from the seats specified for women in year 2010; in the first round of the election they won 100% of the reserved seats, they benefited from the large size of the constituencies specified for the quota seats. Moreover, election violence and forged results for the candidates of the ruling party was a feature of previous elections. This demonstrates that Egyptian quota experience in 2010 was not successful and did not lead to an increase in women's political roles in parties
32. After the 25 January Revolution in 2011, an elective quota for women was mandated in the parliamentary elections law, requiring a nomination of at least one woman in each partisan list. This was a regression in the percentage of women's representation, as the law specified only one woman on each list and did not specify an obligatory order on the lists.
33. The possibility of the use of the individual seat system will pose an impediment to the increase of women's participation in the political sphere. The individual seat system- which is also called first-past-the-post- is based on having candidates compete for one seat in each constituency, which is why it is referred to as the single- member constituency, a type of majority-based systems in elections.<sup>10</sup>
34. In the case this particular system being used, Nazra for Feminist Studies has its reservations as it will inevitably further exclude women from participation in parliament and political life. Therefore, Nazra alternatively proposes the proportional lists system as a preferred alternative for 100% of the seats, which will be contested in the next elections. The proportional lists system promotes a more effective form of political participation for women as it becomes necessary to place female candidates on advanced positions on the proportional lists, and obliges the parties to do so. This will push political parties to pay attention to female members and build the capacities of female candidates.
35. Furthermore, sexual violence against women participating in the political sphere and those involved in the political process also poses a challenge to women's political participation.

<sup>10</sup> For more on this electoral system: <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/first-past-the-post/>

## Challenges to sexual and reproductive health and rights

23. During the past three transitional years, the succeeding governments sidelined issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) especially those related to women's and young people's sexuality. Governments not only de-prioritized SRHR, but also enacted practices that actively violate people's right to reproductive health.

24. In May 2012, there were allegations that a medical caravan organized by the Muslim Brotherhood was conducting female genital mutilation surgeries to young girls in El-Minya governorate in Upper Egypt. Civil society organizations had confirmations about this by firsthand accounts yet the state did nothing to hold these doctors accountable. At the same time all the activities of the national anti-FGM campaign, like billboards, TV and Radio advertisements have stopped without any obvious reason. This happened while the State is facing a growing phenomenon of medicalization of FGM, where 24.2% of FGM incidents are practiced by doctors according to the latest statistics of 2008.<sup>11</sup>

25. There is a lack of commitment to making available a full range of contraception and family planning methods to couples and individuals, and after January 2011, the government also did not prioritize its family planning programs. In open and closed meetings held by the national population council during the interim period, the council was reluctant to maintain a language that advocates for family planning. This was partially attributed to their fear of the growing powers of the Muslim Brotherhood who are known for their opposition to family planning. This happened despite the fact that Muslim Brotherhood has not been vocal or made any direct or clear order about withdrawing the support for family planning programs.

26. Latest statistics indicate that Egypt during the last three years witnessed a population explosion with unprecedented increase in population growth rate.<sup>12</sup> As the government has changed recently and the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood has ended, there are concerns that the new government might adopt a non-rights-based population policy where the government will remove the subsidies from the third child.

27. Data regarding SRHR has been scarce during the past three years, and the State has not fulfilled its duty of making information available. Although the 2010 CEDAW recommendation stressed that the state was required to "strengthen the system of data collection including through the use of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women",<sup>13</sup> the State does not publish any disaggregated data regarding reproductive health. More importantly, latest demographic and health survey, the most valuable source for data on contraception, antenatal care, nutrition, FGM, fertility and other reproductive health related issues, was issued in 2008. Surveys are supposed to be conducted every 3-5 years; six years have passed without issuing DHS or any other alternative survey about the household and reproductive health.

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<sup>11</sup> El-Zanaty, Fatma and Ann Way. 2009. Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2008. Cairo, Egypt: Ministry of Health, El-Zanaty and Associates, and Macro International. Available at: <http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR220/FR220.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. (2012). *Questions About Population*. Retrieved February 20, 2014, from Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics: <http://www.capmas.gov.eg/faq.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. (2010, February 5). *Concluding Observations of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women- Egypt*. Retrieved February 20, 2014, from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/242/56/PDF/N1024256.pdf?OpenElement>

## **Recommendations**

### **We call upon the State Party (Egypt) to:**

- Enact regulations that restrict polygamy whether by requiring a judge's permission, or guaranteeing a direct right for the first wife to divorce based of "defects reasons" and keeping all her financial rights.
- Review problematic provisions within divorce law to facilitate access to divorce, in accordance to the Islamic Shariah Rule that instructs to either keep the wife in acceptable manners or release her with good treatment and not keeping her to hurt her.
- Increase the minimum age of marriage for both genders within PSL, equating males and females as the situation in Child Law, and criminalize early marriages for females below 18 years of age.
- Increase the maximum alimony rate as the current rate is 500 EGP monthly (less than 100 USD). As well as encourage the Fund Family to respond the needs of the wife and children.
- Prioritize reproductive rights for women and men and take steps against the medicalization of FGM and boost its work on the anti-FGM national campaign.
- Support family planning programs and ensure couples and women have access to contraception especially in remote rural and disadvantaged areas.
- Adopt a rights-based population policy that allows couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.
- Produce and release data concerning SRHR and conduct regular surveys to determine the status of sexual and reproductive health indicators, to be able to trace its efforts to fulfill MDGs and other international commitments.
- Design, introduce and implement a government national strategy for combating violence against women in consultation with women's groups in Egypt, in addition to be conducted in cooperation with the ministries of interior, health and justice in order to improve the delivery of medical services for survivors of rape; as well as train Forensic Medicine Administration staff, physicians and nurses at public and private hospitals on protecting evidence of sexual assault and rape.
- Guarantee the right of women and women human rights defenders to engage in human rights work and take measures to ensure their protection before the law and in society.
- Take the necessary steps to prosecute the perpetrators, including members of the military and police force, of sexual violence and harassment faced by women protesters and women human rights defenders.
- Conduct a comprehensive and independent investigation into complaints and reports of sexual violence faced by women protesters and women human rights defenders.
- Provide effective remedies including reparation to survivors of sexual violence.
- Introduce legislation aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women in private as well as in public spheres.
- Repeal the 'Demonstration Law' (Law 107 of 2013 on the Right to Public Meetings, Processions, and Peaceful Demonstrations) and protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.
- Amend the Egyptian Penal Code to include definitions for sexual assault and harassment, as well as amend the definition of rape to include rape with tools, fingers and sharp objects, in addition to anal and oral rape (Articles 267, 268 and 269 of the penal code, which must be ratified by the upcoming parliament).
- Release the findings of the independent fact finding committee investigating events that accompanied and followed 30 June 2013 and ensure the recommendations of the committee are binding.

- Incorporate a closed proportional list system within the new electoral law, this proportional list system should be for 50% of the next parliament. These lists should be based on the zebra model i.e there should be an equal number of both sexes on each list in a consecutive manner. The lists should include men and women equally.
- In the case of the first-past-the-post system being applied for the next parliament, the State party should ensure that the next Parliament features 50% of the seats for women.