

## **I. General Background and framework**

### **A. Scope of international obligations**

1. Lebanon received in the first round of the Universal Periodic Review 22 recommendations directly related to the rights of women that called for fulfilling its international obligations and making every effort to remove discriminatory provisions against women.
2. In spite of all the efforts made by the civil society and the struggle of the Lebanese women's movement for the abolition of discrimination and violence against women in all of the political, social and economic areas during the last four years, the Lebanese government did not address the discrimination by adopting a comprehensive vision and clear policies.
3. Despite some progress, including the ratification of CEDAW by the Lebanese government (with major reservations on articles 9, 16 and 29), the road to full equality between the sexes in Lebanon is still long and Lebanese woman still faces important challenges, particularly in the nationality law, Penal Law and the Personal Status Law.
4. The disparities increased as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon and this resulted in an increase in poverty and unemployment; high rates of early marriages and exploitation of the vulnerable. This situation had repercussions and weighed on the women's rights in Lebanon and caused a crisis.
5. The resolution 1325 adopted by the UN Security Council on 31 October 2000 aimed to consecrate the international attention on the issue of the protection of women in armed conflict situations and to involve them in solving them. It is necessary to issue national legislations to protect specially women and girls before, during and after armed conflicts.

#### **Recommendation:**

6. Lift the reservations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the conclusion of the Optional Protocol thereto.
7. The integration of Resolution 1325 in the State legal and regulatory policies; design and adopt laws and regulations for the protection of women during and after armed conflicts.

## **II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground**

### **I. Civil and political rights:**

#### **1. Nationality Law**

6. Although Lebanon announced during the previous review its commitment to increase its efforts towards the elimination of discrimination against women, it still deprives the Lebanese woman from granting the Lebanese nationality to its children and foreign husband defying by this the simplest civil rights related to citizenship.
7. Lebanon had reservations on paragraph 2 of article 9 from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that states that "The State Parties

shall grant women an equal right to men regarding the nationality of her children”. The provisions of nationality are covered by resolution n° 15 in 19/1/1925. The latter states in its first article that is considered Lebanese “every person born of a Lebanese father”.

8. As a result of the current legal framework, the Lebanese nationality is transmitted by paternity relation and not the maternity except in two cases: an illegal son recognized by the mother while still a minor and the children of a woman granted the Lebanese nationality and still alive after the death of the foreign father. There is no exception when it comes to a Lebanese mother married to a stateless person.

9. The husband and children of a Lebanese woman married to a foreigner suffer from various economic, social and civil challenges. They are treated as less than citizens in terms of residence and work permit, although they benefit from some privileges such as: granting the husband and children of a Lebanese woman a 3 years free residence and they are allowed to join professions usually limited to Lebanese and exempted from some work permit’s conditions. However, that does not rise to the level of full equality and violates the full citizenship of a Lebanese woman.

**Recommendation:**

**10. Amend the Nationality Law to ensure the full equality between men and women concerning granting her the right of giving her nationality to her children and husband.**

**2. Personal Status Laws:**

11. While the first cycle review shed light on the discriminatory provisions of the personal status law, Lebanon continues to suffer from the multiplicity of legislations and courts in cases related to personal status; the personal status laws in its different types is characterized by their discriminatory provisions against women and their incompatibility with the Lebanese Constitution that adopts the principle of equality between its citizens, the charters of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This coincides with the fact that Lebanon is still holding its reservations on various clauses of article 16 of the Convention against Discrimination against Women.

12. The International Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women emphasized on its “recommendation for the member states to quickly adopt a unified civil status law that is compliant with the convention to be implemented on all women in Lebanon irrespectively of their religions<sup>1</sup>”.

13. The sectarian and religious regulations applicable in Lebanon are many (around 15 various personal status systems placed under the religious authority). These various and underdeveloped regulations have serious impact on the lives of citizenship especially regarding custody rights, marriage, inheritance, wills and many others.

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<sup>1</sup> Comments of the International Committee on Lebanon's third periodic report, paragraph 19 of the comments (2006).

14. In the absence of the adoption of a unified civil personal status law, guaranteeing absolute gender equality, Lebanon does not yet provide a law for the persons that do not belong to any of the sects recognized in an exclusive manner by the Lebanese law<sup>2</sup>.

15. On the other hand and under the complexity of the regulations applicable concerning marriage and that considers various minimum ages for marriage, the staggering violations of the rights of the child carry through the early marriage phenomenon. This reality and violation is a result of the legal texts that do not specify a minimum age for marriage suitable with Lebanon's obligations mentioned in the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989; it specifies the age of marriage as eighteen.

16. The effect of early marriage on a girl establishes for violations of all human rights of women and girls which in itself is considered a violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in which the right of the girls to development, protection, and participation is well recognized and guaranteed.

17. Article 505 of the Lebanese Penal Code violates the Children's Bill of Rights that states the following: "anyone who engages in sexual acts with a minor below 15 years of age is punishable by life imprisonment...<sup>3</sup>".

18. In the framework of protecting the juvenile, Article 483 of the Lebanese Penal Code punishes the cleric that allows the marriage of a minor under the age of 18 without the consent of his guardian by a fine of between fifty thousand and five hundred thousand Lebanese pounds. The phrase "the consent of the guardian" should be emitted to utterly prohibit the marriage of minors without any exceptions.

#### **Recommendations:**

**19. Adopt a unified civil personal status law, guaranteeing gender equality, compliant with the Constitution and the international commitments of Lebanon referred to above, according to the following: Freedom of belief and religion, equality in rights, obligations, and responsibilities between men and women within the family and providing the best interest of children;**

**20. Amend the laws related to marriage as compliant with the international standards i.e. specifying the minimal age for marriage as 18;**

**21. Amend the articles of the Penal Code and the criminalization of marrying a minor by all means without any exceptions with regards to who is responsible of permitting the marriage (Article 505), or with regards to the powers of the guardian of minors (Article 483).**

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<sup>2</sup> The National Commission for Lebanese Women "The official joint report of the fourth and fifth report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ", Beirut 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Children's Bill of Rights specifies the age by 18 according to the article.

### **3. The right of Civil Marriage in Lebanon**

22. In Lebanon, marriage contracts are subject to the religious sects' authority, and each according to its regulations. This resulted in the light of the absence of civil laws that regulate the different aspects of marriage in some staggering and systematic discriminations against women starting from custody and divorce to the dissolution of marriage.

23. Around 560 Lebanese civil marriages have been registered in 2014 in Cyprus alone which indicates the extent of resorting of the Lebanese to marry abroad to escape the closed sectarian system in Lebanon.

24. In spite of some breaches recorded<sup>4</sup> in the recent period of time, in which civil marriages contracted in Lebanon were registered, the Lebanese Interior Minister issued a decree to forbid the registration of any civil marriage conducted in Lebanon leaving the Lebanese with no option but marrying abroad, noting that the latter is registered in Lebanon without any restrictions in accordance with the principles. This leads to doubt the reasons behind forbidding its registration in Lebanon as long as it results in the same effects and consequences.

#### **Recommendation:**

#### **25. Adopt a law for civil marriage in Lebanon.**

### **4. Family Violence:**

26. On Tuesday 1st of April 2014, the Lebanese Parliament passed the law proposal on family violence under a modified title, "Law to Protect Women and Other Family Members from Family Violence", initially presented by the National Coalition to the Cabinet in 2009, under the title "Law to Protect Women from Family Violence."

27. There has been intensive campaigning demanding amendments to the final version of the law as the final text adopted do not ensure Lebanon's full respect and protection of women's rights. For instance, the final approved bill is no longer specific to women and women's protection is limited to the title and does not apply to the content. Moreover, the newly-approved law proposal enumerates only a limited number of family violence crimes and does not cover all crimes mentioned in the Penal Code. The new clause in Article 3 establishes the religious concept that intercourse is a "marital right" in a civil law applicable to all Lebanese, and only criminalizes the harm that comes with the act of coercion and not the coercion per se. The final text excludes children from the scope of protection when custody does not belong to the mother, according to the personal status laws. This means that a child who pays a visit to a noncustodial mother shall not be protected if during his/her stay the mother incurs her husband's violence. The approved law proposal restricts the mandate of issuing protection orders to the Judge in Chambers or the Investigating Magistrate, which means that women will incur a financial burden because lodging a complaint directly before the judge is very costly and in both cases women should be assisted by an attorney at law.

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<sup>4</sup> Al-Akhbar, "Lebanon, civil marriage stuck in the interior ministry", available on: <http://english.al-akhbar.com/node/18204>.

28. Ex-President Michel Sleiman signed the law on the 7th of May despite the extensive campaign asking him to return it to the parliament. The law was published in the official gazette on the 15th of May under Law number 293.

### **Recommendations**

**29. Amend the Law to Protect Women and Other Family Members from Family Violence, initially keeping the title and the protection-related content of the law specific to women, referring the section on penalties to the Penal Code, removing the paragraph in Article 3 that was supposedly meant to criminalize marital rape and amending Article 503 in the Penal Code in such a way that it no longer excludes marital rape;**

**30. Ensure that the Law's provisions with regard to the protection measures includes the children regardless if they are in the custody of the victim or not;**

**31. Amend the law to keep the Public Prosecutor in charge of issuing protection orders, in line with the initially suggested Bill, which stipulates that the protection seeker shall lodge a request before the Public Prosecution because it was found that when violence occurs women seek the help of the public prosecution either directly or through police stations, as public prosecution is the fastest and least expensive refuge.**

### **5. Property and Inheritance Rights:**

32. Women in Lebanon suffer from many challenges arising from the multiplicity of personal status laws, especially that religion is considered as an impediment to inheritance. Inheritance law for non-Mohammedans acknowledged gender equality in inheritance; whereas in the Islamic sects, the male inherits a portion equivalent to that of two females. This adds to more detailed rules and provisions that raise discrimination against women such as in the field of the woman's economic independence where immovable property is often registered in the name of the man without the possibility of getting her share of money upon divorce in the continuous absence of the concept of "marital property"<sup>5</sup> (the absence of fair compensation upon divorce).

### **Recommendation:**

**33. Ensure the rights of a woman to property, inheritance, and disposition of her own money;**

**34. Ensure economic independence and equitable sharing of wealth among married couples for the wealth earned by any of them after marriage.**

### **6. Women's Participation in Political Life:**

35. Although Lebanon accepted recommendation calling for fostering women's political participation, there has not been significant change in the role women play in political life.

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<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Unequal and unprotected: Women's rights under Lebanese Personal Status Law", 2015, p.87, available at: [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/lebanon0115\\_ForUpload.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/lebanon0115_ForUpload.pdf).

Indeed, the overall rate of women's candidacy for the parliamentary elections was low without any change from 1992. The female winners' percentage in the 2009 parliamentary elections is just 3.9%, and the participation of women in the successive cabinet did not exceed two female ministers.

36. In addition to this, the role of women in parties is limited in a particular sector specialized for women, which focuses on the social activities; therefore, she is isolated from the decision-making of the party. The percentage of women in political parties in their public bodies comprises from 29% to 40% whereas in the executive offices from 12% to 16%.

#### **Recommendations:**

**37. Adopt women's quota by at least 33% in both the legislative elections and in the cabinet in line with Lebanon's obligations deriving from CEDAW, namely that of Articles 7 and 8 with regards to undertaking all the appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country;**

**38. Promote policies encouraging the involvement of women in the various aspects of public life.**

#### **7. The Rights of Female Prisoners and the Prison Condition in Lebanon:**

39. Female prisoners are exposed to various violations due to the lack of policies, practices, laws, and regulations in line with Lebanon's human rights obligations.

40. At the level of the right to health, many violations occur due to the lack of available gynecologist, treatment of psychological disorders, and periodic medical examinations of chronic diseases and sexually transmitted diseases.

41. Availability of potable water is questionable, the food does not meet the specified health conditions and the religious and cultural particularities of prisoners (right to food violations).

42. The physical conditions of the prisons reveal serious violations and require equipping prisons to be proper in terms of space, or equipping them relevantly with the special needs of persons with disabilities, in addition to the fact that dining areas are not isolated from the sleeping areas and the areas with toilets.

43. At the level of respecting the gender particularities, respect of the privacy of prisoners' pregnancy is disregarded, particularly in terms of offering counseling, psychological support, clothes, special food for the pregnant and the nursing mother, and the medical needs. When it comes to the babies born in the prison, there is a failure to provide their special needs from food, diapers, clothes, and bedding to health care.

44. Respect for the special needs of the foreign prisoners is also disregarded, in particular regarding providing information concerning legal advice and prison rules.

#### **Recommendations:**

**45. Amend and modernize the Lebanese Prison Law (Internal regulations for the Lebanese prisons Decree 14310) issued in 1949 in order to make it in conformity with the minimal standards of the United Nations for the treatment of prisoners and the Human Rights Charter as well as the international conventions ratified by Lebanon;**

**46. Improve policies, practices, laws, and regulations to be more convenient and considerate of the actual and practical needs of women through building it on the basis of consideration and integration of the social gender.**

**8. Trafficking of Women for Forced Domestic Labor and Sexual Exploitation:**

9. In line with the UPR first cycle accepted recommendations on combatting human trafficking, in August 2011, Lebanon passed amendments to the Penal Code to include the crime of trafficking, set punishments for traffickers, and provide compensation to victims of trafficking (Law No 164). However, the Law 164 is not being properly enforced; there had been no convictions for forced domestic labor and sexual exploitation since the adoption of the law in 2011 despite the widespread existence of the problem of trafficking in human beings in the Lebanese society (especially among the 250,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon and thousands of women and girls in prostitution).

10. Moreover, the anti-trafficking law has several structural gaps including that it requires the victim to provide evidence to prove his/her innocence. Thus, negation of criminal liability of the victim, including the right not to be detained or prosecuted for illegal acts they may have committed is absent. The law does not adequately attend to the right of the victim to participate in legal proceedings; it only gives the right to the judge to decide whether or not grant the victim a temporary residence permit for the duration of legal proceedings. A provision to ensure the protection of victims during court proceedings is absent and there is no special consideration towards the protection of victims of trafficking under 18 years of age. The compensation for victims is conditional and dependent on the establishment of a fund run by the Ministry of Social Affairs which is only financed by the seizure of assets from the crime.

**Recommendations:**

**11. Amend the anti-trafficking law in order to ensure that the victim is not treated as a criminal and enjoys the full right to participate in legal proceedings, while more stringent methods of protecting victim or witness identity during court proceedings are ensured including that proceedings be conducted away from media and public and victim and/or witnesses should give evidence out of view of the accused if in their best interest;**

**12. Ensure that the compensation for victims of trafficking is available without any conditions and that special consideration towards the protection of victims of trafficking under 18 years of age is given in line with the Palermo Protocol and other international instruments that Lebanon ratified;**

- 13. Adopt the national plan of action on Trafficking in Human Beings presented to the Council of Ministers;**
- 14. Enact further legislations or regulations and policies to provide the necessary protection, support, and reintegration of victims according to international standards;**
- 15. Revise laws, policies and regulations in order not to contradict with the new anti-trafficking law. It is imperative to abolish the Artist Visa system applied on migrant women involved in the entertainment business and the Sponsorship system applied to migrant domestic workers as both systems are in clear contradiction with the anti-trafficking law 164 and they both facilitate the trafficking of thousands of women annually to Lebanon and leaves them under the control of their employers for the duration of their contract;**
- 16. Train of judges, lawyers, and law enforcement officials as a necessary step to ensure awareness of the new law and build the capacities of these individuals on how to identify and support victims of trafficking;**
- 17. Pursue seriously and vigilantly the violations of the rights of workers and initiate legal proceedings against offenders including employers and placement agencies.**

## **II. Economic and Social rights of Women:**

18. What is obviously clear from the previous decades of the political ruling is the absence of a national development vision and strategy and the widespread corruption. Women were exposed to the worst acts of discrimination, and no sufficient attention was paid in the field of reform and legislative process, which were reflected in violations of all aspects of woman's life. It is worth noting that the families headed by women are the most damaged populations in Lebanon (more than 120 thousand people<sup>6</sup>). The economic, social, and cultural pressures placed on women largely affect any progress on both political and civil fronts.

19. The rate of woman participation in the labor market is still equivalent to 22.8% compared to 70.5% of men<sup>7</sup>. In addition, the income gap widens between men and women in some economic sectors and it sometimes reaches 38% in the transport and communication sector<sup>8</sup>.

20. In order to achieve a fair partnership, it is important to ensure the integration of women in planning and development policies, in addition to providing the essential funding to achieve the desired goals. Hence, it is necessary to focus on budgets and ensure that the latter takes into consideration a gender approach.<sup>9</sup> The budget is not just a tool to follow up the implementation of programs, but it is also a political, economic, and financial document that reflects the

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<sup>6</sup> CRI, World Bank and MoSA, "Post Conflict Social and Live hoods Assessment in Lebanon", 2007.

<sup>7</sup> ESCWA, "Survey of economic and social development in the Arab World", p.34, available at: [http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E\\_ESCWA\\_EDGD\\_14\\_3\\_A.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_EDGD_14_3_A.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Central Administration of Statistics, "the reality of women in Lebanon in numbers", available at: [http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/Gender\\_statistics/Status%20of%20Women%20in%20Lebanon\\_Dr.%20Maral%20Tutelian.pdf](http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/Gender_statistics/Status%20of%20Women%20in%20Lebanon_Dr.%20Maral%20Tutelian.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> ANND, "Millennium Development Goals: Guide for Parliamentarians", p.66.



orientation of the public policies and the extent of its fairness towards some community groups and; the concept of gender budgeting.

**Recommendation:**

- 21. Integrate the needs of both, women and men in the strategies, budgets, planning, and national programs on the basis of equality, classification of information, data, and statistics on the basis of gender;**
- 22. Adopt budgets that contribute in ensuring gender equality which also contributes in the reformulation of the content of sustainable development policies.**

**1. Right to work:**

23. Lebanese Labor Law was issued in 1946 as the basis for all the subsequent laws related to labor, workers, and work emergency. The Labor Law established general provisions related to men and women together; such as, specifying working hours, employment, vacations, and dismissal. It also adopted special texts to protect women and children; among it comes the protection of women from working in some harmful industries, prohibiting night work, and the times of rest.
24. The Labor Law has excluded from its provisions and protection some significant categories of workers, i.e. domestic workers, and workers in rural areas who did not join institutions, and the majority of them are women.
25. The Labor Law was not subjected to many amendments although it was issued in 1946, but for some few times. In addition, there is no legal text incriminating sexual harassment at work.

**Recommendations:**

- 26. Ratification of all international agreements concerning working women issued by the International Labor Organization, including: Convention No.156 concerning equal opportunities, Convention No. 103 concerning motherhood, Conventions No. 102, 175, 177 concerning domestic workers, implementation of Articles 11, 12, 13, 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women whose articles were ratified without any reservations;**
- 27. Ratify by the government of the Arab Labor Convention No. 5 concerning working women issued by the Arab League;**
- 28. Separate woman's protection from juvenile's protection and modernizing them both because of the difference in the reason behind the protection;**
- 29. Provide the means of care: compulsory correlation between nurseries and institutions, prepared meals, etc.;**
- 30. Allow farmers' and domestic workers to benefit from the provisions of the Labor Law (amendment or cancelling Article 7);**

**31. Monitor the implementation of laws issued to the interest of working women and finding sanctions upon refraining from implementation.**

**2. The Right to Education**

32. Public education is still far from the quality of private education and the fact that it is not coping with the modern techniques and methodologies and their content leads citizens to prefer private education. Nevertheless, the private education is mostly pertaining to sectarian or religious institutions which does not lead to build a civic culture and does not improve the perception of the role of women in the society.

**Recommendations:**

**33. Adopt policies to improve the quality of the free public education in all its stages;**

**34. Develop curriculum and benefit from the international educational expertise which promotes for gender equality and calls for active women participation, in addition to popularizing education that is adequate to the status of mothers or elder women.**

**3. Social Security Law:**

35. The Social Security Law constitutes a major hindrance to women empowerment and limits the women to the traditional role as a “house keeper”. The current state encourages the employer to push woman to resign after her marriage to avoid paying compensations and maternity leaves. In fact, the law obliges the employer, not the Social Security Fund, to pay the whole maternity leave salary which means that the employers will refrain from employing women in Lebanon.

36. It should be noted that the law limits the beneficiaries to the “legitimate” wife and the “legitimate” children, thus representing a marginalization of children born outside marriage.

37. Section 2 of Article 16 states that in order, for a women worker or a member of her family, to benefit from the contributions of maternity, she must be affiliated to the social security for at least 10 months before the presumed date of birth. This is an unjustified additional condition, knowing that a secured worker’s wife could benefit from the same contribution just 3 months after her husband start working.

**Recommendations:**

**38. Unification of maternity leave to be also compatible with the international provisions;**

**39. Putting the burden of the salary of the female worker upon the National Social Security Fund during the maternity leave;**

**40. Ensuring that women and their families obtain all social insurances and the full implementation of Article 26.**

### **III. Refugee rights in Lebanon:**

41. Women refugees in Lebanon suffer from discrimination and serious violations resulting from her status as a refugee accumulated to the already existing discrimination against women in Lebanon. This situation requires Lebanon to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights to refugees specially through:

#### **Recommendation:**

**42. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Refugees and the Casablanca Protocol which guarantees non-discrimination between refugees and citizens in civil rights.**

#### **1. Palestinian women refugees**

43. The Palestinian women refugee is still facing major human rights violations. They are placed under the scrutiny of the UNRWA which is affiliated to the United Nations; however Lebanese laws and regulations affect to a large degree their livelihood. Among the many violations, these can be cited:

44. Problems related to acquiring the Lebanese nationality by the Palestinian married to a Lebanese.

45. Problems concerning the right to movement notably for Palestinian women coming from Syria. The regulatory measures in the Declaration of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities dating 12/31/2014 hinders the ability of her husband and children to get from Syria to Lebanon as it is the case for a Palestinian refugee husband in Lebanon.

46. The Palestinian woman refugee worker is deprived of the totality of the social security rights knowing that, and as a Lebanese collaborator, she pays all fees to social security fund.

47. Issues relative to the obstacles for acquiring the right to property for a foreigner married to a Palestinian refugee woman.

48. Law 293/2014 on "the protection of women and other family members from domestic violence" ensures protection for women in their families. However, the weakness of procedural justice in Lebanon and its absence in the camps, as well as customs and traditions which controls the Palestinian communities, are preventing asylum refugee women to access justice and deny them protection and enjoyment of their human rights.

#### **Recommendations:**

**49. Amend law 128/2010 and issue executive decrees to allow Palestinian refugees to enjoy the full rights of employees in the Social Security and especially to ensure maternity leave to the Palestinian refugee worker;**

**50. Strengthen the Lebanese State procedural justice, to include the camps, in order to protect the Palestinian refugees;**

**51. Eliminate the obstacles hindering the ability of a foreigner married to a Palestinian refugee to register a property.**

## **2. Syrian women refugees:**

52. Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis (nearly three years) Syrian refugees started flowing to Lebanon to flee from war. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, they reached a total of 1,184,323<sup>10</sup> which is equivalent to the third of the Lebanese population and they are randomly distributed along the Lebanese regions. Women comprise 52.5% of the total number of refugees in Lebanon, and they are exposed to various forms of violence and exploitation. The failure of Lebanon to join the Convention on the Rights of Refugees does not negate the responsibility of the state towards the refugees found on its territory in terms of acknowledging their rights and providing them with the proper shelter and protection.

53. There is no place considered safe to the female refugees whether in the private or public places, there is rise in the levels of sexual violence where they are exposed to daily harassment as they walk in the streets to use the toilets inside the camps which do not provide them with separate units, in addition to the harassment attempts in the places of aid distribution<sup>11</sup>.

54. Female refugees in Lebanon are suffering from serious health cases<sup>12</sup>, including an increase in premature birth rates and its complications represented by acute bleeding and weakening of the immunity. This is a result of the lack of receiving any care prior to the birth upon their arrival to Lebanon due to the inability of the health sector to provide necessary services (insufficient financial resources).

### **Recommendations**

**55. Establish camps that provide proper shelter and respects the physical and health needs of women;**

**56. Ensure full coordination between the Lebanese government and donors to ensure equal access for refugees to health services;**

**57. Ensure contract of the Ministry of Health with some special hospitals to provide equal medical services to all refugees.**

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<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, "Syria Regional refugee response", available at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>. [last accessed on March 15 2015]

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR, "Woman alone; the fight for survival by Syria's refugee women", available at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/53be84aa4.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Yale University, "Study details health problems faced by displaced Syrian Women in Lebanon", February 20 2014, available at: <http://bbs.yale.edu/about/article.aspx?id=6920>.