

Equality without Reservation

Statement regarding the recent developments in Egypt

July 2013

“Equality without Reservation Coalition” (EWRC), a coalition of feminist organizations from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia Jordan and Bahrain, welcomes the revival of the Egyptian Revolution of January 2013 and the mobilization of millions of Egyptian women and men calling for the departure of President Mohammed Morsi as the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has proven to have shifted from the initial objectives and demands of the revolution.

Equality without Reservation Coalition perceives the experience of the Muslim Brotherhood in their exercise of power throughout last year as being marred by the following:

- Coopting state institutions and excluding many essential elements of Egyptian society;
- Failing to fulfill the promises made especially at the level of economic rights with a rapid deterioration of economic indicators as well as a dangerous deterioration in the livelihoods and wellbeing of the Egyptian people;
- Blatant disregard to civil rights especially the rights of women who have been excluded from decision making processes;
- Increasing forms of discrimination, violation and abuse targeting women, minorities and media representatives;
- Absence of any economic vision and an increasing trend towards external debts;
- Pursuing pro-American, pro-Western and pro-Israeli policies in the region.

As such, the Egyptian people had no choice but to resume its peaceful revolution and call again for freedom, dignity, equality and social justice.

Equality without Reservation Coalition maintains that the priorities of this moment in time is to work towards the building of a civil state and the rule of law as well as the realization of political, civil, social and economic rights to women and men whilst guaranteeing full equality and social justice for both women and men. Equality without Reservation also notes the urgent need to develop a clear new social and economic vision for Egypt and that will enable future governments to adopt effective and transparent policies to combat poverty, unemployment as well as to secure equality. The state building process must be based on participation and consultation without any form of exclusion and so to enable Egyptian women and men as well as all elements of society to discuss and debate all social projects that are available and make the best choices that will secure equality, justice and dignity.

Finally, **Equality without Reservation Coalition** would like to emphasize the importance of adhering to the international conventions and instruments as fundamentals of legislations that guarantee the rights of women as well as the putting in place of mechanisms which will allow women to effectively participate in constitutional reform processes.