



## Statement in Conjunction with Launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign

Let us all unite for the future that women in Yemen deserve

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

November 25, 2024

In conjunction with the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign, the Justice for Yemen Pact Coalition expresses its pride in the courage of Yemeni women. Their ten years of resilience in the face of harsh conditions continues to inspire us to stand strong, urging us to work diligently to combat forms of violence directed at women. Those involved in the conflict, and any individuals exercising violence against women, must recognize that such behavior will face consequences, and that the struggle of Yemeni women for their rights will not be in vain.

Despite the harsh realities and challenges in attaining guaranteed rights, our gathering is a steadfast commitment to support women's rights and a renewed occasion to oppose all forms of violence against them, as well as a commitment to the path advocating for equality and equal opportunities for all Yemeni women.

The violence inflicted on women over the past decade is indescribable and unbearable. It constitutes blatant violations of human rights and international charters ratified by Yemen, including international humanitarian law. The armed conflict has exacerbated instances of violence against women across various dimensions. According to the UN-affiliated Civilian Impact Monitoring Project in Yemen, among the 17,192 victims whose victimization was documented between January 1, 2018, and March 3, 2024, 1,757 constituted women who were either killed or injured. The SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties reported over 5,000 violations against women from the beginning of the conflict until the end of 2022, including killings, physical injuries, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and torture, perpetrated by parties involved in the conflict. It further noted that during the period from 2014 to 2022, at least 168 women were killed and 219 were injured solely due to mines.

Reports indicate that women in Yemen face unprecedented levels of gender-based violence. The UN Security Council's Group of Experts stated in their reports that Yemen remains the worst place in the world for women. According to a 2023 study by CARE International, approximately 63% of women in Yemen have experienced violence since the war began, including domestic violence. Additionally, more than 60,000 Yemeni women are at risk of sexual and psychological violence. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) added that 7.1 million women urgently require access to gender-based violence services.



The conflict has led to the deterioration of the economic situation, with a dramatic increase in poverty and unemployment rates. Families suffer from a lack of basic resources, which exacerbates pressure on women and increases instances of violence. According to the United Nations, today in Yemen, an estimated 18 million people need humanitarian assistance, over half of whom are girls and women.

The crisis of violence against women intersects with other pandemics, such as the impact of war and climate change. In this sense, women in Yemen pay a double toll by becoming displaced and/or shouldering the responsibility of caring for their families. According to UNFPA, around 80% of the 4.5 million internally displaced persons in Yemen are women and children, with women supporting a quarter of displaced families.

In the context of conflict and the fragility of state institutions, gender-based attacks against women on social platforms have increased and become harsher with participation from religious leaders and influencers. These take the forms of incitement, violence, intimidation, and digital attacks. The inaction of authorities in taking adequate measures to protect women's rights to privacy in digital spaces or to provide justice for survivors, as reported by Amnesty International, exacerbates this situation.

Yemeni women aspire to exercise their guaranteed rights, yet the traditional patriarchal system obstructs this. The unstable political situation has given rise to many armed groups, all agreeing on further violence against women, especially against those working in civil society. At least four women remain detained by the Ansar Allah (Houthi) authority in Sana'a. All authorities impose a guardianship system on women. In the political sphere, there is a systematic exclusion of women practiced by all authorities along with political parties and political entities. Women have been excluded from ministerial positions in the recognized government, as has been the case with Houthi positions in Sana'a. Women's leadership and participation in the public sector and in formal and informal paid work is notably low, with their participation not exceeding 6.2%, according to official statistics in 2022. This situation perpetuates further violence against women and the marginalization of women.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign is an opportunity to highlight the suffering of women in Yemen and to urge the international community to take effective actions to protect and support them. Ending violence against women is not just a demand; it is a fundamental human right. Let us unite for the future that women in Yemen deserve. Let us work together to amplify the voices of girls and women, shed light on the violations they face, and emphasize the necessity of strengthening protective mechanisms for them.



The Justice for Yemen Pact Coalition calls upon:

- The parties to the conflict, institutions, and individuals to cease violence against women and girls.
- The enhancement of national mechanisms to protect women and girls from various discriminatory social practices.
- A comprehensive response to the needs of women, which include providing psychological and social support for affected women, promoting awareness and education programs on women's rights, supporting organizations that serve abused women, and providing protection mechanisms for women working in civil society.
- The implementation of accountability measures to hold perpetrators of violence against women during the conflict accountable.

**Signatory organizations:**

1. Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (Rasd Coalition)
2. Musaalah Organization
3. Al-Amal Cultural and Social Women's Foundation
4. Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development
5. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
6. Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children
7. Center for Economic Studies and Media
8. Human Rights Monitoring Organization
9. Association of Mothers of Abductees Organization
10. SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
11. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations
12. The National Organization of Yemeni Reporters SADA
13. The Green oasis
14. Nada Alliance (Regional Democratic Women's Alliance)
15. National women's committee\_ Taiz