



## Yemeni Women in the Face of Conflict and Climate Change

### Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

March 8, 2025

On International Women’s Day, we honor the resilience of Yemeni women who continue to endure unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing conflict and the worsening humanitarian, economic, and climate crises.

Amid years of war, women bear the heaviest burdens, exacerbated by the accelerating impacts of climate change, which have created a catastrophic reality. This has led to a rise in gender-based violence, harassment, and sexual exploitation. The Center for Strategic Studies in Support of Women and Children (CSWC) and the Al-Amal Cultural and Social Foundation for Women (AWSF)—both members of the **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition**—[documented 30 cases](#) of gender-based violence between 2022 and 2023. Furthermore, AWSF [documented](#) 180 violations against 117 human rights defenders between 2021 and 2024 across four governorates, including arbitrary detentions, threats, and online harassment.

Beyond these violations, women also face severe livelihood insecurity and systemic marginalization, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated local and international efforts to ensure justice and strengthen their roles in society.

The **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition** urges the Yemeni government and conflict parties to take immediate action to support and empower women, address their urgent needs, and harness their potential in rebuilding the country, while eliminating discrimination and violence against them.

### The Status of Yemeni Women Amid Conflict

Yemen ranks at the bottom of the [Global Gender Gap Index](#), according to the World Economic Forum, with severe restrictions imposed on women’s freedom of movement. The Houthi authorities have enforced policies prohibiting women [from traveling without a male guardian](#) ”Mahram”, significantly curtailing their participation in public life and undermining their independence.

[Reports](#) indicate that the ongoing conflict has exacerbated poverty and unemployment, leading to a surge in gender-based violence. More than 80% of the population now depends on humanitarian aid. Displaced women, in particular, face heightened risks of violence and exploitation due to the absence of adequate protection and resources.

### Escalating Violations Against Women

Women working in civil society organizations are increasingly targeted, [facing arbitrary arrests and abductions by Houthi forces](#). The marginalization of women in this sector further complicates their ability to continue their work, exposing them to ongoing threats and violence.

Additionally, [water insecurity](#) remains a critical concern, particularly for women and girls, who are primarily responsible for water collection. This forces them to spend long hours commuting to access water sources, increasing their [exposure to various risks](#) and limiting their access to education and



economic opportunities. As climate change continues to disrupt rural communities and diminish agricultural productivity, [early marriage and gender-based violence are likely to escalate](#).

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), [more than 32,000 people in Yemen](#) have been affected since the beginning of this year by the ongoing conflict and climate-related disasters. [Reports](#) indicate that climate change will further intensify the suffering of women and girls, increasing risks of violence due to displacement and loss of livelihoods, while deepening protection concerns. Women remain significantly underrepresented in political and climate decision-making processes, with limited resources allocated to support them in relief and development efforts. Additionally, entrenched societal norms continue to perpetuate the marginalization of women in crisis response and recovery initiatives.

### **Urgent Recommendations for Advancing Women’s Rights in Yemen**

The **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition** calls on the Yemeni government, conflict parties, and the international community to:

- Strengthen women’s participation in peace processes and negotiations by implementing a mandatory quota for women in legislative and negotiation bodies.
- Support local women-led organizations in advocating for women’s rights and enhancing their leadership in society.
- Enforce and implement legislation to combat gender-based violence and ensure comprehensive protection for survivors.
- Facilitate women’s access to economic resources and opportunities to secure their financial independence and economic security.
- Integrate women into climate and development policymaking to mitigate the impact of climate change on rural communities.
- Ensure the protection of women human rights defenders and safeguard them from arbitrary detention, harassment, and persecution.

On this International Women’s Day, we emphasize the urgent need for concrete actions to protect Yemeni women from violence and exploitation, ensure their full participation in decision-making, and build a future rooted in justice, equality, and sustainability.

### **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition Members:**

- **SAM for Rights and Liberties**
- **The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)**
- **Watch4HR (Rasd Human Rights Foundation)**
- **Abductees’ Mothers Association (AMA)**
- **Al-Amal Cultural and Social Foundation for Women (AWSF)**



Justice4Yemen Pact  
ميثاق العدالة لليمن



- **Center for Strategic Studies in Support of Women and Children (CSWC)**
- **Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism**
- **Mareb Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF)**
- **Studies& Economic Media Center (SEMC)**
- **Musaala for Human Rights**