



Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Yemen

Statement on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

Yemen – 25 November 2025

Amid the ongoing armed conflict and the worsening humanitarian crisis in Yemen, the Justice4Yemen Pact (J4YP) Coalition renews its firm call to end all forms of gender-based violence and ensure protection and dignity for women and girls, who continue to bear a disproportionate share of the conflict's burden and consequences.

The following facts summarize a painful reality:

- According to data from the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#), more than **6.2 million women and girls** in Yemen are at risk of gender-based violence, while over **90% of rural areas lack adequate prevention and response services**.
- Nearly **80% of the 4.8 million internally displaced persons** are women and children, leaving displaced women in environments highly vulnerable to violence and exploitation.
- The **assassination of Aftahan Al-Mashhari**, Director of the Cleaning and Environmental Improvement Fund in Taiz governorate, on **18 September 2025**, in Sanan Square, reflects the alarming threats faced by women leaders in Yemen.
- Cases of **arbitrary arrests of women working with UN agencies in Sana'a**, as well as incidents of **rape and murder of women and girls** — documented across several governorates — further illustrate the ongoing violations.
- Between **2023 and 2024, 115 cases of online blackmail** targeting women [were recorded](#), with victims facing threats and coercion over the internet.
- **Women continue to be marginalized in decision-making**, holding **less than 5% of leadership positions** in the public sector — a stark reminder of the gap between participation and empowerment.

This grim reality compels urgent action. We therefore call upon all individuals, institutions, and stakeholders to rally around this urgent message and reaffirm the following:

- Violence against women is not an individual tragedy but a **societal issue** that requires a **national and international response**.



- The marginalization and exclusion of women from ministerial positions and peace and security processes **deprives society of half its potential**.
- **Online blackmail and institutional discrimination** are extensions of systematic oppression and suppression of women in both real and virtual spaces.

The Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition calls upon:

First: At the national level (government and local authorities)

1. Establish **specialized female protection units** in every governorate, directly linked to the Public Prosecutor's Office, and staffed with female professionals trained to handle cases of gender-based violence.
2. **Expand and activate safe shelters** and provide **free psychological and legal support** to survivors of violence, particularly in rural and displaced communities.
3. **Integrate issues of gender-based violence** into local security and development plans and recognize them as **community security priorities**, not secondary social issues.
4. Enact **strict legislation** to combat **online harassment and blackmail** and create a **cyber-monitoring unit** to protect women from digital violence.
5. **Ensure female participation in decision-making** at no less than **30%** in state institutions and local bodies in line with international equality standards.
6. Establish a **national accountability mechanism** for violations against women in leadership positions and guarantee their **legal and security protection** while performing their duties.
7. We call on the **Taiz Security Committee** and the **Public Prosecutor's Office** to **publicly release the results of the investigation** into the assassination of Aftahan Al-Mashhari and to hold the perpetrators accountable without delay. Continued silence and delay erode public trust in justice and perpetuate **impunity**.

Second: At the international level (United Nations and international donors)

8. **Redirect funding to protection and accountability programs** (not only humanitarian relief projects) to ensure the sustainability of gender-based violence interventions.



9. **Exert diplomatic pressure** on all parties to the conflict to **immediately release all arbitrarily detained women** and to ensure **independent investigations** into violations against female staff of international organizations.
10. **Ensure effective participation of women** in all stages of peace negotiations and political transition, in accordance with **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**.
11. **Support independent and female-led media initiatives** to expose violations and promote a culture of accountability and justice for victims.

Third: At the local level (civil society and the media)

12. Launch **nationwide awareness campaigns** against gender-based violence, rooted in cultural and Islamic values that uphold **dignity and justice**.
13. **Enhance cooperation** among civil society organizations, lawyers, and journalists to document violations, and build a **reliable national database** on violence against women.
14. **Engage men and youth** in awareness and advocacy programs to transform social behaviors that perpetuate violence and discrimination.

In Conclusion

Signing this statement is not a symbolic act, but a genuine step of solidarity toward a **more just and safer future** for every woman in Yemen.

Let us all be **voices for the voiceless**, and a **force to eliminate violence** from their lives.

Their freedom, their safety, their future — human rights, not privileges.

25 November 2025

Signatories:

- Yemeni Coalition for the Monitoring of Human Rights Violations
- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children
- Studies and Economic Media Center
- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
- Abductees' Mothers Association
- Watch for Human Rights Organization
- SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties



- Musaala Organization
- Al-Amal for women and Sociocultural Foundation
- Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development