

# Ensuring Women's Inclusion in the Process for Drafting the Libyan Constitution

Twenty-six Libyan civil society activists representing five cities across Libya's three regions gathered in Tripoli to discuss women's role in drafting and ratifying the Libyan constitution. They reviewed international processes for drafting constitutions in transitioning states, discussed Libyan realities and interests, and devised recommendations to ensure meaningful inclusion of women in the drafting of the Libyan constitution. The following outlines the group's stated objectives and the related actions they propose the Libyan government and international community take to ensure an inclusive and representative constitutional drafting process.

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## **Objective 1: Fair representation of women on the Constitutional Commission and Secretariat**

*We respectfully request the GNC:*

- Institute a quota of no less than 35 percent women on the Constitutional Commission.
- Appoint, rather than elect, Commissioners with the understanding that this method will be more conducive to ensuring meaningful representation of women.
- Work with civil society to achieve broad support for fair representation of women on the Commission, particularly with collaboration from the female GNC members on the Committees of Social Affairs, Civil Society, and Human Rights.
- Ensure no less than 35 percent representation of women in the Commission's Secretariat, with them represented on each committee formed.
- Include a gender expert on the staff of the Commission's Secretariat.

*We respectfully request the Prime Minister and his Cabinet:*

- Use media, social affairs, and cultural programming to raise public support for women's participation on the Commission by explaining why their inclusion is important.
- Make specific mention of the importance of women's inclusion in public speeches on the constitutional drafting process.

*We respectfully request the international community—including the United Nations, European Union, foreign governments, and International NGOs:*

- Express their support, through letters to the GNC and during diplomatic engagements, for women's representation on the Commission.
- Ensure diplomatic engagements with the GNC include strong encouragement to adhere to a quota for women on the Constitutional Commission.

**Objective 2: Women on the Constitutional Commission are advocates who can effectively represent larger female constituencies**

*We respectfully request the GNC:*

- Hold consultations with civil society in each region during which it will nominate women capable of serving on the Constitutional Commission.

**Objective 3: Women on the Constitutional Commission and in civil society are prepared to participate meaningfully in the constitutional drafting process**

*We respectfully request the GNC:*

- Fund training for Commissioners on constitutional drafting processes, constitutional law, and how to be effective commissioners.

*We respectfully request the international community—including the United Nations, European Union, foreign governments, and International NGOs:*

- Train women in rural areas, particularly along the border, on the constitutional process, with an emphasis on why women's inclusion is important.
- Train female Commissioners on constitutional drafting processes, constitutional law, and how to be effective commissioners.

**Objective 4: The Constitutional Commission is informed of how other countries have drafted constitutions, with a focus on how women were meaningfully included**

*We respectfully request the international community—including the United Nations, European Union, foreign governments, and International NGOs:*

- Produce brief summaries of global case studies, including lessons learned, and have them translated into Arabic for broad dissemination within the GNC and civil society.
- Facilitate exchanges between individuals who have participated in successful constitutional drafting processes in other countries and the Constitutional Commissioners.

**Objective 5: The Constitutional Commissioners are held accountable to civil society**

*We respectfully request the GNC:*

- Establish a formal observer body made up of civil society with an official mandate to monitor the Commission's deliberations.
- Ensure transparency of the negotiations over the content of the constitution by allowing media to cover the negotiations and disseminate information publicly.
- Make mandatory the seeking and review of public input on draft articles of the constitution by the Commission prior to finalizing the text.