

# The Role of Women in Peace Building

Descriptive Study



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[www.yemeninformation.org](http://www.yemeninformation.org)

E-mail: [YIC@yemeninformation.org](mailto:YIC@yemeninformation.org)

Sana'a office: 967 - 1- 216282 / Aden office: 772415913/ Ibb office: 04- 426502

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## **Executive Summary:**

Women's participation at the economic and political levels faces many challenges and obstacles, which vary in terms of cultural formation and social development in different societies. Great hopes are currently attached to the role of women in promoting and consolidating the culture of peace. The current report focused on several key points: The concept of peace and its dimensions, women's empowerment and its fields, realistic experiences of women's support for peace, women and their participation in peace negotiations, Yemeni women and peacebuilding, in addition to the peace values among Yemeni women. The report also concluded several key points which should be taken into consideration: Determining the role that women are required to play in the field of peace, finding solutions to challenges and obstacles, which limit and restrict women's active role in general, and focusing on community awareness campaigns on the importance of the role of women.

**Keywords:** Peace, women's empowerment.

## Introduction:

Peace was and still a dream of humankind, and millions of people aspire to achieve it regardless of their races and groups. Many peoples of the world have suffered because of wars, conflicts, and violence to the point that peace has become nearly unachievable, especially in the current conditions witnessed by peoples. Furthermore, there is an obvious increase in the rates of conflict and violence in all of its forms, despite the growing awareness of the unity of human destiny and the importance of living in peace, considering that as an important condition of development and prosperity<sup>1</sup>.

It is important to observe women's roles in the field of peace, in order to identify their position in this field of people's lives. The reports and studies indicated that enhancing the women's active participation in the efforts to bring about peace, and preventing the outbreak of conflicts is among the main priorities of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and Peace Building. This issue emerged first on the Security Council's agenda in 2000, with the Security Council's adoption of the Resolution 1325 that is related to women, peace and security. However, despite commitments and initiatives at the regional and global levels, the number of women participating in official peacemaking remains low. Moreover, many peace agreements lack provisions related to gender considerations, as they do not adequately meet the needs of women in the areas of security and peace building<sup>2</sup>.

In 2016, the Department of Political and Peace building Affairs established a stand-alone gender, peace and security unit that oversees the department's implementation of the women's peace and security action plan. The relevant unit develops policies and builds the capacity of staff in the Department of Political and Peace Building Affairs. In addition, it supports its staff at missions and headquarters to implement Security Council resolutions related to women, peace, security and conflict-related sexual violence.

In 2000, the Security Council adopted the 1325 Resolution on Women and Peace, which was presented to the Security Council by a diverse and geographically representative coalition of the Member States such as Bangladesh, Nigeria, Namibia, Canada and Jamaica, as well as an important base of women's civil society organizations worldwide. This is considered as the first resolution of the Security Council that links women to peace and security plan, in addition to dealing with the impacts of war on

1- نزيهة أحمد التركي، دور المرأة في دعم السلام، الحوار المتمدن، العدد (2888) 2010

2- الشؤون السياسية وبناء السلام، الأمم المتحدة.

women and their contribution to conflict resolution as well as achieving sustainable peace<sup>3</sup>.

Hence, women possess unique abilities that enable them to join efforts that promote peace. Besides, women have their moral privacy, they are the main victims of war, and they are responsible for preserving life during wartime. Since they are the most affected and the weakest party in the society's power relations, they have a real interest in achieving peace and stability in their life. The resolution 1325 comes to direct its provisions to all women in the international body's member states, which gives them doubled strength. Therefore, if it used properly and the women's wills are united, whether they live in countries and regions of armed conflict, or in countries that enjoy freedom and peace.

The decision also opens the way for joint work between women from various countries in accordance with the common concerns and sufferings among women, allowing and enabling women as individuals or institutions to establish women's organizations for joint work, and in a way that contributes to raising a unified women's voice around the world to achieve a just peace<sup>4</sup>.

## Research problem:

Women have a special status and importance in the society's life, due to the vital role they play at the level of the family and society, as a mother, wife, housewife and worker. However, they face many challenges and sufferings in order to obtain their rights, especially those who participate with men on the economic and political levels.

The question that arises in our minds is what role can women in general play in promoting peace in societies? Are they up to the task, given the complexity and sensitivity of the conflicts and its issues?

## The Research Importance:

The importance of the study stems from the great importance of women in general, and in the locality of peace in particular, and as they are the main pillars of society who may contribute to peace and build the social fabric through their developmental role and social peace promotion.

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3- موقع الأمم المتحدة.

4- المرأة وصناعة السلام في العالم، أكتوبر/ 2010 <https://www.radiosawa.com>

## **Research Objectives:**

The study's major objective is to determine the extent to which women contribute to the social peace process.

This will be accomplished through defining women's roles and contributions to the peace process, as well as studying the reality that women face in the field of peace on all economic, social, educational, cultural, and political levels.

## **Research Methodology:**

The descriptive approach used in this study is based on an objective description of the phenomena being examined, with the goal of obtaining the necessary facts and information about women and their required role in supporting and building peace areas.

## **Research community and sample:**

The research community is represented in women in general, and its sample has been identified in Yemeni women in particular, given the special and exceptional circumstances that they are going through in the current conditions, in addition to the special consequences and conditions that Yemeni women suffer because of conflict and war.

## **The First Topic:**

### **The Concept of Peace and its Dimensions**

## The concept of peace and its dimensions:

The concept of peace not merely limited on war, rather it encompasses several dimensions related to many issues, values, and concepts including, justice, respect for human rights, security, environmental protection, non-violence, freedom of opinion and expression, tolerance, solidarity, acceptance of the other, political participation, equality and non-discrimination. Furthermore, they are no longer restricted to the political meaning only, as they have now social, cultural, economic, security and environmental significance. On the other hand, there is a problem related to the relationship between three dimensions regarding the concept of peace including, the concept of peace itself, its definition, and working to achieve it.

If peace is defined as the avoidance of war, then all efforts will be focused on war, how do we prevent it, how do we control its course, how to stop it, and so on. These are strategies that are related to our definition of peace based on the absence of war, in case that we could prevent or stop war.

**Figure (1) illustrates the concept of peace and its multiple dimensions**



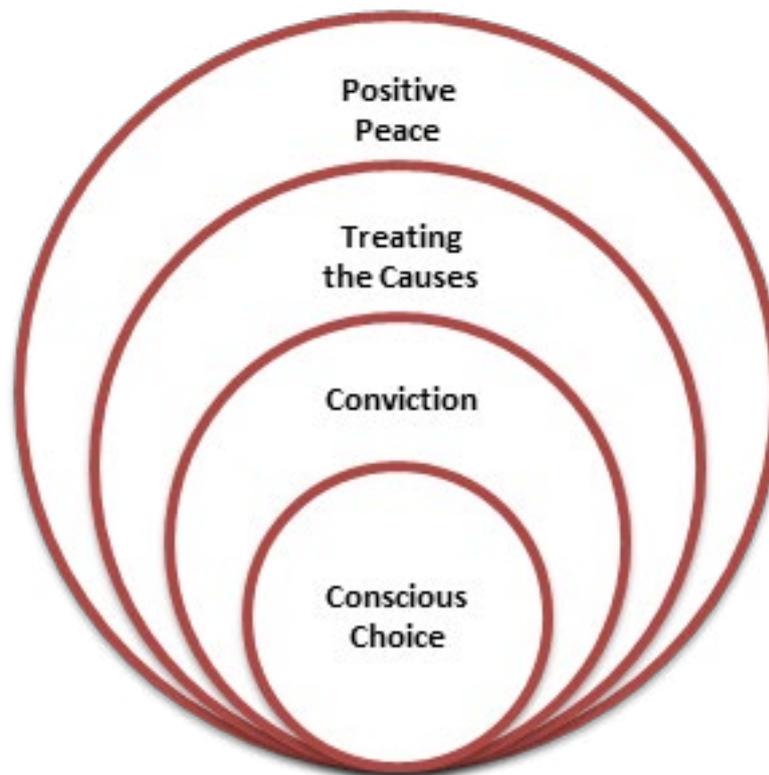
## Types of Peace:

Many researchers argue that peace in general has types, depending on its nature and style. For example, there are regional peace, local peace, and international peace, according to the geographical scope in which it is centered. While it is divided into negative and positive peace.

**Negative peace:** is the absence of violence in major human groupings as nations, states and between ethnic as well as racial groupings.

Positive peace, on the other hand, refers to a model of collaboration and integration amongst major human gatherings in the absence of violence, which creates a suitable reality for eliminating conflict causes, resolving disagreements, comprehending and accordingly developing the required peace. This means that negative peace is a prelude to positive peace and a condition for its achievement. Furthermore, positive peace is a result of the conscious choice based on the conviction of peace and a principled commitment to enabling and sustaining it. Negative peace, on the other hand, is based on compulsion caused by an inability or the lack of strong balance and fear of missing an interest. Therefore, positive peace is broader and more comprehensive in its meaning than just the absence of armed violence, as it is based on determination in addressing the causes of violence, and the desire to resolve conflicts by peaceful means<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure (2) shows the quality of peace based on awareness and conviction**



## **Women Empowerment:**

The process of empowering women means granting women their full rights to participate in the social, political and economic fields in any country, in \_\_\_\_\_

انظر: نزيهة أحمد التركي، دور المرأة في دعم السلام، مرجع سابق-5

## **The Second Topic:**

### **Women Empowerment and its Fields**

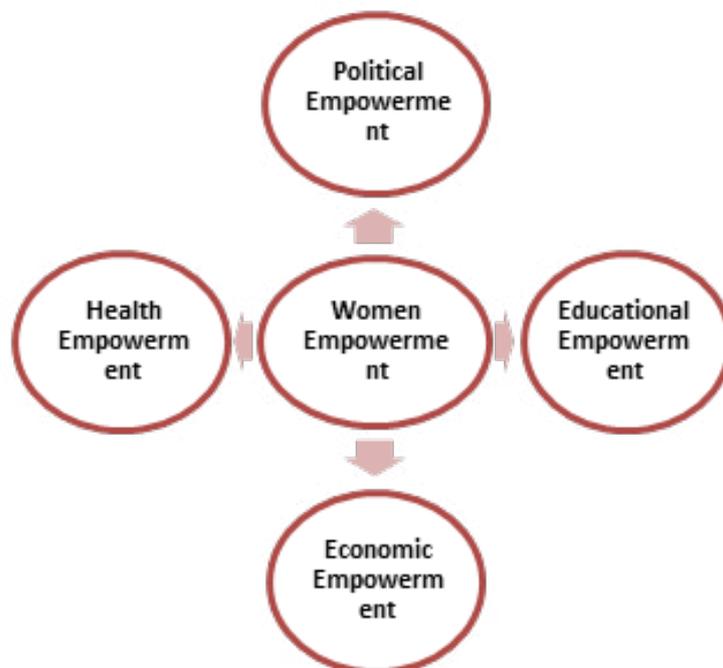
order to promote their effective and required role in achieving sustainable development<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, women's empowerment in general focuses on three main areas as follows:

- 1. Political field.**
- 2. Economic field.**
- 3. Societal field<sup>7</sup>.**

The need to empower women lies on the importance of integrating them into the development path, in addition to achieving women's strategic needs such as, the right to vote, candidacy, political participation, work, and education. Furthermore, there are studies that indicated the factors of Yemeni women's empowerment as follows:

- **Education Empowerment.**
- **Economic Empowerment.**
- **Political Empowerment.**
- **Health Empowerment.**

**Figure (3) shows the types of empowerments required for Arab and Yemeni women in particular**

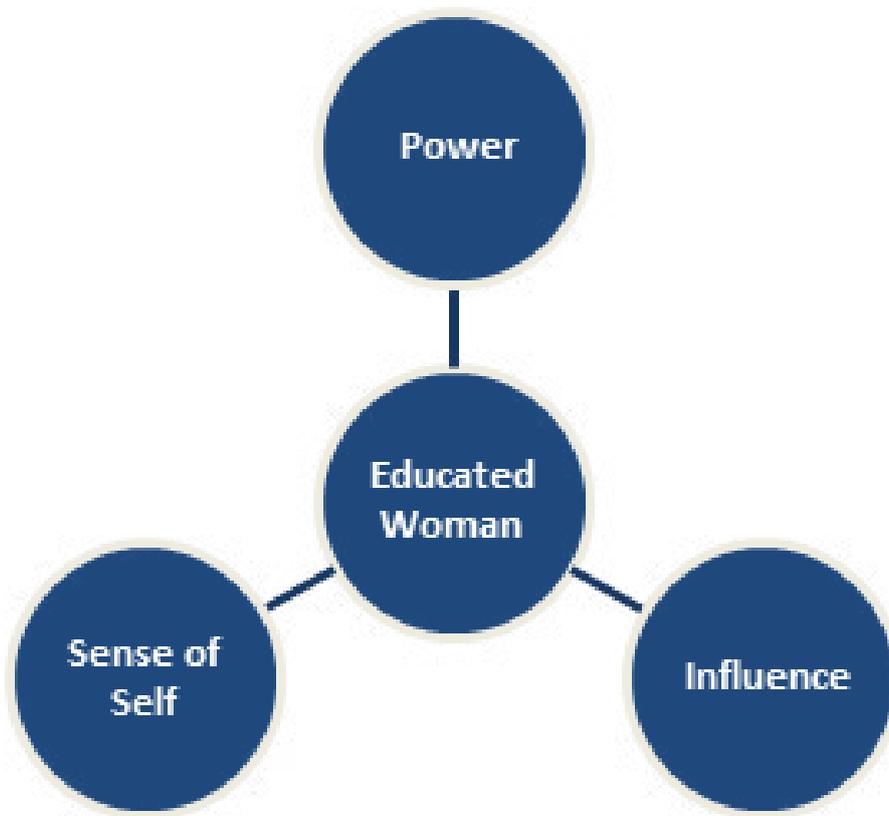


Education is one of the most fundamental pillars of empowering women in life, and empowerment involves having power, susceptibility to influence, and having a sense of self. As a result, inequality in this area represents an obstacle to both economic and

حنان شمالوي، ونهيل اسماعيل، محددات تمكين المرأة في الدول العربية، دراسات، مجلد 46، العدد ( 1 )، 2019-6  
محمد بوضياف، جامعة المسيلة، 201-7

social development.

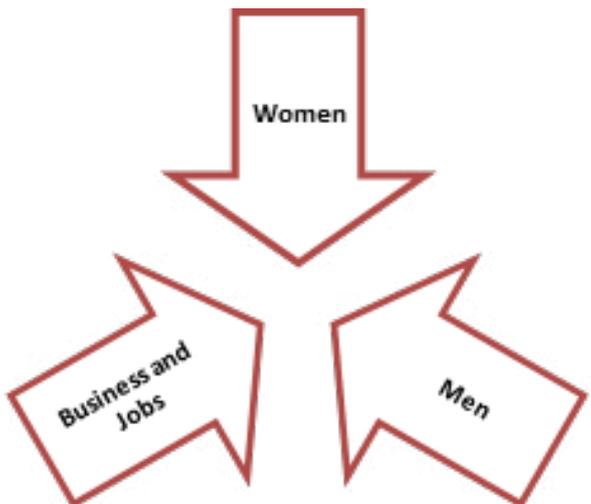
**Figure (4) illustrates the importance of education in empowering women within society**



Women empowerment is difficult in the fields of life, especially if they suffers from disease, physical weakness or fatigue, because their ability of productivity and tender are weak. Therefore, we should take care of their health, to ensure their important role in life.

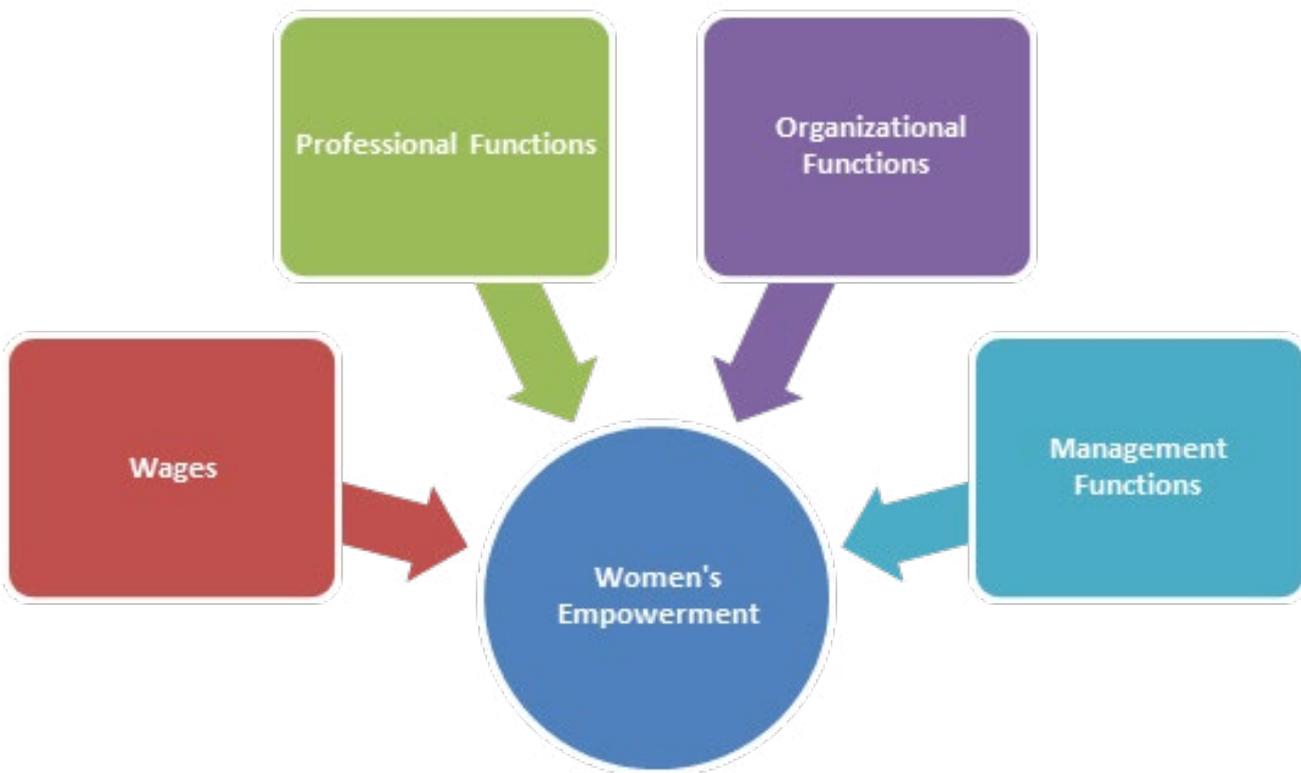
Economic empowerment of women is also an important pillar in achieving Yemeni women's empowerment, and without it, the desired comprehensive development in the reality of society will not be achieved, and according to many social researchers, this means equal proportional distribution between men and women in administrative, organizational, professional, and wage positions<sup>8</sup>. The following figure illustrate the balanced relationship between men and women in jobs and business:

**Figure (5) indicates the position of women and their role alongside men in jobs and businesses**



The preceding graphic shows the importance of women and their position in the workplace, as well as the various tasks that they perform in real life. Besides, it indicates that women are like men in terms of performance, giving and production, and without them it is difficult to find the required balance between them in this aspect.

**The following figure (6) shows the fields of functions that support women’s empowerment**



The previous figure also indicates the important functional areas in which women must be empowered, so that they can play the positive role entrusted to them in real life, and any deficiencies in these areas will be reflected in the empowerment demanded of them within the community.

## **The Third Topic:**

**Realistic Experiences of Women's  
Support for Peace**

## Realistic experiences on empowering women to support peace:

Justina Mike Ngobia, an employee at the Center for Global Dialogue in Nigeria, responded to the United Nations call, which aims to work on building the capacities of women leadership to prevent conflict, and to ensure their full and effective participation in peace processes. Ngobia believes that empowering women contributes widely to achieving global prosperity and putting an end to violent conflict. “Women constitute nearly half of the world’s population, and any society that ignores this great potential of human resources cannot achieve real development,” she said.

Conflict and instability have already affected women and girls disproportionately, even before the COVID-19 pandemic that hits the world. They also threatening to undermine security structures, escalating violence and human rights abuses. In light of this, the United Nations called on its member states to take special measures to protect women and girls from armed conflict, especially against gender-based violence, rape and all other forms of sexual abuses.

In light of these facts, Ngobia points out that conflict has different impacts on women than it does on men, as women in almost all parts of the world face threats to their lives and security due to their overwork, and their lack of power or influence. On the other hand, she believes that excluding women from peace processes will result in further inequality and conflict escalation. Therefore, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is a key policy document that recognized the importance of women’s involvement and participation in peace and security<sup>9</sup>.

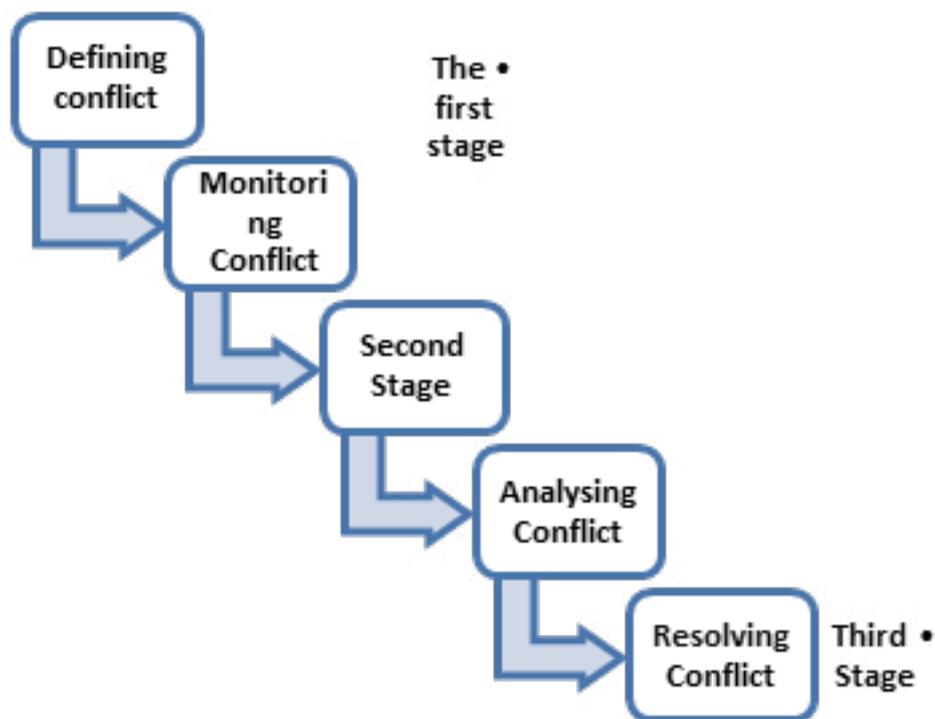
On September 7, 2007, the violence broke out between Christian and Muslim communities in Ngobia’s homeland of Jos city, which lasted about two weeks and resulting in the deaths of over a thousand people. Ngobia was working with the Nigerian Christian Council at that time to improve Christian-Islamic relations. She realized how crucial women’s roles are in preventing violence. Consequently, Ngobia continued her work over a decade to move women from the role of passive bystanders to the role of active and positive actors. She joined a group of brave women committed to healing the rifts of Nigeria’s divided Christian and Muslim communities.

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9- <https://www.kaiciid.org> تمكين المرأة خطوة حاسمة نحو تحقيق السلام، ٢٦ / ١١ / ٢٠٢١، ٩.

To achieve this, Ngobia collaborated with her female Muslim colleague, and they launched a program aimed at training Christian and Muslim women of how to prevent, monitor, analyze and mediate between conflicting parties. The multi-stage program contributed to training more than 300 women in Adwama, Kaduna, Plateau and Taraba states over five days<sup>10</sup>.

**Figure (7) indicates the stages taken by women in Africa to prevent conflict**



It is clear from the previous figure that women were able to participate in ending and preventing the conflict through several stages. The first stage focused on identifying and controlling the conflict between the parties. The second stage included the analysis and interpretation of the conflict process to reach logical solutions and treatments for it. The last stage, represented in resolving the conflict through mediation between the parties, and taking the possible measures to stop the conflict.

## Women in Peace Negotiations<sup>11</sup>:

This was the main focus of the round table meeting that was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 26, 2012, in which experts in mediation and peace operations participated, in addition to the participation of civil society activists with experience in the field of peacemaking.

تمكين المرأة خطوة حاسمة نحو تحقيق السلام، مرجع سابق-10

11- <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org> مشاركة المرأة في حل النزاعات وبناء السلام،

Therese Arnving, field coordinator of the Kvinna Tel Kvinna Foundation, and the organizer of the round table meeting, explained that the outcomes of the discussions will be shared with international bodies, donors and civil society as part of their efforts to bring about positive change. Among the experts participating in the meeting, Monica McWilliams, a professor at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, and one of the signatories to Belfast Agreement. Another expert is Paul Bremer, the former US presidential envoy to Iraq, and the responsible for coalition efforts to begin rebuilding shattered political and economic structures, in addition to Joyce Noy, the leader of the United Nations Reserve Mediation Expert Team. While ten women activists represent Civil society from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Liberia and the South Caucasus. The meeting was held according to Chatham House rules, which means that information can be used freely and without disclosing the identity of the speaker.

“We followed this method because we wanted the dialogue to be as open as possible. When the participants know that their words will not be transmitted, they can then speak more freely,” Therese added.

According to Annie Matondo Mbambi, one of the civil society participants and President of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, “I was delighted with this meeting, and I learned a lot about mediation, how to promote women’s participation, and how to apply a gender perspective in negotiations. She noted, “This information will certainly motivate us to have confidence in our capabilities, and to start negotiating for more seats for women during the peace process.”

## **Results of the round table meeting:**

The negotiating parties play an important role in deciding whether or not to engage women in negotiations. However, since these parties will likely implement the peace agreement, it is important not to force women to be involved. Rather, it is preferable that they volunteer at their own free will; otherwise, it will be difficult to implement the decisions reached.

According to the summary of the round table meeting's report, four key stimulants encourage women to participate in peace negotiations as follows:

### **Self-interest:**

It is by attempting to persuade the negotiating parties about forming a gender-balanced negotiating team that is fundamentally in their best interests. One of the arguments that can be used is that when democratic elections follow the peace agreement, women will make up about 50% of the electorate, implying that supporting women is a strategic move to ensure power.

Research findings show that more sustainable results can be achieved when civil society is involved in negotiations and applying gender perspective in agreements.

### **Financial Incentives:**

Funding can be used as an incentive for the negotiating parties to engage women and exert their efforts in the areas of peace. Thus, the gender strategy will be applied to the negotiating table

### **Public opinion:**

Public opinion is used as a means of putting pressure on the negotiating parties by raising public awareness about the issue, and through various media. However, it is important to note that the media can often be part of the problem, as it helps to reinforce stereotypes, and spread rumors about reputation and morals of activists in the political field.

### **Use of soft (non- aggressive) language:**

It is possible to address the issues of involving women and applying gender in words that indicate a less aggressive way such as, gender or women's rights, where it can be a way to avoid resistance. For example, by shifting the discussion from addressing women's rights to economic development, constitutional reform and social justice. Other ways including, training all mediators and negotiating teams on gender equality issues.

Figure (8) indicates women's incentives for their support of peace operations



## The Philippines experience in involving women at the peace table:

In terms of peacekeeping, there are gender advisers who can perform such contacts at the UN level, based on the relationship with civil society and women's organizations as well as associations that are formed from outside the country, although it may be difficult to communicate with mass movements.

One of the successful examples of this path is the Peace Project in Mindanao, Philippines, where Miriam Coronel Ferrer negotiated a peace agreement with the MILF rebels in 2014. Local women's organizations participated in these negotiations, and are still exercising their tasks in implementing the peace agreement that was achieved.

The continuity of performance is very important. Therefore, the international community must provide a long-term financing, and consolidate gender justice systematically in all areas of reconstruction. However, unfortunately, reality may appear to be quite different<sup>12</sup>.

لقاء: نانبا نسايش-12

## Norway's experience in peace talks:

According to the statement, men occupied all the seats except one seat occupied by the female representative of the official talks in Cuba when the peace talks began in Norway. Each side was allowed to send a fixed number of up to ten negotiators, including five negotiators with a maximum of negotiating powers in Havana, along with 30-members team.

The only exception was Tanga Nijmeijer, known as Alexandra Nariño, the “Dutch fighter.” She joined for a limited time with her nine male colleagues, and given all the negotiating tables, this was shocking in terms of the expected progress regarding the achievement of normative aspects at the national and international level in demanding the inclusion of women in the peace building process<sup>13</sup>.

Women have also taken part in “regional trabajo de mesas” working groups formed by the Peace Committees of Colombia’s Chamber of Deputies and Senate in nine different regions of the country, with the help of the United Nations system.

A special effort has been made to ensure that 40-50% of the participants are women through Regional Action groups with the support of UN for women. Proposals from women at each consultation session were compiled and forwarded to peace negotiators in Havana.

One of the researchers concluded through her study that wars and conflicts are a major cause of backwardness in the field of development in general and women in particular. She also concluded that women have an important role in society in both war and peace, and it is necessary to develop women scientifically, intellectually and culturally. She added that it is also necessary to involve them in all peace processes as well as comprehensive development planning. In addition, women have the ability to bear change in their social role and promoting peace<sup>14</sup>.

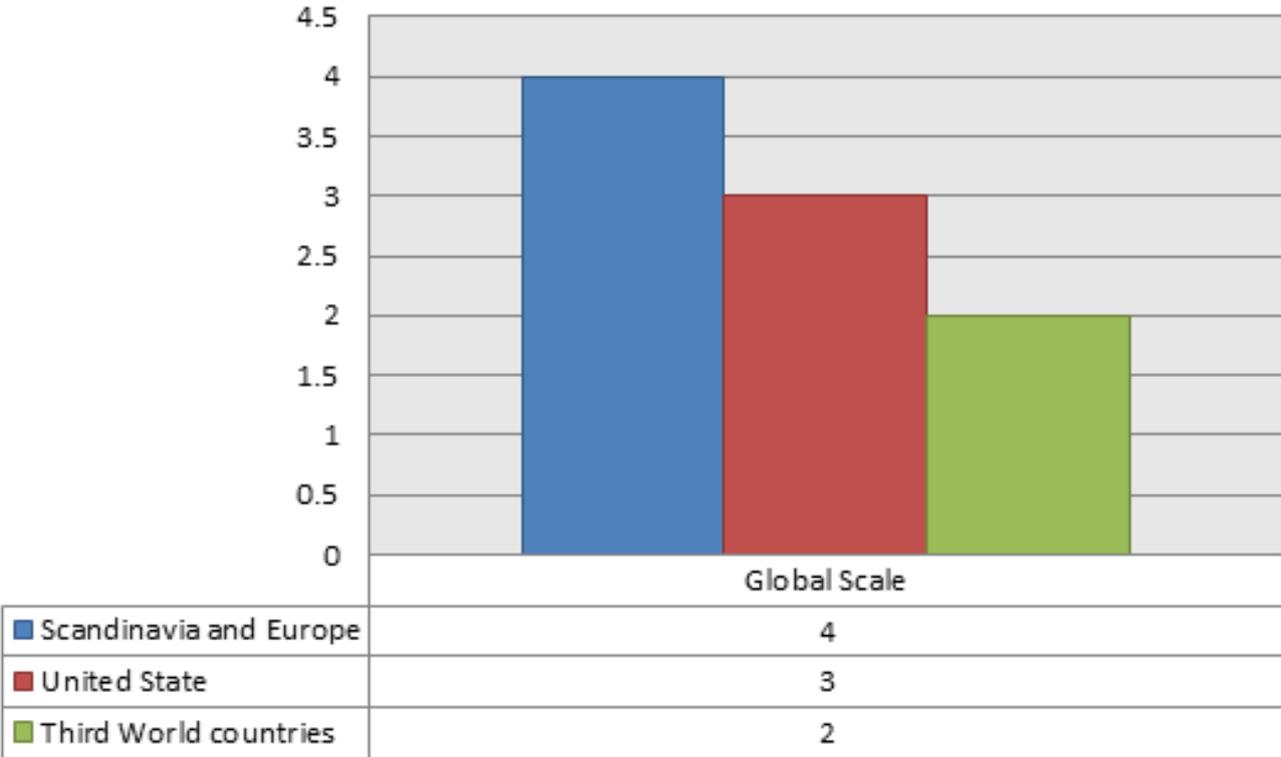
A number of studies have shown that societies in which gender equality prevailed become less prone to crises and conflicts within the country or across countries. Women’s participate in peace negotiations increases the chances of reaching a more robust and stable peace agreement, such as Rwanda, which is one of the countries with the highest rates of female participation in parliament<sup>15</sup>.

13- فرجينيا بوفير، النوع الاجتماعي ودور المرأة في عملية السلام، هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة، 2016.

14- حليمة محمد خير، دور تنمية المرأة في تعزيز السلام الاجتماعي، انظر: <http://repository.sustech.edu>

15- لا سلام بدون المرأة، <https://www.deutschland.de>

**Figure (9) shows the best and the least countries and regions that care of women and support their role**

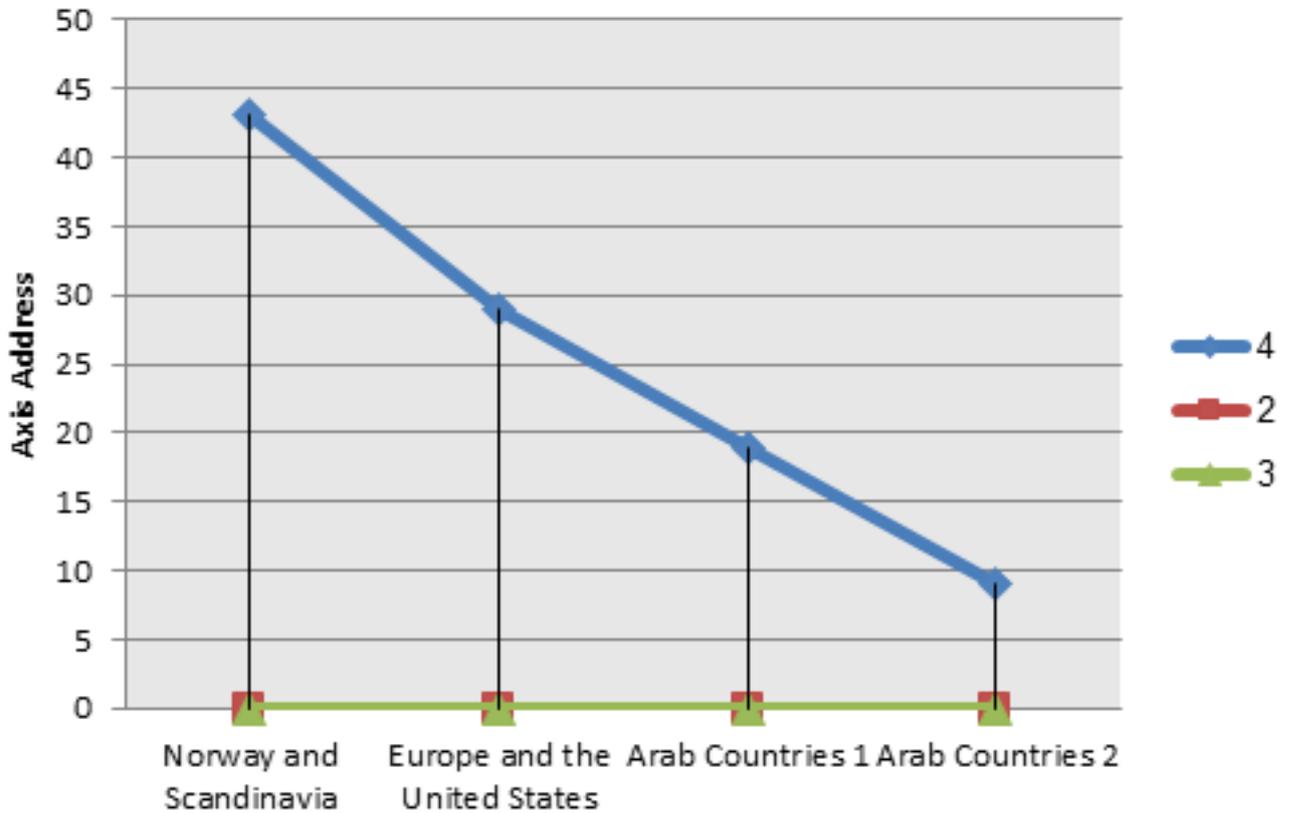


The previous figure indicates that the best regions for women’s role and status are the Scandinavian countries, led by Norway, Iceland, the Netherlands, and Belgium, while the third world countries are the least.

According to the 2019 Women Peace and Security Index, prepared by research institutions affiliated with the Institute for Women and Peace at Georgetown University, women’s status has improved in nearly 60 countries, while it has deteriorated in other countries suffering from conditions of poverty, war, and conflict, such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Libya. On the other hand, Norway ranked first among the best countries with regard to women, followed by Scandinavian countries, such as Iceland, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

The United States of America advanced to 19th rank out of 22 countries. According to the results of the research, it still lags behind in the domestic violence field. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia continued to practice the largest legal discrimination against women, followed by Yemen, Sudan, the UAE and Syria.

**Figure (10) shows the progress of countries according to their interest and support for the role of women**



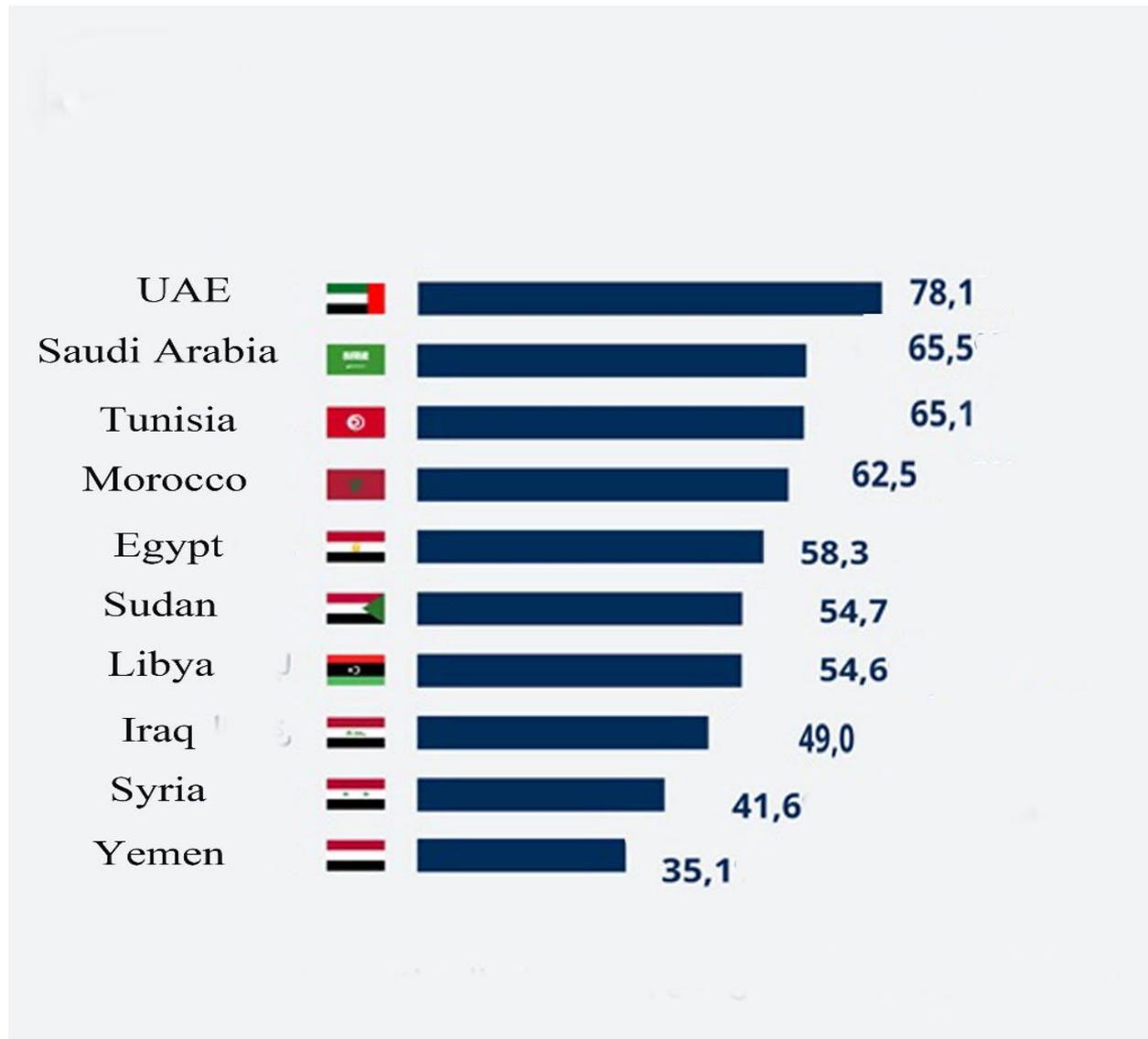
The results of the above figure also show that there are two categories of Arab countries in terms of their concern for the role of women, although the majority of them are considered to be of a very low level compared to the Scandinavian and European countries, as shown from the previous figure<sup>16</sup>.

It became obvious that the first category of Arab countries is represented by limited Arab countries such as, Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Tunisia, and Morocco as the best and worst countries in terms of caring for women’s roles.

The second category of Arab countries are Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya, which represent the least fortunate countries and regions of the world and that take care and qualify women to perform their positive role.

16- بناء على دراسات أجريت للأمم المتحدة على النساء في مجال السلام والأمن على مستوى العالم.

**Figure (11) shows the ranking of the Arab countries, according to the extent of their interest and appreciation for women**



## **The Fourth Topic:**

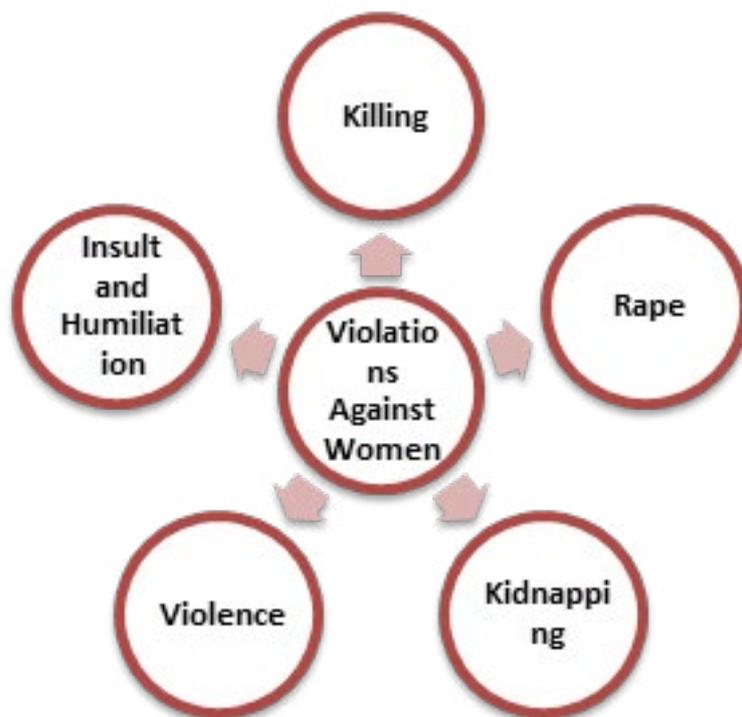
### **Yemeni Women and Peace Building**

## Yemeni Women and Peace:

Martin Griffiths, the former UN envoy to Yemen, said in his briefing to the Security Council, “I am still inspired by the courage and determination of women in Yemen to end the war and build peace, as they are truly the heroines of peace in Yemen.” Griffiths underlined his prior recommendations for the warring parties to include women in peace talk’s delegations after meeting with thirty Yemeni women leaders<sup>17</sup>.

These statements by women’s organizations related to peace efforts were widely welcomed, and it is certain that women in Yemen paid a heavy price because of the conflict, war and its effects. The parties to the conflict committed approximately 16,667 violations<sup>18</sup> against women between September 2014 and December 2019. These violations varied in different ways and means, for example, killing because of confrontations and war, kidnapping, rape, and gender-based violence.

**Figure (12) shows cases of violations that women can be exposed to as a result of conflict and war**

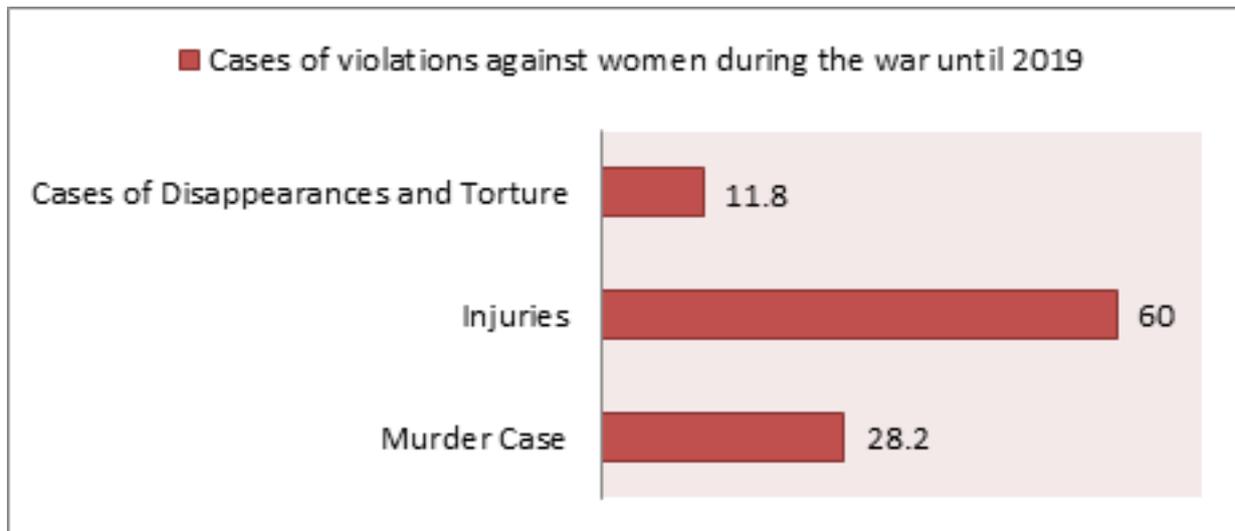


The following chart indicates the type of violations that occurred to women because of the conflict and the war in Yemen. It became clear that the cases of injuries such as, disability, wounds, fractures, fear and psychological disturbance, topped the other

أحد اجتماعات المبعوث الأممي مارتن غريفيث إلى اليمن بالقيادات النسوية، في أكتوبر/تشرين الأول، 2020م-17  
انظر: منظمة رايتس رادار لحقوق الإنسان-18

types of violations. Their estimated rate was 60%, followed by murder cases with a percentage of 28.2% of the total violations of women in Yemen, while the case of disappearance and torture ranked the last order at a rate of 11.8%.

**Figure (13) shows the percentage of violations of Yemeni women because of the conflict and war**



**Table (1) shows the number of violations that occurred as a result of the conflict and war**

The quality of the violations that occurred	The number of governorates	Number of violations against women
4	19	16667

**Table (2): The most prominent cities in which women were affected by the conflict and war**

City	The number of cases
Taiz	115
Hodeidah	166
Sana'a	133
Aden	102
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>516</b>

The above two tables also show the number of violations and cases of injury that occurred as a result of the conflict and war for Yemeni women from 2014 to 2019, and the most prominent regions and cities focused on Sanaa, Taiz, Al-Hodeidah, and Aden.

However, Yemeni women contributed to the consolidation of peace during the war. A report prepared by organizations, institutions, and social initiatives showed the women's contributions to peace. The report is based on a review of a number of global researches regarding United Nations Resolution 1325 and the agenda of women, peace and security. The author also interviewed women members of feminist initiatives, coalitions and academies<sup>19</sup>.

Dr. Sarah Al-Arasi, a professor in the field of international law at Sana'a University, noted that women do not have equal voices in decision-making, including peace talks, noting that the challenges included a lack of social awareness of the need to implement international conventions, in addition to the existence of the weak will for women involvement in decision-making positions<sup>20</sup>.

At the same time, a number of organizations operating in Yemen indicated that the number of violence cases directed against women peace activists and human rights defenders is increasing, while the capabilities available to help them are decreasing and not keeping pace with this increase. On the other hand, protection programs are known as the most underfunded programs that lead to a focus more on the most urgent need for sustainable, flexible and long-term financing. Accordingly, this will provide an opportunity for persecuted women working to build peace in conflicting areas to feel safe and not alone, as well as allow them to continue helping their communities.

In particular, supporting the resettlement of these women in safe countries is required, and Yemeni women refugee must be given priority<sup>21</sup>. We rarely see them participating in conflicts or perpetrating physical violence by themselves, because they are peaceful by nature and they have the desire to build peace and coexistence.

Based on what was discussed previously, and by examining many studies in this aspect, it can be said that the most important elements required for Yemeni women at the regional level, including the third world, for their required contribution to the process

19- مركز صنعاء للدراسات الاستراتيجية، شبكات جديدة للمرأة اليمنية في بناء السلام.

20- <https://sanaacenter.org>

21- بناء السلام بدون حماية، <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec>

of establishing peace are as follows:

- ✓ **Financing.**
- ✓ **Rehabilitation and awareness.**
- ✓ **Efforts and perseverance.**
- ✓ **Continuity.**
- ✓ **Consolidation of gender justice.**

The following figure confirms the result of the foregoing:

**Figure (14) indicates important elements of positive support for women (supporting peace issues)**



The previous figure illustrates the characteristics required for Yemeni women in order to be a positive and supportive woman and to represent peace, which are important qualities of a leadership personality that is capable of development and change.

Hence, it can be said that we are facing a great challenge to launch a dialogue about the role of women and the role of men in peace building within these societies. Therefore, it is important to search for roles, but it is necessary to present them in a positive way, and not to focus on the negatives as many media do<sup>22</sup>.

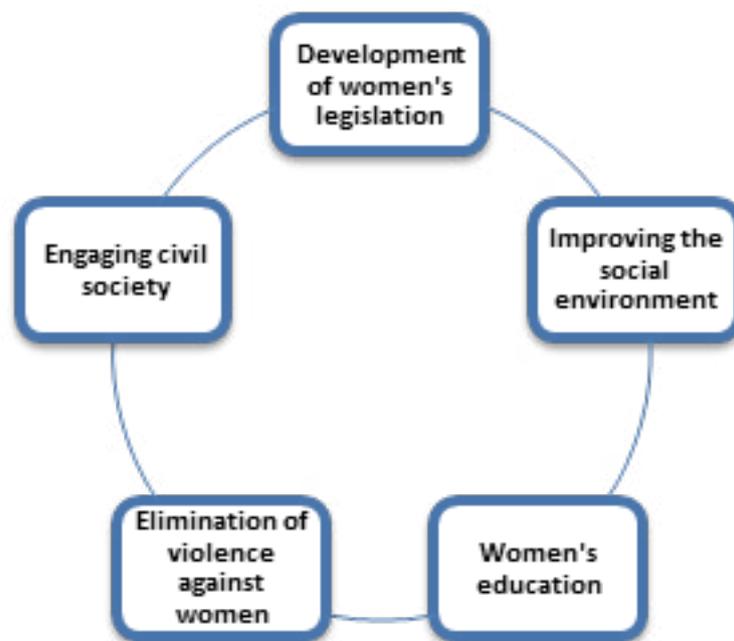
22- <https://news.un.org>

More than twenty Yemeni women of peace activists participated in the talks, which continued over two days, 15 and 16 of June, aimed at promoting and developing the effective participation of women and integrating gender in the peace process. The statement of the Office of the Special Envoy stated that about three quarters of the participants were from Yemen, including Hadramawt, Al-Hodeidah, Marib, Taiz, and Al-Bayda. Besides, more than 40% of the participants came from the south, while young women rate who participated in the talks was 23%<sup>23</sup>.

Huda Al-Sarari, a Yemeni activist, noted that Yemeni women have contributed with strength and courage to confronting the war's circumstances, and they have worked harder than males. They also played a major role in relief, monitoring, documentation, support the displaced, and legal protection for battered women as well as children<sup>24</sup>.

Yasmine Al-Qadi, a human rights defender, won the International Women of Courage Award (IWOC) organized by the US State Department in Washington, as did Huda Al-Sarari, a human rights defender, who also won the Martin Ennals Foundation for Human Rights award. A scientific award was also given for the activist Fatima Zakhem and many others.

**Figure (15) illustrates the factors leading to strengthening the role of women towards peace**



موقع الأمم المتحدة-23.

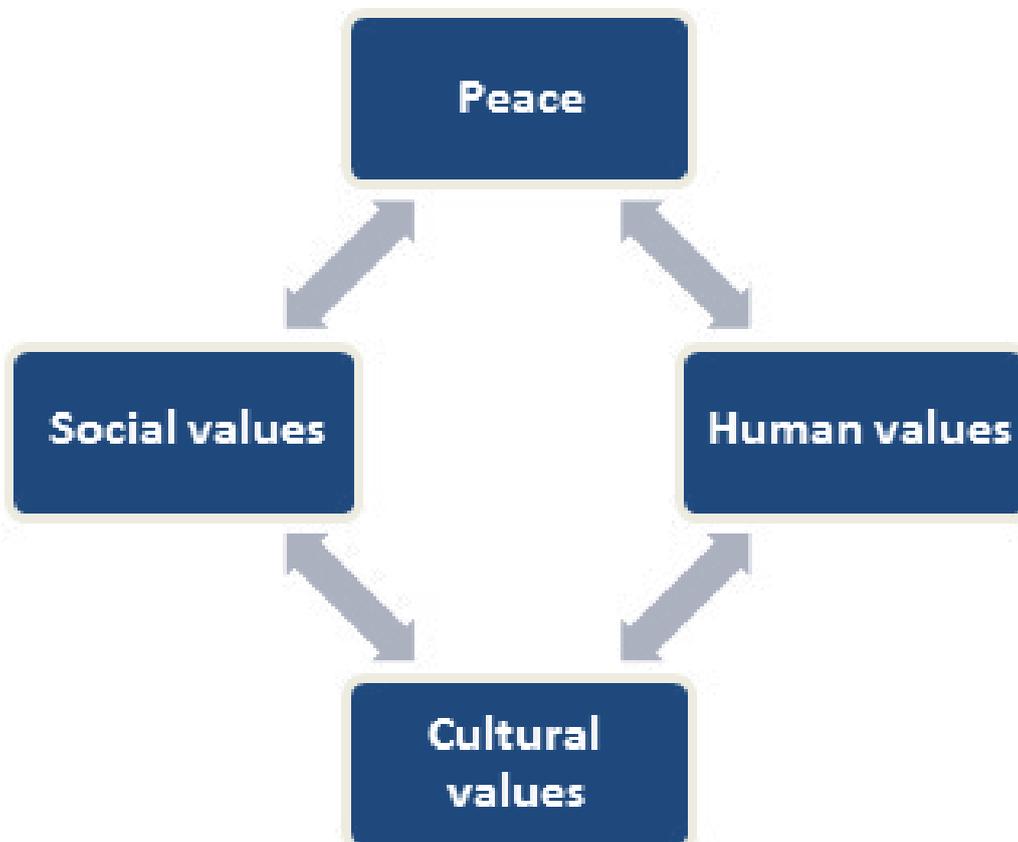
تقرير بعنوان: اليمن – النساء في مهب الحرب، مارس/ 2019-24.

The previous figure also indicates the most important factors required to enhance the role of women in supporting peace in all of its concepts. Therefore, they can effectively exercise their role in this important aspect of the lives of societies.

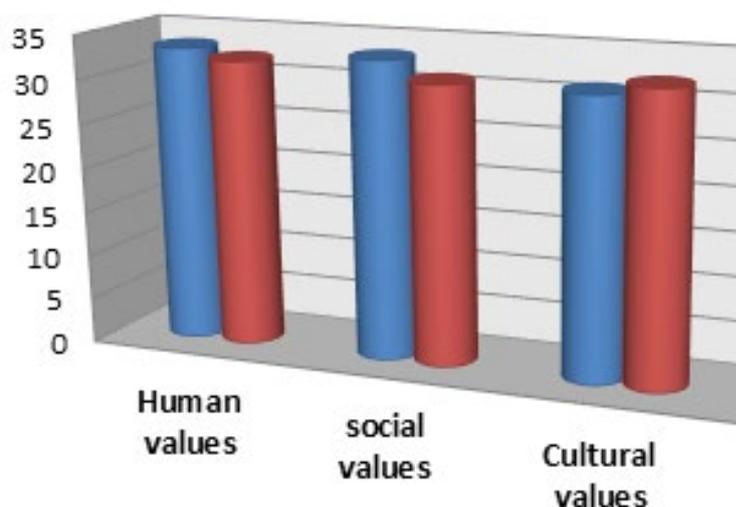
### The values of peace among Yemeni women:

In the light of perusal and study of the values of peace and its various fields, the researcher classified those values into three groups. The first group focused on human values such as, justice, freedom and brotherhood, while the second group represented social values such as, security, education, avoiding violence and mercy. The third group focused on cultural values such as, cooperation, interdependence and acceptance of the other. Despite this classification, they are closely related to each other, and each value leads to the other, and confirms the previous one. The following figure explains this classification, which serves the objectives of the research and achieves its purposes.

**Figure (16) illustrates the classification of peace values into three groups and their relationship to each other**



**Figure (17) shows the importance and status of peace values for women compared to men**



	Human values	social values	Cultural values
Peace for women	33.3	33.3	31.1
Peace for man	32.2	31.1	32.2

The previous figure indicates the peace values for both men and women, and their importance in the lives for both sexes. A value has been set for each group that was categorized from peace values, after it was presented to a sample for both sexes with an equal number for each of them. In addition, 30 items were selected, 15 of which were for women, and the same for men. In order to see their views on the values of peace, a specific score was given for that value, and then the result showed the following:

The superiority of women over men in human values appear in support, freedom, brotherhood, and social values such as security, education, avoiding violence and mercy. They also achieved 33.3% of the total sample in humanitarian and social groups.

While men outperformed women in terms of cultural values attitude, which were represented in the values of cooperation, interdependence, and acceptance of the other, with men scoring 32.2% and women scoring 31.1%. Therefore, this could be due to the fact that these values are more compatible with men's nature and inclinations in this direction.

In all cases, human and social values in the field of peace remain important among other values in general, indicating the importance of peace in the lives of women based

on their psychological nature, which confirms the importance of their vital role in the fields of peace within and outside their society.

## **Research summary and general results:**

Women have a major role in the various fields of peace, but this requires acceptance of giving them this role. Furthermore, the empowerment of women and acceptance of their engagement in practical life has gone through several stages, particularly in Arab countries, but several obstacles encounter the participation of women on the economic and political level. However, these obstacles vary in terms of cultural formation and social development in different societies. Currently, great hopes are attached to the role of women in promoting and consolidating a culture of peace. However, various issues based on the following should be addressed:

- Determining what is required of women in particular about the last role that women are intended to play in this issue. Our identification of what is required of women helps in revealing the truth about what could stand immediately in the way of her role fulfilling, which contributes to monitoring the supporting and factors for her to be able to do it efficiently.
- Attention must be paid to the obstacles of the role of women in general. In addition, there are factors that will reveal to us the extent to which society accepts or rejects this role and its willingness to do so such as, intellectual and cultural environment prevailing in society and the degree of education that will help us to know what can be done to prepare them.
- Focusing on awareness campaigns is based on two levels, first, a special level that focus on the woman herself to make her aware of what is required of her. Second, a general level that is directed at the society as a whole with all of its categories to comprehend the importance of what the culture of peace is based on ,whether they are governmental or private. Then, in this case, the private entities may not be paid much attention and not given much importance, especially if these entities are women. However, if the government entity adopts a national character in its activity, then it gains more importance, and the capabilities in this case are broader in a way that serves the awareness campaign and its objectives.

**Figure (18) a proposal showing the steps to prepare women to represent a positive personality to support peace**



In conclusion, Yemeni women or other women in the world can play a major and effective role in supporting the fields of peace if they have the qualified elements for this task, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Knowledge: neither a woman nor a man can do their role without accurate and correct knowledge of what is happening.
2. Awareness: It is an important characteristic that works on making the right choice, and it helps in taking decisions objectively about the issues and topics that occur. In addition, awareness of things contributes greatly to the proper evaluation of events.
3. Justice: It is a feature that represents one of the important and necessary elements that guarantee the performance and integration of both sexes in the tasks and functions of each party, without defect or detracting the right of one party over the other.
4. Conviction: It is very important for a person to be convinced of the idea or issue in order to work and sacrifice for it.
5. Effectiveness: Contentment alone is not sufficient to achieve the goal and reach success, as it is necessary to work actively and seriously to achieve the goal, and to obtain what a person wants.

▪ The results showed the superiority of women over men in human and social values, as they achieved 33.3% of the total sample in the two groups (human and social). While the men outperformed the women in their orientation to cultural values, which were represented in the values of cooperation, interdependence, and acceptance of the other. The percentage among men reached 32.2%, while it achieved among women 31.1%, and this may be due to the fact that these values are more compatible with the nature and inclinations of men in this direction.

▪ The results of the research showed that the need to empower women lies in the importance of integrating them into the development path. They also showed that the determinants of empowering Yemeni women centered on the following:

- ✓ **Educational Empowerment.**
- ✓ **Economic Empowerment.**
- ✓ **Political Empowerment.**
- ✓ **Health Empowerment.**

The economic empowerment of women is one of the important pillars in achieving the empowerment of Yemeni women, and without it comprehensive development will not be achieved in the reality of society, and it means equal proportional distribution between men and women in administrative, organizational, professional and wage positions.

1. The main stimulants for women's participation in supporting peace is based on public opinion, financial incentives, individual self-interest, and pleasant (non-provocative) terms.

2. The results of the research concluded that the status of women has improved in about 60 countries, while it has deteriorated in other countries that have suffered from conditions of poverty, war, and conflict, such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Libya. It became clear from the results that there are two categories of Arab countries in terms of their interest in strengthening the role of women, with the majority of them being of a low level compared to the Scandinavian and European countries in this aspect. The first category represented limited Arab countries such as, Saudi

Arabia, Emirates, and Tunisia, as they are considered the best and worst countries in terms of caring of the role of women. While the second category are the less fortunate Arab countries among the countries in the world and the region caring for the role of women and rehabilitating them, most notably Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Libya.

▪ The results also showed the availability of a number of important elements to support active women in the field of peace. These elements focused on the following:

- ✓ **Financing.**
- ✓ **Rehabilitation and awareness.**
- ✓ **Efforts and perseverance.**
- ✓ **Continuity.**
- ✓ **Establishing justice.**

▪ The research indicated that Yemeni women bravely contributed to addressing the difficult conditions of war, and worked hard and persevered to overcome these conditions during the period of conflict and war. They also played a major role in relief, monitoring, documentation and support for the displaced.

▪ The research indicated that the most important factors leading to the success of the women's role, which contribute to peace are summarized as follows:

- **Develop women's legislation.**
- **Improving the conditions of the social environment.**
- **Involving civil society.**
- **Ending gender-based violence.**
- **Women's education.**

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YIC@yemeninformation.org  
yemeninformation.org