Implementing Women into roles of National Security and the Constitutional Process
Following the Libyan elections in 2012, the Voice of Libyan Women believed it was necessary to bring together female activists in order to insure that their voices and rights would be part of the constitutional process and that women’s issues remained on the political radar. This resulted in the Voice of Libyan Women putting together the second ‘One Voice” conference, under the title ‘New Horizons.” The conference focused on the two most pressing issues facing the future of Libya – security and the constitution.

This year’s One Voice 2013 program took place on January 25 to January 28. It was organized by The Voice of Libyan Women in collaboration with Attawasul Association, Together We Build it Movement, The Committee for the Support of Women in Decision Making and the Tripoli Women’s Union. It has been generously supported by The German Federal Foreign Office.

As part of the One Voice 2013 Conference, 150 selected civil society activists from over 25 cities in Libya, came together to connect, collaborate and formulate practical and realistic recommendations for the Libyan Government and the General National Congress to prioritize, focus on, and collaborate with civil society on. These recommendations focused on women’s role in security and the constitutional process.

To see daily recaps of One Voice 2013 please visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Itg6tETUhUE Day One

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg1D2c04CcM Day Two

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpjF2HqT8I Day Three

Full plenary and Keynote speeches will be uploaded in the coming days.
Objective 1: Fair representation of women in the establishment of the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

We Recommend the GNC and Libyan Government:

1. Allocate no less than 35% of women in the establishment of the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

2. In an effort to ensure the effective representation of women candidates must be elected by the people in nation-wide elections for the board of the Constitutional Drafting Committee. This should be done in collaboration with The Women’s Conglomerate, as well as National Congress Committee for Social Affairs, Committee for Civil Society and Committee for Human Rights.

4. The Constitutional Drafting Committee is recommended to hire a gender expert as an advisor to the Constitutional Drafting Committee

5. The General National Congress and Libyan Government are recommended to use national media outlets, as well as cultural, awareness programs to emphasize the importance of women’s participation in the Constitutional Drafting Committee and work to provide the necessary support.

6. Specifically addressing women as citizens in public speeches and address to emphasize and reinforce the importance of the role of Libyan women in the stabilization, growth and development of Libya.

7. The GNC and Libyan Government must show greater commitment to the enforcement of CEDAW.

Objective 2: Develop an election law which ensures that Libyan women have full access to be elected for the Constitutional Drafting Committee, with the support of all representatives in the GNC, particularly, female members.

The Women’s Conglomerate within the General National Congress, through greater communication with Libyan women focused civil society organizations, should facilitate the creation of a Women’s Affairs Committee which would work specifically to ensure that Libyan women, Women’s Rights focused Civil Society organizations & general public have direct access to policy makers.
Objective 3: Ensure qualified female candidates have access to the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

1. Create an informational apparatus, through numerous mediums including SMS, radio and television media, which serves to ensure that Libyan citizens are aware of the Constitutional Drafting Process.

2. We recommend the GNC and Libyan Government facilitate the education of women in all cities and rural communities in Libya on the establishment of the Constitutional Committee and how it relates to the status of the Constitution.

   A. We recommend this be done through partnership with Civil Society Organizations and through Mobile Phone Messages, Media (radio and television), and organized informational seminars in universities, the workplace, and schools.

4. We recommend the General National Council provides training for candidates of the Constitutional Drafting Committee with support from Libyan civil society.

5. We recommend the General National Congress thoroughly examines the experiences of other countries in an effort to learn from best practices in both the process and the context of the Constitution and its drafting.

Objective 4: Develop criteria and conditions on the acceptance of candidates in the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

1. We recommend that The General National Council should take into account the suggestions and proposals of Civil Society on the qualifications required of all members of the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

2. We recommend this be done through creating a means of communication between CSOs and the GNC so that standards and requirements may be achieved and reached cooperatively.
Ensuring Security for Women

Vision

A true Islamic democratic society must cover the entire spectrum of Libyan society, in which women and men must be equally able to participate.

Currently in post revolutionary Libya, women are not given access to support. Time has come to ensure her the following:

1. Implement the principle of equality between men and women.

2. Implement the principle of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

3. Implement mechanisms which ensure the elimination of all forms of gender based violence.

4. Ensure the creation of an institution that coordinates the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, including the provision of safe shelter and rehabilitation programs.

Working Background

The prevention and elimination of Violence against Women is not the role of a particular entity or ministry, but a Multidisciplinary approach that requires the input of many specialized authorities, such as the Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Social Affairs, The Ministry of Justice, The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of the Interior security, Dar al Ifta and Civil Society organizations.

The previous Assignment of this responsibility to just one of the above-mentioned authorities led to a catastrophic failure in the development of a comprehensive and integrated strategy that can be successfully implemented to ensure the peace and security of women in Libya.

To this day and after two years since the blessed 17th of February Revolution there is no clear mechanism to combat violence against women or to support women who have been subjected to violence, despite the declared political will.

For this we propose the following recommendation:

We recommend the General National Congress establish a body (council or board) which focuses on the tackling and elimination of gender based violence. We recommend they work as an integral and viable part of a higher body created to ensure that women's concerns are heard, such as a Supreme Council for Women. This institution must be an independent and sovereign institution with an independent budget and it will report directly to Parliament. This institution should be given all the powers to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.
The components of this body:

1. **Central circle:** that includes the national experts in all areas concerned, ensuring inclusion of civil society institutions specialized in dealing with and supporting victims of gender-based violence and women rights, with emphasis on representations of all Libyan regions and the establishment of executive offices in all those regions.

2. **The interlinked circle:** Arab institutions and international institutions who are the experts in this field.

3. **The parallel Independent circle:** Auditing, evaluation and continuous monitoring to ensure the implementation of decisions and cope with the constant changes.

The functions of the Body:

1. Develop a detailed and comprehensive strategy to care for victims of violence and their families from medical, psychological, social, security and legal aspects.

2. Review existing laws and legislations and ensure women participation in writing and amending these legislations, and its enforcement while emphasizing on punishing perpetrators.

3. Recommend The House of Ifta to issue Fatwas in outstanding matters giving priority to the issue of abortion and lineage, taking into consideration the Fatwas already issued by Al-Azhar and other Muslim countries.

4. Ensure the media role to raise awareness and promote the culture of altruism, and create a national channel that dedicated to women.

5. Capacity building of the related security, police and judicial authorities on the respect of privacy of battered women and take measures to ensure the protection and observance of human rights for women and girls.

6. Review the Security Council Resolution 1325 to identify the obstacles to its implementation in collaboration with United Nations and other institute, develop and implement a national action plan in this regard.

7. Follow up the implementation of the actions of the strategy with the related governmental authorities.

8. Cooperate with Libyan civil society institutions and Arab and international organizations experts in this field.


10. Demand a United Nations fact-finding committee to urgently help female Libyan prisoners abducted outside Libya.