

# CHANGES AND NEW LEADERSHIP!

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Dear friends and comrades from the feminist movements in the region,

Our coalition has been through a challenging year. Since the onset of the genocide and continuing to this day, we have been grappling with existential questions and the seeking to deal with the harsh realities that continue to emerge. How can the coalition continue to uphold every feminist value and vision that seeks change and pursues building communities on the foundation of all human rights? How can we continue coordinating and networking when our members and feminist movements in the region are either having their resources cut off as punishment for their solidarity with Palestine, or facing incrimination and intimidation due to the criminalization of human rights work in general and feminist work in particular, both locally and globally? The coalition upholds an unwavering stance on sexual and gender rights, and a steadfast position on confronting discrimination based on class and race, which is prevalent in our societies and within our movements.

**We thank Ms. Yosra Sultan for her contributions to the coalition and wish her all the best in her new journey. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of comrade Krystel Tabet as the Co-Regional Coordinator in the coalition leadership.**

For over 12 years, Krystel has worked in public policy development, evaluation, and analysis, as well as in facilitating and designing governance and public administration processes in the SWANA region. She has extensive experience in gender, sexual, and reproductive justice, serving as a researcher, policy developer, and intersectional feminist. She has been actively involved in numerous campaigns advocating for rights in Lebanon and contributed to the creation of multiple initiatives, including the founding of a feminist cooperative in Beirut. She participated in and contributed to a series of research projects examining the role of women in political life, women's rights in both public and private spheres, and women's visibility in the media across all Arab countries. She has also designed and facilitated a diverse array of training programs and studies focusing on conflict, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace. Additionally, she has worked on youth engagement, as well as mechanisms and policies aimed at promoting fair, and representative elections.

After more than seven years with Beyond Reform and Development, Krystel joined BuildUp, where she dedicated her efforts to developing and designing innovative tools and processes for collecting data from social media platforms. She also contributed to the creation of an automated analysis platform for social media discourse, aimed at empowering local communities to combat radicalization and mitigate violations in virtual spaces.

We hired Krystel as a consultant with the Coalition for five months in 2024. During this period, she assisted us in expanding our membership base to 65 members. She also oversaw strategic consultations and assessed the needs and contexts of our members, which contributed to shaping our strategic plan. This included preparations for the May 2025 elections—the Coalition’s third election cycle. In this cycle, eight members will be directly elected by the General Assembly from the three regions, and the Board of Directors will appoint four members, either from within or outside the Coalition.

**We will open nominations in the second half of March**, aiming to engage feminist movements and groups in proposing activists to lead the Coalition at this pivotal moment of global change. Following consultations with the working group and the General Assembly, we have decided to appoint Krystel to lead the Coalition. We look forward to her leadership and the General Assembly’s confidence in her.

In this pivotal moment on the global scene, the coalition has also decided to restructure in response to what we perceive as efforts to suppress feminist and liberatory discourses. In this light, we aim to establish a two-person leadership model to build an institution that can embrace, support and assist our members and allies. **We will launch the search for the co-Regional Coordinator at the beginning of April.** We have also decided to involve human resources specialists from member institutions to help us in the rigorous recruitment process and to review job titles and the overall team structure.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors of the Regional Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders in Southwest Asia and North Africa.