

## Claims Memorandum

**Pursuant to Article 7 of the Lebanese Constitution** which stipulates that Lebanese are equal before the law in a sense that they enjoy equal civil and political rights and assume equal public duties and obligations without discrimination among them, and to the **preamble of the Constitution** which bound Lebanon to the United Nation treaties and conventions,

Whereas the **Lebanese government** signed, by virtue of Law 572 dated 01/08/1996, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that was adopted by the General Assembly on 18/12/1979, whereby the Parliament expressed reservations as to Article 9-2 of the Convention which urges member States to “grant women equal rights as men with respect to the nationality of their children.”

Whereas the Lebanese nationality law promulgated by virtue of Decision 15 dated 19/01/1925 contains texts that are discriminatory against women as regards the right to pass on nationality to their children,

Whereas some Arab States made significant steps towards amending nationality laws; indeed, Egypt amended some of the provisions of the nationality law by virtue of Law 154 of July 2004 which acknowledged the right of Egyptian women married to foreigners to transmit their nationality to their children. Moreover, the Algerian law dated March 2005 recognizes the right of Algerian women married to foreigners to give their nationality to both their husbands and children and the Kingdom of Morocco is in the course of preparing a bill aimed at granting Moroccan women married to foreigners the right to transmit their nationality to their children,

Based on the foregoing, **Lebanese CSOs** concerned by women issues in Lebanon submit a claims memorandum to the Lebanese government and Parliament to assert the full citizenship right of the Lebanese woman:

- Claiming Lebanese women right to grant their nationality to their families by amending the **articles deemed discriminatory against women in the law promulgated by virtue of Decision 15 dated January 19, 1925 that was amended by the law dated January 11, 1960 as well as the articles added on January 11, 1960 and relating to the Lebanese nationality.**

Also insisting upon the following:

- Dealing with the contradiction between the Lebanese Constitution which provides for equality among citizens on the one hand and the Lebanese laws which are deemed unfair towards women by preventing them from transmitting their nationality to their families on the other, thus denying them their right as fully-fledged citizens.
- Abiding by international treaties and conventions signed by Lebanon, such as the International Declaration on Human Rights, the CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child which assert the full citizenship right of women as well as their right to pass on their nationality to their children.
- Taking into consideration the situation of Lebanese women married to foreigners and the considerable damage they incur as a result of depriving their husbands and children of the Lebanese nationality, which is contrary to

the equality principle specified in the Constitution and prevents these women and their families from enjoying their citizenship rights and denies them the rights and responsibilities with respect to ownership, residence, work, hospitalization, housing, education and participation in political and national life.

Such an amendment would reflect the aspiration for a democratic change and will constitute a step towards granting Lebanese women full citizenship rights by eliminating all forms of discrimination among citizens of the same country.

Beirut, November 8, 2005

**The Organizing committee**

The campaign entitled "**My nationality, a right for me and my family**" is implemented by the following civil society organizations:

**The Lebanese Women Council, the Lebanese Women Network, the Civil Committee for the Follow-Up of Women Issues, the Women Democratic Association, the Lebanese Working Women League, the Civil Committee for fighting Violence against Women, Aba' min ajli al Adala, the Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTD-A), and the association Kafa unf wa Istighlal.**

For further information on the campaign entitled "**My nationality, a right for me and my family**", please visit the website: [www.macmag-qlip.org](http://www.macmag-qlip.org)

Or dial the following numbers: 01-611079/01-612924, or send an email to: [rmasri@macmag-qlip.org](mailto:rmasri@macmag-qlip.org)

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