



Press release:

Kayan – Feminist Organization joins the EuroMed Rights Network

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The EuroMed Rights Network General Assembly has confirmed the membership of Kayan – Feminist Organization.

Further extending its work to protect and promote Palestinian women's rights and Palestinian human rights, Kayan - Feminist Organization recently participated in the EuroMed Rights Network General Assembly (GA), which approved Kayan's membership in the network and its committees. The director of Kayan, Ms. Rafah Anabtawi, presented before the GA a summary of Kayan's longstanding work, including the organization's projects to protect Palestinian women's rights in Israel, in addition to Kayan's activities in the local and international arenas.

Anabtawi said, "Kayan believes in the importance of linking local, regional, and global approaches to make real change and to affect international policies, including policies of the European Union and countries in the MENA region, in order to protect the women's and human rights, and to benefit from international networks to support initiatives and local actions". She added, "We believe in developing local and global capabilities, and in contributing our role and experience as a feminist organization within a regional human rights network. This complements our work mobilizing official and civil institutions and rallying international support for our local struggle to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and against the Palestinian people."

Anabtawi also commented on the EuroMed Rights decision, "This decision reflects an acknowledgement of Kayan's achievements and our role at the local and international levels, and in recognition of the credibility of our work as a professional women's rights organization." Anabtawi added that "this membership opens a new opportunity for Kayan to deepen our work on the international and regional levels, especially within the European Union, which has great capabilities and initiatives for political influence in order to protect the rights of the Palestinian people, and human rights in the region in general, including women's rights, in accordance with international human rights standards and international laws.

Anabtawi also said, "Kayan considers its membership in this regional network as an important means to reinforce existing agreements and partnerships between the European Union and Israel in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women, in addition to informing the world about the reality of violations that Palestinian women experience inside Israel and in the

territories occupied in 1967, and opening a new door for cooperation with human rights and feminist institutions in the region, especially from Arab countries. Anabtawi stated, "This membership gives adds value to our international work, which includes past achievements such as obtaining special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

EuroMed Rights, formerly the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and it is a regional network of 65 human rights organizations active in 30 countries of the Mediterranean region, including European Union and partner countries. The EuroMed Rights was established in 1997, based on the Barcelona Declaration issued in 1995 by civil society organizations to contribute to the promotion of human rights and democracy in the region within the agreements of the "Euro-Mediterranean Partnership."

Kayan Feminist Organization was founded in 1998 by Palestinian feminist women with the goal of advancing the status of Arab women in Israel and ending all forms of gender-based discrimination. The organization seeks to bring about societal change that eradicates gender discrimination, and aspires to establish a diverse, safe and just society in which Palestinian women have equal opportunities to realize their dreams and aspirations and play a leading and influential role in society through the realization of their individual and communal rights.



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