



## **A Statement from the Arab Trade Union Women's Network Calling for Anti-Violence Agreement**

Based on the principles and values of the democratic unionist movement, and our keenness to achieve partnership and equality between men and women as part of our work to address challenges limiting effective participation of women in making decisions to build a democratic society that heeds justice and equality and ends all forms of discrimination, especially against gender,

We, the Arab women unionists, meeting with the Arab Trade Union Women's Network in Amman on September 26 and 27, 2014 as part of our preparations for the Founding Congress of the Arab Trade Union Confederation, and after in-depth discussions of the threats facing women in the Arab world, we voice our utmost concern due to the rising resentful phenomenon of violence against women.

We see that violence in all its forms is an issue that requires urgent action, because the growth of such a phenomenon constitutes a regression of values and behaviours to the dark ages and a form of unacceptable backwardness.

So we stress our rejection of such a phenomenon and demand trade union organisations meeting in the historic founding congress to respond as follows:

- 1- Call for an international piece of legislation that criminalises the dangerous violence phenomenon to serve as a tool that obliges governments to amend their national legislation according to its provision.
- 2- Take swift action to pressure governments and organisations of business owners in their countries to adopt the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) demand at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) board of directors meeting in November 2014, which stipulates setting an international standard to combat gender-based violence against women at work places within the national context of participating countries.
- 3- The new leadership of the Arab Federation is required to contact all Arab governments, especially those represented in the ILO board of directors, to adopt the said international tool.

4- To urgently contact human rights' and women's civil society organisations to support the demand in their countries.

5 To plan national activities in the name of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) through synchronous demonstrations in front of concerned commissions to demand the approval of a new international piece of legislation by the ILO that criminalises violence, on Thursday, October 30, 2014 from 11am until 2pm in all Arab countries.

6- Invite the ATUC to adopt a special national action programme to combat violence directed against women, workers and children.

We also suggest taking legal action against Arab satellite channels that broadcast ideas prompting hatred and violence against women.

(Signed on behalf Arab trade union organisations that are members of the Network).