



***Nordic-Arab Network of Research  
on Women's Empowerment,  
Gender and Politics (WEP)***

***– for Master Students, PhD Students and  
Postdoctoral Scholars***



## ***Objectives***

The aim of this network is to provide young Arab and Nordic scholars in the field of gender and politics with the opportunity to establish intra-regional as well as cross-regional contacts with other PhD students and seniors in the same field and to provide additional academic supervising within the following research areas:

- Women's political empowerment (political representation, social movements)
- Policy changes and gendered rights (civil, political and social citizenship and violence against women)
- Labour market (gender segregation, equal pay, unemployment)
- Migration (including migrating care workers)
- Media, communication and cultural debates
- Religion

The purpose of the network is three-fold:

- to contribute to the development of research in the field of women in political life.
- to facilitate the exchange of theories, methodological approaches and empirical findings between young Arab and Nordic scholars.
- to facilitate contacts between senior and junior researchers in the field. Thus, the network will be of vital help to young scholars who are looking for international research contacts and who are in want of additional external supervision capacity.

” **...gender equality is critical to the development and peace of every nation.**

**Kofi Annan**

## ***Activities and Resources***

- The network will assist young scholars with establishing new research contacts and will provide additional academic supervising opportunities by Arab and Nordic senior researchers.
- Two PhD seminars (one in Denmark, 1-3 November 2010 and one Morocco in 2011) for Master, PhD, and postdoc students from the Middle East, North Africa, and the Nordic countries.
- An online forum for network members on KVINFO's three-language (Arab, English, Danish) website: <http://www.womendialogue.org>
- Four scholarships (2010-2011) will be available for Arab PhD students wishing to study one semester at Aalborg University in Denmark.

The working language of the network is English.

## ***How to Join***

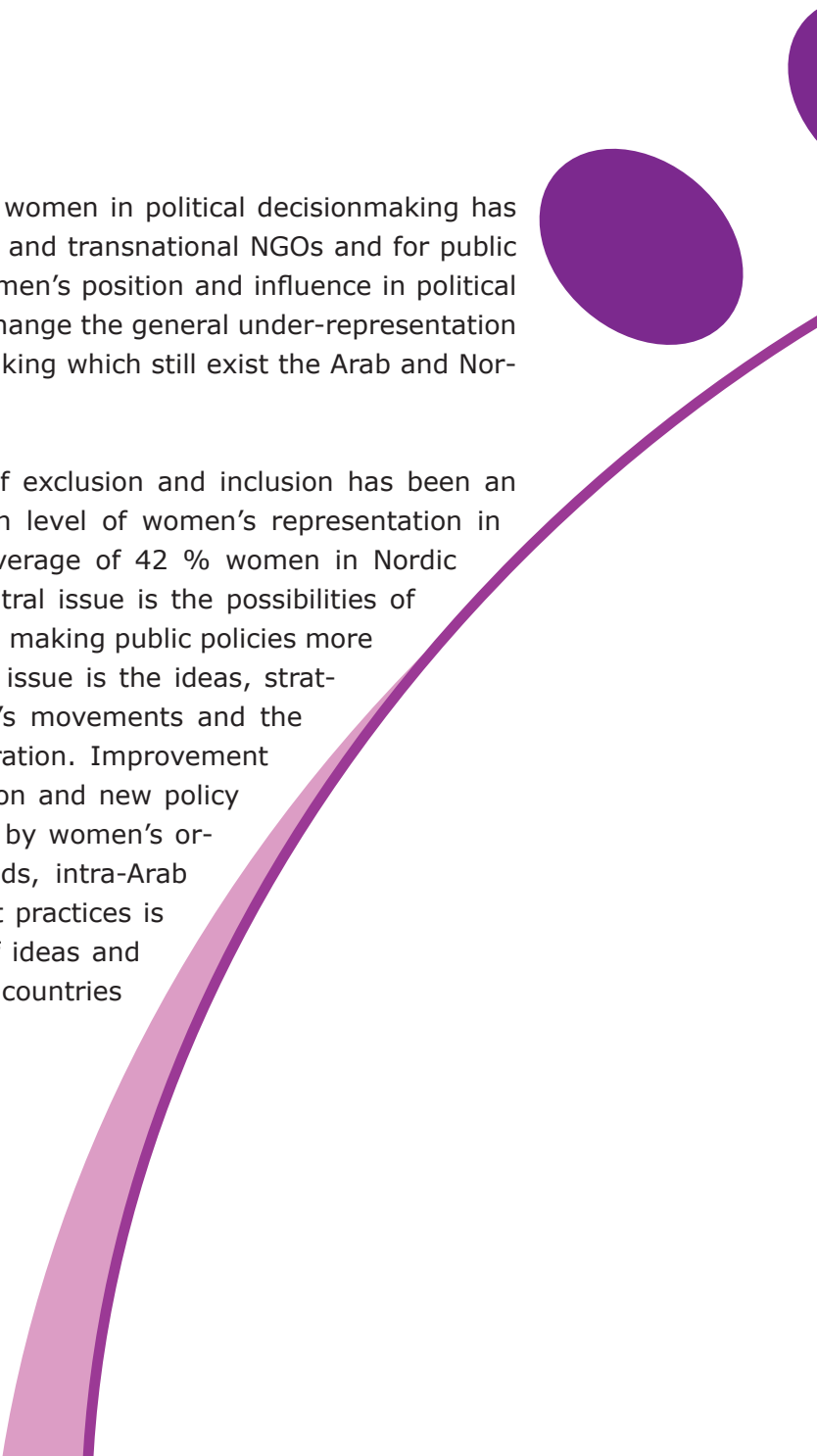
*Master Students, PhD Students and Postdoc Scholars:* Everybody within the target group may apply for membership of the network. The network is primarily aimed at PhD students but Master students and Postdoc scholars are also invited to join the network.

*Senior Researchers:* Please feel free to contact us regarding network membership if you are a senior researcher willing to share your experience with and provide feedback to young scholars.



**Want to join the network?**

**Please register at [www.womendialogue.org](http://www.womendialogue.org), and under Group Activities click at 'WG: Nordic-Arab Network of Research on Women's Empowerment, Gender and Politics (WEP)' to get in touch with other students and researchers. Membership is free of charge.**



History tells us that research on women in political decisionmaking has been and still is vital for national and transnational NGOs and for public agencies working to enhance women's position and influence in political life. One central issue is how to change the general under-representation of women in political decision-making which still exist the Arab and Nordic countries.

Understanding the mechanism of exclusion and inclusion has been an important factor behind the high level of women's representation in the Nordic countries, with an average of 42 % women in Nordic parliaments today. A second central issue is the possibilities of changing the political agenda and making public policies more gender-sensitive. A third central issue is the ideas, strategies and effects of the women's movements and the potential of transnational cooperation. Improvement in women's political representation and new policy reforms has often been initiated by women's organizations. Within all three fields, intra-Arab and intra-Nordic diffusion of best practices is important, as is the exchange of ideas and experiences between the Arab countries and the Nordic countries.



## ***Funding***

The network has funding for its activities for a two-year period (2010-2011) but additional funding will be applied for if the network is successful. The project is part of KVINFO's regional program *Gender and Women's Rights: Danish-Arab dialogue and cooperation* and financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **Steering Committee**

The network steering committee consists of representatives from the Arab and Nordic countries and the members are responsible for the scientific coordination and quality assurance of the network activities.

### **Arab partners:**

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**K V I N F O**

  
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