



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Women's Organizations in Egypt

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ *The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women*, founded in 1987, works to empower Egyptian women economically, socially, legally, and politically. ADEW's programs include a microloan program for low-income women, funded by women; free legal assistance; classes on legal rights; and literacy classes. Their "Arab Women Speak" program encourages women to discuss their problems and to make their own decisions regarding their lives and families. The ADEW has a women's shelter called House of Eve, which provides housing and assistance to women and children who have survived domestic violence. <http://www.adew.org/>
- ❖ *The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights* works to improve the legal status of Egyptian women by fighting discriminatory legislation, empowering and educating women about their legal rights, and encouraging political participation of women. ECWR's "Access to Justice" program works with NGOs and community and civil society organizations to identify and overcome the legal challenges that these groups face in achieving women's rights. This partnership has succeeded in bringing about legislative changes in the Nationality Law and the Personal Status Law in Egypt. Other programs include fighting street harassment, helping women obtain ID cards, and registering women to vote. <http://ecwronline.org/>
- ❖ The goal of *Nazra for Feminist Studies* is to strengthen and maintain an Egyptian feminist movement. *Nazra* strives to integrate feminism and gender awareness into politics and society. The group focuses on youth specifically as the main catalyst for social change. *Nazra*'s Women Human Rights Defenders program provides resources and tactics for protecting the rights of women protestors and activists. Another of their programs works to produce an Arabic glossary of feminist terminologies to make original material more available to Egyptian women. <http://nazra.org/>
- ❖ The Women and Memory Forum (WMF) works to combat negative representations and perceptions of Arab women. The group also works to integrate gender into the study of Arab history and social sciences. The objective of the WMF is to create an alternate collection of knowledge and cultural information, with the goal of empowering women and raising awareness. The WMF achieves this through its three tenets of research, advocacy, and capacity-building. The group's Library and Documentation Center provides information to scholars and researchers, and its Gender Education workshops provide theoretical training in gender and feminist studies to graduate and university students. <http://www.wmf.org.eg/>
- ❖ *Karama* is an NGO created and centered in Cairo that collaborates with organizations and activists across the Middle East and North Africa. Its goal is to strengthen women's leadership and end violence against women in the region. *Karama*'s tactic is to address each aspect of society – law, media, education, economics, etc. – and combat violence through those specific lenses. One of *Karama*'s programs, the Global Dignity Fund, works to empower women economically by creating jobs and providing training. <http://www.el-karama.org/>

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