



## The Kurdish Women's Freedom Movement

### TRANSFORMATION, MEANING AND CHALLENGES

The Kurdish Women's Freedom Movement is at the most striking and meaningful point of transformation in its 50-year history of struggle. While this development is related to the internal dynamics and levels of development of the movement, it is also closely correlated with women's movements across the world.

The systemic, paradigmatic, and political-social changes in the world, which have marked our century, show the need for a new perspective of struggle. This need has been making itself felt since the 1990s. The 20th century's bloody and conflict-ridden status-quo, namely the statist, male-dominated capitalist system, does not produce any solutions to social problems. It has produced two world wars, nuclear threat, hunger, poverty, forced migration, genocide, and femicide.

The dominant paradigm has deepened social problems.

Real socialism could not be an effective alternative to this capitalist paradigm; it could not detach itself from the hegemonic system and its pillars, in particular, male domination. Revolutionary-left and social-cultural movements have become marginalised or integrated into the status quo; through state terrorism or assimilation, they have become integrated in the ideological-political grounds of the hegemonic system. Most significantly, they could not become one with society. The system's dictum "You will either collapse, surrender, or remain occupied with aimless resistance" has been more or less imposed on all revolutionary-left and women's liberation movements.

# Unity in Diversity

## LOCAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL

On the other hand, worldwide resistance in different forms is on the rise against the oppressive system today. Many groups, organizing from the grassroots, intend to create alternatives. The problem is that most of them act separately from each other. Coordination based on a common paradigm would can lead to serious pressure on the ruling powers.

It will only be possible to overcome this grasp, to break this fascist circle with a new socialist-feminist and liberationist paradigm based on the history of democratic modernity and corresponding forms of social-political organization and democratic culture.

Against the system of war, despair, exhaustion, slaughter, genocide, and feminicide, and the model of society imposed on us by capitalist hegemony, change must be based on a reformulation and societal organization of humanity's universal and historical values of freedom and democracy at the local, regional, and global level.

# Peace and Democratic Society

## LOCAL AND UNIVERSAL PERSPECTIVE

On 27 February 2025, the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan initiated a strategic phase with his "Call for Peace and a Democratic Society", under conditions of severe isolation in Imrali prison.

The Kurdistan Freedom Movement's can develop a radical initiative by restructuring itself with both a local and a universal perspective. This is an insistence on peaceful, democratic solutions and a reliance on the political dynamics revealed through self-organization and self-determination of societies in the struggles against the hegemonic culture of war and violence.

## THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

This initiative also points to the collapse of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Middle Eastern nation-state system and hegemonic power balances, as well as the new design imposed on the peoples through colonialist policies of genocide and feminicide, as evident in the example of Gaza. What we see in Gaza is the prevention of freedom and transformation in the Middle East.

In the new century, the Middle Eastern peoples will not accept being redesigned according to the narrow patriarchal, nationalist, religious interests of the imperialist system. The peoples of the Middle East, especially the Kurdish people, will develop their own democratic alternatives as solutions. Already, the alternative of free life with all ethnic, cultural, and religious differences among peoples has revealed important dynamics in the region.

### THE ROJAVA EXPERIENCE

The revolution in Rojava and its democratic autonomous, multilingual, multicultural, and multifaith system based on equality between men and women have already had significant effects on the peoples of the region as well as on regional politics.

### SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION

Abdullah Öcalan's call for "Peace and a Democratic Society" is the culmination of a several decades-old search for a solution to the Kurdish question on peaceful and democratic grounds. Whilst the colonialist Turkish state has insisted on dragging the question of existence and freedom to war, Öcalan repeatedly declared ceasefires (in 1993, 1996, 1998, 2003, 2009, 2013, 2025) and took steps for a democratic solution. The steps taken by the Kurdistan Freedom Movement have failed each time due to the fascist Turkish state's permanent policies of annihilation and denial, and the continuous imposition of war and genocide.

## The New Paradigm and Women Liberation

### DEVELOP PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND INCLUSIVITY

The democratic, ecological, and women's liberationist paradigm developed by Abdullah Öcalan under total isolation, stands for democratic coexistence, a practice that has been spread and strengthened across Kurdistan. This has established a conscious, democratic, and women's liberation-focused culture among the Kurdish people, whose political style has become a basis of democratic and free coexistence and a great source of alliance-building and strength for the peoples of the region.

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The call for “Peace and a Democratic Society” is first and foremost a call to us women. Since it is women who will be most affected and empowered by this call, it is undoubtedly women who will need to lead and develop such a radical democratic transformation. The paradigm that brings together societal freedom and women’s freedom through the building of democratic society has now leapt to a new stage.

As the Kurdish Women’s Freedom movement, we are committed to fulfill all the requirements of this call and to lead the understanding of this historical process of change. We believe that the values, dynamics, and developments that this universal change and restructuring will bring about for women will create fundamental gains for women’s freedom universally.

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

On this basis, we call on all movements for women’s liberation, all women’s organizations and institutions, freedom struggles, intellectuals, rights defenders, and democratic forces to support and strengthen Mr. Öcalan’s call for “Peace and a Democratic Society”. To the extent to which this initiative is supported by democratic and women’s liberationist forces internationally, the increasing culture of war and violence against peoples will be broken.

From issuing statements of support to strengthen this call, to closely monitoring the Turkish state - any effort or struggle for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan and the removal of the PKK from the “terrorist list” will play a decisive role for the healthy progress of this political process.

With our expectations and our belief that you will support such an initiative, we extend our greetings and respect.

***Kurdish Women Communities***



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