

Joint Statement

Statement from INSAF Center for Rights and Development on the Occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child – October 11th, 2025

On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, which falls on October 11 each year, INSAF Center for Rights and Development expresses its deep appreciation for every girl who strives, despite the circumstances and challenges, to build a better future for herself and her community. On this day, we highlight the reality of girls in Yemen, and call for the promotion of their rights, the guarantee of their protection, and their empowerment to achieve a dignified and secure life.

Girls in Yemen are living through a complex and difficult reality due to the ongoing conflict, the economic collapse, and repeated human rights violations. It is estimated that 6.2 million women and girls in Yemen are at risk of gender-based violence and require life-saving assistance during 2025 ([UNFPA 2025 Humanitarian Response](#)). These shocking figures reflect the fragility of the situation for girls, who are deprived of their basic rights to education, healthcare, and protection from all forms of violence.

The war has led to the dropout of thousands of girls from schools, with estimates indicating that nearly 1.5 million girls are out of education as a result of displacement, the economic crisis, and the collapse of educational services ([UNFPA Yemen – Despite Cuts](#)). This reality exacerbates the risks of marginalization and social exclusion and limits girls' opportunities for a better future.

In addition, the problem of child marriage stands out as one of the most serious violations, as a recent report showed that 29.6% of girls in Yemen were married before the age of 18 ([Child Marriage Data 2023](#)). This high percentage means that hundreds of thousands of girls are forced to leave education, are deprived of their childhoods, and face severe physical and psychological health risks.

Malnutrition further exacerbates the vulnerability of girls and women, with over 1.5 million pregnant or breastfeeding women suffering from acute malnutrition, posing a direct threat to the health of mothers and girls alike ([UNFPA Situation Report 2025](#)). This humanitarian tragedy not only undermines the present but also shapes a vague future full of risks for coming generations.

Despite all these challenges, the Yemeni girl continues to resist, aspire, and create a horizon out of a dream despite the harsh conditions.

We, at INSAF Center, emphasize the following:

- We call upon the government and local authorities to take concrete steps to protect girls' rights and ensure their access to education and healthcare without discrimination.
- We demand the enactment and enforcement of laws that criminalize child marriage and gender-based violence, thus preserving girls' childhoods and dignity.
- We call on the international community and humanitarian organizations to intensify efforts and support to protect girls in Yemen and ensure their inclusion in development and relief programs.
- We encourage the voices of the girls themselves to express their aspirations and needs and become an essential part of the decision-making process in all matters concerning their lives and future.
- We condemn the practices carried out by the Houthi group against girls, foremost among them being the compulsion of many female students to enroll in what are known as "cultural courses," which impose a closed ideological content that entrenches intellectual and sectarian violence, and undermines the girls' right to freedom of thought and balanced education. These practices do not serve the best interest of the child and pose a real threat to her identity and her right to grow up in a safe and neutral educational environment.

On this day, we renew our commitment to working for the empowerment of every Yemeni girl, so that she may live a secure life, enjoy her full rights, and achieve her dreams in an environment governed by justice and equality.

Signatories:

Yemeni Women's Union in the Valley and Desert

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Tabateek Foundation for Handicrafts and Sustainable Development

Qna Foundation for Rights, Media, and Development

Ducts of Hope Institution for Humanitarian Welfare

Al Baraka Foundation for Development

Al somu foundation for development women and child

Association for the Advancement and Development of women and children

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