

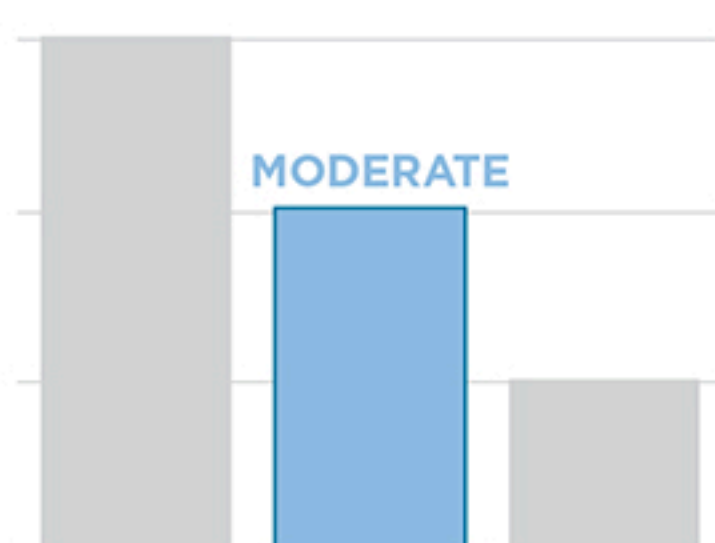
Women's role in Tunisia's National Dialogue (2013-2015)



BACKGROUND ON TUNISIA'S NATIONAL DIALOGUE (2013-2015)

In early 2011, public protests against the Tunisian Government erupted in the South and central regions of the country and spread rapidly to the coastal regions and capital Tunis. In what became the first movement of the 'Arab Spring', participants protested against social and economic exclusion and inequalities and in opposition to President Ben Ali's Government. The Government collapsed after it lost control of the army in January 2011. After a series of interim governments, a constitution-drafting process was set up in mid-2011 and elections held at the end of 2011. However, by summer 2013, political polarization was at a peak, the constitution-drafting process deadlocked, and public protest at a level not seen since 2011. On the brink of civil war in 2013, four civil society organizations, the so-called 'Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet', initiated and successfully mediated a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue process to prevent war and solve the constitution-drafting deadlock. The process resulted in a new constitution and paved the way for democratic elections in late 2014.

WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

Mass action

- Demonstrated in Bardo (Tunis) on National Women's Day in 2013

Protested against initial draft Article 28 in constitution

Influenced final treatment of gender and women's rights in constitution

Consultations

- 1 woman liaison in ND consultations with National Constituent Assembly

Little evidence of influencing ND

National Dialogue

Mandate: to prevent civil war and break the constitution-drafting deadlock in Tunisia

Direct Representation

- **3/42** women voting delegates
- **1** woman mediator of the 4 mediators



Influenced wording of gender- and women's rights in final constitution

Inclusive Commissions

Consensus Committee set up to overcome deadlocks in constitution-drafting process.

- **8 of 22** members of consensus committee were women

WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

- ➔ Women's mass action, including a march on National Women's Day in August 2013, influenced how gender is addressed in Tunisia's new constitution, including gender parity, gender sensitive language with respect to work and political rights.
- ➔ Women's mass action also played a role in deleting controversial Article 28 from the initial draft. This Article referred to women as 'complementary' to men.
- ➔ One of the mediators in the National Dialogue Quartet was a woman, Ouided Bouchamaoui.
- ➔ 8 out of 22 members of the National Constituent Assembly consensus committee were women and they played an important role in working out technical details and drafting language of the constitution, including in relation to the treatment of gender and women's rights.

+ FACTORS ENABLING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



Successful transfer, communication, and advocacy strategies

- FACTORS CONSTRAINING WOMEN'S INFLUENCE



Despite attempts, lack of effective coalition building



Lack of support of conflict parties and mediators



Elite resistance



Heterogeneity of women's identities



Attitudes and expectations surrounding societal gender roles

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI) as part of the series "Women in Peace and Transition Processes" that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover other infographics and our case study series, visit our website: www.inclusivepeace.org

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