الكنفدرالية النقابية للقوى المنتجة
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Comité de femme - COSYFOP

STATEMENT BY THE COSYFOP WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

COSYFOP Women's Committee Adopts Annual Report on Women in Algeria and Calls for Ratification of ILO Convention No. 190

Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Women's Committee of the Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces (COSYFOP) held a confidential meeting on 25 November 2026 to protect the safety of participants. During the meeting, the Committee discussed and adopted its annual report, "Women in Algeria 2026: Violence, Discrimination and the Repression of Trade Union and Civil Liberties."

The need to hold a confidential meeting to discuss violence, harassment and the rights of women workers reflects the restrictions on trade union and civil liberties in Algeria. The Committee stresses that women must be free to organise, report abuses and defend their colleagues without fear of prosecution or retaliation.

The report is grounded in the Women's Committee's own monitoring and documentation of violations affecting women workers and trade unionists. The evidence and case files compiled by the Committee have informed several complaints and communications submitted by COSYFOP to the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Drawing also on socio-economic data, legal analysis and human rights sources, the report examines economic insecurity, workplace discrimination, violence and harassment, judicial proceedings and restrictions on independent organisations.

The findings highlight the extent of women's economic vulnerability. According to international estimates, women's labour force participation stood at just 14.1 per cent in 2025, while their unemployment rate reached 25.4 per cent in the national employment survey of October 2024. The Committee considers that economic dependence and inadequate protection mechanisms leave women more vulnerable to violence and exploitation, while making it harder for them to report abuse and obtain effective support.

The Committee also examined legal proceedings and employment-related reprisals affecting women trade union leaders, including the case of Yamina Maghraoui, Secretary General of COSYFOP. It emphasises that protecting women trade unionists from retaliation and ending interference in the internal affairs of independent organisations are essential to ensuring that women can exercise their representative responsibilities freely.

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The Women's Committee calls on the Algerian Government to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), draw on the guidance provided by Recommendation No. 206, and introduce binding measures to prevent workplace violence and harassment and assess the associated risks. It also calls for effective protection against retaliation for victims, those reporting abuse and witnesses; thorough and independent investigations into complaints; and the regular publication of sex-disaggregated statistics.

The Committee further calls for the removal of restrictions on independent trade union activities, the reopening of closed union premises, and guarantees that trade unions can hold meetings and congresses and raise funds lawfully. It demands an end to prosecutions arising from peaceful trade union activities or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, together with full implementation of the recommendations issued by the ILO supervisory bodies.

To translate its documentation and advocacy work into practical protection, the Committee has made the proposed Women's Trade Union Support Centre a priority for 2027. The initiative aims to provide legal assistance, psychological and social support, emergency aid and referrals to safe accommodation. It also seeks to strengthen training opportunities for women trade unionists and build networks of solidarity. The Committee welcomes the commitment of women trade unionists and supporters who are willing to contribute to the project and calls for the removal of the legal, administrative and financial barriers preventing its implementation.

The Committee urges the International Labour Organization, Public Services International (PSI), and international trade union and human rights organisations to provide practical, sustained technical and financial support for programmes that monitor and document violations, prevent workplace violence and assist women affected by abuse. It also calls on these organisations to support the establishment of the Women's Trade Union Support Centre as an effective protection mechanism.

The COSYFOP Women's Committee reaffirms its commitment to documenting violations and defending the rights of women workers and trade unionists. It stresses that ending violence and harassment requires the effective protection of trade union rights and freedoms, together with independent, accessible and effective mechanisms to protect women.

Algeria, 25 November 2026

COSYFOP Women's Committee

Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces (COSYFOP)