



# **The Marrakech Declaration**

## **A Centre-Right Women's Agenda for the 21st Century**

### **Preamble**

The International Women's Democracy Union (IWDU) — a global network of centre-right women's organizations committed to democracy, freedom, and human dignity — brings together women leaders from across regions and political traditions. We are united by a belief in individual liberty, the rule of law, free enterprise, strong families, and the defense of democratic institutions. Women are not only the foundation of families and communities, but essential contributors to economic growth, democratic governance, scientific innovation, and national development. Their advancement, we believe, is best secured not through state coercion or imposed outcomes, but through opportunity, choice, merit, and the protection of fundamental rights.

Rooted in dignity and responsibility, responsive to global realities, respectful of cultural contexts, and focused on practical outcomes rather than ideology, this declaration sets out core principles for a modern conservative approach to women's policy — globally relevant, shared across our movement, and offered at a moment of profound transformation shaped by demographic change, the rise of artificial intelligence, and contested ideas about the very meaning of womanhood.

Through freedom, opportunity, and responsibility, we advance a vision of women's empowerment rooted not in ideology, but in human potential.

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### **In a unified voice, we recognize:**

#### **1. Women shaping Culture, Faith, Society, and Family**

We recognize the women who take on responsibility within their families, cultures, and faith traditions, and who — alongside men — shape the policies that affect their lives and the lives of their children. Strong families and communities are essential to stability, social cohesion, and human flourishing. Public policy should support women in these roles, not seek to supplant them.



Development partnerships, in turn, must respect cultural differences and the individual circumstances of the women they aim to serve.

We recognize the right to life as the highest value. We advocate for the end of all conflicts and wars and we call on all states to adhere to the fundamental principles of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

## **2. Empowerment through Education, Opportunity, and Economic Participation**

We promote women's advancement through education, skills, and economic opportunity. This includes ensuring access to the fundamental conditions of human development — safety, clean water, food security, healthcare, energy, and reliable infrastructure — especially in the Global South, where women are central to the wellbeing and progress of their communities.

Real empowerment grows through opportunity and participation, not through dependency or state handouts. We support women's full participation in market economies by encouraging entrepreneurship, protecting secure property rights, expanding access to capital, and removing the regulatory barriers that limit women's ability to start, own, and grow businesses.

## **3. Freedom to Choose One's Life Path**

Women must be free to choose their own path — in professional life, in family life, or in both — without structural disadvantage or ideological pressure steering them toward or away from particular roles. Policies should recognize the dual demands of combining a career with caregiving and remove the barriers that prevent women from combining motherhood, work, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, equal pay for equal work and a healthy balance between work and family must be supported.

Among these paths, we give particular recognition to the choice of motherhood — including full-time motherhood — as a uniquely valuable and society-shaping role, through which mothers shape the next generation and the long-term flourishing of our communities. We are committed to addressing the disadvantages that can follow from this choice, such as reduced pensions and weaker retirement security.

## **4. Equality of Opportunity and Merit**

We uphold equality before the law and support merit-based systems that allow women to advance through talent, effort, and achievement. We reject attempts to engineer statistical



parity, just as we reject discrimination against men. Both undermine fairness and risk devaluing women's own achievements by attributing their success to imposed outcomes rather than to their abilities.

Quotas, where they are used at all, can only be justified as temporary transitional measures in business, politics, and administration — adopted to address severe and entrenched inequalities, and phased out as those conditions are corrected.

## **5. Women in Political Life and Public Leadership**

Women's participation is indispensable to the strengthening of democratic institutions, freedom of expression, and the rule of law. Our member parties are committed to actively encouraging women to seek public office, to building pipelines of women leaders within our organizations, and to providing the mentorship, training, and networks that help them succeed.

We support women's political advancement on the basis of conviction, competence, and merit — never as tokens or as instruments of imposed parity. Our aim is not to fill seats but to ensure that women who wish to serve in public life can do so on equal terms, with the same support and opportunities afforded to men.

We also recognize that women in politics increasingly face harassment, intimidation, and threats — in the public square and in the digital sphere alike. We commit to defending women in political life against these attacks and to fostering a political culture in which disagreement is conducted with civility and the personal safety of public servants is protected, regardless of their views.

## **6. Protection of Women's Rights Based on Biological Reality**

We affirm that women's rights are grounded in biological reality. Clear legal definitions of sex are essential to ensure effective legal protections, fair opportunities, and the safeguarding of women-only spaces — particularly in healthcare, sports, and shelters from violence. We recognize that ideological frameworks that deny or obscure biological reality risk undermining the dignity of women, the integrity of language, and the coherence of legal protections.

## **7. Protection of Human Life and Human Dignity**

We uphold the protection of human life as a fundamental value. Policy affecting women must be rooted in respect for human dignity at all stages of life, supporting both mothers and their



children, and rejecting practices that commodify or exploit the human body — including trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and surrogacy.

We commit to combating all forms of violence against women — including domestic abuse and honor-based violence — through effective laws, robust enforcement, and prevention strategies adapted to local context. No cultural or religious tradition can justify violence against women, even as we recognize that effective prevention must engage with the cultural settings in which violence occurs.

## **8. Demographic Awareness and the Role of Women**

We recognize the importance of demographic sustainability and the central role women play in the future of our societies. Strong marriages are the foundation of stable families, and stable families — together with supportive environments for raising children and genuine intergenerational solidarity — are essential to the long-term prosperity of any society.

Demographic change must be acknowledged as a defining challenge of our era and addressed across all institutions and policy areas, with long-term thinking that extends beyond electoral cycles. This means fostering a culture that values parenthood, designing family policies that help individuals and couples have the children they want, and creating conditions that allow young women and men to start families earlier in life if they wish to do so.

We further recognize the need for policies that provide meaningful support for families facing challenging circumstances — creating the social and economic conditions in which they can live in stability and dignity. We recognize the vital contribution of grandmothers and older women, whose experience, wisdom, and service strengthen families and communities across generations.

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We invite all member organizations and partners to advance these principles in their national and international work, building societies in which women can thrive— as individuals, within their families, and as leaders in their communities.

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