



FINAL DECLARATION

OF THE 2ND YPJ CONFERENCE

Our second conference took place over the first two days of June in 2019, under the slogan: “With Leyla’s spirit and Avesta’s anger, we will tear down the occupation.” We dedicated the conference to the martyrs Bêrivan, Jînda, Hebûn Enteriyê, Destan, to the martyrs of Qereçox and to hundreds of other comrades who joined the struggle and sacrificed their lives, from all four parts of Kurdistan, the Middle East and the rest of the world. At the same time we sent greetings to all the peoples of North and East Syria and to all women around the world. In order to successfully implement the decisions and promises that we made during the conference, we pledged to increase and strengthen our struggle going forward.

After the seven years of war, resistance and struggle that we as the Women’s Protection Units have experienced together with our people, we have arrived at a new phase of our struggle. This new phase brings with it new duties and responsibilities. We carried out our second conference, which was attended by 200 delegates, with this understanding. Without a doubt, the conference was a historical development in the common struggle between Kurdish women and all the women of the Middle East.

The conference was focused around evaluating the current political and military situation as well as the last seven years of our works, and re-visiting our organizational structure and writing our organizational documents. We also made certain decisions regarding our martyrs, our educational processes, and our plans for the coming two years.

The YPJ fought with love for our land. We showed the necessary willingness to make sacrifices and the courage required to defeat ISIS, an organization that had cast a veil of darkness and fear over women and all of humanity with unrelenting violence and murder. The YPJ stood against their barbarism, and gave invaluable sacrifices in order to protect our people, our land and women under threat. Even though we were confronted with difficult circumstances, the YPJ stood alongside the People’s Protection Units (YPG) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). We took not a single step backwards. In fact, the YPJ stepped into the vanguard role, and were a source of morale and powerful conviction, which led our partners and us to great victories. The same way we took a leadership role in the various liberation campaigns to defeat ISIS, we declared at our conference that we will also step into a leadership role in the creation of a free, equal and democratic society.

At the conference we evaluated the important works from the last seven years in which YPJ took an active part. We honored our martyrs, who helped us create our values, and who held their positions at the front lines with unique and unsurpass-



YPJ **Information & Documentation Office**

able conviction until the very end. During the conference we made many important decisions regarding our martyrs. We emphasized that the truest path to victory will be found by following the example left by the martyrs and bringing their dreams to life.

The whole world witnessed the struggle that the YPJ carried out against ISIS. This struggle became a source of inspiration for women around the world. From the very beginning of our struggle until the present day, women from all parts of the world, such as Ivana from Germany, and Helîn from England, have joined the ranks of YPJ. This struggle created a spiritual unity among women and came to represent a common cause for all women. The existence of YPJ is a source of hope. We became a force which proved that women can both defend themselves, and also seek justice for all the women that were murdered, kidnapped or taken hostage by ISIS.

The participation of women in this war shattered conservative, outdated and dogmatic views of women. It opened the way for new discussions around the women's struggle. It became clear to all observers that the YPJ was not just fighting ISIS, but also a 5,000 year-old mentality. Our struggle for dignity opened new pathways for women and defined new values. In order to reiterate those hard fought for values, we took time in our conference to emphasize the role of legitimate self-defense and reminded ourselves of our previous proclamations and decisions regarding this topic. We said clearly: for us, the protection of women is more important than food and water. As YPJ we feel responsible for the protection of all women, peoples and children. This is because in Syria, in the Middle East and on a worldwide scale there are great threats against women, children and various ethnic groups.

In order to professionalize the YPJ as a military force, to make sure that we operate at the highest level and are able to protect ourselves, we are in need of people educated in military tactics, both technical and psychological. As such, we find it necessary to restructure and rebuild ourselves, in order to reach a level of professionalism that meets the requirements of the wars of our times. This is why restructuring and reorganization were our primary aims going into the conference. During the conference, important decisions have been made in these respects.

At the conference, we reiterated that we are living in a historical moment, and have a historical duty to protect social values. We renewed our promise to protect these values, ensure the creation of a system of Democratic Nation and to serve as their protection force. To conclude, we want to send greetings for Ramadan to the Democratic Muslim community and to all women. We hope this holiday will bring a tranquil life and peace between all peoples.

YPJ General Command