

THE CONTRIBUTION AND IMPACT OF WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN THE SWANA REGION: USING EXAMPLES FROM SUDAN, SYRIA AND TUNISIA

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Women in the South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region are more commonly depicted as passive victims oppressed by their own patriarchal society and authoritarian regimes. However, SWANA women share a rich history of activism where they have struggled in tandem for both national liberation and women's liberation. Using examples from Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia a counter-representation of SWANA women is offered, demonstrating their capacities for self-determination within their own specific contexts. Using a feminist intersectional solidarity framework and a specific focus on collective action, this thesis examines the contributions SWANA women are making to activism in their own countries. In addition, it puts into question the impact of women's activism in the region. This research uses a literature-based methodology whereby the research is based entirely on existing literature, including the formulation of case studies on Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia. The research finds that the capacities for women's activism are heavily influenced by context and identity, and that there are continued efforts to amalgamate feminist identities in the region.