



## **The 2nd IAPEWGW Regional Symposium: Women's Empowerment in Sport**

### **Closing Statement Tehran, 14 & 15th of December, 2015 Alzahra University**

The Iran IAPESGW Symposium was attended by 300 delegates from 14 countries – Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Macau-China, Malaysia, Qatar, Slovakia, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women supports all efforts to reject discrimination of Muslim Women's right to participate in physical activity and sport at every level, including all major international events.

In recent years the association has been active on this topic internationally. A major event was the International Seminar held in Oman in 2008 with delegates from 14 countries – Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, South Africa, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. One outcome was the 'Accept and Respect-Declaration'. Three statements are highlighted here:

1. Islam is an enabling religion that endorses women's participation in physical activity.
2. We recommend that people working in the sport and education systems accept and respect the diverse ways in which Muslim women and girls practise their religion and participate in sport and physical activity, for example, choices of activity, dress and gender grouping.
3. We urge international sport federations to show their commitment to inclusion by ensuring that their dress codes for competition embrace Islamic requirements, taking into account the principles of propriety, safety and integrity.

In the past, the international association has also written to sports governing bodies in support of all Muslim women's right to honour the preference for Islamic dress for example to FIFA, the weight-lifting and Badminton International federations.

Finally we express our appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting the participation of Iranian women in physical activity, physical education and sport