

Al-Haraka al-Dusturiyy al-Islamiyya (Islamic Constitutional Movement), Kuwait, 2012, Translated by Suja Sawafta, Translated for the Islamic Political Party Platform Project, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, <http://kurzman.unc.edu/islamic-parties>. [6/19/13].

Live: We begin in the name of God, and with his Almighty guidance we seek help, and with a soul filled with optimism and hope, and with a close and critical eye, and by giving in a positive light, the Islamic constitutional movement presents its electoral declaration stemming from its awareness of this crucial transitional period in Kuwait's political history, and this was formed in the throes of political turmoil that has ravaged the country in recent years, this is a result of a series of crises that have accumulated over the recent years resulting from failed approaches to sound management of previous successive governments, and the cause of these crises has been a the disappearance of morals and values which has in turn threatened society.

A closer examination of what led to corruption and failure in running the state was achieved by assessing Kuwait's ranking in the Corruptions Perceptions Index and the Global Competitiveness report, until we were able to delve into the heart of the legislative institution, in light of the growing conflict/tensions between the different parties and the ruling establishment, and the deterioration of national unity due to corrupt media and familial, sectarian, and tribal polarizations, as well as the a lack of state development and the spread of laziness in the administration, unemployment, and financial difficulties in both the legislative and administrative branches of government.

However, despite all the pain and suffering that Kuwaiti society experienced, a popular/youth movement emerged with the hopes of reforming many aspects of society and to stop the decline that affects/plagues the state apparatus, and brought about the hope of a new start in Kuwait's present and future through the formation of a new constitution characterized by development and progression.

First of all: Identity and Sharia (law)

Work to solidify the community's identity and consolidate morality and the islamization of laws. Staying true to the book of God and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the unity and enlightenment of Islamic law, and doing so through the following:

- Emphasis on the fact that Sharia calls for unity in a community and rejects divisions and to promote the spirit of harmony and brotherhood enforced by Islamic values because it is in the best interest of the nation (Verse: O mankind I have created you into male and female and into nations and tribes so that... Aya/Verse 12)

- Having hope for the future by steering clear of corruption and staying true to the values of justice and righteousness and enabling reforms for God says:
- Commitment to Sharia as our moral code and rule of law and a refusal to follow any other type of law that is in conflict with Islamic Sharia and its values.
- The gradual application of Islamic Law by expediting the referral of bills presented to the Supreme Court so that we may be able to fully apply Islamic Law.

#### Second: Citizenship:

Promoting the concept of citizenship by defining it as a necessity and as a duty in the present time by encouraging active participation in order to solve the current social crisis. Encouraging the acceptance of pluralism, acceptance of the other and his/her opinions. Once the concept of citizenship is defined and accepted, one must address the following issues:

##### A) Establishing the rule of law:

And to make sure that the law is applicable to and respected by everyone without exception, and that the citizen is aware that anyone is equal under the law without discrimination, this will be done through:

- By placing emphasis on the selection of good leaders who are committed to reform.
- Strengthening the role of the Audit Bureau.
- Activating the role of the Court of Ministers
- Try violators of the law without discrimination.

##### B) Emphasis on the constitutional rights of citizenship:

Implementing the constitution and ensuring the citizen's active participation in decision-making, and ensuring the protection of rights that are promised in the constitution, such as the freedom of opinion and the freedom of expression, and the freedom to choose representatives in parliament, trade unions, and other state institution, and ensuring this through the following:

- Affirm the right to express opinions and disapproval on social networking sites.

- Reaffirm the right to assemble and the right to freedom of expression.
- Applying the law to violators of the law using corrupt media.

C) Reinforce national unity, coexistence, tolerance and the acceptance of the other:

This will be done by consecrating national affiliation with the homeland, with respect to our religious and class differences, and to emphasize the commonalities of all citizens, which exceed all their differences. Making it easier for us to coexist and live in harmony under the law, and except the other no matter what their opinion is in the framework of the law, constitution, and society, through:

- (Practically) debating partisan issues in a way that allows us to take advantage of the disparities present in our society and the positive employment of the following ideology: “We coexist despite our differences and our diversity is what makes distinguishes us.”
- Emphasize that our community is based on diversity and not uniformity: “We have created you into nations and tribes so that you may get to know one another (Quran)”
- Implementing a law that makes it illegal to disrupt the concept of national unity.

D) Good selection of candidates for the position of “national deputies”:

It is the responsibility of all citizens, in this sensitive time in the nation’s history, to select good candidates as their representatives and deputies, and this good selection shall be conducted based on a sound investigation of the candidate’s background and his electoral agenda and positions on critical issues, so that he will be able to represent the community righteously. Since the Secretariat cannot fulfill all of their goals if it is not accompanied by efficiency. Force will also not reach the desired goals if it is not accompanied by integrity and the practical application of the following model:

- Focusing on the candidate’s financial integrity and his refusal to redo the elections because he does not have faith in the previous council.
- That the candidate has a reformist message/goal and places an emphasis on credibility.

- That the candidate has the ability to convince the public of his credibility through his political, developmental, and electoral platform.
- The candidate's ability to utilize/implement his specialization and his ability to use his expertise/experience to activate the legislative role of the parliament.

E) Strengthening the initiative to value citizenship:

For Kuwait, in its developmental program, aspires to include the participation of its citizens in the advancement of all areas, by strengthening the role of initiatives and entrepreneurship in providing solutions as well as practical proposals that contribute to solving problems, and for this to be at the center of all planned developmental projects. This will reflect firm citizenship.

F) Devotion to National Security:

Kuwait was, and still is, an aspiration for outsiders, and it is up to security forces to work together towards ensuring Kuwait's national security by creating a national security strategy that will ensure her stability and safety, this can be done through:

- Strengthening internal national security and rewarding those that are committed to homeland security.
- Developing a strategy for dealing with countries that pose a national threat to Kuwait's safety and security.
- Strengthening relations with other Gulf countries and supporting the GCC resolution for regional unity.

Thirdly: Participation: Meaning that we intend to broaden public participation in the decision making-process in order to allow for the nation to draw out/plan their own future according to public interest without excluding any members of society, and doing so through the following:

A) Lowering the voting age:

Making the 18 years of age the legal voting age for this includes a large portion of the youth, who are capable of making decisions regarding the

future, especially after the critical role that the youth recently played in changing the political scene/map.

B) Activating the role of civil society institutions:

In encouragement and support of unions, political bodies, and organizations dealing with the well being of the public to participate in the building of every sector and discipline in the nation thus solidifying the constitutional right of allowing everyone to participate in the nation-building process and shaping the reality and future of the nation and providing solutions to all crises and problems.

C) Encouraging women's participation:

In joining her brother in the building of the nation in various disciplines without being marginalized, especially in areas that require the active participation of women, and preventing discrimination against women especially when it comes to her civil rights such as housing, retirement, etc.

D) Expanding the basis for political participation:

Through the participation of community sectors such as the police and the military and ensuring that they vote in a neutral manner, as well as citizens and others, because the 'umbrella' of citizenship encompasses all of the nation's citizens/children, who all have the responsibility of participating in building Kuwait and ensuring its stability and safety and this is done through the following:

- Reevaluation of election laws and the distribution of powers in order to broad political and parliamentary representation and achieving a national source of authority.
- Adopting a law that regulates political pluralism in order to improve political action so that it is based on programs and not people.
- Integrating the role of civil society institutions in providing proposals and practical projects for certain issues on the National Council's agenda.
- Integrating the role of the youth in the Parliament by holding regular meetings and giving them their own forum known as the "Youth Parliament".

Fourthly: Positivity: For political action to be in accordance with the principle of cooperation and coordination in order to introduce a new attitude of positivity in addition to developmental projects and for this to be done through:

- A) The government's commitment to the new approach and dealing with changes responsibly and positively with the legislative authority:

Opposition in the legislature began with the noble intention of implementing developmental programs; however, the corruption found in the government prevented opportunities for cooperation, for it is up to the current government to undergo positive and responsible cooperation with the legislative authority and it is up to the legislative authority to monitor the government (in terms of government spending and allocations), and to implement a system of supervision in the event that the government deviates from true reform, thus one of the most important criteria for this new approach to government includes:

- To begin to form a new government and to choose ministers based on their ability, efficiency, and integrity.
- For the new government to begin working on a reform package that addresses the management faults in files dealing with development- and to address the problems therein.
- For the government to confront/address corruption and inflation and to review the balances of former deputies and the transfer of millions among other resources.
- For the government to not interfere with the outcome of the election of President of the National assembly and/or its committees and to give the members the freedom to chose.

- B) Cooperation between both authorities:

Cooperation between the two powers is the constitutional approach to fruitful political action which is essential to prosperity in the country, this complies with the framework of the constitution and respect for both laws and parties, and ensures the promotion of development, for establishing beneficial work ethic between the opposition and the present elected executive government is both national and constitutional. The opposition is the way to reform and not necessarily always a way of political action, this is seen through:

- Changing the systems of political action and considering the supposed Parliamentary/ majority government.

- Agree on a set of priorities for both powers as to expedite the development process.
- Implementing a plan/trajectory for development and steering away from political pressure and utilitarian interests.
- To not circumvent the values and provisions provided by the constitution.

C) Improving Basic Services in the state:

This will be done through paying closer attention to issues that require for agreement (between opposition and government) for their implementation and especially issues that deal with housing, health, and education, this will be done through:

- Giving special priority to the development of education at all levels and of its technicalities.
- Improving health services.
- Solving the issue of housing practically and quickly.
- Improving and modernizing infrastructure (airport, roads etc.)
- Protecting the community from environmental pollution and contamination of food.

D) Respecting the will of the Kuwaiti people in choosing the trajectory of their future:

On the national level, the popular movement has been born out of discussions between those in opposition and those in favor of the national government, for it is here that we must emphasize the need to understand and accept this popular movement as it functions within the framework of the constitution and the societal norms that are agreed upon by all and whose general framework was consecrated and formulated through the following notion “the nation is the source of authority”, and that the people will not accept for their rights to be taken away by disabling legislative and constitutional institutions.

Fifth: Freedom, justice and equality: These are the founding principles of the Kuwaiti constitution and this is solidified through:

A) Inaugurating leaders based on their efficiency and commitment to justice:

When assigning any office, the government will fight nepotism and any concept contrary to freedom, justice, and equality through:

- (Re) consideration of the code of the Administrative Court.
- Adopt a law on inaugurating leaders.

B) Distancing positions of political leadership from quotas:

It is essential to distance political leadership positions, which are originally community services positions from a political quota system. This needs to be done through:

- Separation between the concepts of a citizens political and social orientations and that there shall be no rewards based on these affiliations.

C) Emphasis on the independence of the Judiciary:

For the judiciary is the safe haven of the citizen. Thus, it should emphasize its independence from interventions by influential people and institutions.

E) Promoting human rights in a way that is in agreement of the State's standard of Sharia law:

Developed countries attach great importance to the human being and view him/her as an important component to nation building. This role is highlighted by the need to protect human dignity from being disrespected and to ensure human rights regardless of a person's race, religion, color, or creed.

E) Social justice and addressing economic and financial imbalances (in the state):

Decision-making methods in the workforce reflect the methodology that requires the re-examination of its approval standards and the extent to which it achieves social justice. This, in turn, requires great work towards diversifying income sources, encouraging the youth to engage in self-employment, and the restructuring of the state's budget by putting an end to waste and the exhaustion of the state budget. Furthermore, work must be done to monitor high-expense projects in the Tenders Committee, as well as monitoring reserves, checking performance in foreign investments, working on tackling unemployment, providing job opportunities to graduates and youth, and protecting people with low-incomes.

## Sixth: Transparency:

Clarity and openness and informing the public on the nature of the essential pillars for the stability of the rule of law, and combatting corruption and exposing those who steal public wealth/resources and take advantage of the legal system for their own personal benefit, while also putting an end to the falsification of facts by the corrupt media. Transparency can be achieved through the following:

### A) The “Where did you get this” project (disclosing financial resources):

On the one hand, this protects public money, and on the other it also maintains the reputations of state leaders and alleviates suspicions and doubts. This is done through:

- The initiative to disclose the deputies’ financial spending from the very beginning of the parliamentary period.
- Implementing the Anti-Corruption Commission Act.

### B) Following up on the deposits of funds and foreign transfers:

The case of “Millions of Deposits” has preoccupied many Kuwaitis in the recent period. It is the right of the Kuwaiti people for those who are guilty to be held accountable (the briber and the bribed), and for them people to be aware of the ongoing developments in this case.

### C) Tightening sanctions on public money/resources:

By implementing a law declaring that it is forbidden to encroach on public money/resources and by establishing institutions for public benefit.

### D) The Integrity of the elections:

By promoting all efforts that ensure free and fair elections from any impurities, and any efforts to tamper with the will of the voters, by avoiding bribes and buying votes and any efforts that illicit influential interventions, while also enacting public authorities for the regulation of the elections.