

Open Day 2017

اليوم المفتوح 2017

Joint Actions on Women, Peace, Security and Justice

تعاون مشترك نحو تحقيق الأمن والعدالة للنساء الفلسطينيات

September

Summary Report



OPEN DAY 2017: JOINT ACTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

27 SEPTEMBER 2017, RAMALLAH, PALESTINE

Photo: UN Women/Eunjin Jeong

Overview

The Open Day on Women, Peace and Security worldwide, follows a tradition set in 2010 in the lead-up to the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The main objective of the Open Day is to provide a space for a direct dialogue between women's rights organizations and women community leaders, and senior UN representatives at the country level, and enable them to share their experiences, concerns and priorities as a contribution to national and regional efforts to resolve conflicts and build security relating to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, relief and recovery. The ultimate goal of the Open Day is to provide an opportunity to deepen local ownership of the resolution, share good practices in implementation, and form strategic partnerships between the women's civil society and the United Nations.

"Palestinians should resist all attempts at excluding women from decision-making and participation at all levels. We believe that we cannot create genuine peace without the participation of women as decision-makers and not just as technical experts. We need women decision-makers, and we need a gender-sensitive political program and peace agenda that respect women's rights and abilities. Empowering women is empowering peace with justice."

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization

Summary of Open Day 2017

The Overall objective of the Open Day 2017 on Women, Peace and Security is to identify progresses and outstanding issues related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Open Day organized in 2016, which entailed a collective and comprehensive presentation of Palestinian women's needs and demands by the Palestinian women's civil society, in line with the priority actions of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (2017-2019).

The Open Day 2017 aimed at achieving following specific objectives:

1. Define sets of strategic questions, which facilitate the advancement of women's participation in peace and security in the context of Palestine
2. Present effective, attainable and actionable solutions by the women's civil society for coordinated actions to enhance the peace and security agenda in Palestine
3. Agree on a framework of action for implementing priority recommendations until the end of 2018, in accordance with the above points and recommendations agreed at Open Day 2016
4. Generate joint advocacy interventions and lobbying solutions to enhance the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan in Palestine

“This year’s Open Day will not only revisit the recommendations of last year’s Open Day event, but also engage all stakeholders to propose effective and actionable solutions to further enhance Palestinian women’s participation in peace and security agenda in the upcoming years.”

Ulziisuren Jamsran, Acting Special Representative of UN Women Palestine at the Open Day 2017

These events have brought together women leaders from civil society with senior UN officials to call on the UN and the EU to raise awareness of the gendered impact of the Israeli occupation, while specifically highlighting its effects on women’s political participation, economic security and rights, protection, education, health, and foremost Human Security especially for women and girls who are most marginalized and suffer from multiple vulnerabilities.

The Open Day 2017 was attended by Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Ms. Liisa Tanttari, EU Head of Section, Support to Civil Society, East Jerusalem and Governance Issues, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Ms. Intisar El-Wazir, President of The General Union of Palestinian Women, and Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran, UN Women Special Representative in the State of Palestine. The event was held in Ramallah concomitantly with Gaza through video conferencing and was attended by women and human rights organizations, political leaders, women and young activists, members of the High National Committee for Implementing UNSCR 1325, UN agencies and International Organizations.

Recommended Joint Action

“The attainment of long-term security necessitates the recognition of human beings, the natural aspirations of human beings, and equal economic and social opportunities. Women in Palestine face great challenges because they must deal with security measures on the ground and little economic opportunities.”

Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

The main recommended actions that have emerged from the Open Day and the consultation meetings were related to the Israeli occupation and the need to find a just and lasting solution that would include ending the occupation as a top priority. Meanwhile, the participants highlighted the need for joint actions from the civil society, UN and international community to strengthen mechanisms to hold Israel accountable to end the Israeli military occupation and the oppression of the people of Palestine.

Participants from Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations called upon the United Nations to support and fund the implementation of priorities under the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan which was endorsed by the Government of Palestine in August 2016 with a key focus being on protection. Participants adopted the speed-dating approach where members of civil society organizations have formed five core groups representing the five priority areas that were identified in the two preparatory consultation meetings for the Open Day 2017. In turn, representatives from the United Nations, international organizations and donor community including Italy, Spain, Norway, Italy and the UK, have distributed themselves equally and joined the five groups to motivate joint discussion on the key priority actions and identified key joint actions to work on during the years 2017 and 2018. The following is a presentation of concluding observations and proposal for follow-up by each group.

FINAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS PROPOSED BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

1. The situation of Palestinian women refugees

- Civil Society and UN Joint advocacy actions to enforce the implementation of UNSCR 194. The Resolution defined principles for reaching a final settlement and returning Palestine refugees to their home
- The provision of a UN Special Rapporteurs to the camps and in Israeli occupation military prisons for a detailed report to be presented to UN bodies and decision-makers on the situation of women and girls in camps and in prisons
- Civil Society and UN Joint advocacy interventions for the International Community to support UNRWA’s mission, services and responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria and increase funding towards gender equality and the empowerment of women refugees
- Promote projects that supports the economic empowerment of women in refugee camps and increase support of civil society’s programmes in camps towards promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

2. Women and girls living under the militarized policies of the occupation in east Jerusalem

- Increased legal services to women and children living in east Jerusalem who are exposed to house arrests and violations of human rights
- Develop a database in which the numbers and statistics on women and children in Jerusalem are provided by those who serve in the civil service and are subjected to violations of their human rights
- Call upon the UN and International community to support the work and interventions of women’s rights organizations in Jerusalem if these institutions operate from the West Bank
- Intensify international efforts to protect the identity of Palestinian women and girls in East Jerusalem

- Civil society and UN joint interventions to resolve the problem of housing in Jerusalem and discriminatory high taxes against the people of Jerusalem

3. The situation of women and girls living under siege that is imposed on Gaza since 2007

- Joint advocacy interventions to support the lifting of the blockade of Gaza and restore the freedom of movement
- Call upon the United Nations to commission a fact-finding mission to report on the situation of Palestinian women and girls in Gaza and report back to UN bodies for actions
- Call upon International organizations and the UN to intensify support to national women rights coalitions in Gaza
- Advocacy interventions to reduce barriers to health care for Palestinian women, girls and children in Gaza, through intensified emergency health support in Gaza and facilitated referrals of patients to better health services inside and outside Gaza

4. The situation of women and girls affected by the violations of Israeli settlements and settlers

- Map and preparation of needs assessment for women and girls living in areas near Israeli settlements that are considered illegal by International Laws and Security Council Resolutions, the latest of which is UNSCR 2334 (2015)
- Establish a sustainable monitoring of violations mechanism for actions to support the steadfastness of the population living in conflict-affected areas
- Increased gender-responsive economic and social empowerment programmes and projects, including increasing education opportunities and community awareness including men, women, boys and girls living in conflict-affected areas

5. The situation and human rights women imprisoned by the Israeli military occupation

- Joint advocacy interventions to address the issue of the Israeli occupation's military imprisonment of Palestinian women, youth and children that is considered illegal under International Law
- Immediate actions on the implementation of the Geneva Convention in relation to the conditions of Palestinians imprisoned by the Israeli military occupation
- Advocate for the UN's support to provide for the protection of the rights of prisoners in line with IHRL and IHL
- Increased focus on rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for Palestinian women and girls after release from the Israeli occupation military prisons

FINAL RECOMMENDED ACTIONS PROPOSED BY THE UN AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Joint efforts towards the implementation of UNSCR1325 and subsequent resolutions in the framework of the Palestinian Women, Peace and Security agenda, and promote the accountability of the Israeli occupation for its violations of human rights in the State of Palestine
- Establish an easy to access comprehensive data-base to provide a source of information for organizations on the different forms of Israeli violations of human rights as a tool for accountability. The data need to distinguish between the different categories of violations of women and girls rights with a specific in-depth analysis of the women needs and priority vis-à-vis services delivered and humanitarian response
- Establish a Dashboard on the situation of women and girls living in east Jerusalem including key figures, situation overview and analysis
- UN and civil society organization joint actions to gather evidence-based cases including testimonies, stories and data for intensified international advocacy, and support representatives of civil society and women rights organizations to address their priorities in international platforms for policy change
- A joint program between the different UN agencies to create real job opportunities and empower women who live close to the settlements, The Wall, Women in Gaza and east Jerusalem
- Support the UNRWA's mission, services and responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees and increase funding towards gender equality and the empowerment of women refugees
- Support the Palestinian women, peace and security global advocacy strategy through ensuring their active participation in and networking with International women movements and take the Palestinian issue from the local community and the national level into the international level
- Within the UN coordination mechanism, The United Nations entities need to identify a UN body to lead on the women prisoner's issues and advance advocacy interventions in international platforms
- Within the UN coordination mechanism, identify who does what at the thematic areas level, and distribute roles and responsibilities among international organizations working to support the identified priority areas

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The views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views of the European Union, UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

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