



IN BRIEF



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PALESTINE

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What's the Issue?

Women and girls in Palestine continue to experience various forms of violence due to the entrenched discriminatory social norms and traditions, and the prolonged Israeli occupation. The most common types of violence against women observed in Palestine include domestic violence, sexual harassment, early marriage and femicide, as well as public and private spheres including streets, workplaces, homes and high-density areas such as refugee camps, particularly in Gaza.

The outdated and discriminatory laws in Palestine hinder survivors of violence from accessing gender-responsive services and obtaining justice. In addition, survivors of violence often face social stigma, and are blamed as responsible for the violence occurred to them.

Fact and Figures

- Early marriage under 18 years old reached 20.5 per cent among females and 1 per cent among males out of the total married population in Palestine. [1]
- Approximately 15 per cent of married women in Gaza experienced incidents of sexual abuse by husbands over the previous year. More than half of these experienced it repeatedly (3+ times). [2]
- 50 per cent of Palestinian women and 63 per cent of Palestinian men agreed that a woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together. [3]

Our Solutions

UN Women's work on ending violence against women is guided by intergovernmental norms and standards such as:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/1979);
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA/1995) and the outcome documents of its reviews;
- The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994);
- The World Conference on Human Rights (1993);
- UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security;
- Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW – notably session 57);
- Other applicable UN instruments and resolutions on gender equality and women's empowerment;
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015-2030).

It is framed by the National Palestinian Policy Agenda 2017, the National Cross-Sector Strategy to Promote Gender Equality, Equity and Women's Empowerment (2017-2022), the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women (2011-2019) and the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2017-2019).



How We Make a Difference: Step by Step

UN Women's intervention to end violence against women in Palestine

Under its strategic area of "Women and girls live a life free of violence", UN Women works towards improving the lives of women and girls, especially those most marginalized and furthest left behind groups. UN Women's efforts on ending violence against women in Palestine are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the SDG5 and SDG16, and amplify through below interventions:

Haya: Eliminating Violence Against Women

The HAYA programme focuses on changing harmful practices and attitudes that contribute to violence against women and girls within targeted households and communities. Men and boys will also benefit from the programme by engaging in various outreach and awareness raising activities.

This programme will be achieved through progress against three expected results focusing on:

- Decreased harmful practices and attitudes that perpetuate and validate violence communities;
- Increased access by women and girls of gender-responsive EAW services (economic, medical, psychosocial, security and shelter) free of discrimination;
- Strengthened institutional capacity to develop and implement legal policy frameworks that promote and protect women's and girls' rights with regards to VAW.

The HAYA programme is funded by the Government of Canada and is jointly implemented by UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNODC and UN Women.

Sawasya II, Rule of Law Joint Programme

Sawasya II seeks to support the building of a progressively functioning and increasingly inclusive Palestinian rule of law system that respects, protects, and fulfils human rights and gender equality and promotes peace and security.

The main objective of Sawasya II has the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 16 at its core: focused on achieving gender equality and empowerment for women and girls (SDG 5) and on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and provision of access to justice for all (SDG 16).

The Programme aims at realizing the following outcomes:

- Rule of law institutions are strengthened and reunified by legal, regulatory and policy frameworks in line with international standards;
- Service provision by rule of law institutions is effective, accountable and inclusive;

- All Palestinians, especially children and vulnerable groups, have access to justice, security and protection without discrimination;
- Women's access to justice and security are improved through gender-responsive service delivery and empowerment of women.

Sawasya II is funded by the Government of the Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and jointly implemented with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

Men and Women for Gender Equality

The Men and Women for Gender Equality Regional Programme aims to respond to new challenges and opportunities regarding gender equality and women empowerment in the Arab States and in Palestine.

The programme is specifically designed to contribute to the following changes:

- Communities have more gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours;
- Key institutions (academia, faith-based institutions, media, Governments) and networks integrate and promote gender-responsive practices;
- Laws, policies and strategies promoting gender equality are drafted, revised, and approved.

The Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme is funded by Sweden and works closely with the related governmental bodies and civil society organizations.

References

- [1] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2016).
- [2] UN Women (2017). Navigating through Shattered Paths: NGO Service Providers and Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: An Assessment of GBV Services in Gaza.
- [3] UN Women (2018). International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) Palestine Report.

For more information, please visit:

Website: <http://palestine.unwomen.org>

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/unwomenpal>