



IN BRIEF



ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN PALESTINE

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What's the issue?

In Palestine, the fight for women's rights cannot be dissociated from the fight for Palestinian rights and statehood. While women's contribution to the national struggle is widely acknowledged and the law gives them the right to vote and stand for political office, women continue to be under-represented in decision-making bodies and processes at various levels of public life.

Women in Palestine have been largely excluded from formal dialogue efforts to end the Palestinian political division. Their voices and concerns have neither been heard nor included in the various reconciliation talks held and agreements reached since 2005. Existing discrimination and unequal power relations make women more vulnerable to crisis, yet their situation and specific needs continue to remain largely ignored or insufficiently targeted in post-conflict recovery.

"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 the perception of the security measures on the ground. Palestinian women have few aspirations left due to the lack of economic opportunities."

Nikolay Mladenov, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, at the Open Day 2017

Our Solutions

To address these challenges, UN Women has worked in partnership with key national partners to further the Women, Peace and Security commitments (WPS) in Palestine. UN Women's programmes on WPS are guided by a series of commitments to women's rights. These include UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and seven supporting UN Security Council Resolutions—1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2242. Other key reference points are the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In Palestine, they are guided by the National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022; the Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy (2017 – 2022); the Palestine UNDAF; the Humanitarian Response Strategy (2018-2020); and Palestine National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2017-2019).

"Palestinians should stop the attempts of excluding women from decision-making and participations at all levels. We believe that we cannot create genuine peace without participation of women at the level of decision making and not just as technical experts. We need women decision-makers, and we need to respect their ability in decision making."

Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, at the Open Day 2017



How We Make a Difference: Step by Step

UN Women's Approach on Women, Peace and Security

National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325

With the support of UN Women, the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2017-2019), the second NAP adopted by a Government in the region, was launched by the Palestinian Authority in August 2016 and focuses on increasing women's participation in matters related to national peace and security, enhancing the protection of Palestinian women and girls, and promoting accountability measures in line with International human rights law and International Humanitarian Law.

Guided by NAP priorities, other UN Women's interventions have focused on capacity development of key WPS actors, knowledge production on the gendered impact of conflict on Palestinian women's lives, and dialogue building and high-level advocacy. UN Women continues to work with key national partners to catalyze the effective resourcing, monitoring and implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 aiming at furthering the WPS agenda through policy change and community-level action.

Participation

UN Women seeks to increase women's meaningful participation in formal and informal peace negotiations and internal reconciliation efforts. Through different interventions, UN Women aims to build the capacity of women cadres/leaders on the concepts of leadership, conflict resolution, mediation, peacebuilding, gender in peace processes, communications and advocacy and support the participation of young women leaders in political parties and peace and security dialogues.

UN Women has also supported dialogue through Open Days on WPS starting from 2015, with subsequent events in 2016 and 2017 in the West bank and Gaza to inform the Security Council's Annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and the Secretary General's Annual Report with recommendations vis-à-vis advancing the WPS agenda in Palestine. The Open Days in Palestine constituted excellent platforms for women leaders to speak directly with senior UN leaders at the country level to share their experiences, concerns and priorities as a contribution to national and regional efforts to resolve conflicts and build security.

Relief and Recovery

Understanding that the humanitarian crisis in Palestine is characterized as protracted crisis where gender inequality is both a development and humanitarian concern, UN Women adopts approaches that ensure that WPS programming includes interventions that are carefully designed to respond to the lived realities of those populations affected by conflict particularly women and girls in fragile settings. In areas most affected by conflict such as Gaza, UN Women supported women's and youth's participation in post-conflict recovery planning and implementation in particular to support developing public spaces that are gender inclusive and free from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UN Women has also supported women rendered most vulnerable by the conflict such as women internally displaced to access livelihood opportunities and humanitarian services.

Protection

As the gender-based violence (GBV) patterns and drivers in Palestine cannot be isolated from the impact of the overall political, humanitarian, and economic context which increases the risk and vulnerability to GBV, UN Women has developed and implemented several programmes that focused on protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, particularly focusing on those most affected by conflict. UN Women programmes have adopted several approaches ranging from providing direct essential service to women survivors of GBV to mobilizing men and boys to promote positive masculinity as agents of change.

UN coordination and reporting

In cooperation with the Gender Task Force, UN Women drafts the Secretary General's annual report on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. UN Women is also keen to coordinate efforts with other UN agencies to further the WPS agenda.

For more information, please visit:

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

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