

المركز الفلسطيني لقضايا السلام والديمقراطية  
Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy



# Annual Report 2018

# 30 years on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence



The year 2018 marked thirty years on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence PDI, a document that was announced during the meeting of the Palestinian National Council PNC of the Palestinian Liberation Organization PLO in 1988. The PDI affirms the Palestinian State's commitment to the rules of the UN Charter and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Palestinians were looking forward to the establishment of the Palestinian Independent State in the Occupied Territories in 1967. Now after thirty years; these dreams are far away, and still we hold the hope for the establishment of the State; at a time when the talks are about the Deal of the Century. The Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy PCPD and since its establishment in 1992 is working to bring the Palestinians as one side behind this important declaration. This document is regarded as the political program and it is considered as the Palestinian peace initiative for all the Palestinians, since this document

does not contradict the international legitimacy, nor the international law nor any political initiative to solve the conflict. We are celebrating 30 years on the PDI at a time when the Israelis are still confiscating more lands from the Palestinians, and they succeeded in expanding their settlements in the West Bank. Since the start of the year, non-violent demonstrations took place in Gaza every Friday; and Palestinians are killed on each Friday by the Israeli soldiers on the borders between Gaza Strip and Israel.

As for the economic

situation it is also difficult since the number of unemployed people in Palestine reaches one million, all economists and politicians describe the situation as a serious crisis that needs urgent interference and urgent solutions. The situation is on its verge to explode, and will not be controlled. This situation reflected itself on the majority of the Palestinian who have gone into the streets striking against the new social security law; the employees and the workers are not with this law and they consider it as unjust. So tens of thousands of Palestinians kept demonstrating continuously until Mr. President was forced to suspend it.

This crucial situation has

affected the activities of the PCPD positively where the targeted youth were interested to understand the political situation because they were and still are anxious toward having a role in decision-making since they believe that one major reason for the American interference is the continuation of the separation between the West Bank and Gaza. The youth are not satisfied with the Palestinian classic leaders who couldn't defend their people, who couldn't find jobs for the unemployed and who couldn't face the Israeli and the American policies.



## PCPD General Assembly:

PCPD was founded in 1992 by the following figures:

- Mr. Bashir Barghouti (passed away)
- Dr. Tayseer Arouri (passed away)
- Dr. Sameer Abdulla
- Dr. Tamer Essawi
- Mr. Hana Amira

In addition to that, the PCPD has a general assembly of **32 members**, who elect the Board of Directors. The staff is the executive body of the organisation; followed by a big number of young volunteers (PCPD Youth Supporters) who together with the staff conduct various innovative interventions to advocate for the mission and vision of the organisation.

## PCPD GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Ms. Sona Arouri	Ms. Fadwa Khader	Ms. Hana Sahel
Mr. Abbas Milhem	Ms. Yasmeen Enaya	Ms. Ann Ankar
Dr. Talib Awad	Mr. Aref Jafal	Ms. Shahrazad Tmazi
Ms. Shola Abed Hadi	Dr. Muhammad Bragheet	Ms. Hazar Ismael
Mr. Muhammad Saleem	Mr. Ameen Enabi	Ms. Nadia Harb
Mr. Hashem Barahma	Ms. Haneen Zeidan	Mr. Khaleel Sheeha
Mr. Thaer Hanaysha	Ms. Neda Abu Sibah	Mr. Emad Daoud
Mr. Ghassan Abdulla	Mr. Naeem Al-Ashhab	Ms. Sabreen Amouri
Mr. Waleed Maqbul	Ms. Intisar Salman	Ms. Nina Thabet
Mr. Issa Samandar	Mr. Munther Qareq	Ms. Sahhar Barakat
Ms. Enas Maswada	Ms. Taghreed Kishek	

During March 2018, PCPD general assembly met and elected a new board of directors that consisted of 9 members. Out of the 9, there are 5 women. Two of these women took major positions at the board, where the treasurer and the deputy to the head are women.

## PCPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Taleb Awad – Head of Board	Ms. Shahrazad Tmazi – member
Ms. Tagreed Kisek – Deputy to the Chairwoman	Ms. Fadwa Khader – member
Ms. Hana Sahal – Treasurer	Mr. Aref Jafal – member
Mr. Walid Maqbul – Secretary	Ms. Sona Arouri – member
Mr. Issa Samandar - member	

## PCPD STAFF:

Ms. Hilda Issa	– Executive Director	- full-time
Mr. Naseef Muallem	– Policy Advisor	- part-time
Ms. Ekram Zbeidi	– Program Coordinator	- full-time
Mr. Hussein Sawalha	– project coordinator	- full-time
Ms. Anbara Shalalda	– project coordinator	- part-time
Mr. Thaer Hanaysha	– media coordinator	- full-time
Mr. Issa Saba	– part time accountant	- part-time

## YOUTH INTERNS

The PCPD has a big number of youth who are from the different regions of the West Bank and who act as interns. They are youngsters; they are university graduates in media, social and political studies.

Ms.Tala Al-Qudsi – Tulkarm	Mr. Yousef Sweiti - Hebron
Ms. Saja Al-Saeed – Tulkarm	Mr. Wael Amer – Hebron
Ms. Diana Abdulla - Tulkarm	Ms. Dina Karaja – Hebron
Ms Isra Zbeidi – Tulkarm	Ms. Manar Shalalda- Hebron
Mr. Muhammad Fareed - Tulkarm	Ms. Tahani Shahateet- Hebron
Mr. Ahmad Iraqi - Tulkarm	Mr. Adel Farouniya – Nablus
Ms. Sana Umari – Tubas	Ms. Yasmeen Enaya - Nablus
Ms. Inas Abahra – Jenin	Ms. Rana Abu Saer – Nablus
Ms. Fatmeh Maeli – Jenin	Ms. Aya Asmar– Nablus
Ms. Bisan Abu Farha – Jenin	Mr. Rakan Daoud – Nablus
Ms. Hadeel Khanfar - Jenin	Ms. Sally Nakhla - Ramallah
Ms. Nida Abu Sibah – Jenin	Ms. Liyana Maswada – Ramallah
Ms. Madlane Shaban - Jenin	Mr. Islam Naser - Ramallah
Ms. Haneen Jabareen - Jenin	Ms. Dyala Yaeesh - Ramallah
Ms. Khayriya Khamaysa - Jenin	Ms. Narmeen Amouri - Jerusalem
Mr. Jameel Khaleel – Zababdeh	Ms. Julia Kheir - Bethlehem
Mr. George Khader – Zababdeh	Mr. Ahmad Al-Emour - Bethlehem
Ms. Maryam Daoud - Zababdeh	Ms. Hiba Smeerat – Bethlehem
Ms. Sandy Ibraheem - Zababdeh	Mr. Ahmed Safi - Bethlehem
Ms. Lara Esaed - Zababdeh	Ms. Nada Abu Nimra- Salfeet
Ms. Haya Abu Miqdem- Hebron	Ms. Enas Al-Mashni – Salfeet
Ms. Sonia Darabeq – Hebron	Mr. Muhammad Qunbuz – Salfeet





## ABOUT US:

The Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy PCPD is a civil society non-for-profit Palestinian, non-governmental organization that was established in 1992, PCPD works to achieve just peace based on the international legitimacy where it promotes for a genuine peace based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 leading to the establishment of an independent democratic Palestinian state on the borders of the occupied areas in 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

PCPD forges a feminist perspective to achieve gender equality, social justice, freedoms, and to build a vibrant and tolerant Palestinian state that enjoys peace and security, a state that is accountable, committed to the rule of law and is open to the participation of all despite sex, religion, color or political thoughts.

PCPD is committed to the culture that promotes women's and youth's political empowerment, participation and representation in all spheres of their lives; a culture that increases women's opportunities to have leadership roles, their voices heard, and where they have the safe space that enables them to participate in the political and public life as well as in the decision-making processes; a culture that is committed to gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, and to eliminate violence against women as well as sexual and gender based violence.

## OUR VISION

Palestinian Society is committed to practicing true democracy in a free independent democratic state that adheres to good governance, gender equality, freedoms, social justice, and integrity values.

## OUR MISSION

PCPD is working for a well-functioning, free and independent, democratic Palestinian state, and to build vibrant and tolerant society whose government is accountable and open to the participation of all with main focus on women and youth based on the principles of good governance, rule of law, a system that respects, protects and fulfills human rights in general and women rights in particular, a society that enjoys values of integrity and is capable to make the national government and the local governments accountable to empower the democratic practices; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check.

## OUR VALUES

We share common values and principles which guide PCPDs work. Our core values are based on a holistic understanding of **peace** and **democracy** as not merely the absence of war or direct violence, but also the presence of positive conditions that support physical, social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of Palestinian people.

- We believe in fundamental human rights, dignity, and the rule of law and encouraging critical debate and respecting diverse opinions.
- We believe in equality between men and women in accordance to the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and the International Conventions, mainly CEDAW.
- We believe in a society where all people are free to participate fully in civic, economic, and cultural life.
- We believe in addressing inequalities that cut across multiple lines, including race, class, gender, and citizenship
- We are committed to real and just peace as outlined in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and international resolutions.
- We are committed to transparency, sharing and making information available to all relevant parties, internally and externally.
- We believe in holding those in power accountable for their actions and in increasing the power of women and youth groups.
- We believe in helping people and communities press for change on their behalf.



## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

PCPD believes that when young women and men have been trained and empowered, they will be (come) interested in developing their own political agenda and to use that agenda as a platform to engage in diverse political interventions and dialogues including community and media based ones that will challenge discriminatory social and cultural norms and practises and promote greater respect for and enjoyment of women's and men's equal civic and political as well as social and economic rights. If they are encouraged, supported and empowered, the targeted youth will be interested to get organised, capable of getting engaged in the political processes with different political actors, and are able to hold relevant local and national duty bearers accountable to youngsters equal rights and their full participation in the public and political sphere. They can inspire the political parties to become more open and democratic in terms of their membership and practices and are willing to guarantee the inclusion of youngsters in their structures and decision making.

At the PCPD, we believe in the importance to promote for a just and gender equal constitution. The right to participate in constitution making is grounded in the principle of political participation. There are a number of international and regional legal instruments that recognize political participation as a fundamental right, including the UN Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women specially calls for women's political participation: "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to participate in the formulation of government policy, to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government". In 2014, PCPD produced a Gender Sensitive Constitution which we will continue to advocate for until it is approved.

## PROGRAMS:

### JUST PEACE AND SECURITY:

PCPD promotes a genuine peace based on UN Resolutions and the Palestinian Declaration of Independence PDI leading to the establishment of an independent democratic Palestinian state on the borders of 1967; with a focus on human security, conflict resolution mechanisms based on international legitimacy, thus reviving positive peace through building the capacity of youth and local actors to promote tolerance and reduce prejudices. A society that enjoys peace and security, where conflicts are dealt with through non-violent approaches; human rights are respected and citizens feel safe and secure. The political participation of women in processes relating to peace and security is crucial for international peace and security. In Palestine, young women and men need to be part of the negotiation, peace and reconciliation processes; need to be active in the public sphere, in accordance to the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and the resolutions of the UN Security Council Resolutions, mainly 1325. To pursue this, we believe in the inclusion of women in peace processes and to increase the proportion of young women mediators.

Under this program, PCPD is interested in an educational and civic engagement program that aligns with peacebuilding initiatives, particularly in terms of strengthening the voice and leadership role of women and youth in future peacebuilding and negotiation initiatives, as well as promoting the role of young women in creating safe community spaces for dialogue on the importance of peace and the role of women in the public process. The objective is to have Peace processes and peace negotiations that involve the participation of both women and men, where peace agreements address the rights, needs and priorities of both women and men. This will be achieved through increasing the knowledge, skills and experiences of women in mediation, negotiation and dialogue.

Under this program, PCPD is implementing a project entitled: Strengthening Palestinian Non-Violent Approaches Promoting a Just and Lasting Peace, through empowering young women and men on knowledge and skills relevant to just peace and international legitimacy, and to lead



*The group of youth involved in the project, taking a photo at PCPD office in Beitunyah*



activities targeting decision makers and political figures making them accountable to a peaceful solution, as well as approaching other youngsters to promote for peace. The goal of the project is to empower young women and men to become leaders who will advocate for peace, and contribute to solve conflict and to be active in peacebuilding. They will increase their participation in political and civil life at community and national levels. Additionally, they will promote a peace program based on the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council of 1988 which was embedded in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. This peace plan is based on international legitimacy and promoting an independent Palestinian state in the borders of 1967. The first training concentrated on the history of the Palestinian case and all political peace initiatives since 1967.

### **The honorable Chrystia Freeland, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada along a distinguished delegation from the Representative office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority visits the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy received the honorable Chrystia Freeland, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada along a distinguished delegation from the Representative office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority. A group of 25 young women and men met her honorable; this group come from the different regions of the West Bank and Jerusalem, and are enrolled at the PCPD in a training course entitled; Strengthening the Palestinian Non-violent Approaches to promote a Just and lasting peace. The youth are considered as young leaders on the local level, and they represent different CBOs from the marginalized areas of the West Bank. During the meeting, the youth expressed their appreciation for the role of Canada in supporting the Palestinian people in general and the support to the PCPD. In addition to that, the youth appreciated the role of Canada in supporting the UNRWA, at a time when the other states has stopped their support.



*the PCPD with the honorable Chrystia Freeland, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada along a distinguished delegation from the Representative office of Canada to the Palestinian Authority.*

The youth passed a message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which concentrated on the importance of just and lasting peace for the Palestinians. They expressed their interest to live in security and dignity and the importance of democracy, rule of law and freedom of movement. Finally, the youth emphasized on the importance of building an independent Palestinian State that is based on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence as well as the International Legitimacy and international law. At the end of the meeting, PCPD administration expressed their appreciation for her honorable Ms. Chrystia Freeland for her visit and meeting the youth. Under this program, PCPD youth conducted many meetings with Palestinian decision makers. The discussion was about the current political situation; the "Deal of the Century"; the future of the peace process ... etc. During these meeting, the youth raised serious questions, proposed ideas towards just peace, talked about negotiations as a mechanism and not as an objective. They were also able to defend the view of the nonviolent resistance. However, at some instances, the decision makers were not willing to answer some questions raised by the youth, who asked about the Palestinian leadership and how it is marginalized by the Arab leaders; they asked about the deal of the century and how it is progressing and is imposed on the Palestinians in spite of the refusal of the Authority. They also asked about the reasons that prevent the Authority from taking action or any confrontations; about the parliamentary elections that are to take place in the upcoming 6 months and they wondered why there was no talking about presidential elections.



*Youth meeting Ms. Haifa al-Agha the Minister of Woman Affairs, talking with her about the importance of modifying the Palestinian laws in line with the international legitimacy.*

## DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW:

A well-functioning, independent, democratic Palestinian state based on the principles of good governance, the rule of law, a system that respects, protects and fulfills human rights and gender equality and promotes peace and security. PCPD strives to contribute to build a vibrant and tolerant society whose government is accountable and open to the participation of all people, based on principles of accountability, transparency and integrity; a state that is committed to periodical elections, freedoms of expression; equality for all citizens, in accordance to the Palestinian Declaration of Independence (PDI), the Palestinian Basic law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, and other international conventions that the Palestinian Authority has signed upon; a state that develops the Palestinian laws to be in line with the international legitimacy.

Under this program, PCPD is interested to promote a Constitution for Palestine, a gender sensitive constitution that guarantees complete equality for women based on equal civil and political rights, on a non-discriminatory basis. We will work to promote women's participation in free, open, democratic and periodic elections, where women can participate as candidates as well as voters. We'll work for drafting a law for both political parties law for the counties as well as working for strengthening the Palestinian progressive civil society to face the feudal values and the clannish rules and regulations that marginalize women and young men from political participation.

Under this program and with the objective to lead discussions and to question decision makers, policy makers, political figures and leaders on issues related to peace, tolerance, social justice and conflict resolution, a variety of meetings and discussions were arranged during 2018 with decision makers in Palestine



*PCPD youth met Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, who listened to the questions of the youth and analyzed the political situation, giving details about the plans for the deal of the Century and the Israeli plans towards Palestine.*



*The youth also arranged to meet the South African Consul in Ramallah, where he talked about the South African experience in ending the Apartheid system in South Africa.*

Under this program, PCPD is keen to spread principles of integrity, especially between young students, and as a result, the PCPD is establishing 15 integrity clubs in 15 locations of the West Bank. PCPD youngsters signed 15 Memo of Understanding with the municipalities of Tulkarm, Ateel, Salfeet, Farha, Aqab, Tubas, Tamoun and Qalqilyia. In addition to PCPD partnership with the municipalities, PCPD is also partnering with 15 Community Based Organizations. These young students will be monitoring projects in their areas, in order to get better services and to fix the problems that they can and document them on the Development Check. In this project 14-19yr-olds youth students will become monitors and active agents of positive change, championing anti-corruption and transparency learning experiences. These Integrity Clubs will ensure long term sustainability of anti-corruption and transparency efforts in education in Palestine.

## INTEGRITY =

## ACCOUNTABILITY + COMPETENCE + ETHICS – CORRUPTION



One of PCPD youth interns (Ms. Sana Al-Umary) signs an MOU with the municipality of Tubas in connection to establishing Integrity Club in the village.



Ms. Ekram Zbeidi, PCPD Program Coordinator signs a MOU with one civil society organization in Tulkarm in connection to the establishment of Integrity Clubs.

Under this project, two staff of PCPD participated in a training course between the 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, along with Integrity Action, and another ten NORAD funded partners in Kwale Country, Kenya, where the participants looked back over the first year of the project implementation, discussed learning, networking and sharing plans.

During the workshop, there was a visit to an integrity club in Kwale, meeting a Kenyan Integrity Club, at a boarding girls' school (KWALE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL), where we were introduced to the activities of the Integrity club; the problems that they had gotten fixed following the CIB method and approach. It was a brilliant experience for PCPD since we were involved in meeting and hearing about the positive changes taking place at Kwale Girls School because of the work of the Integrity Club. The girls in the club were very confident and willing to share with the partners their challenges, their successes and their experiences.



*Ms. Hilda Issa with members of the Integrity Club in Kwale Girls High School*

## More Social Accountability, more qualitative services

PCPD initiated the social media bus which included a number of young journalists and civil activists who went round Ramallah district for a tour, visiting the municipality of Beitunyah, meeting decision makers and activists at the local level. Throughout this tour, the participants were all using social media within the bus, to transfer their messages and post pictures and short You tubes on the facebook, to allow the viewers to view the activities on line. During this tour, the activists involved in the tour bus interviewed the mayors at the local governments and inquired about their opinions in social accountability. The citizens interviewed also were excited about the possibility to hold their leaders and decision makers accountable. They showed interest of the importance to have duties and laws and that everyone is under the rule of law. This is a new phenomenon in the Palestinian society, mainly when leaders are saying openly in front of the cameras that they showed their willingness to be accountable to the community. They asked the community to criticize, judge and evaluate their work. The short You tubes taken during the social media bus tour were posted on PCPD facebook as well as the facebook of the activists who shared it with their friends, thus the posts reached a big number of youngsters in the Palestinian society. This experience was a success, has contributed on a wide scale in bridging the gap between citizens and their local governments. It was a success when young activists are interested in the work of the local governments, when in the past, it was an issue of interest to old people.



*the social media youngsters while meeting the mayor at the municipality of Beitunyah.*

## WOMEN PROGRAM

The PCPD is committed to the 2030 Agenda to achieve for Sustainable Development; in realizing the human rights of all and into achieving gender equality, as well as the empowerment of all women and girls. Thus we believe in **Goal 5**; Gender; female/male representation in global government will be equal. We believe that more women in politics make for stronger democracies; thus, we have to make equal opportunities for leadership and participation of women at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life; to adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislations for the promotion of gender equality. **Goal 10**; reduce inequalities, is also a goal that is of interest, since it aims to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all; and in order to enhance women's full participation in the electoral process, we need to motivate women to participate in the elections; thus increasing their political influence and educating the voters on issues that are important to women and girls. **Goal 16**; Peace, Justice and strong institutions advocates to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels; since we believe that more women representation within the local governments is the first step towards reaching other decision making positions, thus having fair gender representation.

Under this program, PCPD is interested to promote and increase women's political empowerment and participation, representation, leadership and influence in all spheres of their lives; increase women's opportunities to have their voice heard and participate in the political and public life as well as in the decision-making processes. Within this sphere, a group of young feminists produced a Feminist Political Charter; that calls for a safe space for young women and men where they can feel confident, free to speak and participate actively, spread a feminist vision that is based on complete equality, social justice and real democracy; where women enjoy their citizenship rights as men in all areas, where equality is embedded across the legal systems, the laws and legal practices, including proactive measures as quota, which will guarantee the complete equality, build the culture of peace for women that secures safety and security for the Palestinian women; a culture that gives the secure space for women to participate in the decision making processes both on the national and local levels.



Palestinian women face many challenges that prevent them to participate effectively in the political life; these challenges are represented in the discriminatory laws and institutions, habits and culture as well as the patriarchal and feudal values. At the PCPD, we believe that it is of importance to start promoting for a just and equal constitution. The right to participate in constitution making is grounded in the principle of political participation. There are a number of international and regional legal instruments that recognize political participation as a fundamental right, including the UN Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women specially calls for women's political participation: "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to participate in the formulation of government policy, to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government". Thus PCPD is willing to design and implement civic education programs to raise awareness of the constitutional process and the issues being debated in the constitution reform body.



*Youngsters launching the Feminist Political Charter on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Ramallah*

PCPD works to ensure that women have fair access to the political sphere, have the safe space to be politically active; can be a voter, a candidate and can be an elected official and attain political office. PCPD encourages marginalised women and men to be engaged in a democratic and transparent way to form a political agenda, take action-oriented decisions and hold duty bearers accountable to rights of women and youth. Through this involvement, the youth use a rights-based agenda to inspire the political parties to become more open and democratic in terms of their membership and practices; willing to guarantee the inclusion of women and youth in their structures and decision making. Under this program, PCPD works on ending Gender Based Violence. PCPD believes that eliminating gender based barriers, discrimination and violence against women will lead to women participate effectively in all life spheres, lead change, participate in democratic processes that affect their lives and their communities. Under this program, PCPD strives to end all forms of discrimination against women, since this violates the principles of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their society.



## THE FEMINIST POLITICAL CHARTER;

### A NEW GENERATION OF FEMINIST LEADERS COMMITTED TO EQUALITY

A core group of young women and men received extensive training on peacebuilding, the current political situation in Palestine, the importance of women involvement in the political processes, the value of feminism as a way of eliminating patriarchal structures, gender discrimination and injustice, and promoting equal access to rights and justice by challenging male dominated norms. Throughout their training, the youth developed a rights based feminist political Charter that will be used as a platform to engage in diverse political interventions and dialogues including community and media based ones that will challenge discriminatory social and cultural norms and practises and promote greater respect for and enjoyment of women's and youth's equal civic and political as well as social and economic rights.



## THE FEMINIST POLITICAL CHARTER;

A NEW GENERATION OF  
FEMINIST LEADERS COMMITTED  
TO EQUALITY

### This Charter calls for the following:

**End the patriarchal society:** the Palestinian youth live in a society that is dominated by a patriarchal culture, which denies chances for youth in general and women in particular, to be part of the political decision making processes. The youth experience the strength of the tribe, the deterioration in the democratic processes, the shrinking space of rights and freedoms, as well as the increasing levels of violence in general and gender based violence in particular.

**Establish an independent Palestinian State;** a state that guarantees freedoms, gender equality, and social justice, freedom of expression, human rights, good governance and rule of law. A state that can guarantee equality for all the citizens, in accordance to the Palestinian Declaration of Independence (PDI), the Palestinian Basic law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, and other international conventions that the Palestinian Authority has signed upon; a state that develops its Palestinian laws to be in line with the international legitimacy.

**Spread feminism;** we will work for a feminist vision that is based on complete equality, social justice and real democracy; where women enjoys her citizenship as men in all areas, where equality is embedded across the legal systems, the laws and legal practices, including proactive measures as quota, which is now 30% in Palestine and we will work to increase it to 50% in the near future, which will guarantee the complete equality, build the culture of peace for women that secures safety and security for the Palestinian women; a culture that gives the secure space for women to participate in the decision making processes both on the national and local levels;

**Ensure women's political empowerment and participation;** Palestinian women face many challenges that prevent them to participate effectively in the political life; these challenges are represented in the discriminatory laws and institutions, habits and culture. We will work to ensure that women have fair access to the political sphere, has the safe space to be politically active; can be a voter, a candidate and an elected official. We will ask for periodic elections; elections that uphold women's rights, including the right to vote and to run as a candidate.

**End all kinds of discrimination against women and girls;** we will fight discrimination against women, since discrimination "violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries."

**Promote a Constitution for Palestine,** a gender sensitive constitution that guarantees complete equality for women based on equal civil and political rights, on a non-discriminatory basis. Since 1999, the Palestinian Authority started working on a Constitution for the State of Palestine; however the four drafts did not call for a democratic state that is based on equality between men and women. We will work to promote women's participation in free, open, democratic and periodic elections, where women can participate as candidates as well as voters.

## **MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY (THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH)**

The PCPD marked the 8th March in a different way this year. After discussing the proposed activities to mark the 8th March, the youth suggested to approach students at schools and to conduct lectures to them on the importance of equality between girls and boys. Preceding the 8th March, a portrait of a woman holding a light was painted at part of the Wall of the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. On the 8th March, 12 youngsters from the core group entered five classes and talked to the students on the importance of equality. PCPD is interested to engage young students to contribute to build a civil and democratic country which is committed to equal rights regardless of sex or religion.

The students asked interesting questions related to the roles of both girls and boys, responsibilities as well as perceptions. The core group of youngsters who gave sessions to 6 classes, were glad to be with the students and to pass messages on equality to them, in addition to explaining the occasion behind the International Woman's Day. By the end of the activity, posters were shared with the students. A newsletter was produced to document the event.



Students at the Evangelical Lutheran school holding the posters demanding rights of women in decision making processes. This was during the sessions that PCPD youth conducted at the school on the occasion of the International Woman Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.



PCPD spreads the values of equality between women and men to school students on the occasion of 8<sup>th</sup> March

# Marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

Young women interns at the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in Jericho and Hebron on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November. The overall impact of this campaign is to shed light on the importance of ending all acts of violence against women; (all forms of violence that women face on a daily basis); where the young activists asked for the activation of the local legislations to be in line with the international treaties, as well as demanding punishment to the ones who commit such acts, asking the community to regard any violence against women as breaking the law and is never part of the habits or culture. The campaign demanded the society in general and women in particular to stop justifying killing of women under what is called honor killing.



Throughout the tour in Hebron, the youth hung posters in the streets; posters that say:

## NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As well as talking to citizens in the street, asking them a number of questions related to violence against women.

These young activists believe in women rights and in a feminist vision that is based on equality and social justice; they believe that women have a right to equality in all areas, that equality has to be embedded across the legal systems, the laws and legal practices, including proactive measures as quota. This activity is within goal 5 of SDG. The youth are aware that they should hold the government accountable to implement this goal as well as the other international treaties that the state of Palestine has signed on, especially CEDAW which clearly defines what discrimination is and the importance of having local laws and policies that will eliminate discrimination against women.

The second campaign on the occasion of 16 Days **Activism** Against Gender Based Violence, PCPD conducted an initiative in Jenin, where the young women felt that there are a lot of harassment exerted on them while using the public transportations. The problem is hard when they travel in the public transportation from one city to another and stay in the van for more than two hours, especially when there is a man sitting beside her. The youth discussed this problem and decided that they could shed the light on this by producing a slogan saying;



**Please, respect the space of the person sitting beside you.**

*A van driver placing the plastic cover in his van, during the distribution of these slogans to the drivers in Jenin garage station, on the occasion of 16 Days of Against Gender Based Violence.*

This slogan was printed on a plastic covers, which were distributed in Jenin main garage station, to the drivers of the vans, who were glad to hang them inside their cars. This initiative was a chance for the young women to talk to the drivers and the citizens in the garage about the harassment that they face in the transportation, hoping that such slogans will make the girls feel more comfortable and at ease. An electronic billboard was also hung in the garage to remind the men to respect the girls and women sitting beside them. This initiative was covered by Palestine TV and they conducted an interview with one of the youth, which was later posted on facebook and watched by a number of 2.7 k.



*Finally under a project entitled: Jamet Banat, (Girls' Gathering), young women at PCPD met and discussed issues of interest to them, mainly Gender Based Violence. This project encouraged the girls to talk about their problems and the challenges that they are facing in the public sphere. This was a new experience to PCPD but was a successful experience where the young girls supported each other.*





With funding from Kvinna till Kvinna, Ms. Hilda Issa participated along with the Palestinian Civil Society in the 70<sup>th</sup> session on CEDAW at the UN, a meeting that took place between the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July in Geneva, and which focused on the report submitted by the Palestinian Authority on CEDAW. The Palestinian Civil Society also submitted a Shadow Report, which responded to inquiries about the Palestine report that was submitted by the Government of Palestine. The Shadow report provided the CEDAW committee with the necessary data and information. The Palestinian civil society concentrated on four important recommendation in relation to the ratification of CEDAW, to make it binding in the Palestinian society.

This experience was rich to PCPD since we got to know more about the position of the Palestinian Authority towards the ratification of CEDAW, due to the fact that they do not review CEDAW as binding. The Palestinian official delegation vowed commitment to CEDAW Committee to improve that status of Palestinian women at the legal, political and procedural levels, namely to ratify the Family Protection Law, revise the Personal Status Law, the Penal Code and the Labor Law and work towards unifying laws between the West Bank and Gaza Strip to formulate a Palestinian National Law, the Official Palestinian Law also reaffirmed its commitment to address the recommendations put forth by civil society and to seriously look into signing the agreement's additional protocols. At the end of the sessions, the Palestinian official delegation confirmed that they would sit down with CEDAW committee in two years to show case the projected achievements in the coming two years.

Under a project entitled, **Youth Mainstreaming Gender in discriminatory articles of the Palestinian national laws**, Young women and men are capacitated and empowered to identify discriminatory issues in the Palestinian laws, and propose amendments as alternative articles that are harmonious into the international agreements that Palestine has signed. Through this project, the youth were empowered to socially document stories through social media and open serious discussions with other youngsters from marginalized areas, contributing in getting rid of the patriarchal norms. Further, the youth created policy dialogue platforms among the community, policy and local leaders and public opinion makers, addressing gender equality, democratic principles of women's rights, thus developing the discriminatory legislations to be closer to the UN Resolutions and Conventions. One important documents that the youth advocated for was CEDAW, due to the fact that in 2014, the Palestinian Authority has signed on this declaration without reservation, but still the Palestinian laws were not modified in line with CEDAW and it is still not binding to the Palestinian legislators.



*Youth in the project: Youth Mainstreaming Gender in discriminatory articles of the Palestinian national laws, meet Ms. Zahira Kamal and Ms. Siham Barghouti to discuss CEDAW and the possibility of modifying the Palestinian laws to be in line with this important document.*

At the PCPD, we believe in the importance to promote for a just and gender equal constitution. The right to participate in constitution making is grounded in the principle of political participation. There are a number of international and regional legal instruments that recognize political participation as a fundamental right, including the UN Declaration of Human Rights; the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women specially calls for women's political participation: "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to participate in the formulation of government policy, to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government".

The State of Palestine had failed to introduce an integrated legal system to reduce gender based discrimination and eliminate all violence against women and girls, or to adopt policies to change traditional attitudes and modify social and cultural patterns. Personal status law is still discriminating against women in divorce, inheritance and child custody. Due to the fact that the laws in Palestine are a combination of British, Jordanian, Egyptian, and Ottoman laws, there is a need to harmonize all the laws to ensure equality, and this must be enshrined in the Palestinian Constitution; a Gender Sensitive Constitution that guarantees gender equality and that takes protective measures against gender based violence.





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***KVINNA TILL KVINNA***

***INTEGRITY ACTION***

***MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE***

***WOMAN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***

***FORUM CIVIL PEACE SERVICE***

***THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA***

***GESELLSCHAFT FUR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT- GIZ***

***CHRISTIAN AID***

المركز الفلسطيني لقضايا السلام والديمقراطية  
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