

المركز الفلسطيني لقضايا السلام والديمقراطية  
Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy



# Annual Report 2019



Dr. Taleb Awad, the Head of Board of Directors of the PCPD is always present at PCPD activities and is one of the prominent figures who conducts lectures and sessions to the PCPD youth on a voluntary basis. At the start of 2019, Dr. Taleb Awad gave a political session entitled: the Palestinian Elections within the Constitutional Court's decision. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Awad is an international expert in the issues of elections. PCPD is proud to have Dr. Awad heading the organization.



The theme of the work for 2019 was "Gender Equality", and the slogan that PCPD used in its activities was:

## Girls Equal Boys

PCPD board of directors escorted PCPD staff in its field activities. Ms. Tagreed Kishik, the deputy of the Head of Board along with Ms. Hilda Issa, the executive director hold a portrait that was distributed on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> March; the International Woman's Day.



## An Overview of the Political Situation

Since the beginning of the project activities, the political situation was difficult for the Palestinian; the Americans and the Israelis were preparing themselves for the opening of the American Embassy in Jerusalem. The United States Trump Administration came up with the so called peace plan of the "Deal of the Century" at the start of 2017, and he ended the year on December 6, 2017 by his recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel that generated a series of reactions in Palestine and on the global level. The Embassy's opening coincided with the bloodiest day of the 2018 Gaza border protests, with more than 57 Palestinians killed. This US decision contravenes international law and in particular the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly.

At the start of the project activities non-violent acts of mass mobilization were taking place in Gaza not just about underscoring the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees (as enshrined in international law), nor about commemorating Land Day, an event that has united all Palestinians since the bloody protests of 1976. The protest was about reclaiming the agenda, transcending political infighting and giving voice back to the people.

As for the economic situation, it was also difficult since the number of unemployed people in Palestine reached one million, all economists and politicians describe the situation as a serious crisis that needs urgent interference and urgent solutions. This situation reflected itself on the majority of the Palestinian who have gone into the streets striking against the new social security law; which is unjust to the Palestinians in general and women in particular.

Since the beginning of 2019, the political situation was difficult and complicated where the cold war between America and Iran accelerated, as well as the destroying war between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. These

events were given the utmost attraction of all the world. The Arab Summit was conducted on the 31st of March 2019 where the Arab leaders put their priorities. The first priority was the situation of Iran as the main enemy for the Arabs; then the issue of terrorism and finally the Palestinian question; which was not any more on the top of the Arabs' agenda.

In Israel, the right wing won the elections twice, but they were unable to formulate the government and as a result the elections will be conducted again for the third time in March 2020. All the indicators show that the right wing will win the elections again and the new Israeli government will not be interested in peace, on the contrary, they will be demanding the implementation of the Deal of the Century that confiscates the Palestinian rights of establishing their state.

Currently, there are Palestinian-Palestinian talks about Presidential and legislative elections to be conducted in 2020; however only 50% trust and 44% do not trust the integrity and capacity of the Palestinian Election Commission to successfully manage the election process. Trust in the integrity and capacity of the election commission is higher in the Gaza Strip (52%) compared to the West Bank (49%)", voters don't trust the Palestinian security forces to guarantee the fairness of elections where "only 48% trust, and 46% do not trust, the ability of the West Bank Palestinian police to protect the election process and the ballot boxes with integrity and without bias. Similarly, only 47% trust, and 41% do not trust, the ability of the Gaza Strip police force to protect the election process and the ballot boxes with integrity and without bias".

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.

The clans are becoming stronger and powerful, where Israel had a role in that, since they handed the corpses of the martyrs to the heads of the clans, a step that empowered them. Further, the Palestinian public believe that the clans contribute in allowing the Palestinians to get work permits in Israel, and one of the activists at PCPD was prohibited by his family to be engaged with PCPD due to the fear that his activism will negatively affect other youngsters of his extended family in getting permits to work in Israel. The clans in Hebron started in mid-December a campaign against CEDAW, and it is spreading in Jerusalem and the West Bank. This clannish and tribal campaign is due to the fear of these clans representing the patriarchal society to the concept of equality in CEDAW; afraid of determine the age of marriage of women; afraid of equality in heritage between boys and girls, and are worried of the street activities against killing of women, especially the last movements done by the civil society in the case of Isra' (a young woman from

Bethlehem who was beaten to death by her family members). All these fears made the clans fight CEDAW, demand the Palestinian Authority to withdraw from the membership in this international agreement; demand the close of women NGOs and demand the youth to stop attending activities by the NGOs in Palestine. This stand makes the participation of youth in street activities risky; at a time when the Palestinian Authority is silent. We, at PCPD were aware of the role of the patriarchal society and were always shedding light on this power that do not believe in women rights nor in equality. The clans want girls to be married at an early age and don't want them to inherit, nor be part of the electoral, political and economic processes in Palestine, but they want these girls to be mothers and bring big number of children. What is worrying is that in the upcoming expected elections to take place, the clans will use political slogans against women and against CEDAW, and this will give them more votes and will affect the different roles of women in the society.





## 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 **33 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:

1- Ms. Sona Arouri	12- Ms. Fadwa Khader	23- Ms. Hana Sahel
2- Mr. Abbas Milhem	13- Ms. Yasmeen Enaya	24- Ms. Ann Ankar
3- Dr. Talib Awad	14- Mr. Aref Jafal	25- Ms. Shahrazad Tmazi
4- Ms. Shola Abed Hadi	15- Ms. Sahhar Barakat	26- Ms. Hazar Ismael
5- Mr. Muhammad Saleem	16- Mr. Ameen Enabi	27- Ms. Nadia Harb
6- Mr. Hashem Barahma	17- Ms. Haneen Zeidan	28- Mr. Khaleel Sheeha
7- Mr. Thaer Hanaysha	18- Ms. Neda Abu Sibah	29- Mr. Emad Daoud
8- Mr. Ghassan Abdulla	19- Mr. Naeem Al-Ashhab	30- Ms. Sabreen Amouri
9- Mr. Waleed Maqbul	20- Ms. Intisar Salman	31- Ms. Nina Thabet
10- Mr. Issa Samandar	21- Mr. Munther Qareq	
11- Ms. Enas Maswada	22- 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

1- Dr. Taleb Awad – Head of Board	6- Ms. Shahrazad Tmazi – member
2- Ms. Tagreed Kisek – Deputy to the Chairwoman	7- Ms. Fadwa Khader – member
3- Ms. Hana Sahal – Treasurer	8- Mr. Aref Jafal – member
4- Mr. Walid Maqbul – Secretary	9- Ms. Sona Arouri – member
5- Mr. Issa Samandar - member	

## PCPD STAFF:

1- Ms. Hilda Issa – Executive Director	-full-time
2- Mr. Naseef Muallem – Policy Advisor	-full-time
3- Ms. Ekram Zbeidi – Program Coordinator	-full-time
4- Ms. Anbara Shalalda – project coordinator	-part-time
5- Ms. Sana Al-Umary – project coordinator	- part-time
6- Ms. Haneen Zimari – project coordinator	- part-time
7- Ms. Nada Nimra – project coordinator	- part-time
8- Mr. Ibraheem Abed Jawad – media coordinator	-part-time
9- Mr. Luay Ibraheem – 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.

They are the following:

1- Ms.Tala Al-Qudsi – Tulkarm	23- Ms. Dina Karaja – Hebron
2- Ms. Saja Al-Saeed – Tulkarm	24- Ms. Manar Shalalda- Hebron
3- Mr. Hisham Fakhoury - Tulkarm	25- Ms. Tahani Shahateet- Hebron
4- Ms Isra Zbeidi – Tulkarm	26- Mr. Adel Farouniya – Nablus
5- Mr. Muhammad Fareed - Tulkarm	27- Ms. Fayha Khanfar - Nablus
6- Mr. Ahmad Iraqi - Tulkarm	28- Ms. Rana Abu Saer – Nablus
7- Ms. Isra Daghas - Tulkarm	29- Ms. Liana Maswada - Hebron
8- Ms. Asma Fashafsha	30- Ms. Ula Husseinini - Nablus
9- Ms. Bisan Abu Farha – Jenin	31- Ms. Sally Nakhla - Ramallah
10- Ms. Hadeel Khanfar - Jenin	32- Ms. Liyana Maswada – Ramallah
11- Mr. Anas Nazal - Jenin	33- Mr. Islam Naser - Ramallah
12- Ms. Madleen Shaban	34- Mr. Yousef Amro – Hebron
13- Ms. Shahnaz Darweesh – Nablus	35- Ms. Amal Al-Wahsh – Bethlehem
14- Mr. Zaid Ibraheem - Nablus	36- Ms. Yara Awad – Bethlehem
15- Ms. Hiba Smeerat- Zababdeh	37- Ms. Bayan Awd - Bethlehem
16- Ms. Maryam Daoud - Zababdeh	38- Ms. Hiba Smeerat – Bethlehem
17- Ms. Sandy Ibraheem - Zababdeh	39- Mr. Ahmed Safi - Bethlehem
18- Ms. Lara Esaed - Zababdeh	40- Ms. Abdallah Kubari – Ramallah
19- Ms. Maram Shalada - Hebron	41- Mr. Muhammad Qunbuz – Salfet
20- Ms. Sonia Darabeq – Hebron	
21- Mr. Yousef Sweiti - Hebron	
22- Mr. Wael Amer – Hebron	



## 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 are committed to fundamental human rights, dignity, and the rule of law and encouraging critical debate and respecting diverse opinions.
- We are committed to 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 are committed to 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 are committed to holding those in power accountable for their actions and in increasing the power of women and youth groups.





## 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, practises and promotes greater respect for and enjoyment of women's and men's equal civic, political, 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 PDI and the resolutions of the UN Security Council Resolutions, mainly 1325. To pursue this, we believe in the inclusion of women in political and peace processes.

Under this program, PCPD is implementing a project entitled: "Strengthening Palestinian Non-Violent Approaches Promoting a Just and Lasting Peace", with an impact to provide a solid foundation for a just and lasting peace: Ability to conceive and develop practical activities aimed at engaging youth capacities in non-violent actions toward conflict resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



The youth conducted meetings with decision and policy makers as well as with politicians. Although the youth were a bit excited to meet the decision makers, since they said that it is the first time for them to meet them, still they declared that they are ready to conduct these meetings, and they divided the roles between them, and agreed on the questions to be addressed during these meetings.



In Palestine, no legislative elections have been organized since 2006. Since then, the fragmentation of the political and national identity has deepened, particularly through the disunity between Hamas in Gaza and Fatah in the West Bank. Political parties in Palestine do not evolve or flourish under the current political parties' De facto, and their accountability to the citizens is minimal. This is not only the result of the fact that there are no free and fair elections on a regular basis. The vast majority of decisions made by the Political Bureau for the Central Committees does ultimately not influence the real decision makers: the Government and the President.

This project aims to give the opportunity to a group of active young women and men (volunteers at the PCPD) to get in contact with a big number of other youngsters in Palestine and encourage them to register electronically. This step is a prerequisite step to allow the citizens to participate in the electoral process. If any Palestinian did not register his/her name in the electoral system, they will be deprived from their right to elect.

PCPD is interested to give the chance to young activists to reach out to other groups of youth in the different regions of Palestine through many different procedures; formal and informal ways. The formal method could be through conducting sessions to members at Civil Society Organizations in the cities and villages of the West Bank. The informal method is through meetings with youth, who could be peers, family members, neighbors, colleagues or friends.





*The young activists are trained on the stages of the electoral process in Palestine*



*During a meeting with Dr. Hana Naser, to discuss the upcoming elections in Palestine and the role of the Central Elections Committee.*

## 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. PCPD gave special attention to disseminate UNR 1325 through meeting women political leaders.

During the sessions conducted under this program, the youth discussed the importance of the international legitimacy as the solution to end the conflict and establish a Palestinian State beside the state of Israel. The decision makers gave a brief idea of the position of Palestine as a state observer and the number of international conventions that Mr. President

has ratified. This signature had a political impact rather than an interest in women rights. During these workshops, two issues were discussed; the first is related to the problems in the implementation of CEDAW in Palestine and the second is related to the procedures that the Authority needs to take into account to modify the Palestinian laws in line with the international conventions in general and CEDAW in particular. By the end of the sessions, it was clear that there is a political will to modify the Palestinian laws, but still there is an obstacle related to the Palestinian culture and identity as well as the habits and culture that treats women as second class citizens, who are unable to be politically active or even get leadership positions in the country.

PCPD is interested in increasing the power and actorship of young women under the age of 30 for increased leadership in civil society, in political participation, dialogue, conflict-resolution and peace-building. Through this PCPD is empowering young women on democratic and human rights-based political representation; where they had the chance to get mentors from more experienced women leaders; to learn good examples of conflict resolution from experienced women diplomats. The project built the capacity and strengthened young women's political participation and advocacy skills so that they will stand for elections in an executive board of a civil society organizations or in elections for municipal councils or other official bodies.





The girls enjoyed to learn more and more about UNR 1325 from experienced Palestinian women, and they were interested to connect this resolution to the Palestinian case.



The youngsters were encouraged to participate in many marches demanding the end of the killing of women. They were convinced that taking women issues from the private sphere to the public is one of the best strategies to end violence against women. Only when women issues become a public opinion issue, then there is a chance to end all violence and harassments against women.

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 is proud of its ability to establish 15 Integrity clubs in the different marginalized regions that consisted of 225 female and male students, (teenagers). One of the integrity clubs in Farkha is mixed and this was a success; to be able to bring female and male students together. The students were enthusiastic to join the project and showed interest to monitor projects in the sites. They also made time to join the activities on their weekends, especially on Saturdays as well as after school. They were engaged in the projects, were able to detect problems, put forward solutions and to fix them. We believe that

through the engagement of the students in the integrity clubs, their personalities changed to the better; they felt more confident; more involved in projects implemented in the public sphere; became interested in team work and had a better understanding of concepts of integrity. They were aware of the process that they are engaged in and took things seriously, even they communicated with the municipalities in official letters; were able to open discussions on the issues that they are working on especially with citizens, an issue that is difficult and needs a lot of courage and confidence. We knew that they used to read more about some of the projects that they are monitoring.



In one integrity day, the students made a drawing of the planet on the wall in Farkha. In Tubas, the students put a big flipchart in one street, and asked the interested citizens to write their comments, while there was music in the background to draw the attention of the citizens. In other Integrity Days, the youth hung posters in the streets and opened discussions with the citizens. In Ateel, the kids stood in the street and wrote different slogans about integrity and wrapped over them candies and the initiative was: "Take a Candy and Learn about Integrity".

## 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. 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 promoting and increasing 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, and 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, 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 are 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.



The youth used the Charter as a platform to advocate for and mobilize other youth to join the Feminist Shadow Forum, through the implementation of innovative campaigns and initiatives such as the implementation of a flash mob conducted in the Nativity Square and which was able to draw the attention of all the citizens that were present there. In addition to that, the youth moved between the citizens gathering there and talked with them about the Feminist Youth Forum, as well as distributing copies of the Charter



The core group to meet different levels of citizens; starting with youth of the same age, to political leaders such as ministers and high level figures, to school students and teenagers and finally to adults and old people in the streets and squares. The core group was able to open fruitful discussions with these different levels of citizens, talk to them about the role of women in the public and political processes; the need of spreading feminism; and ending all kinds of violence and discrimination against women; as well as giving equal chances to both girls and boys.

*Under this program, the youth were interested in enthusing duty bearers to be accountable to women's rights, security and gender equality. As a result, they held meetings with political figures (duty bearers, local and regional political leaders, politicians, representatives of political parties, public figures, independent activists as well as governmental officials) discussed with them the Feminist Charter and the importance of gender equality in various doctrines as well as the doctrines of the political parties.*



Further, the youth were trained on conducting live TV sessions on these topics.

**Youth preparing to hold a live TV session at Al-Quds Educational TV**

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

Marking the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Woman's Day, under the slogan "Girls are Equal to Boys". PCPD along with the youth believed that the best group to be targeted are school students who need to be reared up believing in equality and the importance of spreading this value between them. Thus the slogan for this year was Girls equal boys, and this was the title of March the 8<sup>th</sup> this year, where the youth entered 5 classes at a private school in Ramallah, and discussed with them the value of equality between the two sexes. Throughout the discussions with the students, the youth noticed that the male students believe that they are better than the females. This is due to the values that are raised in them at home, and this is a reflection of the beliefs of their parents and families. PCPD also made a You tube on this occasion; emphasizing how equality is viewed by the young generation.



*A student at the Evangelical Lutheran school holding the poster of equality on the occasion of the International Woman Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.*



PCPD youth distributed pencil cases to students at schools, with the slogan: Girls equal boys

## Marking the international day of Democracy:

The PCPD marked the International Day for Democracy at the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah, where a group of young interns conducted five workshops to the students at the school. The workshops were about the importance of the democratic processes on the national level, in the street and at school. The interns concentrated on the role of the civil society to reinforce the rule of law and to get rid of the clannish and tribal values that are dominant these days in the Palestinian society. The discussion with the students was on the role of the students in the decision making processes at school, especially that students of grade 10 are at a stage in their lives when they have to decide on their future educational choices. This year, the PCPD marked the democracy day side by side with the tawjihi class. They attended a joint training together and planned for the awareness workshops. Marking the Democracy day at the Palestinian schools is an important event for the PCPD, especially at a time when the Presidential and legislative elections have not been conducted for more than 14 years; while the students conduct periodical elections to their student councils on a yearly basis.



**PCPD youth during a session at a school in Ramallah; passing the principles of democracy to students.**



**Bisan Abu Farha during a session to the youth to pass values and principles of democracy**

## Marking the 1<sup>st</sup> May by a Congress to disseminate the Feminist Youth Forum



The core group of youth at PCPD were in charge of preparing and administering the Congress, giving papers and leading the discussions. They were aiming to pass the feminist values to other youngsters attending the Congress.



*Ahmad Iraqi, one of the core group, is proud to spread the feminist ideas to the other youngsters during the conference.*

## Marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

Marking 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence: PCPD conducted a number of activities in order to shed light on the gender based violence that is exerted on women in particular. The theme of this campaign was "Girls Equal Boys" and the youth stood in the centre of Nablus city, holding slogans that call for equality; after that, they mingled with the citizens and talked with them about the importance of equality, which begins at an early stage. The youth handed pencil cases to the citizens, where we printed on these the slogan of the initiative. The youth opened discussions with the citizens on the importance of these 16 days and raised awareness towards equality between the boys and girls in the family and this is the role of the parents who most of the time, try to discriminate between their children, even when they are very young.



PCPD celebrated 16 Days Activism by a stand in Nablus, holding slogans demanding equality. They also merged between the citizens and opened discussions with them on the importance of treating their girls as the boys. The discussions with the citizens were interesting, and the citizens responded positively towards these.



Also the youth hanged posters in the streets of Nablus





PCPD family would like to express **A BIG THANK YOU** to the following funding organizations who have made the work of the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy possible.

***KVINNA TILL KVINNA***  
***INTEGRITY ACTION***  
***MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE***  
***WOMAN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***  
***OPERATION 1325***  
***PAX***  
***FORUM CIVIL PEACE SERVICE***  
***THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA***

# 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

المركز الفلسطيني لقضايا السلام والديمقراطية  
Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy



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