



16 Days of Activism Campaign to Combat Gender-Based Violence

25.11.2020 - 10.12.2020

The annual global campaign, "16 Days to Reduce Gender-Based Violence", begins world-wide on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on December 10, which coincides with the anniversary of the issuance of the Universal Charter of Human Rights. This campaign is an integral part of the efforts to emphasize violence against women and girls as a violation of human rights which should be prioritized more often as such.

Gender-based violence is a major health and human rights issue, which as global statistics show, is exacerbated during violent conflict, as young women and girls become more vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, violence and sexual exploitation, all of which has severe consequences for their mental and physical health. Palestine is no exception, and violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread and persistent violations of human rights that remains critically unreported due to the forced silence resulting from the stigma against women and girl victims of violence and perpetrators of violence not being held accountable.

The Israeli occupation is the main framework within which gender-based violence (GBV) against Palestinian women and girls is institutionalized. Its systematic and increasing violations of the rights of all Palestinians and especially women is in contradiction to international conventions that oblige it as an occupier to protect those it occupies; instead, Israel has been a consistent aggressor against Palestinians economic, social, political, health (including mental) and other rights. The occupation exacerbates the negative effects of the patriarchal structure of Palestinian society which causes a harmful power dynamic between Palestinian men and women which too frequently manifests in GBV. There is a lack of security and protection from the laws in place in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, whether that be due to discriminatory articles in these laws or a lack of enforcement. Many of these laws are outdated by more than half a century. These legal conditions allow for the continuation and reproduction of violence, underpinning family and social dynamics concerning women. A widespread social discourse that views women as inferior is also to blame for discrimination and reproducing a culture of violence against women and girls. Systemic violence against women and girls is multifaceted and includes psychological, political, economic, social, sexual, emotional and physical violence, even murder in the name of the so-called “family honour”.

Despite the continuous rise in femicide rates, Palestinian society as a whole still lacks a social deterrent to violence, and in fact justifications for said violence is still somewhat commonplace. Time and time again, the official response to these heinous crimes remains too ambiguous, indicating a lack of real political will to enact laws and legislation to protect women and girls, such as the Family Protection from violence law or the Personal Status Law and the Penal Code. Current penal laws in Palestine are influenced by the traditional belief that these “family issues” should remain a private matter. The Family Protection law if passed would help rectify this issue, as it provides measures to prevent and combat violence as well as due protection, compensation, and empowerment of survivors of violence with perpetrators being held accountable. The passage of the Family Protection Bill will be one of the main milestones in the drive to end violence against women and girls in Palestine. However, real success will only be achieved through proper implementation and implementation of the obligations included in the draft law through responsive policies, services and practices.

In addition to promoting a culture of male violence based on viewing women as inferior, the failure of the legislation in force in Palestine to protect all victims of violence (male and female, minors and adults), especially in cases of domestic violence, only further weakens the protective services and interventions provided by official authorities in response to cases of violence. Therefore, the need to pass protective laws and conduct comprehensive legal reforms must be addressed, starting with the formation of a number of specialized departments in the relevant official bodies and institutions (police, national security, the prosecution, ministries, etc.), with a clear and fair law to form a frame of reference for their work and directions, especially in the absence of courts specialized in domestic violence cases.

Moreover, the crisis of GBV is worsened by the humanitarian crisis that resulted from the Covid-19 epidemic. At the time of writing, the number of COVID-19 infections throughout Palestine has reached 67,918 cases and there have been 576 deaths according to the

Palestinian Ministry of Health reports. On the economic front, it is expected that Palestinian GDP will decline by 14% at the end of 2020 compared to 2019, and total economic losses are estimated at about \$2.5 billion. This public health and economic crisis has exacerbated GBV in all its forms, including sexual violence, domestic violence and child marriage. According to a recent survey by the Civil Society Women Coalition for the Application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 55% of women surveyed reported being subjected to psychological violence, followed by economic violence at 54%. The economic violence experienced by women is mainly due to the emergency lockdown announced by the Palestinian Authority in March, as women are discriminated against (especially in the private sector) therefore impacting how much economic power they have.

27% of Palestinian women and girls surveyed also experienced social violence, worsened by being forced to stay at home during the emergency lockdown period and being unable to communicate with their relatives, families and children. In Palestinian society especially, these ties are crucial as evidenced by the statistic of the percentage of women who sought protection from their families during this period reaching 47%.

The same survey indicated that 24% of women have been extensively subjected to verbal violence, while 15% of women have suffered from physical violence to a large extent. Although physical violence is the rarest, it is also the most immediately threatening in light of male abusers taking advantage of pandemic-related closure of courts and the increased difficulties more women and girls had in reaching service centres where they could safely report abuse. 11% of women surveyed were subjected to sexual harassment, 35% were subjected to bullying, 21% were subjected to extortion and exploitation, and 7% were subjected to electronic blackmail.

Accordingly, based on this context and in line with the efforts of the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development and the Palestinian women movement in previous years to promote the right of women and girls to live in health, safety and security, PWWSD continues its work alongside other human rights and feminist institutions and coalitions through its 16 Days of Activism Campaign against GBV, with a special focus on increased social and legal protection for women and girls. This year's campaign will build on the recently launched of the "Sada" Campaign (ECHO), which was launched during the month of August mainly to promote the passage of the Family Protection from violence bill into law.

The 16 Days campaign aims to:

1. Ensure women's right to social and legal protection from violence
2. Pressuring decision-makers to set clear, specific, and time-bound commitments related to the approval of the Family Protection from violence Law.

Activities

#	Activity	Description	Tools	Suggested Date
Audio-visual and Printed Resources				
1	Campaign press release	Publishing campaign launch press release	Media agencies	11/25
2	Facebook Profile picture Frame/Filter	www.facebook.com/تغيير صورة البروفايل	Facebook page	11/25
3	Sponsored Facebook posts and radio spots	Most important articles of the Family Protection from violence law	providers SMS messages- Facebook	25/11-10/12
4	Distributing manuals and flyers on services for survivors of violence			25/11-10/12
5	Distribution of publicity materials that holds messages on violence against women	Upcoming year agenda +special heat mugs	Distribution by hand	25/11-10/12
6	Song about combatting violence against women.	Displaying the song at the closing ceremony of the campaign	Advocacy on social media and audio-visual channels	12/10
7	Video (Stories of Women Survivors of Violence - (Hayat) - a lawyer or a specialist	The video (3-4 minutes) shows two stories of survivors of violence. The video will be broadcasted at the campaign's closing ceremony as well.	Advocacy on social media and audio-visual channels	5/12-10/12
8	Poster on National Referral Service partners	Publish and distribute posters to grassroots organizations.	Distribution by hand	25/11-10/12
9	Billboards	3 panels in different areas - On the Protection of Women and Girls from Violence - Duration One Month	Rental company Billboard	25/11-25/12
10	Spot videos 20-30 seconds about violence against women and the services provided,	Partnership with at Maan Network.	Video spot 20-30 seconds at Maan Network.	12/05

	and display it at Maan TV channel and Maan Network.			
11	Spot: short video message with music (40-60) seconds to cabinet/president	A written and / or read message addressed to the Prime Minister / President urging the need for the speedy passage of the Family Protection with Violence Law and its speedy implementation	Palestine channel, Maan channel	12/06
12	2-3-minute video brief message - stop violence "This message is for every battered woman." "This is a message for policymakers, officials and civil society ..."	Women and Men - 12 short messages on eliminating violence, each message approximately 15 seconds.	Promote it on social media and audio-visual channels	5/12-10/12
13	Media Partnerships	Media partnerships with news agencies, websites, radio and television stations	Media agencies	25/11-10/12
14	Publication of PWWSD research, reports and studies in English and Arabic	Publication in regional and global websites, publications and magazines	Regional and global websites, publications and magazines	25/11-10/12
15	Launching two short films "resistance for existence" and "Voices From The Rural Land"	Share trailers before the campaign and broadcasting videos on Social media platforms and at Maan TV Channel.	Regional and global platforms	25/11-10/12
16	Painting 2-3 walls in open spaces at rural lands in Ramallah/Bethlehem/ Jericho.		Live Facebook videos	1/12-10/12
Advocacy and Awareness Meetings				
#	Activity	Description	Tools	Suggested Date

17	Conduct a policy dialogue session in Ramallah on “Palestinian legislations on the economic rights of Palestinian rural women, and a critical analysis of policies from a gender perspective” and “Impact of Covid-19 on rural women’s cooperatives.”	Our consultant _Lamya_ will Launch her developed paper and present it briefly. We will lunch the short film “Voices From The Rural Land”	Live Facebook videos + press release publication+ Maan TV	2/12
18	Organize a dialogue session with international actors including the UN, International organizations and Donor Governments on the impact of the occupation violations against rural communities, with a focus on rural women.	The dialogue session will be organized via Zoom platform. The short film “Sumod” will also be broadcasted during the event and on social media after the event. Our consultant _Tamara Tamimi_ will Launch her developed paper and present it briefly.	Live Facebook videos + press release publication+ Maan TV	9/12
19	Policy dialogue	The session will include women survivors.	Live Facebook videos + press release publication	06/12
20	Policy dialogue about violence against women and economic violence.		Live Facebook videos +press release publication	08/12
21	TV episode – Talk show to launch the Sumod Report - Palestinian Women in the Covid-19 Pandemic.		Facebook Live and posts	11/25 06:00 pm
22	Discussion workshops on family protection law in Jenin and Tulkarem with Al Muntada	Via zoom	Live Facebook videos +press release publication	08/12
23	4 radio interviews about Family protection from violence law.	Nisa’ fm, Nagham, Al Alam and Shabab fm.	Live Facebook videos +press release publication	25/11-10/12
24	Online regional webinar on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.	The Webinar is organized with the support of DG NEAR and the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood, the regional communication project EU Neighbours South.	Online Webinar	25/11

25	A dialogue meeting about the approval of the Family Protection from Violence law in Gaza	<p>A dialogue session that includes women's institutions to demand the passage of Family protection from violence law</p> <p>Worksheet 1: Presentation on the draft bill</p> <p>Worksheet 2: The importance of a law to protect the family from violence</p>	<p>Invitations Posters Themed masks Guesthouse and hall Dabke group Facilitator 100 youth participants Video shooting and montage</p>	7/12
26	Television interviews at Ma'an TV.	Two television interviews on the evening program at Ma'an TV to talk about the campaign and GBV - three different interlocutors	Meeting shown and participation in through social media	25/11-10/12
27	10-15 minutes livestreaming, dialogue with a decision-maker about one of the campaign pillars	30 short videos on GBV		25/11-10/12