



للارشاد القانوني والاجتماعي

مركز المرأة

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

Consolidating the past – shaping the future

A strategy for 2010-2012

Annual Report 2010

Annual Report 2010

Table of Contents

Part I – Summary Report.....	3
General Information:	3
Short Political Brief	3
Summary of Progress Indicators.....	6
Narrative Summary.....	10
Highlights of the year, by strategic goal.....	10
Summary Evaluation of Progress in Line with Action Plan.....	14
Inclusion of men – a cross-cutting indicator	15
Some challenges and lessons learnt	15
Part II – Detailed Progress Report	17
Strategic Goal 1: To contribute to the development of both a legislative environment and specific institutional policies that support, protect and empower women.	17
Strategic goal 2: To contribute to raising awareness within Palestinian society regarding gender issues and women's rights, and to combat negative practices against women.....	25
Strategic goal 3: To extend, improve and provide services to women suffering discrimination or violence.	48
Strategic goal 4: To document violations of women's human rights and to disseminate this information through reports and position papers locally, regionally and internationally.	65
Strategic goal 5: To enhance WCLAC's own abilities, performance and sustainability.	74

Part I – Summary Report

General Information:

Name of NGO: Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)
Reporting period: 1 January 2010 – 31 December 2010
Date of last report: 12 August 2010
Date of this report: 1 March 2011

Short Political Brief

During the year 2010, the political situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory was marked by ongoing stasis – to the point of breakdown – in the Israel-Palestine peace talks. This was in addition to the continued adjournment of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and the postponement of municipal elections in June.

International

In May, headlines were dominated by the Israeli killing of around nine people on board Mavi Marmara – part of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. The Israeli actions relating to the flotilla led to increased tension between the Turkey and Israel. News reports for much of the year suggest Israel-Lebanon relations are at a state of heightened tension; while Israel’s relationship with most other countries are marked by a lack of any substantive peace.¹

Gaza blockade

Possibly due to the increased advocacy attention brought by the Flotilla, Israel did change the nature of restrictions on items entering Gaza, increasing the range of items which are permitted. However, a large number of restrictions continue, including restriction on freedom of movement.

Municipal elections cancelled

In June, municipal elections for the occupied Palestinian territory, scheduled for July 2010, were cancelled. The Ministry of Local Government in the West Bank linked the decision to the need to “pave the way for a successful end to the siege on Gaza and for continued efforts at unity”, and that it came in response to requests from some Arab nations and Arab nations and a number of “friends in the world.”² The decision

¹ For example: BBC News “Tensions between Lebanon and Israel at high levels” 30 June 2010 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10462490> (accessed 28 July 2010)

² Ma’an News Agency “PA: Elections cancelled for the sake of Gaza” 10 June 2010 <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=291120> (accessed 25 Jan 2011)

was met with condemnation from a number of civil society organisations and protests were held condemning the decision.³

US led peace talks

Proximity talks between Israel and Palestine have apparently led nowhere through the year. In September, US-led direct talks recommenced only to fall apart within a few weeks as the so-called settlement freeze came to an end in late September. The settlement freeze, in any case, had not applied to East Jerusalem, nor to advancing planning processes, nor to continuing constructing numerous buildings without permits in the illegal settlements.⁴

Palestinian national reconciliation

In addition to protests against the postponed elections, meetings and demonstrations have been held opposing the weak negotiating position perceived in the September peace talks.⁵ In a worrying development PA forces quashed a diverse meeting discussing recent political developments concerning Palestinian negotiations with Israel.⁶ Reportedly, the meeting was infiltrated and surrounded by plain-clothes General Intelligence (GI) officers who confiscated recording equipment and assaulted at least one human rights worker documenting the event.⁷

A protest against the threat to opposition politics the following week was overshadowed by the killing of four illegal settlers in the Hebron area, for which Hamas claimed responsibility.⁸ Following the killings, sources reported a wave of arrests – an unconfirmed figure of 300 opposition members arrested – leading Hamas to denounce the leadership of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.⁹ However, despite this and other flashpoints, reconciliation negotiations between Hamas and Fateh continued but as yet no significant results.¹⁰

Political developments and their impact on women

In our analysis, WCLAC seek to recognise and highlight the interrelation between developments in the public sphere and their impacts on women's lives in the private sphere. One area of grave concern is the relentless pressure on occupied East Jerusalem – an area publicly exempted from the settlement freeze and blighted

³ Palestine News Network "Protest against suspension of elections" 18 July 2010

http://english.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8522 (accessed 25 Jan 2011)

⁴ Peace Now "The Settlements Moratorium – A six month accounting" in Settlements in Focus, 14 June 2010,

http://peacenow.org/entries/settlements_moratorium_six-month_accounting (accessed 25 Jan 2011); and Michael Sfar

"Settlements and Occupation: an Israeli Legal Perspective" in New America Foundation 15 July 2009

http://www.newamerica.net/events/2009/settlements_and_occupation (accessed 28 July 2010);

⁵ Ma'an News Agency "Protests against talks continue in Ramallah" 1 September 2010

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=312449> (accessed 25 Jan 2011)

⁶ Al-Haq "Suppression of Freedom of Expression and Assembly and Attacks on Human Rights Defenders by Palestinian Security Services" 25 August 2010 <http://www.alhaq.org/etemplate.php?id=540> (accessed 25 Jan 2011)

⁷ Al-Haq "Suppression of Freedom of Expression and Assembly and Attacks on Human Rights Defenders by Palestinian Security Services" 25 August 2010 <http://www.alhaq.org/etemplate.php?id=540> (accessed 25 Jan 2011)

⁸ The Guardian "Four Israeli settlers shot dead on eve of White House talks" 31 August 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/aug/31/israelis-shot-dead-west-bank?INTCMP=SRCH> (accessed 26 Jan 2011)

⁹ Al-Jazeera "Hamas warns PA over recent arrests" 11 September 2010

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2010/09/201098115340649915.html> (accessed 26 Jan 2011)

¹⁰ International Crisis Group "Crisis Watch Database: Israel/Palestine" 1 December 2010 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-database.aspx> (accessed 26 Jan 2011)

by evictions and the threat of eviction all year. Pressure Palestinian families in East Jerusalem has been relentless throughout 2010, with acute impact on women caused by multiple factors including the shrinkage of the private sphere. While pressure has been particularly acute in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods, equally, demolitions and evictions have been widespread.¹¹ Another group made particularly vulnerable by Israeli policies has been the Bedouin, with numerous constructions being destroyed throughout the year, including in the highly threatened Jordan Valley area of the OPT.¹²

Women's and family insecurity increased by Military Orders and occupation practices

One potentially major encroachment on the lives of Palestinians in the public sphere has been the passage into force of Military Orders 1649 and 1650 on 13 April 2010. The orders introduced further threat for the arrest, detention and deportation for Palestinians living in Israel and under military occupation. The military orders dramatically broaden the existing definition of "infiltration" in the occupied West Bank, criminalizing and subjecting to deportation every person present there.¹³ Even without the use of these military orders, deportations to Gaza have been ongoing, resulting in the huge disruption of individuals' lives and the disruption to family life and families' security.¹⁴ The impact on family life has a distinct impact on the lives of women, who suffer the double bind of Israeli actions dramatically changing their family circumstances, while social conservatism demands they maintain cultural norms of a particular femininity, domesticity and containment within the private sphere.

On-going crimes related to honour (femicide)

WCLAC was shocked and appalled by a spate of femicides early in the year – six cases were reported to WCLAC within the first two months of the year. This prompted political reaction within oPT in rhetoric, but it is essential that, in addition to changing discourse, there should be tangible improvement to the lives of women. WCLAC welcomed the Prime Minister's call in February for President Mahmoud Abbas to put an end to lenient sentencing for femicides. As Abbas still fails to use his presidential privilege to enforce a moratorium on the clauses that permit lenient sentencing, WCLAC continue to call for the President to respect the Prime Minister's request. Unable to announce a moratorium on March 8, International Women's Day, the Prime Minister announced a vision and government-level plan of action to promote the status of Palestinian women. Again, WCLAC welcomes this and looks forward in hope of seeing words translated into action.

No legal change yet to end lenient sentences for femicides

Despite the President's failure to end lenient sentences for femicides with a moratorium, WCLAC hopes that soon a new Criminal Law will be passed which will permanently end the acceptance of "honour" as a mitigating circumstance in femicide cases. A new Criminal Law has moved back and forth between drafting and consultation for much of the year, the latter including a high-profile two-day seminar in Jericho in November; the draft is now with the Ministry of Justice and there is little indication as to if or when it would

¹¹ WCLAC "Forced Evictions: Assessing the Impact on Palestinian Women in East Jerusalem" December 2010 http://www.wclac.org/english/reports/WCLAC_Forced_Evictions_2010.pdf (accessed 26 Jan 2011)

¹² ICADH-USA "Jordan Valley Demolitions: A History of Ongoing Silent Deportation" 25 August 2010 <http://icahdusa.org/2010/08/jordan-valley-demolitions-a-history-of-ongoing-silent-deportation/> (accessed 26 Jan 2010)

¹³ Al Haq "Al-Haq's Legal Analysis of Israeli Military Orders 1649 & 1650: Deportation and Forcible Transfer as International Crimes Ref" Ref 61/2010 <http://www.alhaq.org/pdfs/legal-analysis-of-new-israeli-military%20Orders.pdf> (accessed 28 July 2010)

¹⁴ Al Jazeera News "Palestinians Deported to Gaza" 22 April 2010 <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2010/04/2010422124915701529.html> (accessed 28 July 2010)

come into force to contribute to women's protection. WCLAC supports democracy and the democratic constitution of the Palestinian National Authority. However, as the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) has not convened since 2006, and given the life-threatening nature to women of the current Criminal Law's mitigation of honour killings, WCLAC supports the urgent passage into law by Presidential Decree of a Criminal Law which protects and promotes women's rights.

Impact of political developments on WCLAC

Within the political context of 2010, WCLAC has been able to implement most of its planned activities. Limits to freedom of movement between Palestinian communities present an ongoing challenge, in spite of which WCLAC continues to work with as many key partners and sectors of Palestinian society as possible, notably in West Bank including East Jerusalem and in Gaza. In the absence of government, WCLAC will continue to work on shaping practical policies and protocols.

Summary of Progress Indicators

- 2 laws drafted:
 - Criminal Law (with Ministry of Justice);
 - Personal Status Law (drafted with civil society, approved by National Committee, ready to be submitted to Office of the President).
- 23 meetings as a civil society representative within the Ministry of Justice's drafting committee for a new Criminal Law.
- 1 international conference and 1 national conference attended for discussion of Criminal Law
- 3 international conferences attended for regional discussion of Personal Status Law issues
- Workshops at 14 locations across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, reaching 810 beneficiaries to raise awareness and build support for the draft Personal Status Law.
- 2 Consultants contracted to a working draft for a Law on Family Protection from Violence.
- 129 members in 14 consultation committees established across West Bank and Gaza to advocate for the Personal status law in their communities.
- "Women and the draft constitution of Palestine"
 - 1 200-plus page English-language gender-analysis of the Palestinian draft constitution completed;
 - 1 Arabic-language summary analysis booklet produced and distributed;
 - 3 workshops, with 92 participants in total, held to publicise and discuss the findings of the study.
- 1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed and maintained through the year between WCLAC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).
- 1 set of bylaws drafted for the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) to govern services for women at risk of violence. Being invited to do so by MOSA, WCLAC drafted a further set of principles to guide the registration and licensing of organisations intending to operate safe houses and other such shelters.
- 5 volunteer clusters maintained centred on the following locations: Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Tulkarem and Salfit.
- 33 registered WCLAC volunteers – all active – and a number of other supporters besides.

- 28 support meetings held with the volunteer clusters to build skills and teamwork, develop action plans and assign tasks.
- 15 hours advocacy training given over 3 days to 15 of the volunteers, with expert input from WCLAC's Documentation and Advocacy Unit.
- 35 partner organisations worked with at grassroots level in organising volunteer-led landmark events to mark International Women's Day (8 March) and the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women (from 25 November to 10 December)
- Over 600 participants at volunteer-led landmark events (Women's Day and the 16 Days) with events taking place among all five volunteer clusters on both occasions.
- 3 new student peer support groups piloted with a total of 50 members spread between the 3 groups in Hebron and Jericho governorates.
- 51 awareness-raising workshops organised by volunteers in 16 locations in cooperation with 34 different partner organisations, reaching almost 700 participants, the majority of whom attended more than 1 session.
- 41 one-off consultations sought from WCLAC volunteers by event participants or others who know the WCLAC volunteers' work.
- 1 workshop held with Media Forum and the Syndicate of Journalists successfully garnering support among opinion-leaders for the draft criminal law.
- 1 moot court event (simulated trial) organised in association with Al-Muntada (the NGO Forum Combating Violence Against Women).
- Continued affiliation with:
 - The Media Forum,
 - The NGO Forum Combating Violence Against Women (al Muntada),
 - The Criminal Law Coalition,
 - The Personal Status Law Coalition,
 - The Committee on the Family Protection from Violence Law,
 - The Coalition Against Capital Punishment,
 - The Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations,
 - The Palestinian Forum for Safe Abortion,
 - The SALMA Network,
 - The AISHA Network,
 - The Rights of the Child Forum.
- Awarded provisional membership of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). (Awaiting final approval the next EMHRN General Assembly meeting).
- Attended 5 meetings of the Board of Directors of the Alimony Fund.
- Led 22 awareness-raising sessions with 9 different groups of Jerusalem-based women brought together by 8 different Jerusalem-based grassroots organisations and service providers with a total of 198 direct beneficiaries.
- Awareness-raising elsewhere in the West Bank at the invitation of organisations of community groups, for example, addressing ecclesiastical law with 30 women in Beit Sahour.
- Running 3 workshops in the Hebron area at the request of the Ministry of Education, reaching 98 direct beneficiaries in total.

- Giving around 20 hours training to 4 different groups, reaching a total of 68 law and social work students, using WCLAC's "Women's Rights Are Human Rights" module to link gender theory and international law to the context in OPT.
- Running tailored training and information sessions to 284 youths and students of any discipline in 7 different groups.
- Giving 20 hours training to 21 Shari'a court counsellors on the topic "Mechanisms and Methods for Intervention."
- Leading 102 awareness-raising group-discussions on gender, law and women's issues with 13 different groups of potentially vulnerable women in series of typically 7-10 workshops responding in depth to concerns raised, reaching 258 direct beneficiaries.
- Participation in 21 local and regional radio/TV shows to discuss WCLAC's Service Unit work or to raise awareness of women's rights issues in OPT.
- Legal and social service provision for 496 clients, of which 388 were new this year.
- A further 280 one-off consultations given to women receiving enough information in one session not to need to register as a client.
- Distributing 149 alimony self-help manuals which empower literate women to use court processes to claim maintenance in divorce cases.
- Emergency overnight protection for 51 women and (8 infant children) referred to WCLAC's emergency protection shelter.
- Averaging at least 3 beds in the shelter occupied each night of the year, and several times running at full capacity – a huge increase on last year.
- Increased the skill-sets of the 4 shelter housemothers and 15 shelter volunteers.
- Support for 2 grassroots partner organisations: Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life in Bidya (Salfit Governorate), assisting them not least through supervision of service provision and through capacity building of administrative and financial management.
- Extending legal aid and counselling services for women into Tulkarem and Salfit through support for and supervision of the grassroots partners who have provided services to 117 clients in Tulkarem area and 73 clients from Salfit governorate and neighbouring Qalqilya.
- Led trainings for 15 MOSA Shelter staff and volunteers sharing experiences, protocols and best practices from WCLAC's own shelter management experience.
- Began a lecture series for 27 students at Al-Najjah University and Al-Quds Open University
- Completed the gender audit of 2 major Palestinian NGOs, and began work on the gender audit of a third.
- Held numerous successful liaison meetings with stakeholders in the Takamol project ensure support for the referral system for women victims of violence; 2 consultants contracted to draft the referral protocols and 1 recruited to develop a curriculum for nursing, midwifery and medical schools.
- Documented 9 cases of femicide in the West Bank; implemented several public events to publicise and condemn femicide and drafted an analysis of the 29 cases of femicide documented by WCLAC over the past 4 years.
- Documented 156 case studies for legal analysis, taking testimonies from Palestinian women suffering the gender-specific impact of Israeli breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law.
- Held 2 in-depth interviews with Gazan women to document their experiences of life as Gazans.

- Held 2 meetings bringing together 15 women whose case studies have been documented by WCLAC; the first in Ramallah including 3 women from Gaza connecting by video conference; the second in East Jerusalem with a focus on victims of forced eviction and home demolitions.
- Maintained, supported and provided training for 8 active IHL field workers, from across Gaza and the West Bank, in interview techniques and other skills for documentation
- Led 2 trainings in Gaza on housing rights in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council; one training given to 20 lawyers and the other to project workers from international relief organisations.
- Held 3 meetings bringing NGOs together to discuss CEDAW and to identify key issues for inclusion in a preliminary report to the CEDAW pre-sessional working group and subsequently in the alternative report to the CEDAW Committee.
- Facilitated components on IHL documentation and other topics in 3 trainings organised by Al-Haq for staff and field workers in human rights organisations.
- Used WCLAC's ECOSOC Special Consultative status to submit 5 alternative reports to treaty bodies and international human rights committees and enforcement mechanisms
- WCLAC also attended the following events:
 - March 2010 - Commission on the Status of Women, New York City.
 - June 2010 - International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Peace between Israel and Palestine, Madrid.
 - June 2010 - Field Mission of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, Amman.
 - July 2010 – Human Rights Committee, Geneva
 - August 2010 - CEDAW pre-sessional working group, New York.
- Spoke to over 100 Spanish human rights supporters as sole speaker on a speaking tour organised by one of WCLAC's Spanish partners.
- Developed a reputation for powerful IHL briefings and field visits with journalists, politicians and visiting delegations – averaging 1 event per month.
- Developed agreements with 2 internet resources to increase the dissemination of WCLAC's work.
- Finalised 1 comprehensive staff needs assessment.
- Held 2 staff retreats and 6 further all-staff meetings to build capacity and to encourage teambuilding and ownership of WCLAC's strategic plan.
- Purchased an electronic library cataloguing system.
- Received 153 visits to our library from external visitors and had internal requests to sign out 141 documents from the library by WCLAC staff.
- Developed and distributed key documents such as strategy, action plans, budgets and reports, which have been approved by the board.
- Completed the process of 1 overall financial audit and 6 audits for special projects.
- Worked to develop WCLAC's media presence and gained documented coverage of 46 WCLAC in the local print and online media sources which WCLAC monitors, amounting to around 200 or more articles on WCLAC events in 6 publications WCLAC monitors.

Narrative Summary

The year 2010 marked the first of year of WCLAC's new three year strategy "Consolidating the past; shaping the future." The five main goals of this programme are as follows:

- Strategic Goal 1: To contribute to the development of both a legislative environment and specific institutional policies that support, protect and empower women.
- Strategic goal 2: To contribute to raising awareness within Palestinian society regarding gender issues and women's rights, and to combat negative practices against women.
- Strategic goal 3: To extend, improve and provide services to women suffering discrimination or violence.
- Strategic goal 4: To document violations of women's human rights and to disseminate this information through reports and position papers locally, regionally and internationally.
- Strategic goal 5: To enhance WCLAC's own abilities, performance and sustainability.

This narrative summary deals with each of these, in turn, to highlight some of the progress made during the year. This is followed by a summary evaluation of progress, an evaluation of WCLAC's inclusion of men in its programme – particularly in legal reform and awareness raising – and several lessons learnt. More detailed analysis including success stories, indicators and more specific lessons learnt are contained within the detailed activity report, in Part II.

Highlights of the year, by strategic goal

Strategic Goal 1: To contribute to the development of both a legislative environment and specific institutional policies that support, protect and empower women.

WCLAC's legal reform and policy development work currently focuses on the Criminal Law, the Personal Status Law, and the development of operational protocols with the Ministry of Social Affairs based on our own experience, expertise and working practices. We focus on these two laws in particular because we have identified them as having the greatest potential for a positive impact on women's rights and because we have identified reform, or at least progress towards it, as being achievable in spite of the challenging political context and the ongoing suspension of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). The Personal Status Law draft that WCLAC is advocating would clarify and affirm the rights of women in matters relating to marriage and divorce (including, for example, age of consent, polygamy and common wealth). With regards to the Criminal Law, WCLAC seeks to address issues of femicide, safe abortion and overall gender-sensitivity. In 2011 WCLAC will address further areas of legislation such as financial regulations, in which achievable changes could significantly increase women's independence.

Advocating a Criminal Law to end excuse of "honour" as a mitigating circumstance in femicide cases

WCLAC has worked hard to assert a civil society voice in favour of women's rights and human rights in the process of the drafting of a new Criminal Law. The law which WCLAC helped draft with the Ministry of Justice drafting committee has been praised by experts as a law which would be a beacon of adherence to international rights standards in the Arab world; it would end lenient sentences for femicides (murders blamed on so-called honour) and would make some provision for safe abortion. WCLAC recognises the value

of consultation and notes that the national conference held in Jericho in November expressed support for the law – for Palestinian women it is now essential that improved legal protections to be passed into law as a matter of urgency.

Creating a draft Personal Status Law approved by national committee in West Bank and Gaza

WCLAC has worked with a civil society coalition drafting a new, unified text for Personal Status Law, which has been approved by a national committee with members in Gaza and the West Bank. The draft focuses on reform in particular issues including marriage age, commonwealth, polygamy, divorce, custody and equal legal status (for example as witnesses in marital disputes). In order to build support for the draft WCLAC has constituted 14 groups, with 129 reform supporters, working across the OPT. One positive indicator of political interest is the request from the Office of the President for the draft to be submitted, together with a legal commentary explaining the reforms and their importance. In the absence of a Legislative Council to pass a full law, WCLAC is also supporting efforts advocating reform of priority articles in the law on issues of women's rights and equality.

Productive partnership with Ministry of Social Affairs

WCLAC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) have maintained a rewarding relationship throughout the year, following agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January. The impact of the partnership spans much of WCLAC's strategic scope, with increased use of the emergency protection shelter and direct practitioner-to-practitioner training with WCLAC's shelter staff holding workshops with the staff at MOSA's new Nablus shelter (Goal 3). WCLAC has also participated in special events marking International Women's Day raising awareness of the Takamol Project at MOSA's Mehwar shelter in Bethlahem (Goals 2 and 3). Moreover, WCLAC has contributed its experience and lessons learnt, inputting best practices directly into MOSA's standard operating procedures and shelter guidelines. Working with line ministries to create more achievable impact through protocol development is part of WCLAC's strategic advocacy shift, to ensure short term progress at practical level, while still also lobbying for overarching changes in legislation.

Strategic goal 2: To contribute to raising awareness within Palestinian society regarding gender issues and women's rights, and to combat negative practices against women.

WCLAC sees awareness-raising as a key activity for changing behaviour and attitudes towards women and just as crucially, empowering women with knowledge to defend and uphold their own rights – including knowing how they can access support. Awareness-raising falls within the domain of each of WCLAC's three programme units: the Service Unit, the Documentation and Advocacy Unit and, through the volunteer clusters, the Capacity-Building Unit. WCLAC has a variety of modules developed through years of work, including "Women's Rights are Human Rights" – typically a 15-20 hour training, often used with law and social work students or practicing service providers – and modules taking WCLAC's legal reform expertise straight to target groups discussing current and proposed Personal Status Law, Criminal Law and their implications for Palestinian society. Target groups range from school girls and vulnerable women to Shari'a court counsellors and decision makers. Methodologies vary accordingly, from running one-off information sessions and advocacy for legal reforms to running series of around ten workshops to cover a range of subjects with a rural women's community group.

Over 140 WCLAC-led awareness-raising workshops reaching over 1400 direct beneficiaries

WCLAC staff have directly implemented over 140 workshops tailored to the needs of target groups including a strong East Jerusalem programme, mixed groups of Christian and Muslim women and reaching remote parts of the West Bank, including refugee camps and areas under Israeli military administration (temporary area C). In the remote and isolated communities WCLAC's series of 7-10 group discussions with potentially vulnerable women has particularly valuable results, not only building trust by returning time and again to the community, but also reaching women who lack access to clear information. "I keep hearing about gender, but this is the first time anyone has ever explained it to me – finally I understand what is really meant by it," said one participant. Another commented at the closing session of a series, that she was receiving the first certificate of her life.

Volunteer groups growing more active, more professional and becoming an address for advice

WCLAC's volunteers now represent an amazing cadre of young professionals working tirelessly and cost-effectively to promote women's rights in their communities. With one third of the volunteers being young men, this cadre embodies WCLAC's outreach to men as well as women. Most of the volunteers are multipliers in the community by profession, as social workers, lawyers and teachers – they have excellent access to grassroots communities, which they maintain through partnerships with dozens of community-based partner organisations: youth groups, women's groups, village councils. Their rising profile in their communities is marked by volunteers becoming board members for local organisations and by an ongoing stream of requests from communities for information sessions or for information and advice on particular issues.

Volunteers developing creative new projects: plays, art exhibitions and student support groups

With support from WCLAC's professional volunteer coordinator, the volunteers have shown their creativity in spreading messages and information on women's rights issues. To mark the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women, the whole volunteer network (from 5 locations across the West Bank) worked together to launch an art exhibition addressing women's issues and drawing media and decision-makers to its opening ceremony. Working with a youth group, the volunteers also produced a play which drew a big audience. More sustained work with youth groups started this year too, working with 3 groups to train students in peer-to-peer support with listening skills and teamwork, and information on, for example, safe adolescence and marriage law.

Continued engagement with key coalitions in Palestine and beyond

WCLAC maintains its portfolio of coalitions, whose concerns range from all human rights issues to issues specific to women. In international networks, WCLAC's membership application with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network has been provisionally approved by their executive committee; WCLAC is also pleased to note a revival of interest in international networking between women's organisations across the Arab world, through networks such as the Aisha network.

Strategic goal 3: To extend, improve and provide services to women suffering discrimination or violence.

In WCLAC's strategy for the period 2010-2012, direct service provision remains the backbone of WCLAC's approach to addressing the challenges faced by Palestinian women. Through direct service provision, WCLAC identifies and addresses the needs and priorities of Palestinian women. WCLAC increases the value

of its service provision, by using institutional learning, including lessons learnt in managing the emergency protection shelter, to develop policies and procedures which are disseminated to build the capacity of WCLAC's governmental and grassroots partners, most notably the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life. Working in long-term partnerships with grassroots organisations is a means WCLAC uses successfully to extend the spread of service provision to individual women living outside the major urban centres at the same time as building the organisational strength of groups sharing WCLAC's feminist vision.

Social and legal service provision to hundreds of women using a holistic approach

WCLAC continues its legal and social aid work which, as the backbone of the centre's work, ensures that WCLAC knows, from first hand information, the problems that are affecting Palestinian women. WCLAC offers a combination of social counselling and legal aid, including court representation. Despite limitations of the legislative, political and social environment, WCLAC works with the tools available – including positive Palestinian traditions such as neighbourliness – to help women find solutions to their problems, or counselling to help them strengthen their resolve. Providing services from offices in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Beit Jala (near Bethlehem) and Hebron, WCLAC supported 496 clients through the year, and a further 280 women having a one-off consultation without registering as a client – these include some phoning for advice, or asking at the end of an awareness-raising workshop.

Almost double the uptake in emergency protection on 2009 through strong partnership with MOSA

WCLAC's emergency protection gives women access to refuge from ongoing or potential grievous violence, including threats to their lives. This year WCLAC's shelter protected 51 clients (and 8 infant children accompanying mothers), with solutions being found within 7 days for one third of those clients. The shelter is staffed by a team of 4 housemothers and 15 volunteers, in addition to the two professional social workers; all staff have had training support and supervision through the year, leading to improved service and staff better equipped to meet clients needs and, themselves, to cope in a stressful environment.

Strategic goal 4: To document violations of women's human rights and to disseminate this information through reports and position papers locally, regionally and internationally

With the start of its new strategy this year, WCLAC has concentrated its focus on documentation of human rights violations suffered by Palestinian women in West Bank and Gaza, rather than heavily resource-intensive social research. Through documentation WCLAC produces powerful advocacy tools based on a feminist perspective, international legal frameworks and the experiences of Palestinian women. Documentation is used locally to increase knowledge in Palestine of violence against women, and internationally, using WCLAC's ECOSOC Special Consultative Status to present submissions based on women's testimonies and on WCLAC's feminist legal perspective to international human rights enforcement mechanisms such as the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Campaigning to end the killing of women and end lenient sentences for the killers

WCLAC held a number of advocacy events early in the year which helped build momentum which culminated in Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's statement recommending the President enforce a moratorium on the use of legislation which accepts claims of family honour as an excuse for the murder of women (femicide). With

the President's inaction, WCLAC continues to document cases of femicide, drafting a review of case studies over the past four years, and analysing trial outcomes of a dozen cases which went to court.

7 target outputs & 1 annual report documenting gender-specific impacts of Israeli rights violations

Building on work from last year, WCLAC documented 156 case studies in 2010 including 35 in Gaza and 25 in East Jerusalem. WCLAC's work uniquely blends feminist research methods with legal analysis to highlight the interrelation between cultural and political factors, and the compounded stresses of living in a patriarchal society, under military occupation, with numerous rights violations by Israeli military occupiers and seemingly unimpeachable, violent, illegal Israeli settlers. This documentation formed the basis of 5 alternative reports submitted to treaty bodies, and 2 advocacy booklets on specific issues (forced eviction in East Jerusalem and women's lives in the Seam Zone). The annual report drafted in 2010 gives special attention to how women's lives are affected by the illegal settlements and settler violence.

Strategic goal 5: To enhance WCLAC's own abilities, performance and sustainability

WCLAC works hard to maintain its edge as a feminist organisation led by and serving Palestinian women. Key to maintaining the position WCLAC has established through 20 years of service, are the challenges of identifying strategies for sustainability, for cost-effective interventions, for maximising the output of activities and for building the capacities of the staff and the organisation as a whole. Particular challenges WCLAC is addressing in its self-development strategy include: recording data to enhance quantitative analysis for advocacy and evaluation, maintaining levels of funding for WCLAC's core programme despite the difficult global financial environment, and improving the organisations use of media in its work.

Continuing to maintain strategic direction and adopt new approaches based on recommendations

WCLAC has begun to implement its strategy which, together with the action plan, reports and budget were approved by WCLAC's board of directors. WCLAC has also begun to implement the recommendations of an external evaluation of WCLAC's use of media, notably increasing the amount of information and women's rights news available on the website.

Summary Evaluation of Progress in Line with Action Plan

WCLAC has implemented the huge majority of its programmes as planned. Several projects have moved ahead of schedule while priorities have shifted either the method of meeting certain objectives, or the sequencing of activities.

Work on the Law on Family Protection from Violence has moved ahead of schedule – moving as quickly as possible in order to build and maintain momentum. Already consultants have been contracted to develop a draft of the law, for discussion. On Personal Status Law issues, the budget allocation for the last of the 15 workshops was retained with a view to the fifteenth workshop being used to publicise submission of the draft to the Office of the President.

WCLAC has made progress in the publication of books and studies, not least the gender-analysis of the draft constitution, but tasks still remain to obtain published outputs from certain projects reviewing WCLAC's past

work, such as the model parliament. However, through opportunities arising for which one cannot plan – such as WCLAC’s close work with MOSA to help launch the new shelter for women in Nablus – WCLAC’s experiences and research findings are being used directly to shape improvements in women’s protection in Palestine.

The volunteers have hit targets reaching a huge number of people with workshops and other events. Similarly, the service unit and grassroots partners have worked with many clients and reached many more through one-off consultations and workshops.

WCLAC’s documentation of case studies has grown in line with expectations with a spread of case studies across Gaza and the West Bank. Processes have been refined significantly through the year with objectives remaining essentially unchanged, but the progress monitoring being improved – changes will be reflected in the action plan for 2011. As stated below, one such change has been to target and tailor one-to-one and small group encounters with journalists and delegations, rather than blanket public press events.

Inclusion of men – a cross-cutting indicator

One cross-cutting indicator which WCLAC tries to monitor is the inclusion of men in certain parts of its programme, in particular, aspects of awareness-raising work. WCLAC itself is a feminist organisation but is not a women-only staff. While women occupy the three Director positions and the emergency protection shelter is a women-only site, about one eighth of the WCLAC staff is male.

In WCLAC’s work on the Personal Status Law, 12% of the participants in the workshops were men, while men represent a similar proportion in the governorate-level support groups for the Personal Status Law. One of the best results in including men in the promotion of women – involving men becoming leaders in their community and breaking down taboos on men addressing gender issues for a better society – is the 12 young men who constitute one third of the WCLAC volunteer network.

WCLAC’s volunteers have clearly made an impression on some of the men participating in their workshops. In one event in Beit Fajjar, three male participants were so engaged and impressed by the information that they requested another workshop be held in the village to cover similar topics, particularly issues of women’s inheritance rights. The men volunteered to host the meeting in the village’s main meeting place, and stressed how important it would be to increase the number of male participants attending – in particular, encouraging the participation of religious leaders. The volunteers are working to arrange a return to the area in 2011. Beit Fajjar is in the Bethlehem governorate, in which four of WCLAC’s 8 volunteers are men.

Some challenges and lessons learnt

Ongoing issues persist such as the suspension of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). This helps vindicate WCLAC’s decision in matters of urgency – such as criminal law reform – to work with ministries and the offices of the prime minister and the president to lobby for certain legislative changes through presidential decree. WCLAC continues, for example, to lobby for the President to accept the Prime

Minister's call, in March this year, to impose a moratorium on the tacit acceptance of femicide (so-called honour killings) through the practice of giving lenient sentences to men who kill women in the name of honour.

One challenge WCLAC has seen through the year stems from the proliferation of Shari'a courts through the West Bank. Although in principle this facilitates access to justice, the drawback as WCLAC perceives it is the increased challenge of making impact with training individuals, and ensuring best practices. The more courts there are, the more some will lack experienced staff and staff who have not benefited from training in gender issues. WCLAC continues to engage with the courts, pressing for access and transparency, and maintaining dialogue and skills-share with them through professional work in the courts, through inter-personal links and through – in 2010, for example – providing training to 21 Shari'a court counsellors.

WCLAC envisaged a sub-activity of analysing the process of the judiciary in dealing with femicide cases. Since the courts have been reluctant to allow access to the court transcripts, WCLAC is revising its methodology to look more at the outcome of these cases. WCLAC's aim is that through quiet diplomacy in discussing the analysis of the case outcomes, WCLAC may yet increase transparency and gain access to greater information on court processes.

Part II – Detailed Progress Report

Strategic Goal 1: To contribute to the development of both a legislative environment and specific institutional policies that support, protect and empower women.

1.1. Change existing laws or articles and seek to introduce new ones which have specific impact on women, through drafting and proposing texts developed in consultation with civil society coalitions and focus groups.

1.1.1. Build and maintain pressure to modify articles relating to femicide and abortion in the Criminal Law.

WCLAC has long been pressing for revisions to be made to the Criminal Law and, accordingly, is a founder member of the Criminal Law Coalition. The coalition brings together civil society organisations, to seek to unify and reinforce civil society demands for change in the Criminal Law. Although originally the coalition's campaign pushed for reform of the existing law, the value of the coalition's mandate increased as plans were announced to draft and introduce an entirely new Criminal Law. During 2011 WCLAC has helped shape a new draft law and has represented its feminist legal perspectives in both small and large consultation forums. While WCLAC praises the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank for its participatory consultations, we also note that still there is no moratorium on lenient sentences for femicides, and still there is no actual criminal law adequately to protect women from murder.

The year has been one of mixed results, with a new – praiseworthy – draft law developed, and increased pressure for the adoption of the law. However, pressure, as yet, has still not led to any substantive change taking effect in courts or in the lives of Palestinian women. And while on the one hand events such as the November conference discussed below can be seen as commendable consultation, at some point – without delay – it is essential that concrete, positive change take place which has a concrete, positive effect on improving protection and security for Palestinian women.

Early in 2010, WCLAC was involved in 23 meetings concerning the Ministry of Justice's drafting of the new Criminal Law text. WCLAC's primary concern for the draft has been that it end the acceptance of "honour" as a mitigating circumstance in the murder of women. Under the current Criminal Law, a sentence may be reduced to a matter of a few months if the murder of a woman is seen as a so-called "honour killing", which can even lead to the release of a convicted murderer from court on account time served while awaiting trial. WCLAC, together with the Criminal Law Coalition, have lobbied hard to end this tacit approval of femicide which is embedded within legislation. WCLAC also organised a workshop (as reported in 2.2.1.) for journalists in the Media Forum and in the Syndicate of Journalists, to garner their support for the draft law.

Significant advances within the draft include not only the scrapping of mitigating circumstances for femicides, but also the increased recognition and upgrading in seriousness of crimes of violence against women and sexual violence, including rape and violence within the family. It also clarifies laws on safe abortion – another issue on which WCLAC advocates the defence of women's rights. The draft was finalised

within the first semester of 2010, and submitted to a ministerial committee, which it is hoped will approve the draft and recommend it to Cabinet, which will in turn recommend it to the Office of the President to be passed into law by Presidential Decree.

Following the draft's submission to the ministerial committee, the Ministry referred the draft to two further local consultants, and to a team of 5 Egyptian consultants. A delegation of the drafting committee WCLAC as a representative of civil society, participated in a 5 day workshop with the consultants in Egypt to analyse the draft. The consultants held that the draft was sound and respected human rights standards, and suggested that if/when approved, this would be a pioneering Criminal Law within the Arab world in terms of its high level of respect for international human rights standards.

In November 2010, the Ministry of Justice led a 3 day national conference to discuss the draft law, in Jericho. Many and diverse stakeholders participated, including WCLAC, and while the draft was widely praised, some dissenting voices suggested legal reform is not a national priority within the context of occupation and divisions within Palestinian society. Other concerns focused on the question of democracy and the possible repercussions of major laws being passed in the West Bank by Presidential Decree without the backing of a functioning elected legislative council.

WCLAC supports democracy and the democratic constitution of the Palestinian National Authority. However, as the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) has not convened since 2006, and given the life-threatening nature to women of the current Criminal Law's mitigation of honour killings, WCLAC supports the passage into law by Presidential Decree of a Criminal Law which protects and promotes women's rights, and of an immediate moratorium on mitigation for femicides until the new Criminal Law is passed.

1.1.2. Reactivate the national committee for the regional Personal Status Law Coalition as a body advocating gender-equitable articles in Palestinian law.

WCLAC is the coordinator of the coalition and has a clear interest in the Personal Status Law (PSL), both as a service provider working within the framework of the current law and as a group advocating gender-sensitive legal reforms which empower women.

Since 1998 the coalition has worked to promote improved legislation in six key areas of the law affecting the role of women include provisions on marriage age, common wealth, polygamy, divorce, custody and equal legal status (for example as witnesses in marital disputes). The national coalition also engages at a regional level, and WCLAC acts as national representative in activities that have been held seeking common to build a common civil society platform between Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

WCLAC represented Palestinian organisations at a regional level in three international workshops throughout the year (March, October and December). The workshops brought together civil society delegations from OPT, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon to present drafts developed locally and to build a common platform for campaigning. Although it was not possible to agree an unified draft among all four participating countries, nevertheless, participants were able to draw from one another's drafts certain common solutions and build understand for social difference between the four populations represented.

A two-strand approach: total reform or revised articles

In the absence of a functioning Palestinian Legislative Council, and with complex obstacles in Palestinian political processes, WCLAC and its strategic partners have adopted a two-strand approach to legal reform of personal status law. Significantly, a draft Palestinian Personal Status Law has been put together and the Office of the President has invited its submission with a legal commentary. While the draft law sets a broad agenda for discussion among politicians, experts and civil society, as actually achieving legislative change in the current conditions is exceedingly difficult, WCLAC also supports work focusing in particular on reforming only the articles governing six key issues: marriage age, commonwealth, polygamy, divorce, custody and equal legal status (for example as witnesses in marital disputes).

Early in 2010, members of the Personal Status Law Coalition held intensive meetings to develop a preliminary draft law. WCLAC was a member of the drafting team, together with the General Union of Palestinian Women, the Women's Technical Affairs Committee, the Women's Study Centre and the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development. This proposed draft responds to a dire need for clarification in Palestinian law – which currently relies on inadequate, old Jordanian legislation – on the equitable status of women notably with regards the issues mentioned above.

A National Committee was established with members in West Bank and Gaza. Working together between these two parts of the occupied territory has been made more difficult by Israeli occupation practices and the blockade on Gaza. However, the involvement of the General Union of Palestinian Women has helped reinforce unity of analysis between the West Bank and Gaza. The National Committee has sanctioned the draft of the law.

A success this year, and an indicator for the timeliness of this law and the political recognition of its importance, came during as the Office of the President requested that the Personal Status Law Coalition submit not only their draft law, but also a legal commentary accompanying the law establishing the need for the law to be on the national agenda and drawing links between the current draft and the existing laws which it could replace. As mentioned below, the Coalition has decided to postpone its fifteenth and final workshop on the Personal Status Law until the legal commentary is completed so the workshop can be used as an event marking the submission of the draft law and commentary to the Office of the President.

Workshops

In order to introduce the concepts of the Personal Status Law to key sectors of Palestinian society for sensitisation and feedback, WCLAC held 14 workshops in the first semester of 2010, reaching 810 beneficiaries (Women: 725; Men: 85). The fifteenth and final workshop of the series is envisioned to be in Ramallah once the legal commentary is completed, using the event to publicise the submission of the draft and commentary to the Office of the President, and thereby help build momentum and awareness behind the need for the new law.

Participants in the workshops included lawyers, religious leaders, activists, decision-makers and service providers including the representatives of the police force and several WCLAC volunteers in some of the groups. Workshops were held in the locations shown in the table below – the spread of locations represents the wide coverage of WCLAC's active reach, including through partners in the case of Gaza, and with the support of WCLAC's volunteer clusters in Bethlehem, Tulkarem, Bethlehem, Salfit (Bidya), Jericho, and

Hebron. Topics include information, explanation and discussion of the necessary amendments to the Personal Status Law.

The workshops showed wide-ranging agreement on the need for a unified Palestinian Personal Status Law to help uphold women’s rights and promote a culture of gender-equitable access to justice. One of the recommendations from the workshops was on the need to integrate the voices of moderate religious leaders within the debates on these issues. The groups also stressed the role that media could and should play in increasing information on and support for a new Personal Status Law.

8 West Bank workshops	6 Gaza Strip workshops
Jenin	Jabalia (Gaza North)
Tulkarem	Nousayrat Refugee Camp (Central Gaza)
Bethlehem	Khan Younis
Salfit (in Bidya Governorate)	Rafa
Jericho	East Gaza City
Nablus	Beach Refugee Camp (Gaza City West)
Hebron	
Qalqilya	

1.1.3. Institute and assure dynamic leadership for a committee to monitor and advocate the development of a Law on Family Protection from Violence.

WCLAC was able to move ahead of the scheduled workplan (in which this activity would commence in 2011) – something that was seen as preferable if possible, in order to maintain some momentum from WCLAC’s previous work on the issue of Family Protection from Violence over the past few years. WCLAC contracted two consultants to develop a working draft law on Family Protection from Violence. The consultants completed their work and presented it to WCLAC. WCLAC has given feedback on the consultants draft and will be building on this platform during 2011.

1.1.4. Form regional consultation Committees in Palestinian Governorates to discuss reforms.

In the second semester of 2010, WCLAC formed 13 regional consultation committees spread across OPT, generally centred each governorate. One further committee, based in Gaza, brings together representatives of women’s organisations across the Gaza Strip. The presence of a forum of women’s organisations in Gaza gives WCLAC access to a particular pool of opinions which serve as a barometer for WCLAC to gauge and develop commonality between women’s organisations in Gaza and comparable organisations in the West Bank. Moreover, it should act as a institutional seed-bed of ideas for actions led by Gaza’s women’s organisations in favour of the proposed reforms. The locations of these groups are as follows:

Location of Group	Male members	Female members	Total members
Jenin	0	11	11
Tulkarem	3	8	11
Bethlehem	3	6	9
Salfit (in Bidya Governorate)	0	6	6
Jericho	0	8	8
Nablus	2	9	11
Hebron	0	10	10
Qalqilya	4	4	8
North Area, Gaza	0	8	8
Middle Area, Gaza	0	8	8
Khan Younis	0	11	11
Rafa	0	8	8
Gaza City	0	8	8
Women's Organisations, Gaza	0	12	12
Total:	12	117	129

The purpose of the groups is to mobilise support for the proposed draft of the Personal Status Law within their communities, and to build grassroots understanding of and appetite for issues concerning legal reform and gender sensitivity. The committee members include among them academics, decision-makers, students and members of civil society organisations. In the coming year, more meetings are planned for the groups including hosting discussion forums to talk more about the contents of the draft law, and launching a competition for news articles and other media features raising awareness and building support for the law.

The participation of volunteers in some of the groups shows the synergy of WCLAC's strategic programme which includes grassroots mobilisation as well as high level legal reform. For several years already, the volunteers have been growing in familiarity with key themes addressed in the Personal Status Law and have promoted an end to violence and discrimination against women, and have become well-versed in arguments in favour of legal and social change. For WCLAC it is essential that men and women of Palestine become agents of change supporting women's rights and seeking to uphold rights in their country, their community and within their homes; changing the law alone does not necessarily lead to positive change in behaviour.

1.2. Highlight inadequacies in current legislation and mobilise support for proposed reforms.

1.2.1. Mobilise support for adopting proposed reforms.

Although many of WCLAC's awareness-raising activities implicitly seek to foster support for gender-sensitive legal reforms, the core activities planned under this main activity are scheduled to take place next year. Under this activity, following an ongoing review process, WCLAC envisages holding workshops in 2011 with the regional consultation groups, geared at mobilising their support by discussing advocacy strategies, and tying national legislation to local issues.¹⁵

¹⁵ As a structural correction, the moot court event which was reported here in the semi annual report, is now reported under 2.2.2. which better reflects WCLAC's 2010 workplan and the WCLAC's organisation of the moot court event as the then coordinator of "al-Muntada" – the Ngo Forum combating Violence Against Women.

1.2.2. Publish and publicise studies which highlight the need to ensure Palestinian law advances women's rights and meets women's need.

Study on the Personal Status Law

The WCLAC staff member who worked on this study is no longer in WCLAC's employ, but has nevertheless undertaken to complete the report. For WCLAC this is an indicator of commitment that WCLAC staff and former staff have to producing outputs which put feminist legal analysis into the public domain. Although the preliminary findings have already been presented to key advocacy targets such as the Chief Justice, and have been used in advancing WCLAC's views within the Personal Status Law drafting process, WCLAC is still working to make the study available as a public document.

During 2010, a draft text was completed by the former WCLAC staff member. The draft has been reviewed and returned to the author by a committee within WCLAC which recommended some changes. WCLAC expects to receive the revised document – ideally, ready for publication – in the first half of 2011.

Study on the Palestinian Constitution

Two outputs and several activities have emerged during 2010 on the in-depth gender analysis of the Third Draft of the Palestinian Constitution, commissioned by WCLAC. The full English text – over 200 pages of legal analysis under the title “Women and the Draft Constitution of Palestine” – was finalised during the year. Advance copies are available while the final publication is being designed and printed.

A summary of the text was produced in Arabic and printed during 2010. Three workshops were held to launch the booklet and to share and discuss findings of the study with certain target groups including decision-makers, students and representatives of women's organisations, human rights organisations, Shari'a courts, local authorities and the media. The workshops were held in Nablus, Jenin and Hebron. The total number of participants was 92, the majority of whom were women.

The workshops addressed:

- The nature of the study
- The importance of constitutions
- What could a constitution offer Palestine
- Content of the draft constitution itself
- Special issues of concern in the constitution for Palestinian women
- Citizenship, equality and equity
- WCLAC's comments and recommendations

Recommendations arising from the workshops include a call for more awareness-raising campaigns to inform Palestinian women on the content of the draft constitution and its potential impact on women. Another theme raised was the importance of women's participation in public life and in decision-making bodies whose decisions have an impact on women. It was also agreed that women must be a member of any future drafting committee working on a constitution for Palestine.

Discussion was rich and diverse with some aspects of the study being challenged and broad questions over the role the study could play while Palestine is still under occupation and – as discussed in the study – it is not clear how a constitution would tackle the matter of final status. Some discussants also bemoaned the fact that the research consultant was a foreigner not a Palestinian – they felt a Palestinian would be better placed to understand current law and its relation to Palestinian culture; some suggested that despite the sometimes inequitable application of Islamic law, Islamic law can provide protection to women and should remain a source of law in Palestine.

WCLAC had held a number of internal discussions on the timing of releasing this study. As peace talks have stalled and occupation has continued along with internal divisions between Palestinians, the draft constitution has slipped from the top of the political agenda. WCLAC's decision to complete and release the study now was aimed at making the analysis available as a public resource for anyone addressing constitutionalism in Palestine and to ensure that the important gender aspects of the constitution can be taken into account by decision-makers, should the topic come to the fore again, say, following a declaration of a Palestinian state.

Making the analysis available has already proved useful. As a powerful indicator of the serendipitous timeliness of the study, advance copies have been requested and shared with feminist lawyers in Egypt in 2011 who want to draw on the analysis of the study to help frame their own gender-justice driven calls for constitutional reform in Egypt at a time of great constitutional reform in that country and possibly across the Arab world.

Study on the Model Parliament

This study is a multi-authored document recalling, appraising and drawing pertinent lessons from the Model Parliament event held in Palestine in 1997-98. The event was significant milestone in the history Palestinian women's movement and was an event in which WCLAC took a prominent role. The documents remain at draft stage, but WCLAC continues to consider that it is important for this history to be documented and made public. Towards the end of 2010 the authors of the different chapters began meeting on a regular basis to discuss how their draft chapters can fit together. However, finding the time to capture the history of WCLAC's role in the model parliament is challenging with all contributing authors now at Director level in WCLAC or in the organisations they have moved on to.

Study on women's needs

During the implementation of its last strategic plan (2005-2009) WCLAC held a number of focus group discussions – primarily with women, but also with some groups of men – discussing the concept of needs, in particular "women's needs" and situating this discussion within the multidimensional Palestinian context. WCLAC used the focus groups to establish programme priorities and to help plan and develop its activities. A draft document analysing the findings of the focus groups was developed and shared internally as a working document. Keen – as with the constitution study – to make WCLAC's analysis publicly available, in 2010 WCLAC reviewed the working paper and decided that a summary of the findings of the focus groups may be the most user-friendly output from the research. Drafting this summary paper has been scheduled for mid 2011.

1.2.3. Oversee a gender-sensitive analysis of court decisions.

This activity is not programmed for 2010.

1.3. Use legal reform processes to institute bylaws introduced at Ministerial level governing Palestinian protection services for women at risk of violence.

1.3.1. Revise and advocate nationally applicable by-laws for emergency shelters providing protection to women at risk of violence.

WCLAC's strategy for close cooperation with the PA has evolved as the PA has driven forward its agenda for the introduction of bylaws governing services for women at risk of violence. WCLAC has formed an internal committee to work on the bylaws. This committee received a draft text of the bylaws during the first semester of the year. WCLAC's committee reviewed the draft, and submitted comments to MOSA which drew on WCLAC's own governance protocols and on our experience running emergency protection shelters. On the basis of the comments, which were judged to be comprehensive and valuable, WCLAC was invited by MOSA to participate in a small drafting committee which integrated WCLAC's comments into a finalised draft. Given the positive engagement by MOSA on this activity – through meetings and through uptake of ideas – it was not felt necessary to hold specific workshops to develop the bylaws.

Towards the end of the year at a follow-up meeting on these bylaws, MOSA again expressed appreciation for WCLAC's work. The bylaws have been provisionally approved by MOSA and forwarded to the Cabinet of Ministers, where it is yet to be given final approval.

Additionally, based on the success of WCLAC's contribution to the bylaws, WCLAC was requested to draft a set of principles to guide the registration and licensing of organisations intending to operate safe houses and other such shelters. The draft prepared by WCLAC has been accepted without reservations.

WCLAC is proud of its close relationship with MOSA, and feels that the successful steps forward made in this activity at once demonstrate the strength and the value of the close and cooperative relationship. Further fruit of the partnership is reported under WCLAC's objective of building the capacity of state and non-state service providers (see 3.3.1.), in which the synergy of pioneering protection work and using our experience to help develop national standard operating procedures combine with WCLAC's privileged position of partnership with MOSA, being invited to share best practices with MOSA shelter staff, and to help launch the Nablus shelter.

Strategic goal 2: To contribute to raising awareness within Palestinian society regarding gender issues and women's rights, and to combat negative practices against women.

2.1. Empower and coordinate WCLAC volunteers to gain skills and to organise and facilitate awareness-raising events.

2.1.1. Provide support to 5 volunteer clusters across the occupied Palestinian Territory.

The five volunteer clusters are spread across the West Bank, centred on the following locations:

- Bethlehem
- Hebron
- Jericho
- Tulkarem
- Salfit

With the start of the new strategy in 2010, WCLAC has set its target number of volunteers in the clusters at 25 (in total), in order to limit costs and to try to reinforce the close teamwork and skill-building among the volunteers. In scaling down the number of officially active WCLAC volunteers (who are given an annual fixed-sum cash incentive to formalise and reward their activism and cover expenses), WCLAC has carefully endeavoured to maintain positive relations with former volunteers. The value of maintaining teams, or clusters, of volunteers is to minimise the risk of losing the acquired experience of the whole team if one or two of the volunteers find full time paid work or other time commitments which prevent them continuing as WCLAC volunteers.

At the start of the year, in order not to lose the support base that we have developed through the larger volunteer clusters, WCLAC initiated a three-tier system of affiliation between WCLAC and its constituency. Accordingly, we now have the core WCLAC “volunteers” as the strongest affiliation. Many of the former volunteers are now “supporters” who are frequently invited to participate in or support events such as discussions, training workshops and awareness raising. We also have “friends of WCLAC” who will be receiving our news updates and invitations to major public events.

Who are the volunteers?

In a very positive show of volunteer solidarity more than 25 of the volunteers have continued organising events and lending such a contribution that they could not be considered just to be “supporting” the events. The volunteers agreed mutually that by reducing the size of the incentives they received, all 33 of the volunteers who continued to organise the events could be recognised as WCLAC volunteers within the allocated “incentives” budget. Accordingly volunteers each received between 100 and 200 USD at the end of the year, instead of all receiving \$200.

As a notable indicator in WCLAC’s drive to include men as key stakeholders in addressing gender issues and promoting and defending women’s rights, 12 of the volunteers – over one third of them – are men. Many of the volunteers are trained or are practicing professionals in careers as legal, social or community service

providers and can bring their professional training into their volunteer work, as well as being able to integrate WCLAC value of gender equity into their professional work.

The table below shows the teams of volunteer clusters and their range of professions:

Location	Number of volunteers	Professions
Bethlehem	9 (Female: 5; Male: 4)	Lawyers; Social Workers; Community Development Workers; Teacher; Accountants; Sociologist.
Hebron	9 (Female: 5; Male: 4)	Lawyers; Counsellors.
Jericho	7 (Female: 3; Male: 4)	Psycho-social and family counsellors; Lawyer; Teacher; Accountant; Teacher; Community Activist.
Salfit	2 (Female: 2; Male: 0)	Social Workers.
Tulkarem	6 (Female: 6; Male: 0)	Social workers; Educational Psychologist.
Total	33 (Female:21; Male:12)	

WCLAC support meetings to individual clusters

WCLAC holds regular support meetings with the clusters to help orient activities, nurture teamwork and professional skills, and to share training materials with the volunteers. The meetings also give an opportunity for volunteers to express concerns, to raise questions and to discuss particular or topical needs relating either to the needs of the clusters or to how the volunteers view the needs of the communities in which they are active.

The table below shows the number of support meetings held during 2010.

Location	Number of support meetings
Bethlehem	7
Hebron	7
Jericho	7
Salfit	4
Tulkarem	3
TOTAL	28

During the meetings the volunteers developed action plans and attributed tasks to individuals in the clusters. They also selected the local CBOs with which they planned to work throughout the year. Meetings in the first half of the year were also used to establish the bylaws and working practices for the clusters, to clarify how the volunteers would self-organise and how they would manage channels of communication. Later meetings were used to review progress and included evaluating the year's activities and looking forward to 2011.

Strategic decisions made during the year through separate support meetings and through a number of network-wide events include a commitment to breaking open taboo issues such as encouraging public denunciation of crimes which would traditionally be considered "family matters" rather than grave crimes –

for example: incest rape, misogyny, sexual and domestic violence. Another commitment has been to working in remote areas.

A lesson learnt by the volunteers has been that they should be more optimistic of feminist justice and protection principles being welcomed in remote areas not rejected – support for addressing gender justice issues can come from diverse and unexpected sources. In a similar vein, volunteers have also committed to reaching out to men as well as women to address gender and justice issues, and to striving to find creative ways to convey important messages, (e.g. through plays, moot courts, art exhibitions, public demonstrations etc...).

In line with best practices in community development work, the volunteers are also working to do more to optimise the use of external resources in workshops, and not be dependent on external sources of funding. To that end, they have used the WCLAC facility, Beit Makhlof, in Beit Jala to launch their art exhibition for the 16 days of action combating violence against women, and have worked with local authorities and community-based partners to use other organisations' facilities for running awareness-raising workshops and other such events.

Increased capacity and influence of WCLAC volunteers

WCLAC is proud of the capacity development of the 5 volunteer clusters each of which has the ability to plan and implement activities among themselves, with partner groups and often counting on the support of local politicians and of former WCLAC volunteers who remain committed to the cause of women's rights. The work with partner groups WCLAC feels has an added value of bringing feminist-driven information into institutional settings: to pre-existing women's groups, or to multipliers in the community. Also, working with partners including typically masculine authority structures such as governorates and village councils, and working with women's groups, the volunteers can have a valuable facilitator role opening channels of communication between different groups.

Volunteers have done a lot this year to develop a systematic approach of introducing and convincing local partners of the need for legal reform. Central meetings of volunteers offer a valuable opportunity to share successes and lessons learnt and to develop best practices, based on experience and building on WCLAC's advocacy training the volunteers during the year.

Volunteers have developed in their independence this year in organising events and in informal evaluation to assess best practices and consider new opportunities. Strategically, this year volunteers placed a strong focus on bringing in school and university students as a key target group to introduce ideas of gender and gender equality to youth groups. Another key result of volunteer networking means that volunteers can draw on a community contributions not only to ensure beneficiaries ownership of activities, but also minimising costs and optimising cost-effectiveness. This enhances the sustainability of the volunteer programme.

Four volunteers have also become members of Boards of Directors both in existing organisations and in newly founded organisations. Given the age range of these volunteers – all of whom are between 25 and 35 – the election or cooption of these people is a strong indicator of their respected positions in society and the respect given to the skills and experience they develop as WCLAC volunteers. Moreover, it gives them the

opportunity to institutionalise the messages of gender-equity and women's rights that they also promote through activities.

Other national NGOs are also recognising the value of WCLAC's volunteers. The Palestinian Women's Centre for Development and Research (PWCDR) called upon WCLAC's volunteers to help launch a book documenting the oral history of women's political participation in Palestine.

Receiving training in advocacy skills and putting those skills to the test

WCLAC's volunteer coordinator organised a 3-day, 15-hour training workshop for 15 of the volunteers. The training was prepared and delivered by a team comprising WCLAC's volunteer coordinator a WCLAC social worker and WCLAC's legal advisor who manages WCLAC's legal reform advocacy. The training included topics such as: building campaign strategies, developing advocacy tools and learning how to situate gender issues within existing debates.

Use of the media as a campaign tool is one aspect in which WCLAC have applied themselves well during the year, putting WCLAC's advocacy techniques into practice. Media coverage for volunteers has strongly increased over the past year. Moreover, as the volunteers become better versed in how to advance key debates of gender justice in OPT – with growing professionalism and with the increasing pro-activity of volunteers – more WCLAC volunteers are speaking directly to media about local issues or events, putting forward feminist positions.

An example of the volunteers' pro-active capacity to advocate on current affairs – locally and as a national network – comes from a partnership between the volunteer clusters in Bethlehem and Jericho. Volunteers became aware of a case of femicide in the Bethlehem governorate in which a girl was raped by her uncle, who then killed her when he learnt that she was pregnant. Bethlehem volunteers were active in mobilising a campaign to condemn such gender-based violence. While the accused fled to Jericho, when he was brought before a court there, volunteers mobilised to hold a manifestation outside the courthouse in order to denounce the prevalence of incest, rape and murder in OPT, to draw media attention to the issue and to ensure that the judge could not simply let the issue pass as an unimportant event occurring in a different governorate.

Added value of the volunteer network to WCLAC's other activities

Building skills and training volunteers to understand and share WCLAC's vision helps feed highly motivated and well-qualified women's rights activists into WCLAC's activities and into WCLAC's permanent staff.

As mentioned above, the volunteers have given valuable support to activities of consultation and promotion for the Personal Status Law. They helped organise consultation workshops in the five governorates in which they are active and several have also become members of Personal Status Law consultation groups in their governorates, which were established this year and will be active in 2011. In these roles, they will be able to contribute information they know already from WCLAC's training and awareness raising, while also being able to gain more of the very latest information on the status of Personal Status Law reform which they can use to enrich their volunteer-led awareness-raising activities.

The volunteers also prove to be a valuable tool for WCLAC's own human resources. In recruiting new staff for WCLAC's Hebron office, the two best candidates for positions had come through WCLAC's volunteer

scheme. This feeder system helps ensure the recruitment of staff who share WCLAC's feminist vision have a broad understanding of WCLAC's goals and objectives.

2.1.2. Support each of the 5 volunteer clusters to organise two landmark events per year, in coordination with the WCLAC's lobbying and advocacy work.

Building partnerships to give local roots to women's rights actions

WCLAC's volunteers develop partnerships with local councils, CBOs and grassroots organisations in order to build community bases for the gender awareness and justice for women agenda they promote. The volunteers mobilise around two major landmarks in the international calendar, 8 March, which is international women's day, and the period between 25 November and 10 December, the 16 days of action combating violence against women.

While details on specific events are given below, the following table shows the range of the 35 local partners the volunteers primarily worked with to the arrange landmark events of 2010. In addition even to this extensive list, can be added national networks such as the al-Muntada – the NGO forum combating violence against women.

Volunteer Cluster	Partners involved in volunteers celebration of landmark events	Number of Partners
Bethlehem	Beit Fajjar village council; Beit Fajjar women's centre Creativity Centre Dheisheh; Tent Centre in Dheisheh; UNWRA in Dheisheh; Wi'am, Bethlehem; Sawa'ed Centre, Bethlehem; Hussan Women's Centre; Palestinian Women Committees in Battir.	9
Hebron	Neersan Cultural Centre; Yatta women's centre; Syndicate of Psychologists and Social Workers; UNWRA psychological support programme; Dura Girls School; Dura Youth Club; Rural girls development association; Thahirieh Women's Association; Thahirieh Women's Club;	9
Jericho	Jericho municipality; Jericho Children's Centre; Aqabeit Jaber Refugee Camp Women's Centre; UNWRA Psychological Support Programme (Aqabet Jaber RC); Jericho governorate; Student Affairs Office, Al Quds Open University;	6

Salfit	Kufur Eddik Child Creativity Centre; Salfit Centre for Sustainable Development; Yasouf Women's Centre; Salfit Governorate.	4
Tulkarem	A'llar village council; Far'oun village council; Tulkarem refugee camp community programme; An-Najdeh Association; Rural Woman Development Association; Saida Women's Association; Irthah Women's Association	7
Total number of partners for landmark events:		35

Landmark events to mark 8 March as International Women's Day

To mark 8 March as the International Women's Day, each of the five volunteer clusters organised events in partnership with local CBO's and village councils including those partners listed above. WCLAC supports the development of local relations within the volunteers' areas, believing that as well as facilitating the organisation of bigger activities and reaching into more rural and excluded environments, partnership with CBOs is a way to increase sustainability by influencing institutional learning: infusing and disseminating WCLAC's feminist vision into and through the discourse and actions of local organisations as well through individuals alone. Similar events took place in all five volunteer areas under the common banner: "United to eliminate honour killing".

In total volunteers in the five locations organised 8 events marking international women's day with a total of 185 participants attending.

Landmark events as part of the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women

The flagship volunteer event for the 16 days of action, which was organised through the united efforts of volunteers from different locations, was an art exhibition titled "al-Annud" (women's strong will) featuring locally created paintings and sculpture which address women's rights issues was shown in WCLAC's Dar Makhlouf centre in Beit Jala. The exhibition also served as the grand opening for the Dar Makhlouf centre and the event attracted around 85 people, including the Mayor of Beit Jala and the Governor of the Bethlehem Governorate. The art works took on issues including incest, violence, women's empowerment and women's relation to public and private spheres.

In addition, volunteers in the Jericho area organised a "moot court" (a simulated trial) which drew on a case study of an honour killing which WCLAC has documented. The event in early December, drew 120 people from local organisations and positions of responsibility in society – the discussion following the simulated trial showed clearly that those people present were able to see the shortcomings in the current legal frameworks and social practices for the protection of women from family violence.

Also within the 16 days, volunteers in Hebron coordinated with Dura Youth Cultural Club to put on a play, on 27 November, addressing issues of women's inheritance. The play followed the story of a family torn apart as one of the women tries to claim her inheritance and is ultimately killed for trying to do so. The event drew an audience of 172 people, and showed the shortcomings of the personal status law and other parts of the legal framework.

With events also taking place in Salfit and Tulkarem, each of the volunteer groups organised events marking the 16 days of action, with a total of 444 participants attending.

2.1.3. Support volunteers and graduates in organising 105 activities promoting women's empowerment, women's rights and gender awareness.

Volunteer awareness-raising workshops

The volunteer network has an amazing role to play in organising and – now that the volunteers have been trained by WCLAC over several years – leading awareness-raising workshops. Whereas the many of the events detailed above marking 8 March and the 16 days of action simply seek to put women's rights on the public agenda, and to challenge people to change their attitudes and behaviour, the workshops listed below are information sessions taking on a particular topic to compare, variously, international standards, national legislation and legislative reform, and common local practices. Participants are given information which it is hoped can help them better understand what protections they have, understand what legal changes might come in the near future and why, and understand how their own actions – such as favouring boys over girls, or arranging early marriages – may perpetuate patriarchy and women's insecurity in their children's lives.

The table below shows the 5 volunteer groups have organised 51 workshops with 691 different participants, and in partnership with around 25 different local partner organisations. This figure does not include the pilot projects developing 3 peer support groups with schools and student groups and with a total of 50 youth members. These support groups have been instituted through a number of meetings and workshops with each group.

Often the local partnerships indicate which institution invited the volunteers to give information, with the local partner inviting suitable participants whether that is women who may be at risk of violence, a group of students who could act as message multipliers or a mix of community leaders who, with better information, can also spread WCLAC's information giving better advice on technical issues like divorce rights, or giving crucial referral helping women access services including emergency protection.

The information given in the workshop draws on WCLAC's experience, expertise and training materials including popular modules such as "Women's Rights are Human Rights" and a WCLAC handbook specially developed for the volunteers.

Positive indicators of the impact of the awareness raising workshops.

One indicator of success and guide for future activities, particularly as WCLAC is committed to trying to increase its engagement with Palestinian men in promoting women's rights, is the example of the workshop in Beit Fajjar. Three men participated in the workshop which clearly struck a chord with them. The men were engaged and impressed by the information, to the extent that they requested another workshop be held in the village to cover similar topics, particularly issues of women's inheritance rights. The men volunteered to host the meeting in the village's main meeting place, and stressed how important it would be to increase the number of male participants attending – in particular, encouraging the participation of religious leaders. The volunteers are working to arrange a return to the area in early 2011.

As with WCLAC's own awareness-raising work, it is not easy to measure all the referrals coming to WCLAC and/or WCLAC's grassroots service provision partners in the north. However – particularly bearing in mind the professional backgrounds of most of the volunteers, and the depth of experience they now have as WCLAC volunteers – a particularly positive indicator is the number of one-off consultations the volunteers have been able to give, as participants from workshops or others who know WCLAC-volunteers by reputation seek specific advice in a one-off consultation.

WCLAC's volunteer network is proving to be a multi-faceted asset to WCLAC and has a growing reputation for good work. The appetite for return visits to communities is indicative of one of the challenges raised by this growing reputation as an increasing number of individuals and organisations are requesting information sessions and awareness-raising events with the volunteers. This strains the capacity – but not the commitment – of volunteers many of who have paid jobs which also draw on their time.

WCLAC volunteers becoming an address for advice

WCLAC is seeing that WCLAC volunteers have become an address for women's rights issues, with their reputation spreading by word of mouth and with individuals and organisations coming to them either for particular queries or for information on how to become a client with WCLAC or with WCLAC's grassroots partners. This is indicated by the significant number of grassroots partners, the rising status of WCLAC volunteers in their communities (reported above in 2.1.1.) and in the number of one-off consultations being sought by community members.

41 one-off consultations took place after volunteer activities this year.

- Bethlehem (3 + 10 + 10)
- Hebron (5)
- Jericho (0)
- Tulkarem (3)
- Salfit (10)

As the volunteers are predominantly service sector professionals, they are able to give valuable and accurate advice, however, during these consultations, the volunteers also share details with the questioner of how they can access WCLAC or other necessary services. For example, following one awareness-raising workshop in Thahirieh (one of the furthest points from a major West Bank town in the Hebron area) volunteers referred three cases to WCLAC's service unit in the Hebron office. In the north, volunteers have referred cases to WCLAC's local grassroots partners nearby.

Piloting new schemes – developing student peer support groups:

Volunteers have pioneered a new technique of outreach providing substantive improvement in vulnerable people's understanding of social issues including gender, marriage and reproductive health. This has been done through developing support groups. The first of these was in Dura Girls School (15 girls in their mid-teens, in 8th and 9th grade); WCLAC volunteers work with this age group as a key target for the gender equity, safe adolescence, issues of early marriage, to value of education. With the median marriage age in Palestine being 19 years, and with many girls' education ending on marriage several years earlier than that median age, WCLAC considers this is a critical age-group to target with this information.

Developing the Dura support group volunteers brought together 15 girls for 6 discussion sessions introducing women's issues, talking about adolescence, emotional change, family relations and gender-based

discrimination and running exercises building teamwork and communication skills. In establishing support groups, the volunteers seek to do more than just impart information – although they also do this for the group members. The aim is also to create a peer network, rich with information on issues important to the target group, and to give the support group members techniques and tools to hold discussions either with other group members or simply with other of their peers.

In Aqabeit Jaber refugee camp, WCLAC volunteers from Jericho have established a similar support group, in this case working with a group of boys. This responds to the WCLAC's and WCLAC's volunteers recognition of the need to address gender issues among males as well as among females. These groups have a pilot aspect to them, with progress being evaluated and lessons being learnt. The cross-fertilisation and sharing of ideas between the Hebron volunteers and Jericho volunteers is indicative of both the strength of and the value added by the network of WCLAC volunteer clusters.

Working with a slightly older age group, the volunteers in Hebron and Jericho are both working with mixed-gender student groups (15 students in Hebron, 20 in Jericho) with students from Al Quds Open University. The focus of these groups is for students to address issues of women's rights, gender, gender-based violence and equality between men and women.

Workshop location	Number of sessions	Type of Participants	Number of participants	Topics	Partners
Tulkarem					
A'llar	1	Women	13	Sexual abuse	Rural Women's Development Society (RWDS)
A'llar	1	Housewives	13	Social impact of divorce	A'llar Women's Centre
Far'oun	1	Women	18	Personal Status Law	Far'oun Village Council
Far'oun	2	Housewives	18	Early Marriage	Far'oun Village Council
Tulkarem Ref. Camp	1	Women	15	Gender-based violence	Centre for Women's Programmes
Tulkarem Ref. Camp	2	Housewives	22	Adolescence	Centre for Women's Programmes
Saida	2	Housewives	22	Early marriage, Personal Status Law	Saida Women's Centre
Irtah	1	Housewives	11	Impact of early marriage	Irtah Women's Centre
Bethlehem					
Battir	3	Female students	30	Gender-based violence; student needs assessment.	Battir Girls School, Palestinian Women's Committees
Beit Fajjar	1	Housewives	22	Personal Status Law	Beit Fajjar Women's Centre
Beit Fajjar	1	Housewives + NGO Workers + decision-makers	22	Inheritance	Beit Fajjar Women's Centre
Hussan	3	Women	22	Types of violence against women	Hussan Women's Centre
Hussan	2	Housewives and Women's Centre members	22	Gender-based violence and conflict within the family	Hussan Women's Centre
Bethlehem City	1	Staff and volunteers of women's organisations	23	Women's rights	Ibda' Dhaheisheh
Bethlehem City	1	Housewives	22	Gender-based violence	UNWRA
Hebron					
Thaarea	3	Housewives	30	Custody and alimony; gender-based violence; reproductive health; safe adolescence;	Thaarea Women's Society and Thaarea Women's Centre

Thaarea	3	Housewives	25	Safe adolescence and inheritance	Thaarea Women's Society and Thaarea Women's Centre
Hebron City	1	Community activists and NGO staff	23	The value of volunteerism in changing negative attitudes and practices against women	Women's groups
Jericho					
Aqabeit Ref. Camp	1	Women	30	Gender-based violence	Aqabeit Jaber Women's Centre, Jericho Children's Centre and PNGO-Jericho branch
Aqabeit Ref. Camp	2	Housewives; NGO workers; university students	22	Gender-based discrimination.	Aqabeit Jaber Women's Centre, Jericho Children's Centre, PNGO-Jericho branch, Jericho Municipality
Jericho city	3	Housewives; NGO workers; University students; decision-makers	60	Women's rights; the Personal Status Law and the need for a Law on Family Protection from Violence;	Jericho Children's Centre, Jericho Municipality
Jericho City	2	Housewives; NGO workers; University students; decision-makers	100	Personal Status Law. This was a cultural event following breaking of the fast one evening during Ramadan.	Jericho Children's Centre, Jericho Municipality; PNGO-Jericho branch, al-Kamar Radio.
Jericho City	2	Housewives; NGO workers;	22	Personal Status Law	-
Salfit					
Yasouf	4	Women	22	Polygamy; common wealth; legal status of women; early marriage.	Yasouf village council and Yasouf Women's Centre
Yasouf	3	Housewives and Kindergarten teachers	14	Polygamy; common wealth; legal status of women.	Yasouf Women's Centre
Salfit City	1	University students; women's centre staff	30	Personal Status Law, child custody and common wealth	Centre for sustainable development
Kufur Eddik	3	Housewives and CBO workers	18	Gender-based violence; child custody; polygamy; legal status of women	Child creativity centre
Total:	51	-	691	-	-

2.2. Work with and through national and Arab-regional bodies to promote women's rights, to publicise women's rights issues and to disseminate gender-specific and gender-aware information.

2.2.1. Work with Media forum, to develop new sources of funding, and to promote media awareness and accurate media coverage of women's rights issues.

The Media Forum was established by WCLAC in 2005 and works to increase journalists' awareness of violence against women and to promote media coverage of women's issues and women's perspectives. Under WCLAC's strategic plan for 2010-2012 WCLAC planned a limited engagement with the Media Forum during 2010, with a view to approaching donors to find specific funding for an expanded Media Forum project.

As reported below in 4.2.1., one media forum training workshop scheduled for 2010 was postponed to (and implemented in) January 2011.

In the middle of the year, WCLAC held a workshop bringing together members of the Media Forum and of the Syndicate of Journalists (including the General Secretary of the Syndicate) to give information on the revised draft of the Criminal Law. At the event, participants discussed the drafting process and journalists expressed their satisfaction that the law process had been consultative and had incorporated civil society views. Further, they expressed their support for the draft law and its provisions.

A prospective donor was found for the expanded Media Forum project in partnership with a number of other women's organisations. During proposal writing stage, WCLAC's advocacy team was in contact with key members of the Forum, and also held a consultation meeting with Forum members to seek ideas and support for the proposal. At last minute in early 2011 the project fell victim to cuts requested in the consortium's proposal. Accordingly, while maintaining an engagement with the Media Forum in 2011, WCLAC will again return to seeking specific funding for an expanded project. Such a project would result in better informed and more motivated journalists sharing WCLAC's vision, being enabled to identify and publish important stories concerning and positively influencing the defence of women's rights and the status of women in Palestinian society.

2.2.2. Lead the NGO Forum on Violence Against Women¹⁶

WCLAC led the NGO Forum to combat violence against women (known as "Al Muntada") 2008 to 2010, in which time it worked to develop and implement a five point strategic plan, for example, in the first part of 2010, holding a press conference to draw attention to and to denounce femicide. The Forum's strategic objectives are:

- Build the necessary legal infrastructure for rendering justice and equity to women and prevent violence against them;
- The society undertakes its responsibility towards the issue of violence against women;
- Provide protection and support for women vulnerable to violence;
- Build the capabilities of the Forum and the member organizations to empower it to fulfil its assigned tasks as a network;
- Monitor, document, publish and disseminate information regarding cases of femicide and violence against women.

¹⁶ WCLAC stepped down from leadership of the Forum following two successful years. At elections in March for a new forum coordinator the Palestinian Working Women's Society for development was chosen as the new coordinator. WCLAC continues to be an active member in support of the mandate and the activities of the Forum.

In March 2010, WCLAC stepped down from its position as coordinator organisation for the forum. An election was held and the Forum chose the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD) as the new coordinator organisation. WCLAC will continue actively to participate in the work of the forum, supporting its work and promoting the implementation of activities leading toward its strategic objectives.

Despite stepping down in the same month, WCLAC and WCLAC volunteers were instrumental in organising a successful moot court (simulated trial) event, held under the auspices of both the NGO Forum and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

The event was linked to the 8 March, the International Women's Day, and – taking on the challenging issue of femicide (killing of women attributed to so-called honour) also came as one of several events near the start of the year reacting not only to the long term need to stamp out the cultural and legislative tolerance for the murder of women but also to the shocking spate of honour killings reported in the first two months – 6 lives taken in the West Bank alone.

The event was held in Tulkarem, with 80 people in attendance drawn from WCLAC's targeted groups for awareness raising and advocacy: community leaders, religious leaders, policy and decision-makers, service providers and activists including WCLAC's volunteers and supporters. The case addressed in the moot court was drawn from a tragic case of femicide drawn directly from WCLAC's experience of service provision and documentation. The details of the story raised questions of culpability in the incestuous rape of a minor; highlighted the fact that violence against women is also committed by women, not only by men; showed the impact of the Israeli military occupation in limiting protection and compounding the suffering of vulnerable women; and showed the shortcomings in Palestinian law to uphold women's rights and give equal justice for women as for men.

During the second semester PWWSD allocated a specific member of staff to the role of Forum Coordinator. This has added dynamism to the forum. During the year 11 regular forum meetings were held, while several urgent meetings were also organised to respond to particular issues. Such urgent meetings indicate in part that the forum has become an address for advocacy on particular issues of violence or discrimination against women. One example of this is the case of a woman who was thrown out of her own house following a unilateral divorce by her husband. The forum drew attention to this case, and to the shortcoming in the laws of commonwealth in marriage under the current Personal Status Laws; al-Muntada representatives met with several key decision-makers and advocacy targets on this issue alone, including the Prime Minister.

The forum has also undertaken public advocacy, making a joint statement on the issue of femicide following the death of a young girl who had been raped and subsequently killed by her uncle. This tragic incident demonstrates the synergy of WCLAC's participation in al-Muntada and WCLAC's outreach through the volunteer network, as jointly the volunteers and al-Muntada led the way in bringing this story to public attention and into the media spotlight, having made solidarity visits to the grieving family and helped them to make public statements condemning the killing.

2.2.3. Support and participate in selected coalitions working on issues concerning the legal or social status of Palestinian women.

For the Criminal Law Coalition, see report of activity 1.1.1.

For the Personal Status Law Coalition, see report of activity 1.1.2.

For the Committee on the Family Protection from Violence Law, see report of activity 1.1.3.

Coalition against capital punishment

WCLAC works to end the use of the death penalty, in coalition with Al-Haq, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (in the Gaza Strip), DCI, Addameer, Working Women Association and ICHR. WCLAC attended 2 coalition meetings in the first part of the year which served as debrief on activities which were held on 16 December 2009 – the International Day Against the Death Penalty.

A positive outcome for the year with regards WCLAC's position on capital punishment is that with pressure from coalition members and from elsewhere throughout the year, the current draft Criminal Law would not permit the practice of capital punishment.

Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations

This Coalition was formed in 2008 with WCLAC, Al Haq, Centre for Rehabilitation of Tortured Victims, DCI, Mandela and the Jerusalem Centre for Legal Aid. Its mission is to identify human rights violations and to monitor and report them to the relevant authorities, to visit Palestinian prisons, to issue reports of violations and to receive complaints from citizens.

Throughout 2010, WCLAC has been actively participating in all the meetings on the Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations and has signed up to and supported its public statements such as the statement calling for the Effective Implementation of the UN Fact-Finding Mission's Report on the Gaza Conflict which was published on the reliefweb site (<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/ASAZ-8BPDQ3?OpenDocument&query=council%20palestinian%20human%20rights%20organisations>). The council has actively discussed and lobbied on matters such as the issuing of passports for Gazans, and argued for the non-politicisation of funding for human rights organisations, along with other topical issues.

In the latter half of the year, the Council met to discuss donor coordination and policy development in OPT. A position paper was prepared by one of the members following this meeting. This was tabled for discussion in a two day strategic planning meeting for the council planned for early 2011.

Palestinian Forum for Safe Abortion

This coalition was formed by an initiative of the Family Planning Association aiming to develop a consensus on the issue of abortion in Palestine, to advocate for change to abortion laws and to raise awareness of the dangers of unsafe abortion. Among its 10 members are Palestinian social, legal and health NGOs, women's organisations and UNWRA .

WCLAC participated in four coalition meetings through year. Together the forum produced a brochure giving contact details of groups working on issues safe abortion and raising awareness of the Forum's work. The coalition also held workshops in the North, Middle and South of the West Bank; WCLAC's Hebron office participated in the workshop the latter workshop. These workshops introduced the work of the coalition and sensitised people to the meaning of "safe abortion" and the issues surrounding abortion rights; the workshops also established the important link between the campaign for safe abortion and the reform of the Criminal Law.

SALMA Network

WCLAC participated in the meeting in Jordan at which was discussed key issues of the women's movements/ women's organisations in each of the countries represented. These included representatives from Yemen, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, OPT (West Bank only, due to travel restrictions of participants from

Gaza). The event was organised by an Palestinian organisation registered in Israel called “Women Against Violence”. (The event was held in Jordan in order to facilitate the participation of representatives from countries frequently denied entry to Israel). WCLAC’s representative spoke about WCLAC’s work on the “Takamol Project”: how this has drawn on lessons from other referral systems in the Arab world and how it could be a useful pioneer across the region in improving women’s protection. Members of the network showed significant interest in drawing on the outputs of the Takamol Project and requested that drafts or finalised protocols be shared with other organisations who could seek to improve or introduce an integrated referral system for women victims of violence in their own countries.

AISHA Network

AISHA network comprises women’s organisations – chiefly secular organisations which situate themselves within a global feminist movement – drawn from across the Middle East and North Africa region. AISHA has been relatively dormant for several years following a lack of clear vision on how to pursue a secular discourse within a context of increasing Islamist politics across the region which is affecting women’s political activism and the discourse of the women’s movement. Late in 2010, a meeting, timed to coincide with the culmination of the 16 days of action combating violence against women, was held in Lebanon. WCLAC was unable to participate in the meeting. However, WCLAC’s General Director did submit a written statement expressing solidarity with AISHA members, and highlighting dynamics of increasing violence against women living in contexts of occupation. The statement was read to the network by the delegate of another Palestinian women’s organisation attending. Since the meeting, some dynamism seems to have returned to the network, with various emails of solidarity and ideas-sharing flowing between network members.

The Rights of the Child Forum

This Forum is led by DCI-Palestine. WCLAC participates in the rights of the child forum in order to present feminist legal perspectives on child rights issues which draw particularly on WCLAC’s experience addressing issues of child abuse (often linked to femicide), of early or forced marriage and of custody and child maintenance in divorce cases. As WCLAC’s primary focus is on women, not on children, WCLAC does not take a leadership role in this forum. No meetings were held this year.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

WCLAC was given provisional membership by the Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). WCLAC hopes the full membership will be approved when next the Network’s approval body meets in 2011. Membership would give WCLAC access to more forums in which it could promote the specific rights issues faced by women living under patriarchy and under occupation, as well as another partner through which WCLAC can further disseminate its publications and advocacy documents.

2.2.4. Represent WCLAC's vision and policy positions to the Board of Directors of the Alimony Fund.

WCLAC was a driving force in establishing the alimony fund, which was established by presidential decree following pressure and support from WCLAC and other women’s organisations. Members of the Board of the Directors include representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Office of the Judge of Judges (of the Sharia court) and the General Union of Palestinian Women, in addition to WCLAC.

The WCLAC representative on the Advisory Board is the Head of the Service Unit. With this choice of representative, WCLAC seeks to ensure that the voices, needs and concerns of active practitioners are represented in the relevant national bodies. The purpose of our participation is to ensure that women’s

interests are taken in consideration according to WCLAC's vision. WCLAC also observes and documents the processes and operations of the fund with a view to preparing a paper on how the fund was established and what kind of impact it has on women's lives.

One key policy position that WCLAC advances whenever necessary at the meetings is that the Board of Directors of the Alimony Fund should remain separate from the Shari'a courts, and should contain representatives of government and of the non-governmental sector.

One advancement in the work of the Alimony Fund this year was to contract a financial auditor. A further development is that the Fund now has its own office, separate from the Sharia courts. This is a success for WCLAC which has pressed for maintaining an appropriate level of separation between the Fund and the Shari'a courts.

During 2010, WCLAC participated in 5 meetings. The topics discussed included: a three year plan and budget for the Fund; ways of simplifying the procedure for women to claim from the fund; ensuring accurate and fair selection of beneficiaries, and thorough follow-up. As an experienced service provider, WCLAC pays particular attention to issues such as accessibility of the fund to the target beneficiaries and is pleased that the simplification of procedures for women to claim the fund has been a priority on the agenda of the Board of Directors.

2.3. Raise awareness of women's rights within key target groups who can support an end to negative practices in their own lives and among their peer groups, or through their careers.

2.3.1. Lead awareness-raising workshops on women's rights for targeted groups and institutions (e.g. service providers, student groups, mid-level and high level decision makers, PLC members),.

Awareness-raising with partner groups

WCLAC has a variety of training tools and approaches for working on different topics and with different target groups. As well as the workshop series for vulnerable women (primarily housewives) reporting in 2.3.2., WCLAC responds to opportunities and requests for information sessions throughout the year from institutions, NGOs, CBOs and groups individuals perhaps in the first stages of self-organising.

Students of subjects such as law and social work – whom WCLAC sees as tomorrow's service providers – are a key target group for WCLAC. They represent an accessible group of people that is receptive to new ideas, capable of deepening their understanding and retaining knowledge and skills and, moreover, they stand to serve as a multiplying agent, carrying and disseminating what they have learnt in the workplace once they enter the professional sector.

Working with targeted students – using a well-developed module called “women's rights are human rights” – WCLAC hears numerous expressions of interest from students in other disciplines. For WCLAC, again these students serve as an accessible group which can retain and disseminate information; moreover as a constituent apparently seeking information simply for self-improvement rather than for professional reasons, this is a target group which is very receptive to the information WCLAC can give them.

Other key groups respond to geographical locations and to opportunities which WCLAC pursues with state-sector partners such as the Shari'a courts and the Ministry of Education.

Targets in East Jerusalem

WCLAC's work in Jerusalem has to address the particular political and legislative conflicts at play in the city. WCLAC works with a number of partners, including a formal partnership with the Jerusalem Centre for Women on a project precisely aiming to document and identify the impact on married or divorcing women of the specific nature of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem, compared to the rest of the West Bank, for example taking into account challenges of obtaining identity papers and ensuring enforcement of court orders. WCLAC is also concerned by the apparent rise in drug addiction and anti-social behaviour including street violence affecting many neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem.

Although there are many Israeli-legislated governmental bodies providing services to women in East Jerusalem, WCLAC understands that there is a distinct distrust of these bodies on account of their application of Israeli law and their perceived disregard for Palestinian cultural values. For example, if there is a child with behavioural issues in the family, Palestinian women fear that seeking advice from governmental bodies could make themselves vulnerable to institutional interference under Israeli law – even taking the children away from the family and into Israeli state custody.

Partner organisation	No. of sessions	No. of housewives participating	Topics addressed
Al-Thoury Women's Group	1	22	Sexual violence against women
Burj al-Laqlaq	3	19	Personal Status Law, CEDAW, women's involvement in decision-making
Centre for Public Work	2	19	Incest, gender-based discrimination; girl's education; domestic violence
Centre for Women's Social and Health care	2	23 ¹	Women's empowerment and self-determination
Civic Care	4	24	Civil and political rights, incest, family protection from violence, polygamy.
Community Work Centre (Group A)	4	24	Personal status law; marriage contracts and special conditions; maintenance and visitation rights in divorce, civil and health rights.
Community Work Centre (Group B)	2	27 ¹	Marriage contracts and special conditions; age of marriage; child custody and maintenance.
Sabayeh	1	22	Domestic violence and its impact on the family
Saraya	3	18	Personal Status Law, CEDAW, Family protection from violence
	22	198	

¹ These groups were a mix of housewives and working women.

As an example of how these events can open channels on communication, networking and opportunities for women to become agents of change, the event in al-Thoury had been requested for the women by a lawyer who used to work with WCLAC and is now engaged in issues in Silwan and is seeking to help women organise there. From the event came three referrals, and WCLAC will continue to offer support and advice on mobilisation, advocacy and other parts of WCLAC's work when requested. From the event, in addition to questions raised during the workshop, 3 women went on to seek further advice and became clients of WCLAC's support.

Many of the groups listed above drew participants from the Old City of Jerusalem where social pressure is high and a number of participants sought further advice either immediately following the workshop itself or becoming WCLAC clients. For example, following the workshops with housewives and working women at the Community Work Centre (Group B) WCLAC's legal team gave 11 consultations with participants.

Events with partner groups outside Jerusalem

WCLAC also responded to requests for events with NGO's grassroots. One such request came from a women's union in Beit Sahour. WCLAC gave an awareness-raising session for 30 participants comparing and contrasting Christian ecclesiastic law and Shari'a law. It was noted among the participants that the Christian law – dating from 1901 – is desperately in need of updating, notably developing it to respond to the current context and to be in line with international standards of gender equity and protection. Most of the women were married housewives.

WCLAC has also supported events run by our formal grassroots partners An-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life; for example, one of WCLAC's social workers led a session on gender for students at Al-Quds Open University in Salfit at an event organised by Women for Life.

Other organisations and institutions with close ties have also requested WCLAC input to events involving women's rights issues. For example, WCLAC was invited to speak at an event marking the start of the 16 days of action combating violence against women, organised by the Palestinian Academy for Security Sciences in Jericho.

Partnering with the Ministry of Education to raise-awareness among school children and parents

In the Hebron area, WCLAC was asked by the Ministry of Education to lead 3 workshops raising issues including health and violence with key target groups, accessed through local schools. The three workshops – serving 98 participants – were as follows:

- Discussing issues of adolescence with 36 seventh Grade students and 6 teachers;
- Discussing women's rights and health issues with 16 mothers (of school children) and 4 teachers;
- Discussing school violence with 36 fifth grade (pre-teen) schoolboys.

Workshops with law and social work students

This year WCLAC's practicing service providers (lawyers and social workers) have led three courses of workshops with Palestinian students. These workshops were 20 hour modules under the banner "Women's Rights are Human Rights." The topics covered include:

- What is gender
- What is gender-based violence
- What legal provisions are there in Palestine (e.g. Criminal Law, Personal Status Law etc...) and what is their relation to international human rights standards
- How can we put theory into practice.

The workshops were held with the following groups:

- Hebron University: 15 female social work students
- Al Quds Open University (in Hebron): 11 social work students (mixed gender)
- Abu Dis University: 15 law and social work students (mixed gender)
- Al-Tireh College: 27 female social work students

The feedback on the course was very positive, with one strong indicator of that being that a number of participants expressed their desire in volunteering with WCLAC following the event. Several of the participants also used WCLAC's library resources. In feedback, some of the participants expressed particular interest in emergency protection services available to women in OPT: they said they did not know that shelter such as WCLAC's emergency shelter, and MoSA's rehabilitation centres exist for women victims of violence or for women fearing violence. They said they would be active in spreading this information among their peers.

Following the success of the workshops, three of the social work students from Hebron have done 3-month internships (120 hours training each) with the WCLAC's social workers in the Hebron Office.

Awareness-raising with students from any course

As well as targeting students enrolled on social work and law degree courses, WCLAC has responded to demand from student affairs officers, student groups and youth group coordinators and has led workshops open to students and youths from any course, who are keen to gain information on women's rights. In 2010 WCLAC held the following event, open to all students:

- Bir Zeit University: 4 days training for 32 students (mixed gender);
- Community Health College: 9 sessions, each two hours long, for 20 female students (health focus);
- Al-Tireh College: A single session on women, law and violence for 70 students;
- Childhood programme, Jerusalem: A single session on CEDAW for 35 students;
- YWCA, Jerusalem: A single session on gender and legislation for 39 female students;
- YWCA, Jerusalem: A single session on sexual abuse for 60 secretarial students;
- Society voice, Jerusalem: A single session on the Personal Status Law for 28 students.

In total under this line of activities WCLAC reached 284 students and youths.

The students at the Community Health College expressed particular interest in hearing more about WCLAC and Juzoor's "Takamol" project (see 3.4). WCLAC was able to give students an update on the project and give specific training which should support the spread of understanding of the referral system among professionals in the coming years. Giving a valuable indication of the level of engagement the health sector students showed, they wrote and performed a play at the end of the course which depicted issues of gender-based violence and legal provisions against it which they had studied during the course.

Training for Shari'a Court Counsellors

As well as working with students – the next generation of service providers – WCLAC has led workshops with counsellors working in Palestine's Shari'a Courts. WCLAC led a three day training (20 hours) for 21 court counsellors (mixed gender) on the topic "Mechanisms and Methods for Intervention".

8 March activities and 16 Days of Action combating violence against women

The Documentation and Advocacy Unit supported volunteers in their activities marking International Women's Day, on 8 March, and the 16 days of action combating violence against women. In March they also worked closely with volunteers in organising the moot court event in Tulkarem in March, which was linked to WCLAC's advocacy against femicide as well as to the International Women's Day.

During the 16 Days of Action, WCLAC partnered with the Mehwar rehabilitation shelter for women victims of violence to hold an Open Day on protection from violence against women. The Minister of Social Affairs made

the opening remarks, and subsequent representations were made by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Governor of Bethlehem, the Family Protection Unit of the Palestinian Police, the Judge of Judges (of the Sharia Court) and Christian Churches. WCLAC made a presentation on the "Takamol Project", through which WCLAC and the health organisation Juzoor are developing an urgently needed health-social-legal referral system for women victims of violence. WCLAC also presented the findings of its study on Palestinian women's views on the idea of "protection". The event was attended by 60 people from a variety of different institutions.

2.3.2. Hold awareness raising workshops across the West Bank with women, particularly working women and housewives without knowledge of women's rights, who might spread information among their peers and benefit from identifying rights breaches in their lives or in the lives of their families and peers.

Service Unit awareness-raising workshop series for vulnerable women

These activities consist of running a series of around 10 workshops with a medium-sized group of housewives or other women drawn from a particular sector of society or united by a common experience. The reason for targeting relatively homogenous groups of women as beneficiaries is that by giving a series of talks to a particular group, the direct beneficiaries can then disseminate the information informally to their families, colleagues and/or communities knowing that other people in their community have similar information and that they are not speaking as a lone voice. With a series of around 10 workshops, participants can build a sense of camaraderie and WCLAC can try to respond to questions, concerns or mis-understandings that arise throughout the course or that especially relate to that particular group.

In 2010, WCLAC Service Unit held the following workshops:

Location	Partner (where applicable)	Region	Group and number attending ¹	Topics	No. of sessions
Abu Ghosh village, Jerusalem Area		Middle	25 housewives	Introduction; pressures on women in the family and community and the effect of this on women's lives; multiple sessions on domestic violence: what it means, and how to intervene; adolescence and its challenges; issues surrounding incest (using the film <i>Mina wa Fina</i>); Closing session.	10
Al Thoury in Silwan Neighbourhood of East Jerusalem		Middle	24 housewives	As above	10
Centre for Community Work, Old City, Jerusalem		Middle	26 housewives	Introduction; self-empowerment; safe adolescence; types of violence and domestic violence; laws around marriage and marriage contracts; laws on divorce; alimony, maintenance and child custody.	8
Sarayah Centre, Old City,		Middle	25 housewives/	Introduction; self-empowerment; safe adolescence; types of violence and	8

Jerusalem			working women	domestic violence; sexual violence; laws around marriage, marriage contracts and divorce; conflicts in legislation between East Jerusalem and rest of West Bank; alimony, maintenance and child custody.	
Deer A'mar village, Ramallah		Middle	14 housewives	Domestic Violence; Divorce and legal rights for women during and after divorce; special conditions in marriage contracts; gender-based discrimination and the impact of giving preferential treatment to sons; gender-based violence in the community, and the perceptions of women victims of violence.	7
Jericho Women's Association, Jericho City,		Middle	15 housewives	Violence and types of violence (social and legal aspects); laws on marriage and divorce; self-empowerment.	6
Old City, Hebron		South	18 working women and activists	Introduction; Gender and its cultural heritage; Challenges faced by Palestinian women in health, economic, social advancement; Gender-based discrimination in the labour-market and in public life; Personal Status Law; Violence against women; Criminal Law; Family protection law; CEDAW; Practical exercises looking at how CEDAW is applicable to Palestine.	9
Association for Family Development; Der Samet; Hebron Governorate		South	22 housewives	Personal Status Law; violence against women; the difference between gender and sex; adolescence; Criminal Law; marriage and early marriage.	9
Bethlehem City	PARC, Sawa'ed	South	16 Female University Graduates	What is gender and gender-based discrimination; Gender-based violence; Personal Status Law; Criminal Law; Family Protection Law; CEDAW; Discussion of two films on gender-discrimination in public life.	9
Shioukh Village, Hebron Governorate	Shioukh Women's Club	South	19 women	Violence against women; child abuse; early marriage and marriage contracts; CEDAW; Personal Status Law; Criminal Law.	8
Dar Makhloof, Beit Jala	Relief Interna-	South	14 housewives	Gender and gender-based discrimination; gender-based violence;	4 ²

	tional		(mixed Muslim and Christian)	the importance of education for boys and girls; human rights and gender roles; discussion of a film on so-called honour killing;	
Yetma (Nablus Governorate)	Yetma Women's Association	North	25 housewives	Marriage, marriage age and marriage contracts; inheritance; gender and gender-based violence; discrimination against women; divorce, alimony and maintenance.	6
Sinniria (Qalqilia Governorate)	Women for Life	North	15 housewives	Self-empowerment; marriage, marriage age and marriage contracts; gender and gender-based violence; divorce, child custody and alimony; finding solutions to family problems; inheritance.	8
Total			258		102

¹ The number of women attending is an average, typically with a variance of a plus/minus 3 people between better and worse attended sessions

² This group decided to have four longer sessions rather than 8-10 sessions of standard length.

Indicators and feedback on the impact of the events

WCLAC looks for a number of qualitative indicators as well as quantitative indicators for impact of awareness-raising and group discussion events. These indicators include capturing feedback from the participants, or noting particular aspects of the discussions and the participants' changing attitudes.

One series of workshop that WCLAC led was in Sinniria, a remote area in the Qalqilya governorate which has been dramatically affected by the changing practices of the occupation from the stifling of the economy, forcing people to seek wages elsewhere, to the manifold barriers and checkpoints forcing people working without papers in Israel to take greater risks and often stay away from home for longer periods at any one time, to reduce the frequency of risky journeys. WCLAC worked together with Women for Life – one of WCLAC's formal grassroots partners which is an organisation with some local links to Sinniria, being from the near side of the neighbouring governorate. The community does not have a well established women's group, and it is hoped that the workshops may sow the seeds for stronger unity and organisation among the women, or at the very least will inform them how they can access support services from WCLAC or locally from Women for Life if they need.

Facilitators and participants remarked on how well dressed many of the participants were and saw it as a good sign that women were able to demonstrate self-esteem by dressing well – for many of the women this was a rare opportunity to exit the private sphere of the home. It was, one said "a nice opportunity to get changed out of home clothes." As well as offering participants something different, and a safe space in which to socialise, it seemed clear from some comments that participants were keen to make use of the lessons they were learning. One came back after a session on the importance and utility of marriage contracts saying "now I have read the marriage contracts of all my daughters and many of my cousins – and keep my daughters' contracts safely."

WCLAC's volunteers and WCLAC themselves target accessible and receptive groups in city centres and at universities, but also, as in the case above, reach out to groups that have a lot to learn about their rights. One

respondent commented “I keep hearing about gender, but this is the first time anyone has ever explained it to me – finally I understand what is really meant by it.” Another indicator of reaching the less-well-served members of communities was a comment by one participant that the certificate she received at the end of the series was the first certificate she had been given in her life.

WCLAC has also worked with groups crossing certain divides in Palestine, notably bringing together 8 Muslim and 6 Christian women as a group in Beit Jala, where there is a significant Christian population. Despite religious differences a strong harmony and sense of sisterhood was felt among the participants who came from the same geographical and ethnic community and live many similar experiences in similar cultural and political settings facing legal obstacles, occupation and the challenges of Palestine’s legacy of patriarchy.

The value of running a series of workshops and building group rapport is often born out in a number of ways. Some participants commented on the change it makes from some organisation which seem to come along for a single meeting or needs assessment and then disappear again. A series gives time not only to cement changes in attitudes and respond in detail to local concerns but also to allow women to share the changes they have made in their own families with one another during the series. One participant from a series of workshops had been planning soon to see her 16-year-old daughter married to a rich older man. Following a discussion on the importance of female education and the personal, social and developmental impacts of early marriage, she felt she should stop this marriage, and that she had the confidence, the justification and the social status to persuade her husband that it was better to let their daughter mature more before marrying, and if possible keep her in education. She successfully persuaded her husband.

Meanwhile, the group support aspect often comes through in the comment “Now I see that I am not the only one with these problems” – which has been heard at a number of workshops. Throughout the series, facilitators work hard to create an open environment and a safe discussion space for participants, many women express relief that – after several sessions together, when they were able to be more open and see that behind closed doors, many other women in their community are experiencing many of the same sorts of problems.

Working in Der Samet a population living close to the Wall in Hebron governorate, and living largely in Area C, but with parts of Area B and patches of Area A, WCLAC’s series of workshops drew 6 people registering as clients with WCLAC’s Hebron office. Again, running a series of workshops allows women to take time to consider whether they need more legal or social support.

Awareness raising through media

WCLAC aims to be, and to remain, a primary address for media sector professionals seeking information, commentary and analysis in the media. During 2010, WCLAC Service Unit participated in 11 local talk shows. Subjects discussed were: rape; incest and gender-based violence. The Service Unit is able to present grounded information based on practical experience and citing individual case studies which illustrate key issues. Staff from WCLAC’s Documentation and Advocacy Unit participated in a further 10 media events, on Arab satellite stations as well as on local broadcasters.

WCLAC also published an article on CEDAW and women’s rights in a local health magazine, Al Saha. A further paper was published about women and labour law in the newsletter of the Community Development Centre in Jerusalem. As noted further below in the report on strategic objective 4.3, a summarised version of WCLAC’s publication “Voices of Palestinian Women” was printed in the quarterly magazine “Cornerstone”, produced by the liberation theology organisation Sabeel.

2.4. Evaluate the impact and implementation of WCLAC's awareness raising work.

2.4.1. Hold an evaluation of WCLAC's awareness raising work.

This activity was postponed.

Strategic goal 3: To extend, improve and provide services to women suffering discrimination or violence.

3.1. Provide professional protection, legal and social services to women who are victims or at risk of violence, abuse and gender-based discrimination.

3.1.1. Provide legal services (in Sharia and Civil courts) and social services to women.

WCLAC continues to provide legal and social services to women through a team of lawyers and social workers in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and Hebron (also serving the Bethlehem area). The legal and social services include taking cases to court, giving legal advice in one-off advice sessions, mediating discussions between family members or finding financial social support for women in need.

In the reporting period WCLAC provided legal and social counselling to a total of 496 women. Of those, 388 case files were opened in the reporting period, while 108 were files that were continued from the previous reporting period. The breakdown by location is as follows:

Total client numbers			
Location	No. of clients with ongoing cases	No. of new clients during reporting period	Total no. of clients seen during the reporting period
East Jerusalem	29	121	150
Ramallah	41	102	143
Hebron (and Bethlehem)	38	165	203
Total:	108	388	496

Of the 388 new clients, the majority (321) sought legal aid, with 143 of those seeking both legal and social aid, while some clients sought only legal or only social support.

As for breakdown by location of WCLAC's the increased intake in Hebron and Bethlehem area is indicative of new staff working in WCLAC's offices in Hebron and Beit Jala. No significance of greater need in any one area can be drawn from the figures.

One off consultations

A further 280 women approached or contacted WCLAC with queries which were addressed through a one-off consultation and did not necessitate becoming a client and accessing further legal or social support.

Telling figures came through the source of the referrals to WCLAC's services.

Source of referral	Number referred
Shari'a Courts	116
Previous clients	35
Awareness-raising sessions	16
Professionals (e.g. doctors, lawyers)	15
Police	7
Other individuals	113
Not stated	86
Total (new clients)	388

Two figures are particularly encouraging for WCLAC. The 116 referrals from the Shari'a Courts seems a strong indicator that WCLAC's awareness-raising and reputation has a positive impact on the courts as they continue to refer clients to WCLAC. Another very positive indicator is the 35 referrals from previous clients – surely an indicator of client satisfaction. While the number of referrals from the police may seem low, this is to be expected in WCLAC's non-emergency protection work. In addition to the 7 clients referred by the police listed above, 36 of the cases referred to the emergency protection shelter also involved police in the referral process.

The majority of new clients this year were housewives as is typical, and representative of a society in which a only a small proportion of women have professional roles.

Professional status	Number
Housewives	260
Students	70
Women working in private sector	37
Women working in state sector	21
Total (new clients)	388

WCLAC records the kinship relation between the "antagonist" in clients' cases and the client herself. Antagonist may not be appropriate term for all cases: in certain cases it could be an violent and abusive husband (worse than an antagonist), in others it may be a caring and respectful loved one with a different point of view which can be resolved through social mediation. The details show that the majority of women coming to WCLAC come to resolve issues with their husbands. That the overwhelming majority of legal and social problems women bring to WCLAC concern relations with family members is indicative in part of the focus of WCLAC, but also of the crucial role of family relations in Palestinian culture.

Kinship relation of "Antagonist"	Number
Husband	225
In-laws	59
Ex-Husband	32
Blood relative	30
Non-relative	18
Not stated/ not applicable	24
Total	388

The age demographic of WCLAC clients similarly shows that WCLAC's major client base is of women at younger ages. One explanation for this data spread may be that many WCLAC clients are either entering into a marriage (the median marriage age of females in Palestine is 19.4 years¹⁷) or in the first few years of a marriage which may already be proving difficult or impossible.

Age	Number
16-20	40
21-30	175
31-40	107
41-50	30
51-60	6
Not stated	30
Total	388

Court representation and out of court mediation

WCLAC views court representation as an essential service to provide to women. Based on WCLAC's theory of change, the impact of enforcing judicial processes where necessary (and desired by the client) has more than just an individual impact. As well as seeking to bring benefit to the clients, empowering women to use judicial processes can also serve to build a set of case studies highlighting success and best practices or, equally importantly, of gender-based injustices and shortcomings in the current legislation or in its application. These latter cases help WCLAC to shape our legislative reform campaigns whether bringing to light unaddressed short-comings or new forms of discrimination or helping to provide advocacy materials for research or more creative activities such as moot courts (simulated trials).

During 2010, WCLAC worked on 424 legal cases (as some clients have more than one case) providing court representation for 200 of these. Other cases were resolved out of court through mediation and out of court settlement or have yet to go to court.

Distributing the alimony self-help manual

During the implementation of its previous strategy (2005-2009) WCLAC developed and distributed a self-help manual which empowers literate women to understand their rights to maintenance in divorce and can take them, step-by-step through the necessary processes to claim their rights. Through core legal aid work which remains crucial to WCLAC's work and vision of a Palestine in which women are empowered to claim their rights, WCLAC continues to distribute alimony self-help manuals to clients who could benefit from them. 149 guides were distributed

Challenges encountered in service provision during 2010

During the year, the Service Unit faced a variety of challenges working within the changing environment of an politically unstable, occupied, as part of a growing long term trend or as emergent issues.

Perennial challenges include the difficulties of working within the framework of an inadequate Personal Status Law. The complicated and out-dated nature of the Law (different in West Bank and Gaza) is compounded by the structural disconnects between different legislative regimes of the manifold divisions within the Palestinian territory, wrought primarily by decades of occupation, building on a legacy of colonial rule.

¹⁷ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2010, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Woman_Day_2010e.pdf

Seeking to cast greater light and mobilise advocacy for change on this issue, during 2010, WCLAC developed a consortium project with the Jerusalem Centre for Women and the Gaza-based Centre for Women's Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC) and with the support of UNDP and the Foundation Open Society Institute. The project, referred to as "broken families" seeks to develop a combined analysis of structural impediments created or exploited by Israel to disrupt family life for Palestinians; WCLAC and CWLRC will provide legal services to around 150 women, helping them and documenting difficulties they face in maintaining a legal family life in the face of Israeli laws and practices such as the non-issuing of essential document. Case studies from Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, will be analysed together to highlight obstructive and unlawful Israeli practices and will underpin and advocacy campaign.

The length of court processes remains a challenge to WCLAC for the additional burden it places on the lawyers and, moreover, to WCLAC's clients as even relatively simple cases such as claims for alimony can take up to a year – this is particularly true of cases in Jerusalem. Delays place extreme pressure on women, especially on mothers, as this can put them and their children in hardship, with a double impact of administrative encumbrance and economic precariousness. Given the risks that some women face in trying to bring cases to trial – WCLAC understands that some women drop cases on account of threats or perception of life-threatening danger from relatives or in-laws – drawn out processes surely only increase the likelihood of women dropping cases due to threats against them, or fear or hopelessness.

Challenges which have emerged during the year include the impact of the proliferation of Shari'a courts across the West Bank. On the one hand, in principle, this could serve communities by enabling greater access to courts among more remote communities or communities which would struggle to travel to central courts in bigger town. However, the impact that WCLAC perceives is the increased challenge of ensuring best practices gender-justice and facilitating women's access to justice within a cultural tradition which carries a strong legacy of patriarchy and discrimination against women. With more and more courts opening, and possibly less qualified or less experienced staff in them – and certainly more Shari'a courts in which staff haven't had training in gender issues – WCLAC faces the increased challenge of reaching out to all courts, monitoring or becoming aware of issues of gender discrimination, and having consolidated and lasting impact through training in a more fragmented Shari'a apparatus.

Particular challenges with regards inadequacies in law also continue to emerge through WCLAC's ever-growing experience of dealing with particular cases not foreseen by legislation or for which there is as yet no clear legislation or adequate case law. An example of such cases include addressing the rights, needs and decision-making powers of a woman whose husband is in a coma. Again, with a rising number of new judges filling the new courts, a number of Shari'a courts have judges with limited experience of dealing with particularly complex cases in a gender-equitable and non-patriarchal manner.

Success stories

Many of the success stories achieved by WCLAC's service unit are achieved through awareness-raising and community work, lifting women's self-esteem and enabling them to make small but significant changes in their life. Successes in work with registered clients can involve confidential issues, or – within the framework of Palestinian law and patriarchy – allaying the worst excesses of patriarchy and a legislative bias against women.

However, certain cases shine through highlighting trends in WCLAC's significant impact and showing the value of WCLAC's holistic approach to building community support for vulnerable individuals. One such case is that of a 16 year old girl whose school counsellor approached WCLAC concerned that the girl had made several attempts at suicide. WCLAC arranged meetings together with the school counsellor and the girl to discuss the

girls difficulties and feelings. Recognising a troubled family, WCLAC then arranged and mediate meetings with more of the girls family members. The family has been particularly affected by poverty and also suffers the violence of the father; all 11 children live in one room and suffer serious social stresses. It emerged that the 16 year old girl was not the first to suffer depression and attempt suicide.

WCLAC's approach was to counsel the family – as individuals and in small groups – to help the women find sources of strength within themselves and to help support one another. Counselling with the mother and the older daughters also addressed issues of self-empowerment in dealing with the violent father. WCLAC was also able to find financial support for the family from a hardship fund of the local Governorate which enabled the family to pay rent for the next year on a larger house giving more personal space to the family members. In addition to this support from the Governorate, WCLAC's holistic approach draws on Palestinian traditions of strong community ties and neighbourliness; several local families made contributions to improve the living conditions of the family contributing gifts in kind such as furniture. WCLAC is continuing to provide counselling support when sought by the family and to help the women look for solutions to problems should they arise. The story encapsulates not only the way in which WCLAC can seek to improve quality of life for Palestinian women through securing material support and giving guidance, mediation and encouragement; it also highlights the importance of service providers being able to identify women at risk (whether at schools, in healthcare centres or in police stations, for example) and be able to refer vulnerable women to the right service provider.

A briefer success story demonstrate how WCLAC can counteract the challenge cited above of significant delays in court processes. WCLAC's lawyers are experts in marriage law and are often able to help divorcing couples avoid lengthy, painful and potentially costly court processes through out-of-court mediation. In one such resounding success, WCLAC helped a woman to divorce her husband and obtain the deferred dower (a sum of 12,000USD) in as little as three days.

3.1.2. Provide emergency protection for women at risk of violence through managing and referring people to the emergency shelter.

WCLAC provided emergency protection to 51 individual clients (along with 8 infant children accompanying their mothers) during 2010. This is a remarkable increase on the 10 clients served in 2008 and the 32 in 2009. The 8 bed hostel has been running at high capacity throughout the year, being full several times. The total number of nights stayed by clients and their children was 1173, meaning that on average throughout the year at least 3 of the beds were in use each night. Ages of clients ranged from 13 to 46 years old. (In cases of minors being admitted to the shelter as clients, this is done only with expressed clearance from MOSA).

Geographically, cases came from all nine governorates in the West Bank, with too little data to suggest significant trends. However, the fact that referrals have come from all nine governorates is an positive indicator that referral systems are active and linked to the shelter across the West Bank, and that the shelters is seen as a valuable resource.

WCLAC links the increasing number of referrals over the past three years to two causes. A significant factor is the Memorandum of Understanding WCLAC signed with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) which identifies WCLAC's emergency protection shelter as the primary emergency referral centre for women victims of violence. In 2010, 31 cases came from the Ministry of Social Affairs (including the MOSA Governorate Offices and the MOSA run Mehwar Shelter and Girls Care Home). WCLAC also attributes increased uptake of the

shelter services to an increased readiness among Palestinians to seek protection from family violence; at the very least, it indicates that there is some readiness and a clear need for such services to exist.

When women are referred to the WCLAC shelter they are cared for by a team of 4 paid housemothers and 15 volunteers all of whom are trained and follow written procedures on working with women at risk and victims of violence. They also meet with the shelter’s social worker who works through the details of the case with them in order to develop the client case file and to seek solutions. Such is the nature of Palestine’s strongly familial and residually patriarchal society that there is limited state or non-state capacity to enable women to build a full life for themselves – or for children accompanying them – if they utterly reject their families. Accordingly, for the clients safety, prosperity and long-term benefit WCLAC’s first endeavour with the client is to establish whether there are any family based solutions to the problem. This may involve seeking to return to the family with guarantees of safety brokered by local authorities such as the governorate or more traditional authorities, or may involve moving into the protection of a sibling or cousin (or parent in cases such as intimate partner violence). Professional care is taken not force a decision upon the client, but instead to listen to the case details and try to elicit and evaluate options.

Once the social worker has sufficient information a case conference is held, involving at the very least, WCLAC’s shelter social worker, the police, the governorate and MoSA at the governorate level (the governorate appropriate to the origin of the case). WCLAC briefs the partners and all parties deliberate and become stakeholders in the evaluation of the options elicited from the client by the social worker before the meeting. As such, all key parties become stakeholders in the evaluation of the options. WCLAC’s shelter social worker takes feedback from this case conference the client, presenting actions as they stand following the comments of the state-sector stakeholders. Ultimately, the decision for the course of action rests with the client.

The table below shows the destination of clients leaving the shelter. Though it may seem strange at face value to consider almost half of women being able to return to their family to be a success, the paragraph above should situate this in the Palestinian context and give nuance to the fact that the clients tend to choose to return to the care of trusted family members selected by the client and/or with guarantees of protection backed by local leaders, rather than simply being sent back to the conditions they felt forced to flee.

Destination of client leaving shelter:	Number of clients
Went back home to their family	24
Referred to Mehwar long term shelter	9
Sent to the Girls Care Home in Bethlehem	6
Were referred to the care of the local Governor	4
Referred to psychiatric care	3
Referred to the care of the police	2
One was sent to prison	1
Still in Shelter at end of reporting period	2
Total	51

As described further in the section below, WCLAC has developed the breadth of services offered to shelter clients and their dependents in cases in which clients are accompanied by young children. This has contributed to significant improvement in the overall work of the shelter, developing from simple provision of emergency shelter, to a more holistic provision of protection, support for mental and physical health (through cooperation with the local hospital and out-patient clinics). WCLAC now retains the services of a consultant

psychiatrist to support shelter staff with cases that require particular expertise. There is a greater scope for counselling with a full time social worker (WCLAC has increased its social work hours from part time to full time). Also, WCLAC draws on additional support from MOSA social workers. WCLAC's legal team is also on-hand to give information, advice and to take on cases if need be.

With the increased number of clients, and the shelter no longer experiencing empty nights as it did previously, the costs of the shelter have increased. However, as the service grows – and equally as the number of empty nights is reduced or eliminated – the cost benefit increases. Accordingly the shelter remains an absolutely core part of WCLAC's work, with benefit clearly extending beyond the 51 clients admitted during 2011, to the future clients of this and other shelters in Palestine, all of which are drawing lessons from WCLAC's experience.

3.1.3. Build the capacity of WCLAC's Service Unit.

WCLAC lawyers working in the Service Unit benefited from 20 hours of legal supervision and professional development delivered during 4 sessions. These supervision sessions covered work in both the sharia courts and the civil courts. Issues discussed included dealing with issues of rape and working to strengthen women's legal positions by drawing on either the Criminal Law (in civil courts) and the Personal Status Law in Shari'a courts. As well as WCLAC's 5 lawyers working in service provision, these supervision sessions were also attended by a lawyer from each of WCLAC's grassroots partners Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life (see Objective 3.2).

Professional development on social work issues was given to the lawyers and social workers together as it was felt these skills would help support the lawyers work as well. Again, 20 hours of professional development was arranged, spread over 5 sessions and looking at social skills for understanding and dealing with clients. These social supervision sessions also serve as an opportunity for team building, pastoral support, experience-sharing, trouble-shooting and discussing best practices.

In supervising and supporting WCLAC's emergency protection shelter, 11 sessions (44 hours in total) were led by one of WCLAC's senior social workers (who is WCLAC's focal point on protection) for the 4 house mothers working in the shelter. This extensive supervision included training as well as discussion of issues and on-going cases. The training involved how action plans are set with the clients, how to maintain warm but professional relations with the clients and how to cope with the pressure both of increased number of clients and the diverse and challenging nature of the clients.

Throughout the year, WCLAC also held meetings and brainstorming sessions with the 15 volunteer supporters working at the shelter to develop and refine creative, stress-relieving and enjoyable activities with the shelter clients.

The psychiatrist contracted to provide specialist care when needed at the shelter has also led training with WCLAC's social workers (both in the Shelter and in standard service provision) on how to recognise and manage clients' psychiatric needs.

3.1.4. Develop strategic relations for the shelter with relevant institutions including local authorities, security forces, traditional authorities, the justice sector and MOSA.

WCLAC cemented its relationship with MOSA early in the reporting period through the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Building on this relationship, WCLAC held 17 coordination meetings throughout the year with MOSA, the Police and the local Governorate to maintain cooperation and improve referral procedures. Towards the end of the year, WCLAC began reviewing its MOU with MOSA, with a view to annual renewal of the agreement.

Beyond this, the shelter team had meetings with the

- Chief Justice (Shari'a)
- Chief Prosecutor of Ramallah
- Chief Prosecutor of Dura (Hebron Governorate)
- Chief Prosecutor of Jericho
- Attorney General.

These meetings were to introduce the work of the shelter and to facilitate referrals and information sharing when appropriate.

WCLAC's Service Unit held a workshop in Tulkarem with local prosecutors and police; this event was organised in cooperation with An-Najdeh's Tulkarem branch, one of WCLAC's grassroots service provision partners. In total, 14 people attended the workshop, to discuss how violent and sexual crimes affect women, what WCLAC and other service providers can and cannot do to support police and legal proceedings or help the victims directly. A positive indicator of the impact of the workshop is that participants called for similar workshops to be held in other districts in order to improve understanding and cooperation between state and non-state actors across the OPT.

WCLAC's service providers working in Jerusalem, Hebron and Bethlehem also held meetings with local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in protection, to ensure awareness of WCLAC's legal and social work, the emergency protection facility and awareness raising.

3.2. Extend women's service provision and referrals to less-well-served parts of Palestine through partnering and building the capacity of selected grassroots organisations.

3.2.1. Identify a new grassroots partner organisation.

This activity is formally programmed for 2011. However, WCLAC has already begun tentatively to consider the Jenin as an area very much in need of greater access to services for women and in which WCLAC could make a considerable difference through working to build a strong institutional partnership in the area.

3.2.2. Build the capacity of the Board and the Admin Teams of the selected grassroots partner.

WCLAC currently has institutional partnership agreements with two grassroots organizations – Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem (the Tulkarem branch of Al-Najdeh) and Women for Life in Salfit. In line with WCLAC's strategic plan for 2010-2012, WCLAC is now seeking a third partner, most likely in the North of the West Bank around Jenin, in order to develop a new capacity building institutional partnership in 2011.

WCLAC works with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life to help them provide services to women victims of violence, and to become stronger as institutions with better financial and administrative procedures and greater capacity to raise funds independently and to develop and maintain partnerships with donor organisations.

Through 2010 WCLAC held the following liaison and support meetings with the partners:

- 7 meetings (24 hours) with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem with 11 participants drawn from board and staff
- 7 meetings (22 hours) with Women for Life with 9 participants.

Meetings addressed skills for communications and introducing projects to partners or donors, initiating and using administrative and finance procedures. During the coming year WCLAC expects to reduce the number of meeting hours it spends with Women for Life, as they become more independent after 5 years partnership. Close partnership will continue with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem, with whom WCLAC has been in partnership now through two years of success and growth, seeing significant increase in administrative capacity including new staff being hired, with whom WCLAC is working to help enhance the administrative systems.

WCLAC Advocacy Unit's training workshops for grassroots partners

WCLAC Advocacy Unit ran half-day training sessions for each of the partners. With each organisation these sessions were well-attended by a mix of staff and board members. WCLAC shared its own experience and expertise discussing human rights and international human rights instruments. WCLAC brings the board and staff together for these meetings, in part to ensure that both parties have strong uptake and internalisation of the ideas presented, and to avoid conflict in exploring new strategic programme areas.

Evaluation

WCLAC led follow-up and evaluation sessions with the partners, holding focus groups discussions as follows. With each partner the first session was an introduction to ideas of feedback and evaluation; this was followed by focus group discussions with staff, the board, clients and participants of awareness-raising workshops. Notable feedback included signs of appreciation for the organisations' work within their communities, and encouraging reports of a sense of confidentiality and professionalism expressed by partners' clients.

3.2.3. Work with the partner organisation to develop and see the adoption of organisational bylaws and written administrative and financial procedures.

With WCLAC's support, both current partners now have organisational bylaws and written administrative and financial procedures. Since WCLAC's capacity-building methodology is centred on partnership and mentoring, WCLAC continue to provide support and supervision to ensure that the procedures meet the organisations' needs and are being followed appropriately. To that end, WCLAC's financial and administrative staff have held several meetings with partners to provide support and ensure the correct use of financial and administrative procedure.

With Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem, WCLAC held meetings the Executive Director, Admin Assistant and the Social Worker responsible for the finances of the awareness-raising sessions. Financial procedures were introduced together with a simple but effective computerised system of book-keeping and training was also given on how to prepare financial reports.

Beginning late in 2010, WCLAC began to phase out its administrative support meetings with Women for Life as the organisation has reached a certain standard, and as WCLAC begins to dedicate more time to finding and then supporting a partner in the Jenin area.

3.2.4. Support WCLAC's three key grassroots partners in developing strategic relations with potential donors.

For WCLAC, having a strong and clearly expressed strategy is key to communicating the value of an organisation's work to its partners and donors. For this reason, WCLAC held a 35 hour training course for the partners, over 7 days, on the subject of fund-raising and proposal writing. There were 17 participants drawn from staff and board members of both Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and Women for Life, with both organisations making in-kind contributions to the successful running of the workshop. The training was facilitated by professional trainers who led the participants through the proposal writing process, resulting in an output for both organisations of a draft proposal. As well as giving an opportunity for participants to learn from the trainers and from the experience of drafting a proposal within the workshop, such joint activities give an opportunity for the organisations informally to share experiences, best practices and lessons learnt in the process of building their organisations and implementing service delivery.

Results

WCLAC has noticed distinct, positive changes in both organisations which are reflected through meetings with donors, through increasing local links and increasing profile as agents for change in the north of the West Bank.

Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem has succeeded in developing relations locally, maintaining good relations within the governorate, with the Governor and with the local media. During the year they contacted 13 potential donors and presented concept papers to 6 of them, and still awaiting response and follow-up with some. They have developed information materials to give to potential donors and partners detailing their strategic goals, their activities and their impact; they have also developed a website. As yet no funding agreements have been signed directly with other donors, but they have entered into partnerships with groups such as the YMCA as joint implementing project partners. WCLAC is working with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and with at least one potential donor to establish funding channels that would help sustain Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem's excellent work. During the 16 days of action, they held a workshop on the issue of how Palestinian law addresses gender-based violence. This was run in cooperation with the governorate and was attended by 85 people.

WCLAC has noticed a clear increase in the profile of Women for Life through 2010. They have been busy networking locally and mobilised a group of volunteers to help clear the land around their office location. WCLAC supported the recruitment of a Public Relations/Fundraising Officer and WCLAC's External Relations Officer has helped share experience and build capacity in proposal writing. The impact so far seems very positive: Women for Life contacted 17 potential donors during 2010; they have had 8 projects approved for funding, while some other contacts are still on-going and may yet lead to funding. Their donors include UNIFEM, NDC HR/GG Secretariat and international consulates; they have also been accepted through pre-qualification onto UNDP-PAPP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme's civil society roster. They also report good relations with local PLC members and with the Mayor. Fruits of these relationships include increased profile for events held on 8th March and in the 16 days of action combating violence against women. In the latter, a workshop was held which addressed the issue of the political participation of women. The location chosen for the event was an area threatened with land confiscation by Israeli occupiers.

3.2.5. Support the grassroots partners in developing and following strategic programmes and action plans.

As mentioned above, WCLAC has helped both partners to develop their strategies, action plans and budgets for the reporting period, and looking beyond. Setting actionable plans with a strategic orientation, enables the organisations to deliver good quality, WCLAC-supervised legal and social counselling. As well as administrative support, WCLAC also gives technical support working to ensure that the partners' work constantly adapts to changing information and situations and meets professional standards.

Service delivery supervision

WCLAC's legal and social work professionals supervise the service provision work of the staff working in the partner organisations. The supervision integrates 20 years of institutional learning in service provision by WCLAC and also provides an opportunity for the partners' staff to share experiences among themselves, to seek advice on particular issues and to manage stress through debriefings. On technical legal issues the supervision sessions are for the lawyers alone, while on social work issues – including client management techniques and debriefing valuable for all service providers – the lawyers and the social workers come together.

Topics addressed during these hours include: how to deal with emergency cases (including discussing recent or on-going cases); addressing professional needs of social workers; training on how to find positive solutions for women victims of violence; a review of the client intake files; training on professionalism and client management.

Supervision hours	Legal	Social	Total (hours)
Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem	15 (2 lawyers)	40 (2 lawyers & 3 social workers)	55
Women for Life	19 (1 lawyer)	31 (1 lawyer & 2 social workers)	50
Total (hours)	34	71	105

Accompaniment

As well as holding liaison and support meetings and providing technical supervision for service provision, WCLAC seeks to strengthen the partnership and build capacity through accompaniment in actual project work such as leading awareness-raising sessions. In 2010, WCLAC's project coordinator – herself a social worker with service delivery and awareness-raising experience with WCLAC – accompanied the partners 5 times in awareness-raising activities. She was able to give feedback, support and professional advice on technical details of the workshop and well as on methodology and delivery style.

Partners' results:

Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem received 117 clients for legal and social counselling. Of these 97 clients sought legal advice and 43 clients cases were successfully brought before a court and the court has issued its decision; remaining cases are either not being take to court or still have decisions pending. Partner organisations follow a similar model and rationale to WCLAC in using awareness-raising activities to try to change social practices but also to build a constituency of informed supporters who will refer women in need of legal or social aid to service providers, thereby increasing Palestinian women's access to justice and support. During 2010, Annajdh ran 6 series of workshops with housewives (each series generally of 7-10 workshops), in addition to a number of one-off awareness-raising workshops in various locations around the Tulkarem Governorate

(including the city centre, villages and refugee camps). An-Najdeh has also used local media to disseminate information on women's rights, appearing on talk shows to discuss issues such as personal status law and domestic violence.

Women for Life received 73 clients seeking legal aid and/or social support. They have taken 18 cases to court, and in 13 of these cases the courts found in favour of the clients. The most common topics arising related to issues of alimony (family maintenance) and divorce. Drawing on WCLAC's experience and expertise in alimony cases, Women for Life have also been empowering clients to take simple cases to court by themselves, while still receiving on-going support and advice from Women for Life's Lawyer. Two cases the Women for Life dealt with during 2010 were on an emergency basis with women whose lives were in danger – they were supported by Women for Life as the point of access to protection while being referred to emergency service providers. During 2010 Women for Life ran 6 series of workshops with housewives (each series generally of 7-10 workshops) in four locations around Salfit Governorate, in addition to a number of one-off awareness-raising workshops in various locations in the area around the Women for Life base in Bidya (including locations in Salfit and Qalqilya governorates).

3.2.6. Fund and oversee the procurement of new equipment or meeting other expenses (e.g. personnel development, administrative costs) that fall within budget and meet prioritised needs of the organisation.

This was achieved during the second semester of 2010.

3.3. Build the capacity of state and non-state service providers, by raising their awareness of women's rights and of best practices in dealing with women, particularly women victims of violence.

3.3.1. Hold workshops in West Bank and Gaza which share information and best practices with police officers, social workers, social service professionals and female students.

The workshops in this activity are planned for 2012. It is intended as a strategic follow-up activity, maintaining WCLAC's engagement with the health, social and security sectors following on from WCLAC's leadership of the Takamol project which is due to complete at the end of 2011. However, WCLAC has responded to immediate requests for training from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) to share best practices in meeting the needs of women victims of violence.

Practitioner-to-practitioner training: training MOSA protection shelter social workers

Based on WCLAC's experience of running its emergency protection shelter, WCLAC was approached by MOSA to provide training to staff working in the MOSA-managed Mehwar shelter. Of the 14 participants, 9 were contracted professional staff working in protection, while 5 were volunteers. The topics for the training drew on WCLAC's experience in:

- Working with victims of gender-based violence
- Shelter management
- Optimising OPT's existing protection mechanisms and referral options

WCLAC's partnership with MOSA in developing bylaws for shelters in Palestine optimised the impact of the experience sharing, as the bylaws and standard operating procedures with which WCLAC works have formed the basis for the MOSA bylaws as drafted by WCLAC. Participants said the most valuable part of the training was being able to draw on WCLAC's experience of actual cases, seeing what successes can be achieved within the Palestinian context, and being better prepared to face challenges.

Following the success of this training, MOSA requested further training from WCLAC's shelter staff and service unit to be given to MOSA staff who will be running the Nablus shelter which opened in late 2010. WCLAC has worked closely with MOSA in developing the Nablus shelter throughout 2010, including helping to shape management structures, standard operating procedures, job specifications and even sitting on interview panels recruiting the staff.

Women's debates – a course for students on international feminism

In November 2010, WCLAC began a project running a 12-lecture series in Nablus on debates in international feminism. The course is part of a project being led by the Palestinian Women's Research and Development Centre under the title "Women's Debates". WCLAC's lectures are open to students of any discipline attending Al-Najjah University and Al-Quds Open University. Themes to be covered include: feminist theory, history of the international women's movement and linking international feminism to Palestine. The initial number of students enrolled is 27 (16 female and 11 male).

Supporting NGOs in training

As well as providing direct training to target groups, WCLAC also supports other organisations using WCLAC's expertise in a consultation role. In this way, WCLAC contributed its vision and experience to reviewing a training manual being developed by the Palestinian Women's Research and Development Center. The training manual addresses issues of advocacy on violence against women.

3.3.2. Formalise the contents of an awareness raising module on women's rights to be used by the Union of Palestine Medical Relief Society.

This activity has been integrated into the work of the Takamol Project which, in addition to developing a new referral system also works to develop women's rights training tools and curricula for the Palestinian police and the health sector. WCLAC will use the curriculum developed for the health sector to prepare a module on women's rights to be used by the Union of Palestine Medical Relief Society.

3.3.3. Undertake gender audit of four major civil society organisations in Palestine to support them in integrating gender-sensitivity into their programmes.

WCLAC is an implementing partner of Oxfam Novib, working in partnership with the Women's Studies Centre to undertake gender-audits of the following organisations (also Oxfam Novib partners):

- Palestinian Medical Relief Society
- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee
- Centre for Democracy and Workers Rights
- Early Childhood Resource Centre

Gender audits of PARC and of PMRS are now completed. The audit process, which has covered the organisations' work in Gaza and the West Bank, has been praised as a useful way to challenge assumptions of gender equality within a socially minded and fair organisation. The process is based on an established Oxfam Novib methodology which uses qualitative research. The process so far has highlighted the value of applying a gender analysis to organisational management and the implementation of activities in two of Palestine's biggest locally led NGOs. The audit process with the Early Childhood Resource Centre has begun.

3.4. Contribute to improving overall delivery of legal, health and social services for women victims of gender-based violence and those at risk of violence. (Takamol Project).

3.4.1. Network among national and regional stakeholders from the legal, health and social sectors to share best practices and lessons learnt.

WCLAC works hard to build on the successes it has already made and the expertise it has developed on issues of violence against women in OPT. Relevant actors from the legal, health and social sectors are engaged in advocacy for the project and in using opportunities for dialogue. This participatory approach, from the very beginning, is crucial in laying a proper foundation for future activities to have a strong element of sustainability. Networking meetings throughout the year have yielded a broader support base for the project, and more information-sharing between the project team, key ministries and NGOs working on violence against women.

Particular results in this line, include the maintenance of good relations with the state bodies such as Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the police.

Particular coordination efforts have been made with UNWRA and have also yielded results. UNWRA has a pre-existing internal referral system which it uses. However, as a valuable indicator of recognition for the quality and value of the Takamol project, UNWRA has decided to adopt the referral system being developed by the Takamol Project for their external referrals.

The Takamol Project team has had valuable meetings this year with various stakeholders including:

- Meetings with Ministries – one result from this was that MOWA has committed to supporting the final stage of the project, publicising the system in the media;
- Meetings with the Police – this helped lead to getting an approval from the Police Academy to integrate components on violence against women into the police's basic training course;
- International organisations such as UNWRA, Eupol Copps, Terre des Hommes (which is working on a referral system for children) and Mediciens sans Frontiers (which works on health issues) – with these last two organisations the Takamol project team was invited to participate in workshops with these organisations.
- Major local women's organisations such as the General Union of Palestinian Women, the Women's Affairs Technical Committee and Sawa.

Media promotion of the project

WCLAC uses meetings to advocate the need for a referral system and to ensure understanding and support from key stakeholders. The team has also initiated a media campaign using "the voices of women" newspaper, and a radio program.

3.4.2. Assess needs and map national resources in order to inform creation of the new referral model.

The needs assessment was completed by the end of 2009, and it was presented to the local stakeholder through a national workshop.

3.4.3. Design an integrated legal-health-social service referral system model and accompanying tools for women victims of tools.

In this activity, the Technical Committee in cooperation with an expert consultant will draw on the results and recommendations of the needs assessment and mapping exercise to draft the framework of an integrated legal-health-social service referral system.

Early in the year, in order to glean lessons learnt from the experience of the development of a child referral system in OPT, WCLAC held several meetings with those who had been involved. Important lessons learnt include the need to clarify the roles of key stake holders such as the police and MOSA. In developing a child referral system a formal protocol was developed in order to overcome difficulties that had arisen from a lack of clarity – the protocol became an annex to the referral system document itself.

Outputs from the consultants

During the first semester, a Scope of Work was developed for a consultant, identifying the need to:

- draw on regional and Euro-Mediterranean countries resources and experiences,
- respond to the needs as identified in the assessment,
- be feasible according to the local context,
- outline clear indicators for success.

Based on applications received it was decided that two consultants would add greater value: one with greater understanding of gender and the other with a stronger background in referral system development. In consultation and through focus groups with the Technical Committees, with key ministries and service providers, the consultants have worked on drafting the operational protocols and guidelines for health and social service providers and the police, and prepared a documentation system to support the referrals, as well as a monitoring system to be used to assess the pilot project. Further outputs include a situation analysis and code of ethics relating to work with women victims of violence, as well as a set of general guidelines and a list of terminology.

Technical and Technical Legal Committee Meetings

The technical committee was inaugurated in July with 20 members representing 13 different bodies including WCLAC and Juzoor (the Takamol implementing partners), other NGOs and the following:

- The Protection Shelters (safe houses), (part of the Ministry of Social Affairs),
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Women's Affairs,
- The Police,
- Office of the Chief Justice,
- Governorate of Ramallah (a likely governorate for the pilot project).

Participants stressed the importance of wide geographical support for the referral system and considered increasing the membership of the committee to include other service providers (e.g. Shari'a Courts) and representatives from other governorates, as well as reaching out to Gaza to implement the referral system there. The group also highlighted the crucial impact a Law on Family Protection from Violence could have if it were introduced to Palestinian legislation.

A Technical Legal Committee Meeting was also held, with WCLAC lawyers, and representatives of the police, the Public Prosecution Office and the Family Reconciliation Unit of the Judiciary. This meeting reiterated the

importance of having adequate legal provision and undertook a review of the current legislation, including the basic law, the public health law, the criminal law, the family law and the draft of the family protection law.

Further meetings

The consultants and the project team have had a number of meetings through the year with key stakeholders and information sources. These include:

- Meeting with staff of shelters and safe houses including the Mehwar shelter (established by WCLAC and now run by MoSA) and WCLAC's own emergency protection shelter – to discuss client types, client needs and existing protocols.
- Meeting with the Police's Family Protection Units – this helped clarify the way the police classify cases of violent crimes against women.
- Meeting with the Police Headquarters – discussing potential obstacles and receiving recommendations for the referral system.
- Meeting with the Ministry of Health – ensuring the buy-in of key stakeholders and establishing the links to primary healthcare.
- Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs – discussing existing services and development plans.
- Meeting with the Takamol steering committee; the committee heard an update on the work and stressed the need for the referral system to be a set of working protocols with clear roles for each actor, not a set of goals.
- Meetings with governorates, including Ramallah and Nablus – discussing the treatment of cases of violence against women at governorate level and the interrelation between the governorates and the traditional authority structures of the clans. It was noted that governorates play a strong role in the protection of vulnerable women, at that although they document cases and keep them on file they do not have written standard operating procedures for working with women victims of violence.
- Focus group meetings with social and legal services providers – the discussion addressed current processes used and the typical obstacles faced in service provision, among other issues.
- Focus group meetings with health organisations – this meeting discussed how cases involving women victims of violence are currently processed; participants expressed their interest in and support for a structured referral system for women victims of violence, called for training in how best to meet the needs of women victims of violence and expressed a desire to formalise their own documentation of cases of violence against women.
- Meeting with the Minister of Women's Affairs and a number of senior Ministry staff – the meeting looked forward to establishing a Memorandum of Understanding committing the ministry as an essential partner in combating violence against women.

3.4.4. Pilot the new referral system in one geographical area of the West Bank.

This activity is programmed for 2011.

3.4.5. Evaluate the pilot in a joint process with stakeholders and finalise the system model.

This activity is programmed for 2011.

3.4.6. Update curricula of medical, midwifery, and nursing schools.

The Takamol team has contracted Dr Asma Aiman, Dean of the Health Faculty at Al-Quds University, as an expert consultant to update the health curricula.

Together the Takamol Project Team and the consultant have formed a Specialised Technical Committee tasked with liaison with the health curriculum consultant, giving feedback on curriculum drafts and to support the adoption and use of the curriculum in health training institutions.

The consultant led focus group discussions with health centres (one in the north and one in the mid-region of the West Bank) and used these to help consolidate existing materials and develop a first draft curriculum with modules for medicine students, for midwives and for nurses. On advice from the Specialised Technical Committee these modules have been merged into a unified curriculum – with sector-specific case studies for different schools – incorporating themes such as identifying women victims of violence, documenting cases, changing attitudes towards domestic violence and making referrals to specialised referral centres.

Five meetings were held with the Specialised Technical Committee whose expertise includes representatives of a number of health organisations. As some deans of health schools have not attended these meetings, the Takamol project team has opted, in 2011 to try to arrange one-to-one meetings with them, in order to ensure the integration of their views and their support for the curriculum's introduction into their schools.

3.4.7. Update relevant security sector curricula.

The Takamol Project Team undertook a needs assessment in the first semester of 2010 which affirmed the need for education on gender-based violence in the curricula for social sector, humanitarian workers and police.

Based on this, it was noted that the training module should take into account social and legal aspects of gender-based violence, as well as:

- Domestic violence,
- Gender,
- Professional ethics in dealing with violence against women,
- Laws related to violence against women, and
- The role of service providers in dealing with women victims of violence.

Throughout the second semester of the year there have been negotiations with a number of stakeholders discussing the role of experts in contributing to the curriculum development process and, crucially, the nature of the curriculum that would be adopted by the Police Academy. This latter point has caused delays to the project schedule, as the project staff originally planned to develop a complete, specific curriculum on violence against women, but then seemed limited only to mainstreaming a women's rights component into the overall human rights training module of the Police Academy.

Following a series of discussions with various parts of the police, with a number of academics and with Eupol Copps – an international organisation working closely with the Police Academy – a plan of action was decided upon in a meeting with Eupol Copps at the end of the year that the head of the Police Force's Family Protection Units will prepare training material on the role of the police in dealing with the cases of violence

against women. A consultant expert at Eupol Copps is also drafting training materials for a Police curriculum. The two training materials will be integrated as part of the "human rights" training module which will be submitted to the police academy for adoption.

Although advancing in this line of activity line has proved challenging, a positive outcome stands on the horizon. As things stand, for the first time, violence against woman is going to be an integral part of the basic training of the police, as part of the human rights module. This is considered an important achievement; especially as this will mainstream issues of violence against women and the issue will be considered in local context and in line with international standards; moreover, this step should also help pave the way for developing the curriculum on violence against women.

3.4.8. Conduct a lobbying campaign to formalise the referral system at the national level.

Although this is particular aspect of lobbying is a key activity for the latter stages of the project's implementation, considerable activity has been undertaken to ensure consultation and support from stakeholders in the referral system. This includes participating in a radio discussion on the referral system, and holding a positive meeting with the Women's Technical Affairs Committee, in which the latter agreed to support the project with participation in project committees. The Ministry of Women's Affairs has also expressed a commitment to cooperating with the Takamol project on the media campaign that will constitute part of this activity.

3.4.9. Undertake project evaluation.

This activity was not programmed for 2010.

Strategic goal 4: To document violations of women's human rights and to disseminate this information through reports and position papers locally, regionally and internationally.

4.1. Document and publicise the impact of violations of human rights and humanitarian law suffered by Palestinian women.

4.1.1. Document and report on cases of femicide in Palestinian society.

WCLAC has documented the gender-based murder of Palestinian women since 2004, using the term femicide rather than the term "honour killing" which might infer some justification of what is, to WCLAC, the violent and needless death of a woman, often by a family member or intimate partner, and is in no way honourable. The documentation is used to give background to the statistics and to build a base of qualitative knowledge on an issue in which WCLAC and others believe the numbers significantly understate the scale of the problem. Since 2004 WCLAC has documented around 100 cases. The information is made available to researchers including students, journalists and governmental and non-governmental sector workers. As WCLAC works to increase the woman-centred production of knowledge in OPT, one activity under the new strategic plan is to publish an analysis of the documentation to identify and publicise the trends and the tragedies. In particular the study is expected to analyse and give an account of the circumstances of the death, the actions and

reactions of the parents and family in the killing, and the position taken by the judiciary and by Palestinian law on the killing.

WCLAC was appalled and alarmed at the start of the year by the shocking increase in femicide cases in the first six weeks of the year. (Compare this figure to the total of 13 cases reported to WCLAC and subsequently documented in the whole of 2009). The spate of murders provoked WCLAC to issue two press releases. The first, denouncing the increased number of killings reported early in the year. A subsequent press release was issued by WCLAC on 18 February. This acknowledged and welcomed Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's statement recommending the president use his unique presidential powers to enforce a moratorium on the use of legislation which massively reduces a murder sentence if the killing is identified as one linked to "honour".

WCLAC was subsequently disappointed that the President did not follow his Prime Minister's recommendation by enforcing a moratorium. While WCLAC is encouraged that a current draft of the new Criminal Law ends this terrible tacit acceptance of femicide, we see it as a travesty against the women victims of violence should any murder mitigated between now and the none-too-soon passing into law of a Criminal Law which enshrines, values and defends women's rights. WCLAC continues to call upon the President to enforce a moratorium on the acceptance of such honour as a mitigating circumstance.

WCLAC is relieved that the high rate of killing in the first six weeks of the year did not appear to continue throughout the year. However, we reiterate our conviction that only a fraction of these murders are ever reported, with the remainder being concealed by families, communities and by taboo which maintains a silence around violence in the private sphere, constantly heightening the risks of domestic violence and the abuse of vulnerable people.

In the whole year, WCLAC documented 9 cases of femicide, all of them in the West Bank, in the following locations:

- Tubas Governorate
- Hebron
- Nablus
- Nour Shams Refugee Camp
- Tulkarem Governorate
- Jerusalem

One positive indicator WCLAC continues to see as a trend over the past 6 years of reporting is the extent to which government, press, local communities and other actors are increasingly reporting femicides, discussing the issue and breaking the silence and acceptance on the taboo.

Experience-sharing among researchers

In order to share lessons learnt and to develop best practices of documenting femicides, and to refine and homogenise reporting formats, WCLAC's 3 field workers came together in the middle of the year for a three hour discussion session led by WCLAC's femicide research coordinator. The working session stressed the need to gather the human aspects of the lives destroyed by femicide during the documentation process, not just to gather the numerical data.

Analysis of the process of the Judiciary in dealing with femicide cases

WCLAC seeks further information on the current judicial practices in dealing with cases of femicide. For this reason, WCLAC identified 3 lawyers (their locations spread throughout the West Bank) who could work with courts to obtain and analyse information on how the court systems receive those accused of femicide, how trials are run and what sentences are given to those found guilty.

WCLAC was denied permission by the Ministry of Justice to analyse the full court proceedings of femicide trials, but was given access to the trial outcomes. The three legal consultants obtained information on 12 decisions and prepared an analysis of the 10 cases which were seen as being most relevant to femicide. Their research examined case outcomes in light of Palestinian law and international standards. The legal analysis has now been completely drafted and reviewed by an external legal analyst. It will be used as an internal analysis document the findings of which can be shared with key advocacy targets through quiet diplomacy, notably using it as a tool to approach the High Judicial Council with a view to trying to gain greater access to the courts in order to undertake gender analysis of court decisions.

Special activities publicising and condemning femicide

In addition to the issuing of two press releases in February, as mentioned above in this section, WCLAC organised a one day conference titled "Where's the honour in honour crimes?". The conference was held on 24 March 2010 through cooperation between the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in OPT, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It was held under the auspices of the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs.

The aim of the conference was to raise awareness on the phenomenon of "honour killings" including its origins, the current situation, and recommendations for the future in combating it. The conference also looked at the value of establishing of a Task Force to steer efforts against the crimes that are committed in the name of honour in OPT. Given that the Criminal Law Coalition is already seized on the issue, to avoid duplication, no task force was established. Attending the conference were 120 participants from the governmental and non-governmental sectors including Christian and Muslim religious leaders, representatives of the Police and Ministry of Justice, and the Legal Advisor to the President. WCLAC staff presented two papers at the conference: one examining the ongoing failure successfully to challenge and prevent femicide in Palestinian society; the other, assessing the difficulties involved in trying to end the practice.

"Women without names": A study on WCLAC's documented cases of 29 femicide cases

During 2010 WCLAC undertook a review of the 29 cases of femicide and a further 9 cases of suicide linked to domestic violence which it documented over the almost 4 year period from January 2007 – November 2010. The study has been translated from English into and both versions should be made available during 2011.

The study looks at social demographic data of victims and killers, as well as capturing some of the perception and impact on the families. In the majority of cases documented, the killer was a close relative, with about half the cases involving the fathers, brothers and/or husbands of the victim.

One key finding was that there is a clear, popular condemnation of the crime of femicide – this was the finding of interviews with families and community members including neighbours, friends, religious leaders and local officials. Without exception respondents stated their strong objection to these murders, with some adding that murder is unacceptable regardless of the reasons. Many remarked upon the adverse consequences on families, children and society, and all the interviewees called for the prosecution of those who commit such murders.

4.1.2. Document violations against women in Palestine within a framework of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. &

4.1.3. Document cases of violations of women's rights in Gaza and record 5 in-depth testimonies of life in Gaza from women.

WCLAC is frequently challenged by a lack of qualitative and quantitative data on factors affecting women in OPT, particularly on aspects relating to the private sphere – in which statistical data collection is difficult in any case – and relating to the gender-specific impact of limits imposed on women’s lives, in contravention of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, by the Israeli forces who militarily occupy the territory of Palestine.

WCLAC’s International Humanitarian Law Project works with a number of female field-workers who document the gender-specific impact of Israeli violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. WCLAC’s work in advocacy focussed and built on a foundation of legal analysis and the feminist commitment to identifying issues affecting women and to documenting, recording and making publicly available women’s testimonies and something of their world-views.

WCLAC does not take Israeli-rights-violation cases to court, although possible future projects include partnering with other NGOs, using WCLAC’s documentation to identify cases which a partner organisation could take to trial. For WCLAC, without taking cases to trial, impact in this domain is seen as two-fold: firstly, listening to women, allowing them space to speak of their difficulties and being interested to hear how occupation policies and practices – intertwining with cultural expectations and many other factors – create or compound challenges in their daily lives; secondly, while not being able to end these challenges, nevertheless enabling these respondents to know that they are contributing to international advocacy efforts to improve their situation.

WCLAC’s team of field workers documented the following number of cases:

Location	Number of cases documented	Main topics sought
East Jerusalem	25	Forced eviction and home demolition; family unification and residency rights
West Bank (not including East Jerusalem)	96	Impact of the Wall, particularly for those in the Seem Zone or otherwise isolated by barriers; Impact on life of settlements nearby; settler violence, military violence and arrests, family unification; freedom of movement.
Gaza Strip	35	Impacts of the war on Gaza and of the closures
Total	156	

Publications

WCLAC’s IHL team developed 3 advocacy publications during 2010 in addition to the alternative reports to various treaty bodies and international human rights committees and enforcement mechanisms. Each of these publications is drafted in English and are now in the process of being translated into Arabic.

The advocacy publications of the year are as follows:

- WCLAC's annual IHL report: "Women's Voices: In the Shadows of the Settlements - A 2010 report on Israel's human rights violations against Palestinian women"
- "Forced Evictions: Assessing the Impact on Palestinian Women in East Jerusalem"
- "Life Behind the Wall: Women's voices from the Seam Zone"

Bringing women together

WCLAC is aware that interviewing human rights victims or discussing sensitive issues with women living in situations of on-going intense social pressure, can hold some risks, such as retraumatisation; however, the feedback we receive from the women whose testimonies we take reflects a therapeutic aspect to the work. A common theme to much of WCLAC's work is of making women more aware that they are not alone in finding it difficult to negotiate the social pressures they face; moreover, as they give testimonies supporting advocacy work, they are agents in trying to change their situation.

Feedback from respondents abounds with gladness at being able to share stories and at appreciation of growing solidarity between different women who have been interviewed by WCLAC. A further indicator is the on-going relationship which WCLAC still has with women who have given testimonies. Some contact the IHL team to give updates on their situation, including when this is simply to share good news.

WCLAC also holds events – two in 2010 – which bring together women who gave testimonies to WCLAC, giving opportunities to foster solidarity.

The first of these was held in Ramallah, bringing together 12 women from the West Bank together and connecting to a further 3 by video link. The event gave WCLAC an opportunity to give feedback on on-going advocacy work such as preparing the annual report, the issue specific advocacy booklets and the alternative reports to various treaty bodies and international human rights committees and enforcement mechanisms. Participants in the event expressed particular joy at being able to connect between the West Bank and Gaza, particularly for the West Bank women to hear first hand, female, personal accounts of the conditions of life in Gaza.

WCLAC organised a second event in Silwan, East Jerusalem. This event brought together 15 women who had given testimonies to WCLAC; the common theme to the testimonies was a focus on living with the threat of forced eviction, in the aftermath of it, or the experience of forced eviction (and often home demolition) itself.

A positive indicator coming from the events has been that a number of women have kept in touch, being able to offer support to one another and to share news.

Documenting in-depth life-stories from Gaza

While WCLAC documented two in-depth life story, both through interviews with Gazan woman recently who has recently moved to the West Bank, a decision was made to focus on ordinary documentation (and on building fieldworkers' capacity for this) rather than seeking to introduce a different type of interview.

4.2. Increase the capacity of field researchers and media professionals in Palestine.

4.2.1. Train key people in identifying and analysing cases, and understanding and publicising key legal frameworks and writing reports.

Training WCLAC field workers

During 2010, WCLAC reduced its number of field workers to 8 field workers working on IHL cases, spread over the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza. The reduction has enabled WCLAC to increase close partnership and periodic accompaniment with the most dedicated of the field workers.

In addition to field trips with field workers, to comments on the documentation they submit and to frequent phone and/or face-to-face conversations, WCLAC ran training workshops throughout the year, including the Gaza-based field workers by video-link for some. There were 6 training days during 2010. These included sessions with a particular focus, such as documenting stories of the impact of housing demolitions and forced evictions in preparation for the specific advocacy output addressing this topic. During training days, women who have previously been interviewed and given their testimonies were invited to speak; two women from Gaza and four from the West Bank spoke in this capacity at the training days. Major topics covered in the training include UN mechanisms on protecting the rights of civilians and training on human rights in general and, in particular, on housing rights.

Providing accompaniment for field-workers in Gaza has been one of the key challenges of 2010. WCLAC's IHL advocacy and legal team is based in Ramallah, and except through telecommunications, has struggled to access Gaza. However, in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council, WCLAC's International Humanitarian Law expert was able to give training in Gaza to projects workers from international relief organisations. A second full day training in Gaza was given to 20 lawyers. WCLAC considers such building of partnerships with international NGO's, with grassroots organisations and with individuals in Gaza as key to maintaining a scope of work that covers all of OPT and maintains strong connections between the West bank and Gaza.

Training on CEDAW

Three meetings were held with human rights organisations and women's organisations across the West Bank (Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho). These meetings pioneered the development of an alternative report to the CEDAW committee's review of Israel, drawing widely on the experience and findings of Palestinian rights organisations based in OPT. This builds on the work WCLAC did 4 years ago developing its first alternative report submission to CEDAW. In October, WCLAC led a three-day training course linking the theory of CEDAW to the practice of developing documented evidence and an alternative report for the CEDAW committee. The workshop was attended by 20 participants drawn from women's groups and human rights organisation and a further 5 of WCLAC's field workers.

Consulting WCLAC staff

WCLAC endeavours to facilitate discussions and consultation within the body of WCLAC staff in order to increase awareness of, investment in and cross-fertilisation of ideas between projects being implemented along core women's rights themes but by different teams and units. Using the retreats and the whole-staff meetings (see activity 5.1.1.) WCLAC staff discussed and debated, for example, the direction of ongoing work on the femicide data analysis and analysis of court decisions.

Training for Human Rights Workers, in partnership with Al-Haq

A staff member from WCLAC's capacity-building team was invited by Al-Haq to lead several trainings for local the staff and field-workers of Palestinian human rights organisations. Two trainings were held in the Hebron area: one on IHL documentation, and in particular on the writing of affidavits; the other on issues relating to

the Wall. A third training was on the application of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – on Women, Peace and Security - to the social, legal and political context of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Training the Media Forum

As mentioned under activity 2.2.1., WCLAC engages and mobilises a forum of media-sector professionals. The workshop slated in the original action plan for 2010, to train Media Forum members on concepts and terminology related to the international humanitarian and human rights law was postponed and successfully implemented in January 2011.

4.3. Distribute and publicise reports and present WCLAC's findings and opinions to local and international audiences

4.3.1. Prepare for and attend national and international events in which WCLAC can present findings or distribute reports to key audiences.

Submission and presentation of reports to committees, including using WCLAC's ECOSOC Special Consultative Status

WCLAC has ECOSOC Special Consultative Status, which enables WCLAC – in addition to the general advocacy publications, both the annual report, and issue-specific booklets – to make a number of formal submissions to treaty bodies and international human rights committees and enforcement mechanisms. They were as follows:

- Alternative report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Pre-sessional Working Group (a submission report with Al-Haq);
- Alternative report to the UN Human Rights Committee for consideration of Israel and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- Alternative report to the Field Mission of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;
- Alternative report to the Pre-Sessional Working Group of the CEDAW Committee;
- Alternative report to the CEDAW Committee.

The alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee and the pre-sessional working group were closely linked and were prepared prepared in consultation with Addameer, Al Haq, DCI, PCHR, the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development and the Women's Affairs Technical Committee

WCLAC also attended the following events:

- March 2010 - Commission on the Status of Women, New York City.
- June 2010 - International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Peace between Israel and Palestine, Madrid.
- June 2010 - Field Mission of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, Amman.
- July 2010 – Human Rights Committee, Geneva
- August 2010 - CEDAW pre-sessional working group, New York.

As a great outcome of travelling to attend or make presentations to events, WCLAC saw clear uptake of language from WCLAC's presentation to the CEDAW pre-sessional working group, being used later in lists of issues raised with Israel by the CEDAW Committee. WCLAC was the only NGO present at the pre-sessional working group, and could therefore expand its 5 minute planned presentation into a presentation lasting 40

minutes. The list of issues published by the pre-sessional working group made specific reference to the gender-specific impact of occupation practices on Palestinian women (in Paragraphs 9, 13, 22, 28 and 35) of their list of issues, as well as a further point being raised by WCLAC concerning family reunification.

These high profile and/or significant events also present great opportunities for meeting high profile and/or significant people. At the Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva, as well as making an oral presentation to the Committee, WCLAC attended an informal meeting between the Committee and NGOs. In this same visit WCLAC was also able to arrange a meeting with assistants to the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in which they were able to present WCLAC's analysis of the particular situation for Palestinian women suffering the combined impact of patriarchal society and the pressures and radical social changes wrought by the Israeli occupation.

Speaking tour organised by ACSUR

A further opportunity for disseminating WCLAC's work, our impressions and our feminist vision and struggle for the realisation of international legal standards came with participation in a speaking tour in Spain organised by coordinated by one of WCLAC's Spanish partners, ACSUR – Las Segovias.

WCLAC's representative was the sole speaker, speaking to between 100-140 Spanish women and some men (although the target audience was women) with an interest in Palestine, drawn from diverse backgrounds such as students, professors, social workers, journalists, researchers and even government officials among the audience. While the majority of the audience appeared to be Spanish, Palestinian officials were also present in one of the talks.

Use of WCLAC's 2009 report on Israel's human rights violations against Palestinian women

The WCLAC publication "Voices of Palestinian women" has proved a useful contribution to knowledge and its case studies, together with unpublished case studies, have been used as supporting evidence in submissions to international rights monitoring bodies. As well as informal praise for publication from diverse quarters, two examples are telling indicators of the success of the report in providing powerful testimony of the lives of Palestinian women and their suffering under Israeli breaches of international law:

- Sabeel, an ecumenical liberation theology organisation based in Jerusalem, republished excerpts from "Voices of Palestinian Women" in its quarterly publication Cornerstone.
- A Japanese organisation, Translators United for Peace, which has a distribution list of around 2600 people including journalists, has requested permission to translate testimonies drawn from "Voices of Palestinian Women" into Japanese.

Two further successes include high profile recipients of the report. WCLAC's travel to New York for the CEDAW pre-sessional working group helped create a fortuitous opportunity to present WCLAC's "Voices of Palestinian Women" publication directly to Ban Ki-Moon, while Tony Blair is another recipient of the same publication, handed it in person by WCLAC staff.

Meetings with journalists, visiting politicians and delegations

WCLAC's work and publications has generated international interest from journalists, individuals and organisers of visiting delegations. Throughout the year, WCLAC has used its documentation of cases studies to help give journalists, advocates and diplomats access – through field visits or meetings – to women who suffer the consequences of Israeli occupation policies. With all these target groups, the work is done with a view to increasing awareness locally and internationally and building political will to censor Israeli rights violations and promote observance of international standards. WCLAC staff met with politicians from Europe and America,

with international human rights organisations, religious leaders and journalists and film-makers working in English, French publications – several stories reached international audiences, while some delegations noted profound positive changes in the attitudes of co-delegates.

It goes without saying, that not all interventions with journalists yield published stories. One notable publication was in the French Current Affairs magazine *Afrique-Asie*, which carried several pages of a case study documented by WCLAC. One other notable story led to the journalist attending court hearings with women from Nabi-Saleh. Trumped up charges in the case were dropped and with it the story; however, WCLAC feels the international presence of the journalist in the court room could well have been a positive factor in forcing the positive resolution to the hearing.

During 2010, WCLAC averaged at least one advocacy field visit per month. A significant indicator emerging from this work is that of WCLAC becoming a primary address for consulates and other international bodies organising delegations.

Changing strategy from public events to targeted interviews and field visits

These specialised field trips are seen as more effective than trying to reach out with general issues to a pack of journalists or advocates; it is better to work on targeted issues with individual journalists, policy officers, and diplomats or with small delegations.

WCLAC had scheduled for 2010, two TV sessions on local and international channels and a press-conference to publicise the WCLAC's IHL report and its findings. While delays in printing the IHL annual report "In the Shadows of the Settlements" would have pushed these events into 2011, WCLAC has decided – in consultation with certain donors and based on the rationale above – to cancel these media session. WCLAC feels the best technique for engaging serious journalists and for shaping the attitudes of power brokers is to reach out to them individually rather than en masse. Accordingly, in 2011 WCLAC will continue to shift its focus towards one-to-one engagement for the IHL work, rather than press conferences and the like.

4.3.2. Develop memoranda of understanding with 2 international institutions able to support WCLAC in increasing international distribution of reports.

WCLAC has succeeded in developing formal relations with international institutions able to attract large, relevant and diverse audiences for soft copies of WCLAC's reports.

WCLAC is now registered with and publishing on the well-known international resource: www.reliefweb.int. As such reliefweb publish a summary page for each new WCLAC English-language publication together with a link to the download on the WCLAC website. Reliefweb is an international award-winning website with millions of visitors each year. WCLAC now has 5 documents listed on the site published by WCLAC alone, as well a number of statements by the Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations which were endorsed by WCLAC.

WCLAC has also submitted a membership application to the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) in 2010 as mentioned above (2.2.3). The membership has been provisionally approved and is seen as a valuable mechanism for opening WCLAC's reports up to a wider audience, reaching new advocacy targets and sharing WCLAC's feminist legal analysis of occupation with other human rights actors working to end patriarchy and oppression. The website of EMHRN also serves to publicise the research and advocacy outputs

of its members, which should add to visibility and distribution of WCLAC's reports online and among international as well as local advocacy targets.

Reaching a smaller audience but nevertheless a valuable audience of policy researchers and academics, WCLAC has also developed a formal agreement with the Human Rights Web Archive of Columbia University Libraries. This gives Columbia University Libraries permission periodically to collect the information from our website and make it available to researchers as an archive.

Strategic goal 5: To enhance WCLAC's own abilities, performance and sustainability.

5.1. Develop the capacity of WCLAC staff

5.1.1. Implement strategic training for staff and develop working practices which meets staff needs

During 2010 WCLAC finalised a comprehensive staff needs assessment. The work was coordinated by WCLAC's capacity-building unit with input from a statistician who was contracted to analyse the data from questionnaires which were completed by staff. Additionally a consultant was contracted to hold focus group discussions and to make recommendations on developing a training plan. The consultant's report and implementation plan were completed during 2010 and have been accepted by the internal committee and forwarded to the senior management team for approval. It will be presented to the staff early in 2011.

Ongoing training for staff has continued throughout the year, with staff benefiting from opportunities to network and to share and build professional skills within Palestine and at international training events. These have included workshops and trainings with women-focused organisations such as the Women's Affairs Technical Committee and other Palestinian human-rights organisations, addressing key issues for WCLAC such as sexual and domestic violence and the coverage of women in the media. With international organisations such as Eupol Copps and UNFPA, WCLAC has attended events and discussions on gender and linking to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre held a training/discussion workshop on measuring the impact and effectiveness of women's NGOs. Assessing programme impact, particularly in social change programmes, is a challenge WCLAC continues to face.

WCLAC has also held internal staff training including 6 all-staff meetings during the year in which topics ranging from global gender issues to internal management and reporting protocols have been discussed. In addition two retreats during the year have helped staff better to understand WCLAC's media strategy, to gain greater familiarity with the multifaceted programme of the organisation as a whole, and to evaluate and review the action plan of 2010 in order to shape the 2011 action plan.

Through partnership with number of international organisations, WCLAC has been able to participate in a number of overseas events ranging from opportunities for experience sharing with other women's organisations in East Africa, to specific training on, for example, topics such as gender auditing and visual advocacy.

5.2. Continue and enhance WCLAC's programme and information management, ensuring adherence to due financial and administrative process

5.2.1. Develop an electronic catalogue for the WCLAC library

Following a review of the benefit of an improved catalogue, WCLAC has purchased a library cataloguing software system and towards the end of the year began the process of registering of all its books.

While the cataloguing is ongoing, WCLAC continues to develop its library resources – collecting and archiving news from three newspapers and particularly building an archive on issues relating to Israeli violations of the rights of Palestinian women, and news or feature articles relating to femicide.

WCLAC is working to filter, categorise and archive audiovisual material, including a backlog of material acquired in the past. The archiving work continually undertaken by staff working with the library helps to make it easier for WCLAC staff and visitors to access what little information there is specifically on Palestinian women.

Our Ramallah library was visited by 73 researchers during the year; our Hebron library by 80. The majority of visitors were researchers from local and international universities. The libraries are also a resource for WCLAC staff – who signed out 141 documents.

5.2.2. Enhance WCLAC's monitoring and evaluation (for programmes and personnel)

One challenge WCLAC has faced during the year has been to obtain the final findings of the external evaluation of WCLAC's five year strategic plan for the period 2005-2009. The consultant has already provided some useful tools of analysis including a proposed restructuring of the organisation and job descriptions to match. Following the recommendation made by previous external evaluations, WCLAC is now implementing 3-year long strategic plans, which facilitate planning and implementation and should also facilitate overall evaluation.

WCLAC has hired a new Director of Programmes whose role includes enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of programmes. One action to enhance monitoring and evaluation in the first semester of 2010 has been the introduction of a new internal reporting system which aims to tie reporting closely to the activities set out in the strategic plan, and to promote evaluation of impact by the managers closest to the implementation of activities, evaluating impact in line with the strategic objectives and their established indicators.

WCLAC was externally monitored on its progress in the implementation of the "Takamol" referral system development project. The monitoring mission praised the general implementation of the project, and made some recommendations which have since been accepted and approved by WCLAC's board.

Another external evaluation was held as an end of project evaluation of WCLAC's service provision (legal and social). This evaluation was started in 2009 and completed this year. Recommendations include working to enhance impact assessment both of direct service provision and of awareness-raising through media and workshops. The Board accepted the findings of the evaluation; however, impact assessment remains a challenge.

5.2.3. Evaluate and update WCLAC protocols, policies and procedures

WCLAC's Finance and Administration Unit has worked hard this year to introduce or review all forms relating to internal administration and to finances. To that end, WCLAC has, among other new or revised documents, comprehensive templates for: petty cash, procurement, payment request, leave requests, and managing and monitoring costs such as transport and hall rent.

WCLAC has also undertaken a complete review and revision of the financial bylaws document, clarifying procedures.

WCLAC is considering the introduction of an incentive system to increase transparency and fairness in rewarding WCLAC staff for exceptionally good work. A draft document detailing a system has been submitted to the board and is awaiting discussion.

5.2.4. Review and develop WCLAC's strategic plan, budget and annual work plans and administrative reports

In the first half of the year, the Board approved the reports relating to 2009 – both financial and narrative. They also approved the new strategic plan for the period 2010 to 2012, including annual action plan and budget. The Board approved mid-year adjustments to the budget and action plan. WCLAC finance and management teams also led an inclusive, bottom-up strategic review process beginning in October 2010 looking at action plans for 2011. The revised budget and action plans for 2011 were being finalized at the end of 2010 for board approval. Making minor revisions to the annual action plans follows advice made in WCLAC's previous external evaluations.

5.2.5. Hold regular meetings of the board and of the general assembly and facilitate board members participation in events in which they could promote WCLAC

WCLAC's Board of Directors met 7 times during the year, approving plans, budgets and reports as mentioned above. The General Assembly met in the second semester.

A contract has been signed retaining the services of a legal advisor for the Board to give expert advice on issues of employment law, financial responsibility and the like.

5.2.6. Expand the use of MIS to facilitate management and evaluation of more parts of WCLAC's programme

The full introduction of MIS into facilitating WCLAC's planning, monitoring, budgeting and evaluation has proved challenging. WCLAC continues to use MIS to record data from its Service Unit, creating a secure archive of case details including a rare and potentially valuable dataset of client demographics and case types.

Seeking to mainstream MIS as a management tool in all WCLAC's programme, at the end of the year WCLAC was agreeing upon terms with an MIS expert charged with the task of unifying WCLAC current planning, budgeting and reporting mechanisms within the integrated framework of MIS.

5.2.7. Hold targeted evaluations of selected projects or objectives within WCLAC's strategic programme

See above on evaluations. 5.2.2. WCLAC has completed the following external evaluations:

- The work of its service unit (external evaluation of legal and social service provision, as well as certain awareness-raising work, from the period 2006-2009);
- The work of the Takamol project – as a mid-term project monitoring;

WCLAC is still awaiting a submission by an external consultant of a draft evaluation report on the implementation of WCLAC's strategic programme from 2005-2009.

WCLAC has also undertaken a considerable internal consultative evaluation and review of the on-going strategy, in order to identify and adopt lessons learnt from 2010, to refine action plans for 2011 and to increase the staff ownership of their activities and the monitoring of them.

5.3. Improve WCLAC's financial sustainability

5.3.1. Maintain ongoing donor relations

WCLAC completed its annual report for 2009 in a timely manner and distributed it to donors. Financial audited reports for 2009 were completed during the reporting period. WCLAC's core budget was audited, as were financial reports for 6 special projects.

One challenge that WCLAC faced was in experiencing delays in receiving the audited reports despite applying pressure. This is a challenge faced by many NGO's who nevertheless demand the high auditing standards internationally accredited accountancy firms. WCLAC has welcomed follow-up meetings and has organised field visits to demonstrate the need for and value of WCLAC's work. Towards the end of 2010, WCLAC confirmed the use of Deloitte for our financial audit of our 2010.

5.3.2. Develop relations with new donors (Palestinian, regional and international) and maintain relations with past donors

WCLAC has secured some of its funding for 2011 and is seeking further funds to ensure its core projects are financed. The particular value of core funding is in part the scope it lends in a context as unpredictable as OPT to respond to opportunities immediately as they arise – for example, WCLAC's contribution to MOSA's shelter development which could not be planned for long in advance and WCLAC's work on femicide and on the Criminal Law which responded to current affairs and to invitations to participate in the Ministry of Justice led drafting committee.

WCLAC is also seeking further funding to initiate special projects pioneering new techniques, taking opportunities to work in synergy on partnership projects, or working to respond to particular needs as opportunities to address them arise.

During 2010 WCLAC accompanied partners on a number of field visits and monitoring trips, variously visiting WCLAC's grassroots partners, our pioneering projects – for example – the emergency protection shelter, and to see WCLAC's awareness-raising work.

WCLAC continues to maintain relationships with a variety of existing and potential project partners and diverse donors including the following governments, foundations and NGOs (in no particular order):

- OXFAM-NOVIB (Dutch Organisation for International Development)
- Norwegian Representative Office
- Danish Church Aid
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Church Development Service (EED)
- Welfare Association
- Open Society Institute – Middle East and North Africa (OSI Mena)
- Foundation Open Society Institute
- ACSUR – Las Segovias
- NGO Development Centre (NDC). (Through NDC's Human Rights/Good Governance programme WCLAC benefits from joint funds and indirect partnership with the governments of Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden).
- Caritas Switzerland
- Drosos Foundation
- United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)
- French Consulate
- European Union
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- Kvinna till Kvinna
- Australian Aid
- Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Belgian Representative Office
- British Consulate
- Broderlijk Delen
- Conemund
- Biladi
- DCAF (The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces)

Recognising the value of cooperation, joint mandates and consortia WCLAC has increased its strategic partnerships and joint implementation with Palestinian partner organisations including projects with:

- Shashat (WCLAC providing experienced social workers to facilitate discussions of gender issues provoked by Shashat's films)
- Jerusalem Centre for Women and the Gaza-based Centre for Women's Legal Aid and Consulting (CWLRC) on a project called "Falling through the Cracks: How the Israeli occupation breaks Palestinian families" which aims to address the specific problems faced by families separated by Israeli access laws and different jurisdictions in the different parts of the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), with a particular focus on divorced women's access to their children.
- Joint bids have also been put together led by Oxfam Novib and Kvinna till Kvinna bringing together a number of Palestinian organisations, representing women's rights among larger organisations, or working to build a joint platform of women's organisations respectively.
- Sharek (a joint proposal led by Sharek youth organisation, bridging women-focused economic empowerment and WCLAC's experience of awareness-raising, volunteer mobilisation and training).

5.3.3. Optimise the use of WCLAC resources, when possible and practicable, to add an additional income stream of locally generated revenue

WCLAC has rearranged the use of space in its Ramallah Office in order to create a meeting room on the ground floor which is wheelchair accessible. This increases its accessibility and its value as a venue for use by WCLAC and partners.

WCLAC also has completed the refurbishment of the Dar Makloul facility, in Beit Jala, which it will use as a venue for larger meetings and training. It was rehabilitated in partnership with the Cultural Rehabilitation Centre. In July an all-staff meeting was held at Dar Makhloul, inaugurating the facility as a WCLAC office and using the space of the main hall as a workshop venue for a staff workshop. As reported in section 2.1.2., WCLAC's volunteers used the centre to host an art exhibition "al-Annud" which addressed issues of violence against women. The event served as an official opening of the building, and was attended by 85 people including local dignitaries.

5.4. Develop media mechanisms according to the Centre's needs

5.4.1. Streamline and enhance WCLAC's media presence and media output, including its use of online media, and integrate it within the reporting system

WCLAC is working to implement the recommendations of a media consultant based on her assessment of WCLAC's use of media. To that end, WCLAC has been holding internal consultations to develop tools for better public relations (reported below, in 5.4.3.), has developed a new mechanism for collecting and archiving information on its public profile, and has been producing press releases and generating news coverage throughout the first semester of the year.

WCLAC has issued Arabic language press releases, often highlight WCLAC positions on particular issues and/or WCLAC events on similar themes. For example on the topic of femicide:

- Expressing grave concern at the spate of 6 reported femicides in the first 6 or 7 weeks of the year;
- Announcing a national conference on the problem of femicide in oPT; and,
- Urging the cabinet to accept the proposed changes in the draft criminal law which would end the acceptance of "honour" as a circumstance mitigating the murder of women.

The Arabic Language website has been updated with new pages giving information on projects such as the Takamol project, Warqati and WCLAC's volunteer programme. A further page shows links to news stories and features in local media publications which relate to WCLAC. 4 of WCLAC's Arabic language reports have been added to the website too, making them available to anyone online. The English language website has been used to make available WCLAC's written submissions to international bodies as well as information relating to recent WCLAC activities and WCLAC's annual reports. The website still requires revision to ensure that it is well set to attract readers and to serve WCLAC as a tool for external relations and advocacy.

In addition to its press releases, WCLAC has also encouraged and successfully ensure coverage of 46 WCLAC events in the local print and online media sources which WCLAC monitors. These include 3 printed press papers (Al-Hayat Al-Jadeedah, Al-Quds and Al-Ayam) and 3 online services (PNN, WAFA and Maannews). Each event publicised to the media generally gets mentioned in at least 5 of these sources, amounting to over 200 references to WCLAC in local media through coverage of WCLAC events – primarily advocacy and awareness raising events, in which the media serves as a message multiplier.

In English, meanwhile, WCLAC has issued public statements in the form of press releases marking new publications and the submission of reports to international treaty bodies. The aim of these press releases is to draw potential readers' attention to the findings of the full reports – with a view to increasing readership particularly among advocates and policy-makers.

Late in the year WCLAC worked to develop new web-pages with one specifically addressing publications from WCLAC's International Humanitarian Law Project, as well as reformatting the main Arabic and English language websites of WCLAC as a whole. These developments should increase WCLAC's direct control over web content, increasing the speed with which stories and publications can be posted on the website.

5.4.2. Prepare media materials and coverage, and events, for WCLAC's 20th Anniversary

No major preparation activities for WCLAC's twentieth anniversary were programmed for 2010. Precise details of the of how WCLAC will mark its anniversary will be defined during 2011.

5.4.3. Develop tools and materials for WCLAC's public relations and media output

WCLAC has developed a number of publicity materials during the year. These include:

- A brochure of WCLAC as a whole;
- A brochure for WCLAC's facility Beit Maklouf in Beit Jala;
- A WCLAC newsletter.

These products are aimed at ensuring good communications with donors, potential donors and partners, as well as ensuring that new and existing staff – spread across different units, different projects and different locations – have a strong understanding of the totality of WCLAC's work and vision, and how their work relates to the centre as a whole. The draft design of a folder cover has also been developed, complete with WCLAC's logo and with WCLAC contact details, for use at meetings and workshops so participants will be able to contact WCLAC if they have queries or would like to use WCLAC services.

WCLAC is working hard to mainstream consideration for public relations and media into all of its activities. Now with a focal point staff member for publications, it is hoped that WCLAC publications and media output will become more refined and more easily identifiable as WCLAC's. This follows the rationale that the more easily recognisable WCLAC's work and its "brand identity" is, the more aware the population will be that they can access support services through WCLAC, and the more unified and powerful WCLAC's advocacy will be.

With a view to facilitating immediate recognition of WCLAC publications, WCLAC has retained the logo which it has used since its foundation. The logo – featuring WCLAC's name (in English and Arabic) alongside a stylised eye – evokes qualities such as intelligence, pragmatism and agency and themes of accountability, monitoring and vigilance. Additional style guidelines have been introduced for cover designs of WCLAC publications, creating recognisable patterns for front and back covers which still leave scope for creative, unique, meaningful and eye-catching cover designs to suit the content of each individual publication.

WCLAC has held internal consultations to develop a slogan during the year. Three suggestions have been short-listed and are still under consideration.