





للارشاد القانوني والاجتماعي

مركز المرأة

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

WCLAC Annual Report

2016

*"We don't have the luxury of despair... in times of crisis we must provide hope and leadership whilst inspiring the next generation of young women."*

*Maha Abu-Dayyeh*

## **General Director Word**

*"When there is a will, there is always a way even at times of regression and disappointments. Enthusiasm, hopes, and the aspirations of Palestinian girls and women for a better future reflected in their eyes and hearts motivate us at WCLAC to continue our work with passion and commitment towards achieving equality and the protection and promotion of women's human rights." (Randa Siniora)*

*It is my pleasure to present to WCLAC partners the 2016 Annual Report documenting our achievements and external and internal challenges we faced during the year. The report details all the achievements, successes, and challenges.*

*During 2016, as in past years, WCLAC provided quality legal and social services to women victims of gender-based violence, especially those in crisis and needing immediate protection, and to ensure their overall safety and wellbeing. We worked closely with our partners from community-based organizations ensure quality services collaboratively. Our work with them including providing guidance, coaching, and capacity-building programs to ensure that the CBOs are fully equipped and empowered to reach women in the most remote and marginalized areas of the West Bank including East Jerusalem to provide social and legal services and awareness building programs. . This introduction summarizes the achievements and challenges to provide an overview of content to follow in the body of the report.*

*We conducted awareness-building and training activities successfully and reached numerous beneficiaries across the West Bank including East Jerusalem.*

*The volunteers' program designed to reach young women and men in our community was successfully implemented and the initiatives in their own communities supported and encouraged. We witnessed the young generation being the catalysts for change and were inspired to continue our work with passion and commitment.*

*We continued to monitor and document evidence-based testimonies of women victims of Israeli violations of human rights. The documentation was used to disseminate the women's experiences—using their own voices, to advocate internationally submissions to and engagements with UN human rights mechanisms and special procedures.*

*We conducted national advocacy work, consolidating efforts with all other civil society organizations, to engage in legislative processes to ensure the passage of laws, policies, and programs that are gender sensitive, ensure equality, prevent gender-based discrimination and respect women's human rights. WCLAC was the first human rights organization to draw attention to the discriminatory provisions in the draft Palestinian Social Security Law and led the opposition to change it. Staff crafted a well-researched working paper that identified the gender gaps in the proposed law. The Center led in mobilizing social actors at the national level to lobby for the amendments to the draft law and achieving numerous successes in the adoption of those amendments.*

*WCLAC also substantively contributed to discussions and national consultations related to the draft Family Protection Law.*

*We also worked collaboratively with our counterparts in human rights and women's rights work to address numerous human rights issues arising during the year. WCLAC was a key organization in the development of the national action plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, which was launched in August 2016 in Palestine.*

*WCLAC was also an active player in national consultations on the Palestinian initial CEDAW report as well and the efforts towards the development of the shadow CEDAW report in collaboration with other women's organizations. WCLAC participated in numerous forums, workshops and seminars regionally and internationally addressing women's human rights issues and gender-based violence initiatives and was active in national and regional networks related to human rights and women's rights issues.*

*WCLAC faced many internal challenges. Finalizing the external institutional evaluation conducted by an independent consultant and starting the implementation of the recommendations marked them. WCLAC was restructured; requiring difficult decisions by the governing body to terminate permanent and temporary staff contracts based on an analysis of functions and needs according to the new strategic plan. Other staffs were moved from one position to another to ensure full and equal staff workload and ensure best use of their skills and talents. Four programmatic units were merged into two and all internal administrative, financial and human resources manuals are being reviewed and revised as needed. New job descriptions according to the new organizational structure were developed and discussed with staff. This restructuring will be followed by the review of the salary scale in the first quarter of 2017 and adjusted in accordance with the new job descriptions and ensure equity among all staff and by establishing clear criteria and standards for staff in appointments, promotion, calculation of prior work experiences, and so on.*

*The restructuring process and decisions created uncertainties and a period of uneasiness along with grievances from staff whose contracts were terminated. They protested publicly and mobilized media, other human rights organizations, and the public to intervene on their behalf. They also attempted to defame WCLAC in the media and social media networks claiming discrimination. WCLAC's Board of Directors and General Assembly responded to public inquiries by issuing a public statement explaining the internal restructuring process and the underlying rationale. Currently, WCLAC has a newly elected Board of Directors and is moving slowly but surely to overcome obstacles faced during the restructuring process, provide staff care and guidance, and implement all other recommendations of the external evaluation report.*

*The year 2016 was also loaded with numerous national and regional challenges. There was a general setback in the status of human rights in our society. This can be attributed to numerous factors, namely the prolonged Israeli military occupation, internal political divisions, and in the prevailing patriarchal social and cultural context that reinforce the imbalance in power relations favoring men.*

*Latest political developments in our region after the "Arab Spring," such as the emergence of Islamic extremist movements like ISI, and the exacerbation of the crises of refugees and internally displaced persons within our region, has shifted attention from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and grave breaches of international law by Israel towards other humanitarian needs. Thus there is now less attention given to rights of Palestinian civilians, especially of women and children, living under prolonged military occupation. This political situation is working in favor of the occupying power.*

*As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Israeli military occupation, Israeli's punitive measures continue seriously unabated, affecting every aspect of Palestinian life, especially that of Palestinian women who endure the direct and indirect impacts. Everything from extra-judicial killings, house demolitions, movement restrictions, night raids, arrests including house arrests of children, expropriation of land, expansion of settlements, settler violence and vandalism, residency rights and family reunification policies, to numerous other violations have increased Palestinian women's responsibilities within the household and in their communities and wider society, as has been amply documented by various human rights organizations including WCLAC. The gendered division of labor further overburdens women. Surveys conducted also suggest the direct correlation between the violence of Israeli occupation and the increase in gender-based violence within society.*

*The deep internal divide between the two major Palestinian political parties further exacerbated the sufferings of Palestinian women. Efforts at reconciling the parties by Palestinian women and other social and political actors for nearly ten years have all been in vein.*

*Due to the Israeli military siege on the Gaza Strip and its total isolation from other parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, women in the Gaza Strip were prevented from benefitting from some measures and achievements made with the Palestinian Authority. These include the provision of shelters for victims of gender-based violence and the positive implications related to the adoption of the national referral system for victims of gender-based violence, which is only applicable in the West Bank. They also cannot benefit from progress made in the development of special family protection units at the Palestinian Civilian Police in all districts of the West Bank and from the Family Prosecution Department at the Public Prosecution Office in the West Bank, which was established as a specialized department in the West Bank in February 2016.*

*Narrow political interests and the intrusion of the Executive Authority obstructed municipal and local elections over the Palestinian Judiciary. Although women were encouraged to nominate themselves for local and municipal elections in the preparatory stage of the elections, parties did not list women candidates in the first three-five positions of their nomination lists and, on some lists, women were nominated without mentioning their names on candidate list or by identifying them through their fathers or husbands, the daughter or wife of so and so. These developments were indications that the way forward towards women's full public and political participation is still far and obstructed by the cultural constraints and patriarchal power relations. Further attention and efforts are needed to ensure women are meaningful actors in political processes and in women's and human rights organizations.*

*The issues identified above will be presented fully in the sections to follow.*

Randa Siniora

General Director



# Annual Report 2016

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# Part I. Summary Report

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## Political brief

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### Overview

In the year 2016, Palestinian women's lives have been dramatically impacted by the occupying power's strategies. House demolitions in the West Bank have reached figures never seen in the past seven years. In Gaza, internally displaced women are the most affected by the ongoing housing crisis, since they are the ones in charge of the children, elderly parents and they have to cope with high economic dependency.

Furthermore, the year 2016 witnessed Israeli military forces strengthening extrajudicial practices and collective punishment measures. This included extrajudicial executions of women and continuous night raids on family homes. Major concerns also stemmed from infringements to fundamental freedom of speech. Scores of Palestinians, including young women, have been arrested for alleged "social media incitement". This year also witnessed the arrest of the youngest – 12-year-old – Palestinian girl, in violation to the international convention on the rights of the child.

Nevertheless, WCLAC contently welcomed the achievements made at the international level to promote Palestinian women's rights. The approved UN resolution on the "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" provided deeper insights on the field reality while calling for occupying power's accountability. In addition to the last approved UNSC resolution 2334 that was adopted in late December and states that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity" and demands that Israel stop such activity and fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. At the national level the social security law, that initially encompassed discriminatory articles to

women and other minorities' rights, also brought fruitful social debate for further inclusion of women's issues. Despite the repeated failure of Hamas-Fatah reconciliation talks, upcoming local elections that were initially supposed to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 are now to be held in 2017 in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

### *Extrajudicial practices of the Israeli Forces*

The wave of unrest that started in October 2015 has progressively soothed in 2016. Nevertheless, precedent high rates of violence continue echoing in the Palestinian territories through a continuous cycle of violence and through punitive measures adopted by the Israeli occupying power. Harassment by the occupying forces and despair of any viable political horizon highly impacted Palestinian women. In April 2016, a pregnant woman was shot immediately after allegedly throwing a knife to a police officer at Qalandiya military checkpoint<sup>1</sup>. One month later, a Palestinian girl was killed at Ras Biddu checkpoint by the Israeli forces after allegedly attempting to stab an Israeli border official<sup>2</sup>. Almost the same configuration was repeated in June in the Tulkarem Governorate with a 25-year-old woman, mother of two children<sup>3</sup>, and in October at Za'tara intersection where Rahaq Yusef (19 years old) was shot and killed for allegedly pulling out a knife. According to the UN, Israeli forces have since October 2015 implemented a systematic policy of extrajudicial execution,

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<sup>1</sup> "Palestinian woman, teen shot dead after alleged stab attempt at Qalandiya" [online] in *Ma'an News*, April 2016.  
[maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771309, July 2016]

<sup>2</sup> "Teenage Palestinian girl shot dead after alleged stabbing attempt near Jerusalem" [online] in *Ma'an News*, May 2016.  
[maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771608, July 2016]

<sup>3</sup> "Israeli forces kill Palestinian woman after alleged stab attempt in northern West Bank" [online] in *Ma'an News*, June 2016.  
[maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771728, July 2016]

shooting dead Palestinians who did not present imminent threat at the time of their death. Similarly, the Hebrew press (Haaretz) reported that an internal military [enquiry](#) found out that “IDF and Border Police forces could have acted differently in recent incidents involving the shooting of Palestinians – and in some cases could [have] even avoided opening fire”<sup>4</sup>.

Despite repeated international condemnations of collective punitive measures, Israeli military forces multiplied restrictions of movement. The increase of flying checkpoints and closure measures directly impact Palestinian citizens and have dramatic consequences on families and women. Since October 2015, the Israeli Occupation Forces has enhanced infrastructure and beefed up security checks at existing checkpoints in Hebron and has put age limit for those who can access and other measures imposed at the entrance of the city, its surrounding villages, and refugee camps<sup>5</sup>.

Private homes are not spared with extrajudicial practices but they rather represent key spaces to serve the occupying power's intimidation strategies. Daily raids, including night raids, have dramatic impacts on women's lives since and psychological health. In May, WCLAC submitted an updated complaint on night raids to three UN special rapporteurs<sup>6</sup>. The [UN submission](#) was based on a collection of 50 testimonies WCLAC could gather during the reporting period from women who directly experienced a military night raid on their family home. Acknowledged cases provide a deep

insight on military practices made to induce terror among Palestinian residents. On 25 September 2016, about 30 Israeli soldiers in full military gear raided the house of 38 year old mother from Beit Ummar in the West Bank at 2:00 a.m. The family gathered in the living room with panic, and later on when the soldiers knew that there is an 18 year old son they detained him. The mother later discovered that her son was being held in Etzion settlement but she has not heard from him since.

### *Geographical struggle: house demolitions, confiscations and military regime*

The situation worsens in occupied East Jerusalem. In June a march took place for celebrating Israeli occupation of the holy city. Ten of thousands of Jewish religious nationalists streamed through the Old city's Muslim neighbourhood on the eve of the Ramadan holiday. In accordance with Israel's Supreme Court decision, the Muslim quarter had been cleared of its Palestinian inhabitants to make way for the flag procession<sup>7</sup>. Marchers called for the ethnic cleansing of Non-Jews in Jerusalem. The march was also the occasion to renew the advocacy for a change in the status quo of Al-Aqsa compound. Indeed, the construction of a Jewish Temple in place of existing Islamic Dome of the Rock gains more support amongst Israeli citizens and political leaders. The holy site sees increasing numbers of Israeli Jews visitors although a long list of government officials, both religious and secular, have called to officially sanction Jewish religious rituals on the mount.

House demolitions continue along with Israeli settlements expansion in East Jerusalem. Israeli officials extended the list of valid reasons to issue a demolition order. In 2016, several houses were demolished in order to build roads that would benefit Israeli settlers in the area. In

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<sup>4</sup> “IDF Probe: Soldiers Who Killed Teenage Palestinian Stone-thrower Were Not in Danger” [online] in Haaretz News, October 2016.

[<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.749139>]

<sup>5</sup> “Israeli siege continues in Hebron, 6 Palestinians detained in overnight raids” [online] in *Ma'an News*, July 2016.

[[maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=772264](http://maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=772264), July 2016]

<sup>6</sup> WCLAC, *Israeli military night raids on Palestinian residences in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Complaint submission, update* [PDF online], Ramallah, June 2016.

[[wclac.org/english/userfiles/NIGHT%20RAIDS%20-%20UPDATE%20-%20JUNE%202016.pdf](http://wclac.org/english/userfiles/NIGHT%20RAIDS%20-%20UPDATE%20-%20JUNE%202016.pdf), July 2016]

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<sup>7</sup> Dan Cohen, David Sheen, “ ‘Conquerors of Jerusalem’: March celebrates Israeli occupation with messianic fervor” [online] in *Mondoweiss*, June 2016. [[mondoweiss.net/2016/06/jerusalem-celebrates-occupation](http://mondoweiss.net/2016/06/jerusalem-celebrates-occupation), July 2016]



mid-December, OCHA highlighted that the number of houses demolished in 2016 in East Jerusalem alone was 172 houses compared to 79 houses demolished in 2015. As a consequence of house demolitions in Jerusalem, families are forced to flee neighbourhoods targeted by Jerusalem Municipality and to relocate in areas that do not fall within the city's master plan. Kufr Aqab, East Jerusalem northernmost Arab neighbourhood which lies on the Palestinian side of the Wall, has consequently become the most common area for relocation. Families living in Kufr Aqab are particularly vulnerable since they do not receive any service, being within Jerusalem municipality but on the other side of the annexation wall. This year 239 Palestinians were forcefully displaced due to their house being demolished by the Israeli occupation forces<sup>8</sup>.

Not only has East Jerusalem witnessed a spike in the demolition orders but so did the West Bank. According to OCHA, till mid-December 2016, 879 houses were demolished in area A,B and C in comparison to 465 houses demolished in 2015. OCHA stated that **demolitions this year are one of the most extensive demolitions campaigns in the last seven years**<sup>9</sup>. As a result of Israeli collective punishment unlawful practices, 1330 people have been displaced in the West Bank in the past 11.5 month. Among the most vulnerable communities, Bedouins deal with uninterrupted harassment from the Israeli military forces, mainly in the Negev and the Jordan Valley. In October, Al-Araqib village in the Negev faced its 104<sup>th</sup> demolition in six years, leaving its inhabitant homeless once again<sup>10</sup>. According to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, more than half of the 160,000 Negev Bedouins still

reside in villages that are "unrecognized" by the Israeli government. In the West Bank, in February and March 2016, more than half the structures demolished were located in the same village Khirbet Tana east of Nablus. Amid the 53 destroyed structures, Israel Occupation Forces not only targeted housing units but also destroyed agriculture-related, latrine units, traditional ovens and a water reservoir, creating humanitarian burning issues. 18 of these structures had been donated as humanitarian aid by the international community, a figure which underlines the fragility of humanitarian aid when it does not come along accountability for violations to international law. House demolitions and displacements hit women in the first place. Indeed, it is still regarded as women's main responsibility to build and maintain the home and to devote themselves to their family's needs. They are accordingly the first one to deal with family internal trauma and tensions that result from house demolitions. Women very often experience house demolitions' impacts on themselves through their children's suffering. This results in deep identity trauma as their social status of care-takers is endangered. Above all, South Hebron Hills and Jordan Valley in the West Bank remain the main targeted areas, both of them under full Israeli military control. Meanwhile, OCHA notes that in the same areas illegal Israeli settlements outposts have not faced any demolitions although Israeli authorities issued demolitions orders<sup>11</sup>.

Another worrying recent development this year regarding Israeli military occupation is the appointment of Rabbi Eyal Qarim as chief Israeli army rabbi. Qarim has become famous for his advocacy concerning rape of a "comely women" "in times of war". Recent analysis considers Qarim not being even an extreme ideologue inside Orthodox Judaism<sup>12</sup>,

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<sup>8</sup> OCHA- oPt, Protection of Civilians Weekly Report | 29 November – 12 December 2016

<sup>9</sup> "Third of Palestinian village left homeless by demolitions this year" [online] in *Ma'an News*, March 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770844, July 2016]

<sup>10</sup> "Israeli forces demolish Bedouin village in Negev for 100th time in six years" [online] in *Ma'an News*, June 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=772046, July 2016]

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<sup>11</sup> "Third of Palestinian village left homeless by demolitions this year", *ibid*.

<sup>12</sup> Jonathan Ofir, Michael Leshar, "Bible justifies rape in times of war, despite rabbis' efforts to spin or hide the teaching" [online] in

underlining Hebrew Bible's interpretation state the soldier shall be enabled to fulfil his desire for the captive woman to maintain "his fighting morale in time of war". Qarim has been long-known for his controversial opinions, among them his statements against women's involvement in the army. The chief rabbi provides religious services to soldiers and upholds religious tradition in the IOF.

Israeli settler's violence has also been a major issue this year just as previous years. During 2016, Israeli settlers have committed over 95 violent incidents that have resulted in damage of land or property and/or casualties among Palestinians. Settler's violence is usually committed under the protection of Israeli soldiers as in the 5-days settlers attack that took place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, where settlers threw bottles and stones at Palestinian homes near Kiryat Arba' settlement as Israeli forces looked on.

### *Unprecedented attempts to silence Palestinian political claims*

The year 2016 has been the stage of severe attacks made by the occupying power to the freedom of speech through targeted activists, among them several women. This year, WCLAC submitted [two complaints](#) to the three UN Special Rapporteurs on behalf of a local activist and human rights defender, Ms. Manal Tamimi<sup>13</sup>. These were the second and the third complaints on behalf of Ms. Tamimi following her unprovoked shooting during a demonstration in 2015. Ms. Tamimi and her family have been specifically targeted twice this year. Ms. Tamimi health condition has been directly impacted by both incidents.

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Mondoweiss, July 2016. [mondoweiss.net/2016/07/justifies-efforts-teaching, July 2016]

<sup>13</sup> WCLAC, *Frequent targeting of Palestinian human rights defender: Mrs Manal Tamimi. Complaint submission, update* [PDF online], Ramallah, 2016. [wclac.org/english/userfiles/MANAL%20TAMIMI%20(UPDATE)%20-%20MAR%202016.pdf, July 2016]

Condemnations to social media activism have become a new manner to silence Palestinian claims. In past months, Israel has detained scores of Palestinians for Facebook posts criticizing the occupation, including young female activists. In April 2016, 22-year-old Majd A. was arrested in a night raid and was questioned about "incitement" on Facebook. She was eventually detained for 30 days in Hasharon prison inside the Occupied Territories and was released far from home at Jbara checkpoint on 19 May<sup>14</sup>. Palestinian journalist Samah Dweik has also been detained since 10 April over statements on social media. According to the Jerusalem Committee for Families of Prisoners she had been arrested after writing a status and sharing an image in support of Palestinians recently killed by Israeli forces<sup>15</sup>. Besides, Palestinian poet Dareen Tatour from Al-Reineh near Nazareth has been detained since late 2015 for posting a poem on YouTube calling for resistance to the occupation<sup>16</sup>. It is worth mentioning that according to Israeli Military Order 101, Palestinians under military law<sup>17</sup> are prohibited from publicizing anything relating to a "political matter" and from membership in any political faction.

To the same extent, political persecution speech goes on obstructing Palestinian political life. According to Addameer, 6 Palestinian Council members were still detained in October 2016. On 3 June 2016, Israel eventually released Palestinian Legislative Council member Khalida

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<sup>14</sup> WCLAC, "Women's voices: Majd A. - Night raid/arrest" [online] in *WCLAC Women's voices Archive*, April 2016.

[wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1743, July 2016]

<sup>15</sup> "Israel postpones indictment of Palestinian journalist over alleged online 'incitement' " [online] in *Ma'an News*, May 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771491, July 2016]

<sup>16</sup> "Israeli court closes door on supporters of Palestinian poet Dareen Tatour" [online] in *Samidoun* [reprinted from *Free Haifa*], May 2016. [samidoun.net/2016/05/israeli-court-closes-door-on-supporters-of-palestinian-poet-dareen-tatour, July 2016]

<sup>17</sup> Israel's Supreme Court exercises jurisdiction in Israel and Palestinian Territories regardless of the specific status of the territory; military orders remain the supreme law for governing Palestinians in the West Bank (including those living under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority).

Jarrar after 14 months in an Israeli prison<sup>18</sup>. The 53-year-old PLC member was arrested on 2 April 2015 during a night raid on her home in Ramallah; exactly one day after Palestine officially became a member of the International Criminal Court. Khalida Jarrar had already been under punitive measures from the Israeli military and has been banned from travelling abroad since 1998.

Following up the matter of freedom of speech, it is worth mentioning that Israeli Knesset approved a law in July which is considered to purposely target Israel-based human rights organisations. NGO bill mandates special requirements for NGOs that receive more than half their funding from foreign governments, among these special reporting requirements and specific mentions of their donors in any communication<sup>19</sup>. Critics look at the bill as an attempt to delegitimise specific human rights groups and to silence internal political criticism of the occupying power.

### *Palestinian female detainees*

According to Addamer, up-to-date 7,000 Palestinians are still detained in Israeli custody, including 720 administrative detainees, 400 child prisoners, and 64 female prisoners. In a public statement published in 2016, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that over the last 45 years, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested and/or detained under Israeli military orders. Most of Palestinian female detainees are held in Hasharon and Damon prisons. In addition to the fact these centres are located outside the 1967 occupied territory – as a consequence being almost impossible to access from West Banker relatives and they lack gender-sensitive approach. As commonly known,

the majority of Palestinian women prisoners are subjected to various form of psychological torture which include forms of sexual violence such as beatings, insults, body searches and explicit harassment. In addition to harsh imprisonment conditions, Palestinian female detainees suffer from intentional medical negligence. No cultural-sensitive or religious-sensitive services are being offered by the Israeli Prison Service. Pregnant women face the most critical treatment with no special attention and very limited pre- and post-natal care.

In 2016, D. Al-Wawi, the youngest Palestinian female prisoner was detained for two and a half months by Israeli forces. The 12-year-old girl was arrested on 9 February near Israeli illegal settlement of Karmeit Zur located north of Hebron and was convicted of acclaimed illegal possession of a knife<sup>20</sup>. The public campaign focused on the violation of international law regarding the detention of children, since the Israeli military law allows children from the age of 12 to be charged for "nationalistic-motivated" violent offenses<sup>21</sup>.

### *Human dignity, family life and domestic crisis*

Private domestic life has proven to be a major matter of concern for the occupying power. Recently, the Israeli intelligence service the Shin Bet recommended extending the law restricting family reunification for Palestinians by another year. Israeli Knesset approved the extension of the discriminatory law in June<sup>22</sup> while stating "people applying for family reunification could use their permit to stay in Israel to perpetrate attacks and engage in espionage". The law was implemented in 2003 and has been extended annually since then.

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<sup>18</sup> Charlotte Silver, "Israel releases leftist lawmaker Khalida Jarrar" [online] in *The Electronic Intifada*, June 2016. [electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-releases-leftist-lawmaker-khalida-jarrar, July 2016]

<sup>19</sup> Jonathan Lis, "Despite global criticism, Israel approves contentious 'NGO Law'" [online] in *Haaretz*, July 2016. [haaretz.com/israel-news/1.730324, July 2016]

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<sup>20</sup> Sheren Khaleel, Abed al Qaisi, "Meet the youngest Palestinian female prisoner" [online] in *Aljazeera*, April 2016. [aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/meet-youngest-palestinian-female-prisoner-160425060347954, July 2016]

<sup>21</sup> "Israel agrees to early release of 12-year-old Palestinian prisoner" [online] in *Ma'an News*, April 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771090, July 2016]

<sup>22</sup> Jonathan Lis, "Law restricting Palestinian family reunification extended at Shin Bet's request" [online] in *Haaretz*, June 2016. [haaretz.com/israel-news/1.722708, July 2016]

Accordingly, West Bank and Gaza strip citizens remain ineligible for the automatic granting of Israeli citizenship and residency permit which is usually available through marriage to an Israeli citizen. Most family reunification applications in Israel are submitted by Palestinians residing in Israel, on behalf of a Palestinian spouse living in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Jerusalemite Palestinians also suffer from family division that is a result of the lack of family reunification permits. Even in cases of divorce, separation or any family dispute Palestinian women whose spouses own a different identity card suffer from lack of implementation of court rulings.

Since the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, on the same day Israel returned the bodies of two young Palestinians after withholding them for seven months, Israeli Minister of Public Security announced the suspension of the return of killed Palestinian bodies. As a consequence, grieving Palestinian families face psychological trauma along with loss of dignity. Addameer Prisoner support and human rights association stated in March that continuous withholding of the bodies exemplifies Israel policies of collective punishment and violates the right to dignity, to family life and to practice culture<sup>23</sup>. The most affected by these policies are the mothers of young killed Palestinians who are in need to see them one the last time before the burial.

### *Gaza and the aftermath of the 2014 attack*

In Gaza, serious concerns persist at the lack of investigations and accountability into the 2014 violations of international human rights law and the international humanitarian law. The long-term impact of the war still tremendously affects the lives of Palestinian women and girls, especially the 2000 women and girls who were injured during the war, the at least 790 women

who were widowed, the 24300 girls and 22900 women whose homes were destroyed and accordingly were internally displaced<sup>24</sup>.

Social crisis is also on the rise due to the long-term consequences of the military aggression. Allowed quantity of building materials entering the Gaza strip have initially increased in the early months of 2016 and some grants were offered to families for reconstruction or repair however, in April additional restrictions were imposed by Israel on the entry of building material which caused a slowdown in the reconstruction of houses that were destroyed in the 2014 attack. This meant that around 60,000 people have been suffering from the harsh and cold weather living in caravans and destroyed homes in Gaza this winter. Internally displaced women are particularly vulnerable, with 10.2% among them now heads of household as stated by OCHA in April 2016<sup>25</sup>.

Such situation leaves women with less time to engage in gainful economic activity, thus maintaining the high economic dependency rates that increase vulnerability of the population. These women face major financial issues, as illustrated in the testimony of H. Hassna (OCHA) who "receive[s] 930 shekels (approximately \$235) every three months from the Ministry of Social Affairs". To that extent, Association of Women's Work Committees reported the unemployment of women in Gaza had reached "astronomical" levels at 63.3 percent<sup>26</sup>.

Extreme humanitarian situation has raised health burning concerns. According to

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<sup>23</sup> "Israeli Occupation forces continue to withhold the bodies of deceased Palestinians, and renege on conditions of release" [online] in *Addameer – Press release*, March 2016. [addameer.org/news/israeli-occupation-forces-continue-withhold-bodies-deceased-palestinians-and-renege-conditions, July 2016]

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<sup>24</sup> OCHA-oPT, *The Gaza Strip: The Long Term Impact of the 2014 Hostilities on Women and Girls*

<sup>25</sup> OCHA - oPT, *Gaza internally displaced persons* [PDF online], April 2016. [[ochaopt.org/documents/idps\\_report\\_april\\_2016\\_english.pdf](http://ochaopt.org/documents/idps_report_april_2016_english.pdf), August 2016]

<sup>26</sup> "Women's unemployment reaches 'astronomical' levels in Gaza, group says" [online] in *Ma'an News*, February 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770376, August 2016]

OCHA<sup>27</sup>, in Shifa' hospital alone – the largest medical complex in the Gaza Strip – 3,800 patients are waiting for surgery with scheduled operation up to 2018, generating unnecessary pain and risks associated with delayed care. Most patients would need to be referred outside of Gaza although the continuous blockade would prevent such necessary movements. As underlined in 2016 UN resolution "Situation of Palestinian women", the ongoing violent context and the declining of health, education and living standards put women and girls at high risk of long-term psychological trauma.

Furthermore, relentless Israeli occupation and blockade directly echoes through internal violence in the Gaza strip including domestic violence against women, particularly for women whose families were displaced<sup>28</sup>. In addition, divorces significantly soared since 2014 in the Gaza community – reaching 15.8% for the year 2015. Prior and commonly acknowledged reason is the ongoing disastrous housing crisis which resulted from 2014 Israeli assault on the Strip and the continuous militarization of social life. Divorces judgments are particularly unfair to women. On that account, it is worth mentioning that the Higher Sharia Court Council in the Gaza Strip issued a decision in February granting husbands the right to file for divorce if their wives subject them to verbal or physical abuse<sup>29</sup>. Such ruling provides the husband the opportunity to divorce his wife while denying the rights she would be entitled in a divorce meanwhile statistics regarding husbands who would be abused at the

hands of their wives are – unsurprisingly – unavailable.

### *Slow and contentious evolution towards social security*

In April, Social Security Act n°6 brought major public attention including largest public demonstrations against the Palestinian Authority in years<sup>30</sup>. Cabinet members and President Mahmoud Abbas approved the law covering retirement benefits, maternity leave, disability, payments to families of deceased workers and obligation for companies to contribute to the Social Security Fund on behalf of their employees. The majority of workers' unions and many civil society organisations – including WCLAC – considered the shortcomings of the law as undermining the concept of social security. Among released information, proposed retirement pension – a monthly average of 700 shekels, which reaches only 50% of the minimum wage (1450 shekels) – does not fit with the cost of living and harsh economic situation in the Palestinian Territories. Such legislation would not provide the workers a pension that guarantees them a dignified life in the event of disability, aging and maternity<sup>31</sup>. Therefore, the previously proposed text was thought to undermine the role of women in the Palestinian labour market or discourage them from entering into the labour market. The law was even considered to be directly discriminatory against women<sup>32</sup>, since a woman registering in the system less than six months from the expected childbirth would not get the right to maternity leave. The law did not address the issue of

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<sup>27</sup> *id.*

<sup>28</sup> Catherine Müller and Laila Barhoum, Institute of Development Studies, *Violence against women in the Gaza Strip after the Israeli military operation Protective Edge 2014* [PDF online], October 2015, pp.49-52.

[ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/StudyVAWGazaafterIsraeliMilitaryOperationProtectionEdge2014ApSActionAid.pdf, August 2016]

<sup>29</sup> Rasha Abou Jalal, "How this new divorce law further marginalizes Gaza's women" [online; translation Joelle El-Khoury] in *AlMonitor – Palestine Pulse*, March 2016. [al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/03/gaza-husbands-file-divorce-abuse-by-women.html, July 2016]

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<sup>30</sup> "Thousands rally against PA approval of controversial social security law" [online] in *Ma'an News*, April 2016.

[maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771207, July 2016]

<sup>31</sup> Aziza Nofal, "Does draft Palestinian social security law really protect workers?" [online; translation Kamal Fayad] in *AlMonitor – Palestine Pulse*, January 2016. [al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/01/palestinian-social-security-law-workers.html, July 2016]

<sup>32</sup> Birzeit University, "The legal State of Palestine's social security law discussed" [online] in *News*, May 2016. [birzeit.edu/en/news/legal-state-palestine%E2%80%99s-social-security-law-discussed, July 2016]

informal work that concern Palestinian women in the first place.

Thus after immense pressure and multiple protests held by the civil society organisations and employees of the private sector, the Palestinian cabinet withdrew the previously proposed law, modified and ratified it taking into consideration the comments raised by different organisations and by the National Campaign for Social Security. On the 27th of September, the cabinet said in a statement that it ratified the social security law and forwarded it to the President Mahmoud Abbas to sign it. WCLAC is currently analyzing the ratified version of the law to report on what has been modified. The first reading of the law shows several changes demanded by the civil society have been taken into consideration; for example women now have to register in the system for three months instead of six from the expected childbirth to get maternity leave.

### *Education: success stories despite a precarious context*

Education has been another major focus in early 2016. Despite constituting one fundamental human right and key element of economic security, education remains deeply affected by the occupation. The case of Khadoori Institute located near Tulkarem represents one striking example. Israeli authorities built the annexation wall across the campus; besides, a chemical factory was transferred next to the campus in order to circumvent Israeli environmental laws. The factory highly pollutes the environment by poisoning the grounds of the agriculture-specialized institution. Israeli army often enters the campus and displays provocation. Hundreds of students have been arrested and injured in the past years. Tear-inducing agents in the air and exams come together on a daily basis. Testimony of one female student sheds light on the situation: "It's so stressful and scary being a student here. (...) I

don't feel safe anywhere on campus as a woman."<sup>33</sup> Palestinian universities are usual targets for the Israeli Occupation Forces, making students' environment unsafe and inadequate for successful curriculum.

On a positive note, three female students were elected this year as student presidents in West Bank universities. Student governments rule student unions that are in charge of enhancing student issues. Women got elected in Ahliya University in Bethlehem, and Al-Quds University's branches of Tulkarem and of Salfit<sup>34</sup>. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, female enrolment in higher education is nowadays higher than male enrolment<sup>35</sup>. During the 2014-2015 school year, there were 81,620 male students enrolled in Palestinian universities, compared to 127,505 female students. Furthermore, Palestinian female teacher won global teaching award in March. Hanan al-Hroub, from Dheishe refugee camp in the southern occupied West Bank district of Bethlehem, was awarded by the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize "for her work educating children in Palestine"<sup>36</sup>. Her teaching method focuses on mediation, non-violence and "teaching through playing" in order to deal with the trauma youth experience from their daily life under occupation. Additionally, Palestinian teacher Abeer Qunaibi from Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank was named on the top 50 shortlist for the 2017 Global Teacher Prize.

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<sup>33</sup> Steven Davidson, " 'This is not an environment to learn': Palestinian college struggles to exist next to IDF training ground" in *Mondoweiss*, May 2016. [mondoweiss.net/2016/05/environment-palestinian-struggles, July 2016]

<sup>34</sup> Sheren Khalel, "Women elected student body president at three West Bank universities" in *Mondoweiss*, May 2016. [mondoweiss.net/2016/05/elected-president-universities, July 2016]

<sup>35</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, *Women and Men in Palestine. Issues and statistics*, Ramallah, 2015.

<sup>36</sup> "Palestinian teacher wins global teaching award" [online] in *Ma'an News*, March 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=770684, July 2016]

# Highlights

## ***WCLAC awarded the certificate of compliance with the Palestinian NGOs code of conduct***

In a special ceremony organized by the NGO Development Center (NDC) in both Gaza City and Ramallah with the presence of representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), WCLAC was granted the Certificate of Compliance with the Palestinian NGOs Code of Conduct for two years. The certificate is a testament to WCLAC's compliance with the Palestinian NGOs Code of Conduct and committed to good practices which include Compliance with covenants and laws, Priorities of development, Participation, Networking & coordination, Transparency, Accountability, Equality & Inclusiveness, Good Governance, Prevent Conflict of Interest, Influence & Effectiveness, NGOs Integrity and Dispute Resolution.



## ***WCLAC briefs the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in oPt***

WCLAC's general director met with Mr Michael Lynk, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory in Amman, and briefed him on the impact of Israel's human rights violations on Palestinian women. WCLAC provided the Special Rapporteur with a brief analysis of the severe effect of Israeli violence on Palestinian women as they make half of the Palestinian population and as traditionally they have the role of the house main caretakers. The Special Rapporteur expressed the high importance of the work of the Palestinian civil society organizations especially that they ensure respect for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian territories.

## ***WCLAC plays a leading role in Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, UN special rapporteur on violence against women, visit to Palestine***

WCLAC has provided Ms. Šimonović, UN special rapporteur on violence against women,

with an in depth overview into Palestinian women's reality during her official visit to the Palestinian Territories through coordinating meeting with local organisations and other civil society organisations. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, WCLAC facilitated her visit to its emergency shelter and introduced her to its support to women victims of violence, including social and legal assistance under the National Referral System for women victims of gender based violence. Ms. Šimonović was then received at WCLAC's office in Hebron where she directly heard the personal stories of women and girls facing daily harassment and violations of their rights by the Israeli military occupation and Israeli settlers, such as students and teachers from Qurduba School. In addition to other meetings coordinated with the civil society organisations.

## ***MOU with a new grassroots partner, the Jericho Women's Charitable Society***

Building on its previous experience, WCLAC has aimed to support CBOs to provide

social and legal counselling in addition to awareness-raising in their constituencies. Thus WCLAC worked on extending its outreach through building a new partnership with Jericho Women's Charitable Society in order to provide women in Jericho and the Jordan Valley area with Social and Legal Aid. On February 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, WCLAC signed the new MOU with JWCS covering a period of 4 years. With the creation of a new partnership in Jericho, WCLAC now has partnerships covering the North and the Centre of Palestine, which will enable women in remote areas to access the different services and seek help when needed.

### ***Training agreement with the GUPW***

In September of this year, Palestinian Women General Union requested WCLAC to carry out training to its members in three governorates in the West Bank and UNSCR 1325. MOU was signed to carry out 105 training hours to 70 women. This agreement will enable women activists and leaders in civil society organisations and community-based organisations to receive training on methods of advocating for women's rights in times of conflict and under occupation based on UNSCR 1325 and subsequent UNSCRs. This training is very important as women will be empowered, through building the capacities of women's leaderships in monitoring and documenting Israeli violations against Palestinian women, and developing their capacities to conduct advocacy campaigns at the international level in order to highlight those violations and urge the international community to take measures to make the occupying power accountable for those violations.

### ***National conference on the National Referral System for women victims of violence***

WCLAC, in partnership with [Juzoor](#), organized a national conference on prospects and opportunities for developing the national referral system for women victims of violence. Held in July in Ramallah, [the conference](#) brought together current and future stakeholders,

including a number of Palestinian Ministries, with the aim of drafting recommendations to further develop the system. Participants voiced the need to further clarify the national referral system procedures while defining each partner's role and responsibility. Among the challenges, participants voiced their concern regarding lack of access to national gender-sensitive services for women from East Jerusalem and remote communities.

### ***Culmination of WCLAC's partnership with the Palestinian Authority influences national policies regarding women's rights***

This year, the Public Prosecution Office under the Attorney General established two new units aimed at protecting family members from violence. The Family Protection from Violence Unit will focus on all cases of violence within the family, including cases of violence involving children, the elderly and women as well as dealing with cases of femicide, sexual harassment and other gender-based violence. A Juvenile Unit was also established and will focus exclusively on protecting children at risk. Additionally, the Family Protection Law that WCLAC has been working on since 2004 has been drafted and reviewed by the Cabinet in 2016 and together with other civil society organisations WCLAC has worked on writing up the final draft. The final draft is planned to be reviewed by civil society organisations in 2017 before it is approved by the Cabinet. These developments are the culmination of several years' of work by WCLAC and other civil society institutions in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority to ensure effective protection against violence within Palestinian society.

### ***Jerusalem Project Phase II***

In 2016, WCLAC continued its extensive presence and work in East Jerusalem to promote women's rights and support women protection of violence. The Jerusalem project phase II (Wujood) was launched in May in cooperation with the Palestinian Agriculture Development Association (PARC); Palestinian Counselling



Centre (PCC); Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and funded by Oxfam Novib and the European Union. This three-year project aims to promote the active participation of the Palestinian communities and civil society in the old city, Silwan, Al-Tur, Esawwiyeh, and Sur Baher to access and protect their social, legal and economic rights. WCLAC's role in this project is to provide legal and social support to women

victims of violence through legal representation before the Shari'a court combined with raising-awareness programs that target women, students, professionals and CBOs, in addition to documentation of Israeli violations of IHL. The project contributes to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities in East Jerusalem.

## Challenges

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### *Occupation policies and political unrest*

During 2016, there has been an increase in the number of Palestinians killed, attacked or imprisoned. Night Raids on Palestinian homes happened on a nightly basis that left women, children and whole families traumatized. The systematic Israeli violation of Human Rights and International Law has manifested itself in both the Israeli army practices and the settler's violence during this period. This increase in violence meant more women refraining from leaving their communities to access social and legal rights. Our analysis of the situation leads us to believe that this occupation violence has resulted in an increase in domestic violence as whenever we have violence in the public sphere it is diverted into violence into the private sphere.

### *Fundraising Challenges*

WCLAC continues to face an important fundraising challenge, as a result of the last financial crisis and other political and humanitarian factors affecting the region. Challenges include much less funding available, more competition, less core funding and a strong shift in donors' policies towards special projects instead of programme funding. This has an impact on the ability of the Centre to meet its ambitions and the clients' needs. This comes with a whole set of other consequences, with some parts of WCLAC's core not being covered and the organisational structure of WCLAC (for

example in terms of staffing) being continuously challenged. WCLAC has taken several measures to limit some of the negative impact of special projects funding by trying to submit proposals that include core costs and current staff, yet this remains a challenge. Austerity measures were taken for the second semester through budget revision to ensure providing sustainable solutions to current challenges.

### *Internal organisational challenges*

In line with the recommendations of the external evaluation that was published in March 2016, WCLAC has embarked on a process of organisational change. WCLAC aimed to develop its structure and programs according to the external evaluator's recommendations and the comprehensive internal staff analysis in line with the strategic plan. The process of restructuring, which was officially approved by WCLAC's board of directors in August 2016, has been implemented in participation with the units' staff, heads of units and senior management. WCLAC has implemented the restructuring in a manner consistent with the provisions of the labor law and regulations enforced in the centre taking into consideration paying all benefits and rights of the end of service for the employees whose positions were closed. During the process of restructuring, WCLAC terminated nine permanent and temporary contracts of its staff, resulting in some job uncertainties and internal unrest among staff for a short while during the

summer until September. (See GD introduction). WCLAC was able to overcome those challenges, and is currently taking final fine-tuning steps to finalize this process and consolidate its work by the end of the first quarter of 2017. In this regard, the year 2016 has been a challenging one in which WCLAC had to make difficult decisions and conduct major changes to ensure the quality of its services, and its sustainability as a women's

human rights organization serving hundreds of women in Palestine annually, and in conducting advocacy initiatives to ensure policies, legislation and programs that are gender sensitive and in compliance with human rights and women's rights principles.

# Part II. Detailed Activity Report

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## Strategic goal 1: Contribute to the protection and empowerment of women suffering discrimination and violence

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### *1.1. Provide quality legal and social services that respond to the needs of women exposed to violence and discrimination*

Through socio-legal counselling and protection services, WCLAC provides better understanding of women for their rights that enables them to claim their rights either through social counselling or through the Sharia courts. During the year 2016 WCLAC managed to provide 1036 women with service related to their rights. 75% of the women who received social and legal counselling and consultation reported improved understanding of their rights, which increased the number of women seeking to claim their rights in the Sharia' and Civil courts. WCLAC worked in close coordination with its partner organisations, and 312 of the women helped by WCLAC were referred by partner organisations.

#### *1.1.1. Continuous thorough legal and social services to women in Palestine*

WCLAC offers free lifesaving services to women survivors of violence through our 4 branches in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Hebron and Bethlehem via a variety of methods. Over the reporting period, WCLAC provided long-term legal and social counselling to a total of 424 women between the age 16-55, 184 of them were from Ramallah and Jerusalem whereas 240 women were from the South of the Palestinian territories. WCLAC also provided social counselling to 21 women, and 86 women

received legal counselling, the majority received both legal and social services. 403 women received in-courts representation, 269 had one-off legal consultations through the helpline and helpdesk. Additionally, 25 women were hosted at WCLAC's emergency shelter; and 12 women and their families were helped through family counselling, whereas 4 women received e-counselling.

A total of 317 women filed cases in courts over the reporting period, and the number of legal files that WCLAC followed up on were 529, in addition to 188 cases that were still ongoing from previous years. The number of court cases that WCLAC has followed up on is higher than the number of women who filed cases in court due to the fact that a lot of times women file more than one case in court. During this year, 312 women were referred to WCLAC by partners, and 23 of the cases have received case conferences. WCLAC obtained 232 legal verdicts in favour of women. Through a process of mediation, WCLAC supported relevant parties in reaching durable solutions to the problems faced by WCLAC's women clients whereby the woman was able to claim some or all of her rights via agreements signed by the husband/family member to honour her rights without bringing the case to court. Further, 60 out-of-court settlements were reached through out-of-court settlements or mediation facilitated by WCLAC's team of lawyers and social workers.

#### *Provide one-time legal and social consultations*

WCLAC continues to provide one-time consultations to women (whether joint socio-

legal consultations or legal only), that assist women in finding answers for their social or legal problems and making decisions. One-time legal and social consultations include consultations provided to women after awareness-raising sessions, e-counselling, and helpline consultations. A big number of these consultations take place following awareness-raising sessions, where women would individually approach WCLAC lawyers and social workers and ask personal questions related to the topics discussed, and ask for advice on how to make the right decisions and what steps to take. In 2016, 88 women approached WCLAC team seeking consultation after awareness-raising sessions and out of the 88 women 45 were referred to WCLAC office to get direct legal or social aid.

Most of the consultations revolved around marital rights as well as divorce, gender-based violence especially from the husband, types of alimony, custody, age of custody, legal consequences for religion conversion and the rights of divorced women. WCLAC has also supported 4 women through the e-counselling services and sought to promote it through printing and distributing 1000 posters to different organisations and parties about the e-counselling service that WCLAC offers. During this period, WCLAC received 240 calls from women through the helpline<sup>37</sup> 50 of which were referred for long-term counselling to WCLAC's service unit.

***Success Story: WCLAC's lawyer obtain a woman's right to dowry***

A woman (R) approached WCLAC a year ago after her husband passed away in an accident in Kuwait. R. had her deferred dowry in gold in a bank safe deposit in her husband's name and she did not know the details of the gold (pieces, size, or shape of the gold). In addition, after the death of the husband the inheritance was to be transferred to the deceased legal heirs including his mother, father and underage children. WCLAC's lawyer raised a court case on behalf of R to claim the deferred dowry, on the basis of the dowry being a debt on the deceased and now the debt is inherited by his legal heirs. The lawyer proved her claim by providing written evidence that includes the marriage contract among other papers, which is an enough evidence to prove that the dowry should be given to R. Facing the judge's denial to R.'s claim, WCLAC's lawyer argued that in such legal procedure R. is not to provide any further evidence but the judge still insisted to deny R.'s claim. WCLAC eventually appealed the case at the Court of Appeal and was right to do so, since the judgment was in favour of R and she was able to claim the dowry in gold without having to go through extra procedures.

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<sup>37</sup> WCLAC offers access to legal and social support through a free helpline during WCLAC working hours (8am-3pm) and an online service operated round the clock by the Centre's lawyers and social workers on the number: **1800-80-70-60**.

### 1.1.2. Effective integrated and holistic protection system implemented by different sectors working on women protection

#### Provide emergency protection services to women whose lives are in jeopardy and survivors of violence

Since the beginning of 2016, WCLAC has hosted 24 women between the ages of 18-34 and 3 children at the protection shelter in Jericho. Out of the 24 women, 11 were single, 10 married, 2 divorced and 1 widowed woman. The women who sought protection at WCLAC's shelter had different problems and threats; 13 of them came to the shelter due to their families' refusal of their relationships, 3 had out of wedlock relations, 5 had suffered from GBV, 2 ran away after an imminent threat to their lives and 1 had ran away from the country and came

back. WCLAC managed to solve, protect and help 17 of these women to get back to their homes safely, and 7 of the women were referred to other protection shelters as their cases required longer stays at the shelter until there is no more threat to their lives, and one woman remained at WCLAC's shelter.

During the year 2016, WCLAC has noticed the influx of marital and social problems resulting from lack of women's knowledge on how to protect themselves and their privacy while using the widespread social media. Nine of the women at the shelter (single and married) have been blackmailed by men they have met through social media and therefore, flee their homes in fear of their lives.

The following tables indicate the numbers of women that WCLAC has provided services to, in different categories:

**Table 1. Type of Service Provided**

		<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Type of service</b>	Legal and social	29	223	65	<b>317</b>
	Legal	61	15	10	<b>86</b>
	Social	19	2	0	<b>21</b>
	Total	109	240	75	<b>424</b>

**Table 2. Case by Type and Place**

		<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Legal/social case</b>	Marital obedience	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
	Custody and visits	9	39	10	<b>58</b>
	<i>Nafaka</i> (alimony) incl. rent	87	208	22	<b>317</b>
	<i>Mahr</i> (dowry)	18	12	1	<b>31</b>
	Divorce	4	6	3	<b>13</b>
	Family/Marital conflict	34	54	14	<b>102</b>
	Rights issues	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
	Rent cost	2	2	0	<b>4</b>

**Table 3. Social Indicators of Women Clients**

		<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Level of education</b>	Unknown	1	4	2	<b>7</b>
	No formal education	2	4	2	<b>8</b>
	Elementary school	15	33	11	<b>59</b>
	Primary school	22	55	13	<b>90</b>
	Secondary school	25	98	22	<b>145</b>
	Higher education	44	46	25	<b>115</b>
		<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Age</b>	37 and over	28	47	25	<b>100</b>
	18 - 36	78	187	47	<b>312</b>
	18 and under	2	2	1	<b>5</b>
	Unknown	1	4	2	<b>7</b>
		<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	Abandoned	5	23	7	<b>35</b>
	Widowed	2	5	1	<b>8</b>
	Divorced	15	28	18	<b>61</b>
	Separated	2	4	7	<b>13</b>
	Married	12	62	17	<b>91</b>
	Engaged	1	6	0	<b>7</b>
	Single	10	9	2	<b>21</b>
	Sharia contract	10	8	0	<b>18</b>
	Urfi <sup>38</sup> contract	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	Temporarily separated	52	95	23	<b>170</b>

**Table 4. Type of work**

		<i>Number of Cases</i>
<b>Type of work</b>	Housewife	248
	Student	50
	Unemployed	20
	Private, government or civil society sector	88
	Informal work	18

<sup>38</sup> A *Urfi* or clandestine marriage is an informal marriage contract, not registered with the state authorities

Unknown	0
Total	424

**Table 5. Source of Referral**

	<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
Courts	23	87	1	<b>111</b>
Police	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
District councils	2	1	1	<b>4</b>
MoD	17	3	7	<b>27</b>
Health sector	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Other institutions	22	24	5	<b>51</b>
Individual	25	77	30	<b>132</b>
Lawyers	8	6	7	<b>21</b>
Centre's units	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
Other	12	31	29	<b>72</b>

**Table 6. Perpetrator**

	<i>Ramallah</i>	<i>South of the Pal. Territories</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<b>Total</b>
Immediate Family	5	14	1	<b>20</b>
Ex-husband	13	54	12	<b>79</b>
Husband's family	2	32	11	<b>45</b>
Husband	62	96	30	<b>188</b>
Fiancé	15	20	9	<b>44</b>
Other relatives/ neighbours	11	24	12	<b>48</b>

***Create one local and one regional protection network to develop women protection mechanisms***

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2016, WCLAC met with the two other shelters in the Palestinian Territories and MoD to discuss methods of finding means of protection for women victims of violence who are not part of the target group based on the national referral system. Based on the National Referral System there are seven categories of women who are excluded from being referred to the three existing shelters

among which are women who are suspected of collaboration with the Israeli occupation, sex workers, women with drug addiction, and women with psychological disorder.

Thus, there was an initiative taken by MoD and the three shelters (including WCLAC's) to think about a fourth shelter that will be equipped with specialized staff of social workers and psychologists who are well trained to deal with such cases.

### *1.1.3 Develop capacities of service unit staff to provide better services to women victims of violence*

#### *Provide service unit staff with knowledge and skills required to provide social, legal, protection services and awareness activities to women*

During 2016, the service unit staff met five times to discuss urging issues. The first meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2016 and discussed the 2016 action plan and ways of maximizing the efficiency of program implementation through using the internal expertise of the unit. The second meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, and it constituted a supervision meeting that was facilitated by one of the service staff members. This meeting thoroughly discussed polygamy and extra-marital pregnancy, two issues that create ethical and professional dilemmas for service providers as they are obliged to offer women options that may protect their lives but are difficult to make. A third meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April in Hebron to revise the work plan and work protocols. A fourth meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May to discuss the progress of the unit and the semi-annual report and a fifth meeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October in which the Action Plan for year 2017 was thoroughly discussed and work challenges and ways of mitigating them were dealt with.

Additionally, WCLAC held a supervision session for social workers, lawyers and the shelter housemothers. A supervision session was held for the social workers and lawyers in Jericho to be able to best deal with families of women staying at the shelter, and another supervision session was held for all the staff of the service unit to analyse the semi-annual report of 2016 and to measure the effect of the legal and social work that the unit conducts. A supervision session was also held with the shelter's housemothers.

WCLAC continues to develop and maintain the skills and competencies of its service unit staff and especially those who work with women

directly. To serve this purpose WCLAC has conducted training on "risk indicators" for the shelter's housemothers in Jericho during this year. The training was perceived as very enriching and important by the housemothers and they asked for a series of similar trainings. Towards the end of the year, three of WCLAC's social workers who work directly with women at the shelter and services have started psycho-social supervision sessions that are meant to help them express their feelings and emotions as they work with hard cases of women who have been subjected to different forms of discrimination and violence. The psycho-social supervision also aims at developing the skills of the social workers to be better equipped in supporting women.

### *1.2. Promote the level of social responsibility towards women's rights and eliminate discrimination against women*

#### *1.2.1. Increase awareness of local communities on elimination of discrimination and violence against women (women with disabilities, economic violence, and political discrimination)*

#### *Carry out awareness raising initiatives for women to increase their awareness of their legal and social rights in five years (including East Jerusalem)*

In 2016, WCLAC organised awareness-raising activities targeting 225 women, in areas of the West Bank with difficult political, social and geographical circumstances. After needs assessment, WCLAC's team sensed the need of the women in these areas for increased knowledge on issues related to their legal and social rights. Meetings were held in two remote villages in the South of Hebron, Tafuah and Hatta, in two refugee camps in Ramallah; Alam'ari and Qalandia refugee camp and in the



village of Za'tara and Khader in Bethlehem. The aim of these workshops is to educate women about their rights and allow them to freely discuss the issues they face daily and empower them to claim their rights. The discussions were highly interactive, indicating that women felt comfortable expressing their opinions. Discussions mainly revolved around marriage, divorce, custody, women legal rights and the societal pressure that women face. Feedback from housewives highlighted a better understanding of women's human rights, an enhanced ability to identify types of violence, and an updated knowledge of service providers available to protect them in their area.

The awareness-raising meetings conducted in the southern West Bank governorate of Hebron, governorate of Bethlehem and Ramallah were conducted as follows: 6 sessions in each location; Tafuah, Hatta, Alam'ari refugee camp, Qalandia refugee camp, Za'atara village and Alkhader village. The topics included discrimination against women in the Palestinian society, women inheritance rights, femicide, choosing one's partner, violence meaning and forms, and women's employability.

### *1.2.2. Empower local communities to support and protect women's rights*

#### *Develop skills of university students on identifying and combating discrimination against women*

WCLAC coordinated with Birzeit University, American University of Jenin and Hebron University to hold awareness-raising workshops with the title "Women's Rights, Human Rights". Students were very interested in the workshops and a high number of students registered. Each workshop in each university consisted of 4 working days and dealt with the following issues: discrimination against women in the Palestinian Penal Law and the Personal Status Law, family protection law, international legislations and the agreement of CEDAW. A total of 69 students attended those workshops in all three universities (female 54, male 15).

It is important to note here, that the law students emphasized the limited courses available for them on women in legislations and the almost non-existent courses on how laws discriminate against women.

The success of these awareness-raising sessions with students was manifested in the number of students who approached the trainers after the sessions to tell them about how much new information they learned during this workshop and expressing their interest to volunteer at WCLAC. One male student said: "It is the first time that I hear of the term 'gender' and 'gender roles' I never thought of it and no one ever talked to me about it". Another male student expressed that he thought women were granted all their rights in both the Palestinian legislation and Palestinian society, he never thought Palestinian women were discriminated against.

In addition to providing awareness-raising session to university students, WCLAC provides awareness-raising workshops to colleges. During this year, WCLAC held awareness-raising workshops consisting of 5 meetings about women issues at YWCA Vocational College, with an average of 20 students per meeting. The meetings covered a general understanding of the law, and discussed issues such as marriage and the specific laws involved when entering into a marriage. Of the main topics handled was violence against women and the rights of women victims of violence. One eye-opening topic for participants was the issue of inheritance. When participants were asked if any of their mothers had inherited anything only 2 out of 18 said yes and many participants came forward with their personal experiences on the issue. The meeting that followed was focused on inheritance and women's rights to inheritance. Stories of women who were economically empowered due to their claim of their inheritance rights were shared and discussed.

Additionally, WCLAC held four awareness-raising workshops in Beit Jala Vocational Training Centre in October for 34-38

female students. The meetings tackled issues of female inheritance, early marriage, gender-based violence and protection mechanisms in addition to children custody in case of divorce. Awareness-raising sessions were also held in Hebron in a vocational training centre, where the need for social and legal consultation was strongly felt by the social worker. The female students of this vocational training centre are young women who have been through divorce, separation, family violence or social pressure, thus a big number of the students approached the social worker for individual consultation after the sessions. This need for social and legal support is mainly coming from the patriarchal nature of their communities and the limited services in their city and lack of women's knowledge of the available services.

#### ***Develop skills of professionals, political and union activists on women's rights and advocating for these rights***

WCLAC believes that working with activists and professionals will equip them with skills and knowledge to design programs and messages that contribute to social change. During 2016, WCLAC held three awareness-raising workshops for professional, political and union activists on social and legal rights of women and these workshops were attended by 25 activists.

At the end of the workshops the participants gave their feedback which mainly revolved around the importance of such workshops and the need for more of them. Some activists already started suggesting activities and societal initiatives that could be carried out in support of women's rights.

#### ***Participate on the occasion of International Women's Day in coordination with partner organisations***

This year's focus topic for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was decided upon after a number of discussions among WCLAC staff. It was agreed that the annual focus would be women's economic empowerment and the intersection between women's economic and social rights. Accordingly, WCLAC worked on two main issues

regarding women's economic rights; women's inheritance rights and the social security law. A press release on women's economic empowerment was issued for the occasion of the International Women's Day and a conference entitled: "Women and inheritance: economic empowerment towards the promotion of women's rights" was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the same month. The conference focused on women's economic situation and how it impacts women's everyday lives. Speakers focused on women's access to their inheritance rights. The six-hour conference was attended by 95 people, respectively 71 women and 24 men.

The conference also drew attention to the social security law, especially on infringements to women's rights that the original draft bill introduced. In March the bill brought up social unrest along with debates and discussions at every level. In that context the centre coordinated the preparation of a special TV talk show scheduled on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, for the occasion of Women's International Day. The goal was to highlight social security issues. Ma'an News Agency accordingly gathered Ahmed AlMajdalani, former Minister of Labour who was the head of the National Committee on Social Security, Mr. Mounir Kleibo, representative of the International Labour Organisation, the main partners to the preparation of the draft law in Palestine, and Mr. Firas Jaber founder and researcher of the Observatory of Economic and Social Policies. The discussion paid attention to the main violations that the law would have introduced if it remained as it was in the draft, such as the excluding provisions the National Committee for the Preparation of the Law adopted. The fact that the civil society has not been involved in the preparation of the draft and the introduced discriminatory provisions against women led to an intense debate with the Head of the National Committee.

It is important to mention here, that the the Palestinian cabinet eventually withdrew the social security law that was proposed in the first quarter of 2016, modified and ratified it taking

into consideration the comments raised by different organisations and by the National Campaign for Social Security. On the 27th of September, the cabinet said in a statement that it ratified the social security law and forwarded it to the President Mahmoud Abbas to sign it.

Additionally, WCLAC participated in the preparation meeting for the women's unit within the governorate of Ramallah (Tawasol) which focused on the rights of women with disabilities and the suggested different activities that were implemented as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March activity series. WCLAC has also participated in a workshop with Juzoor and the women's centre at Aqaba refugee camp, the workshop was attended by 100 participants and discussed early marriage and legal age for marriage in the Palestinian law and the international law.

#### ***Participate and initiate activities related to 16 days on combating violence against women with partner organisations***

During the UN backed global campaign of 16 Days of Activism against GBV, WCLAC has partnered with different local Palestinian institutions and its partner grassroots organisations in Tubas, Tulkarem and Jericho. In partnership with grassroots different events were held including roundtable discussions on women's economic empowerment, awareness-raising sessions for university students, publishing 3 TV spots on stories of women who have achieved economic independency, and awareness-raising workshops on social media. The highlight of the 16-days campaign was the "Cybercrime and protection mechanisms" workshop held by WCLAC in Hebron. This workshop was open to the public and provided multiple speaking panels including speakers from the Ministry of Justice, Cybercrime Protection Unit at the police and local NGOs. The workshop was attended by 80 people from local residents, civil society organisations and ministerial officials.

#### ***Participate in national landmark events***

During 2016, WCLAC participated in a number of national landmark events including activities in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, activities calling for national unity and reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas, and the different events organised by civil society regarding the social security law. In total, WCLAC participated in 13 national events.

#### ***1.2.3. Develop capacities of community activists to protect women from violence and eliminate the negative practices against them***

##### ***Form local women's protection committees in one 'pilot' governorate to support protection provisions for women survivors of violence***

WCLAC established a protection committee in Tulkarem consisting of 17 volunteers (9 females and 8 males) from different governmental and non-governmental organisations who work in the field of human rights. The protection committee aims to address the limited provision of social services in the governorate and the relatively high rate of violence against women in Tulkarem. According to WCLAC's records and the PCBS Violence Survey in 2011, 60% of Tulkarem families have experienced direct settlers' and occupation violence. Additionally, according to the same source Tulkarem has the second highest percentage of gender-based violence in Palestine. As a result, WCLAC saw the importance of creating a local protection committee that advocates for women's rights, raises the awareness of men and women on GBV, senses the needs of the community and creates initiatives accordingly. The members of the committee were given multiple trainings on GBV, the role of men in fighting violence and on advocating for women's rights so that they are able to pass on these trainings, stand in the face of GBV and educate their community in order to limit violence. After the training, a lot of the participants asked WCLAC to hold regular meetings and training with men in Tulkarem and neighbouring villages to limit the effects of violence on women and children.

### *1.3 Develop capacities of community activists and grassroots women's organisations working on women protection and advocate for their rights*

#### *1.3.1 Extend women's service provision to underserved parts of Palestine through partnering and building the capacity of selected grassroots organisations*

##### *Continue developing the capacity of service provision staff at Tubas Charitable Society (TCS) and AlNajdah*

WCLAC has been following up on the quality of the work and the progression of implementing the work plan with grassroots organisations. This has been done through the following mechanisms:

##### *Specialized Supervision*

WCLAC works on providing grassroots service staff - lawyers and social workers - with the appropriate training that would enable them to provide high-quality legal and social consultations. In 2016, WCLAC conducted 18 specialized supervision sessions with AlNajdah and TCS grassroots organisations consisting of 54 supervision hours. The topics included: constructing and presenting an intervention plan for a case, constructive criticism within the working team, examining child custody lawsuits, economic empowerment and its role in supporting women survivors of violence. Sessions also focused on awareness-raising sessions and the possibility of unifying the materials. These interventions enabled both TCS and Al-Najdah to provide legal and social services and awareness-raising sessions to women in marginalized areas.

Al-Najdah society provided legal and social services to 87 women in need. Twenty

women were offered socio-legal services, 5 women were offered social services only and 5 women were offered legal services only. Additionally, Al-Najdah provided 57 women with social and/or legal counselling. Through Al-Najdah 53 women cases were taken to court, 37 of which obtained verdicts in favour and 16 cases were referred to different executive governmental departments for follow-up. Most of the women cases revolved around alimony, child custody and child reunion. During this reporting period, Al-Najdah also offered 38 awareness-raising meetings targeting 696 participants in Tulkarem and nearby neighbourhoods; Nour Alshams refugee camp, Saida, and Bal'a. The meetings discussed issues related to the Personal Status Law, alimony, early marriage, cybercrime, protection manual, gender-based violence, pre-marital guidance, divorce and separation. These meetings were mainly attended by housewives, university students, and women in the workforce.

TCS provided legal and social services to 144 women in need, 37 women were offered socio-legal services, another 31 women were offered social services only, and 6 were offered legal services only. Additionally, TCS provided 70 women with social and/or legal counselling, 40 cases were addressed in court out of which 25 verdicts were obtained in favour of women, and 10 cases were referred to different executive governmental departments for follow-up. TCS noted the increased level of trust between the women and the facilitators. Most of the women cases revolved around rights deprivation from family members or from the husband, physical and sexual violence, and family related problems including divorce, separation and alimony. TCS offered 44 awareness-raising meetings in Tubas and neighbouring areas - Aqaba, Alfar'a, Aatof, Bardala, Aljalameh, Alzababdeh, and Maythaloan. The meetings discussed issues related to violence against women, and the role of law in protecting women. These meetings targeted 767 participants (118 males), namely university students, high school students, housewives and men.

### ***Successful models (Woman to Woman)***

To encourage women to demand their rights, grassroots organisation held 4 workshops that were attended by 105 women, to present success stories of women who sought help from grassroots, and women activists. These women were able to lead successful lives after going through different marital-related hardships. The women shared their stories of early marriage, giving birth at a young age, societal pressure, not being able to pursue education, husband's family control and having an irresponsible husband. Then explained how they could gain confidence through the different awareness-raising sessions and the different trainings they got on women's rights. Now they are economically independent, one of them has pursued her education; another has started her own cooperation. The workshops were very successful and interactive and many women from the audience were encouraged to share their own stories and the challenges they face. The four women who presented their stories were asked precise questions how they were able to overcome all the society constraints and change their lives.

### ***Awareness Manual***

WCLAC has been working with its grassroots on the preparation of an awareness manual that gathers information and experiences from different social workers and lawyers who work directly in providing services to women. The manual will serve as a reference for the different steps and procedures taken by lawyers and social workers to protect women victims of violence. The final draft of the awareness manual has been prepared and is currently being reviewed and edited. Multiple discussion meetings have taken place to agree on the chapters, sections and content of the manual.

### ***Women's Rights leaflets***

Every year WCLAC works on producing women's rights leaflets and publications that are used to raise awareness in the Palestinian society on the different types of GBV. This year

WCLAC chose two topics that participants in awareness-raising sessions expressed need for more information on: premarital advice and incest. WCLAC held 10 meetings with Al-Najdah and TCS to decide on the discussion points and content of each leaflet. Both leaflets were finalized and printed and have been distributed in different awareness-raising sessions with grassroots.

### ***Monitor the quality of TCS & Al-Najdah's work***

WCLAC has been monitoring the progression of implementing the work plan with grassroots organisations through several follow-up meetings. This year, WCLAC held 22 programmatic follow-up meetings, 9 of which were carried out with the staff and management team of Al-Najdah, and another 13 with 7 of the TCS's team. A financial follow-up meeting was convened for both grassroots to review all financial procedures and provide constructive feedback. In addition to WCLAC supervising 4 awareness-raising meetings and accompanying in 6 court visits for both AlNajdah and TCS.

WCLAC has also been working on improving the capacity of grassroots organisations in their fundraising activities and relations with donors. During the reporting period, TCS received funding approval from the Representative office of the Czech Republic for a project aimed at economic empowerment for women through the production of traditional ornaments. WCLAC held 4 meetings with the grassroots to help develop funding proposals and discussing applications for specific funding partners. TCS and Al-Najdah submitted a shared application to Almultaqa and both grassroots (each on its own) have applied and were shortlisted for an Oxfam project. Furthermore, both Al-Najdah and TCS were able to foster relationships with the local community, through carrying out centralized activities and workshops during the week of 8th of March.

### ***Provide support to partners to better economically empower their beneficiaries***

During this reporting period WCLAC together with grassroots organisations scanned

for local organisations that work on women's economic empowerment. WCLAC and grassroots met with 8 local organisations that are located in Tubas, Tulkarem and neighbouring cities and started a cooperation that aims at providing women seeking legal and social aid with economic empowerment as well. So far grassroots referred 16 women to economic empowerment organisations. Grassroots also coordinated with a volunteer trainer from the Agriculture Relief Committee, who gave 4 training sessions to the women of Tubas about the production of dairy goods at home so they can compete in the local market.

***Build 5 local networks one in the North and one in the South, for referral between grassroots organisations and other organisations providing services in three sectors: social, health and legal***

As part of building local networks, WCLAC held at the beginning of the year 2 meetings with the Ministry of Women Affairs and suggested again the creation of new networks. Two meetings were also held with coordinators of communication groups in Tulkarem and Tubas to introduce them to the local networks. To make local networks better known two workshops with local key parties including the police, the local governorates, and local women organisations were held to introduce them to the importance of networking. The networks were indeed constructed during this year and currently 2 networks are fully functional. One is in the governorate of Tulkarem and the other in the governorate of Tubas. The networks consist of members from the family protection unit at the police, members of the Social Development Ministry, the Health Ministry and other officials. Each network has met 4 times to discuss the individual and collective roles of members in the network, and how each contributes. Members of the networks also got a 6 days training on coordination, cooperation and communication in order to best connect among themselves for the benefit of women victims of violence. The

training had 25 participants from both networks and it trained the participants on how to best utilize the national referral system, how to plan interventions and cooperate in implementing them and a discussion on cases from different governorates and best ways of intervening in those cases took place.

***Create and develop a new social and legal service provision program in the Jericho partner organisation***

WCLAC worked on extending its outreach, through building partnership with Jericho Women's Charitable Society (JWCS) last year in order to provide women in Jericho and the Jordan Valley area with Social and Legal Aid. During this year, WCLAC held 10 collective supervision meetings with 4 lawyers and social workers consisting of 30 hours. These supervision meetings mainly dealt with lawyers and social workers work conduct, creating safe space for the beneficiaries, challenges that staff might face at the beginning of their work, reporting standards, and examples of cases and the best options of interventions. WCLAC also held 16 operational training sessions consisting of 80 training hours for JWCS 4 staff members, and a 5-day workshop consisting of 30 hours for 12 JWCS staff members on Palestinian culture, sensitivities, dealing with patriarchal norms and its impact on GBV. The workshop trained the JWCS staff on the different approaches that they would need for inventions and for supporting women with their different cases.

In addition to that, WCLAC provided JWCS with a 7-days training on communication. WCLAC thoroughly explained the different official parties and ministries that should be approached for easier procedures in women's cases. A study day for all three grassroots for exchanging experiences and networking was also held during this year. Important discussions took place among grassroots about the different types of cases they receive as the locations and communities that they work with differ.

***Create and develop a new mobile counselling service in Jericho partner organisation***

A specialized team from WCLAC and JWCS conducted 14 visits to 7 remote and marginalized local communities in order to learn about the needs and necessities of women in these areas. After these visits 2 mobile clinics started operating in marginalized communities near Jericho; one in the area of Jiftlek and the other in Alfasayel. A social worker and a lawyer are present in the clinic on weekly basis. WCLAC provided the teams of the clinics with 5 training sessions (total of 30 hours) before they started working.

***Develop administrative, financial and programmatic policies and rules and regulations for the new partner organisation***

During 2016, WCLAC facilitated the development of a new computerized financial system for JWCS that has been using a manual financial system since 1963. JWCS saw this step as a great step for better financial documentation in their organisation. A three days training workshop for the financial and administrative assistants on different financial procedures including Bisan accounting system, was also provided by WCLAC.

***Monitor the quality of the Jericho partner organisation's work***

As JWCS is a new partner of WCLAC, WCLAC has been closely following up on the quality of the work and the progression of implementing the work plan. WCLAC conducted 8 follow-up meetings with 23 employees and Administration unit at JWCS that focused on the preparations for the JWCS opening event, the brochure, the website, the recruitment process, the 8th of March activities, the financial procedures and Bisan Accounting system, preparations for the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and other development and funding issues.

***Provide continued support to the service provision teams of Women for Life***

During this year, WCLAC has conducted multiple meetings with Women for Life, a grassroots that WCLAC was previously supporting until it could work on its own. The social and legal services program that WCLAC has initiated at Women for Life is still ongoing and is currently being funded by the UNDP. During those meetings ways of partnership and future cooperation were discussed.

***Success Story: A social and legal aid program in the Jordan Valley area***

For the first time in the Jericho governorate and the Jordan Valley area, WCLAC has created a social and legal aid program in partnership with a grassroots organisation (JWCS). The Jordan Valley area extensively lacks services provided to women which usually mean women have to go through the financial and physical trouble of commuting to Ramallah to obtain legal and social services. To ease this extra hardship, WCLAC has equipped 4 lawyers and social workers at the grassroots in Jericho with the necessary tools for working with women subjected to GBV. In 2016, the grassroots was successful in providing services to 70 women in Jericho and the Jordan Valley, in addition to creating mobile clinics in remote areas in and around the Jordan Valley.

### *1.3.2 Enhance the capacity of relevant sectors in protection of women and working under National Referral System*

#### *Evaluate the application of National Referral System and build a development plan*

After 6 years of implementation of the National Referral System, and its use by different parties and women organisations, WCLAC together with Juzoor for Health and Social Development decided to carry on a holistic evaluation of the system, its use and ways of developing it. WCLAC has created an internal committee of specialized staff to conduct this evaluation, and currently a process of procedures and regulations revision of when,

where and how to use the national referral system is ongoing.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, WCLAC in partnership with Juzoor organized a national conference on prospects and opportunities for developing [National Referral System](#). The conference brought together current and future stakeholders, including a number of Palestinian Ministries, with the aim of drafting recommendations to further develop the system. Participants voiced the need to further clarify the referral system procedures while defining each partner's role and responsibility. Among the challenges, participants voiced their concern regarding lack of access to national gender-sensitive services for women from East Jerusalem and remote communities.

## Strategic goal 2: Promote women's rights to access justice and eliminate discriminatory policies against women

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### *2.1. Contribute to the development of laws, policies and procedures to eliminate discrimination against women*

#### *2.1.1. Amendment of laws and policies in line with CEDAW*

##### *Contribute to preparing CEDAW shadow report to the PA and submit it to the PA and submit it to CEDAW special Committee*

WCLAC has played an instrumental role in the past in disseminating knowledge about CEDAW to both the government and the civil society organisations. WCLAC has been helping in the process of training government partners in writing the official report and the civil society organisations in writing the shadow report.

During this year, WCLAC worked on revising Palestinian legislations and comparing them with international conventions that Palestine has acceded into and especially CEDAW. WCLAC helped in coordinating different national discussions on the shadow report, so that it will be used as a monitoring and evaluation tool for the Palestinian legislation regarding women's rights.

WCLAC participated in 16 meetings on CEDAW, including training organisations and governmental bodies, national workshops with civil society, and meetings for preparing a draft of the main topics and headlines to be discussed in the shadow report. WCLAC has also submitted comments on the official report and presented these comments in a meeting with ICHR on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. As a whole these comments and edits were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).



WCLAC was represented in the main national committee for drafting the shadow report and in three sub-committees; personal status committee, peace and security committee and violence committee. The participation in these three committees in addition to the main committee for drafting the law allows WCLAC to have a leading role in writing the shadow report and to follow up on the integration of women's rights in all national laws and legislations, which would provide women in Palestine with higher ability to claim their rights. Currently the shadow report is still in the preparation process.

It is worth noting that the PA CEDAW report was approved by the Experts Committee of the National Ministerial Committee to Follow on Palestine's Accession to International Conventions headed by the Minister of Finance on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Accordingly the report was supposed to be sent to the President for approval but this was postponed awaiting ratification of the social security law and finalizing the National Development Plan to be included in the report. The report is currently expected to be sent to CEDAW Committee and the discussion will be held by the end of 2018.

WCLAC is also following up on the ratification of the family protection from violence law. A draft law was presented by the Cabinet and Prosecution Office supported by UN Women in a centralized meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 where discussion revolved around analysis of some articles and their compliance with HR and international conventions that the PA has

acceded to. The meeting was attended by Minister of Women Affairs, head of Prosecution Office, Prime Minister Office, and representatives of human rights and civil society organisations. This meeting was followed by a two-days' workshop on Aug 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 organized by the Cabinet and UN Women, which was attended by WCLAC and discussed components of the Law. In day 2 of the meeting, WCLAC presented its analysis and point of view on some articles in the law; especially mediation committees and their role in mediation between the spouses prior to legal intervention. Accordingly, a sub-committee was established from UN Women, Prosecution Office and WCLAC to formulate some controversial articles that were not agreed on to be presented to the MOWA, MOSA and the Cabinet for discussion and final incorporation in the Law. The Committee is scheduled to meet in order to provide suggestions prior to ratification, which is planned by April 2017.

*Carry out strategic impact litigation and legal procedures to introduce new legal tools to change and modify existing laws concerning women*

This is considered to be a very recent addition to WCLAC's activities. Currently WCLAC is developing its working scheme in strategic litigation especially that WCLAC's work in providing social and legal services to women, its work in documenting human rights violations, and its advocacy work will form a solid base for building up litigation cases. WCLAC will publish a paper on strategic litigation in Palestine and the past experiences in 2017.

### ***Success story: Integrating women with disabilities in public policy dialogue***

As part of WCLAC's strategic plan to empower women with disabilities, WCLAC has successfully integrated women with disabilities in policy dialogue at the national level. This development has led organisations that work with women with disabilities to join national campaigns and policy studies. For instance, during preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March activities with the governorate of Ramallah WCLAC noticed absence of organisations of women with disabilities among the participating organisations and called for the integration of women with disabilities in these discussions. As a result, the association Stars of Hope was encouraged to join Tawasol networks within their governorate and to take part in policy-making to review the proposed Social Security Law. Such inclusion was previously lacking and these organisations were usually working on their own without contact with other women's organisations.

### ***Review laws and policies that violate women's economic rights***

WCLAC focuses on women's economic and social rights in Palestine through advocating for a better Social Security Act, as it is the basic foundation for social justice. Since the end of 2015, WCLAC has been reviewing the drafts of the Law and examining it from a gender perspective to highlight the most prominent violations against women in this draft. In February 2016 the final draft was ratified and published in the official Gazette which means that it cannot be cancelled, and that's when WCLAC started campaigning to shed light on the most prominent violations against women in this law. As of this development, WCLAC has prepared and published an [analysis paper](#) in February on the Social Security law. Then held awareness-raising sessions for different institutions and organisations to shed light on the social security law from a gender perspective, including the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (25 participants), Inash Elusra Centre (65 participants), journalists from Ma'an News agency (25 participants) and Jawwal employees (80 participants).

WCLAC as part of the civil society organisations participated in two protests that were held in front of the Cabinet in refusal of the social security law and its gender-discriminate articles. WCLAC also held meetings with members of the PLC to inform them about the

campaign against the social security law and to mobilise them to join and support this campaign.

After immense pressure and a very active and collaborative civil society campaign the Palestinian cabinet withdrew the previously proposed law, modified it and ratified it taking into consideration the comments raised by different organisations and by the National Campaign for Social Security. The modified version is currently at President Mahmoud Abbas's office waiting for his approval.

### ***2.1.2. Shed light on policies, laws and practices in place that deal with femicide and sexual violence***

#### **Document cases of femicide and sexual violence**

WCLAC continues to be a reliable resource in documenting cases of femicide and incest in Palestine, WCLAC is preparing an Analysis Report about femicide that focuses on the legal analysis of femicide based on the Jordanian law of 1960 that is implemented in the West Bank. During 2016, there has been 18 femicide cases, 7 in Gaza and 11 in the West Bank. Most of the femicide cases took place in the first half of 2016 and revolved around family fights or problems and unknown reasons of family killing. WCLAC's field researchers visit the Police Department and the Public Prosecution Office on regular basis in different governorates

to get familiar with the different official employees working on femicide cases. These exchanges instil a reliable communication line between WCLAC on the one side and the Public Prosecution Office and police departments on the other.

### *Prepare analytical report with recommendations on incest cases documented by WCLAC*

WCLAC has worked extensively on an analytical report on cases of incest and a final draft has been prepared. The analytical report will be published within the first quarter of 2017.

## *2.2. Advocate for women's rights at the local, regional and international levels*

### *2.2.1 Engagement in active networks and coalitions to support women's rights*

#### *Effectively represent WCLAC within its current coalitions and networks*

During this reporting period, WCLAC has participated in drafting statements and committed to periodic meetings and activities of the Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Council (PHROC). The PCHRO has drafted, signed and published 13 statements during this year that were inclusive but not limited to the following topics: status of human-rights defenders in Palestine, nomination of Israel to head the UN General Assembly sixth committee, and 68 years of Palestinian Nakba and oppression.

WCLAC has also participated in 3 meetings with the National Committee for Women's Labour as part of its follow-up of the national plan. Two of those meetings were held to discuss and comment on a draft manual on women labour rights, and the third meeting was held in the presence of the ILO Fact-finding Mission.

Additionally, WCLAC has participated in all meetings held by the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and its subcommittees, the first meeting was held during the first half of the year and it put working strategy for the committee for the next 6 months and the other was held on the with MoWA and MoD to resume work on the internal procedures of the committee. WCLAC has participated in the committees "16 days of activism against gender-based violence" campaign activities.

WCLAC has also taken part in meetings with the National Team for Media Development Initiative during which we have worked on preparing a document entitled "Gender-sensitive policies" that was prepared in order to be signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. An event was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March for the occasion of the international women's day in Jericho in which more than 250 people participated and signed the document (including WCLAC).

WCLAC is an active member in the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the Gender Working Group. In 2016, WCLAC has participated in a workshop meeting for strategic litigation and the roles of lawyers, activists, and researchers in it. The workshop meeting was held from the 28<sup>th</sup> of March till the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. WCLAC has also been part of the discussion meetings on the strategic plan for the gender group within the Euro-Med and the future strategic plan for the Euro-Med Network.

Moreover, WCLAC continues to be an active member in 22 of the Arab-World coalitions and networks, including but not limited to the following: the Palestinian Council of Human Rights Organisations (PCHR), The National Committee for Women's Labour, Al Muntada, SALMA Network, AISHA Network (Arab Women's Forum), The Arab Network for Monitoring and Changing the Image of Women and Men in Media (ANMCWM), Musawa Coalition, The Arab Network for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (ANHRE), Euro-

Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the Gender Working Group, and other networks and conferences.

## *2.4. Improve women's position in the media and combat negative attitudes against them*

During this reporting period, WCLAC's communication officer took part in 10 meetings with media professionals and different coalitions to promote their role in combating discrimination against women.

Among those 10 meetings, a meeting was held with Mada centre to discuss the draft law of the Higher Media Council that the Palestinian President had approved few days before the meeting. The Draft Law concerns the formation of a Higher Media Council but the president's approval of it came as a surprise to the civil society especially that they were not involved in the process of its creation and not consulted on its mandate. Eventually the president went back on his approval of it and presented it for re-discussion.

WCLAC's relationship with MoWA has developed in the year 2016, through active participation in the National Team for Media Campaigns among other things. WCLAC was part of an MOU that was agreed upon between MoWA and AlHaya newspaper, in which there would be a monthly column within the newspaper dedicated for women's issues. The first time this column was included was in December 2016, and WCLAC has contributed through writing the column article entitled "The minimum wage, women benefiting the least".

### *2.4.1 Follow-up and document and analyse women's image in the media from a gender perspective*

Currently, WCLAC is gathering information and monitoring the way women and women's issues are portrayed in the local and international media. In the first half of the year

2017, WCLAC will mobilize volunteers to work on documenting these perceptions and producing a report.

### *Develop level of media coverage of women's issues and violations of their rights*

During this reporting period, WCLAC has prepared and published its [annual newsletter](#) for 2015. The newsletter consisted of 48 pages including; an introduction, an article in remembrance of WCLAC's co-founder and general director from 1991-2015 Mrs. Maha Abu Dayyeh, WCLAC's 2015 highlights, article from WCLAC staff, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March activities, and the newsletter highlight of capacity building for Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

This year, WCLAC produced 64 press releases and 10 reports that were covered by 44 media outlets, in addition to 9 general statements published in 15 different media sources. Different WCLAC staff members have conducted 25 media interviews in different occasions with media outlets concerning the work WCLAC does. During this period, WCLAC has also covered 22 different news on women's issues and published them with 122 news outlets.

### *Develop the Arabic and English website*

WCLAC has kept its website and Facebook pages updated throughout this reporting period. The centre has published 151 updates on its Facebook page and 6 videos and sound records during 2016. The updates included different WCLAC activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, coverage of the social security law developments, TV interviews with WCLAC general director and employees, articles written by WCLAC employees and different laws and news on women's issues.

### *Carry out training workshops for media professionals on women in the media*

WCLAC held two-days training workshop on gender and gender-based violence with Ma'an news journalists in Jericho. In the first day the workshop discussed gender-based

discrimination and violence and its manifestation in the personal status law. While in the second day, the discussions revolved around the stereotypical image of women in media and how could the participants as local journalists change this image and shape the public's perception of women in the Palestinian society. The workshop was attended by 28 journalists out of which 15 were males and 13 were females. Participants expressed their great satisfaction with these training workshops, as for some of them this has been the first time to learn about gender and especially in the Personal Status Law. After the two-day workshop, trainers were approached by journalist participants and asked about the best way to integrate gender-topics in TV shows.

Currently, WCLAC is coordinating with Ma'an news and other news agencies to hold another workshop for the same group of journalists on different gender-related topics.

## *2.5. Empower youth networks of defence and advocate for women's rights*

### *2.5.1 Expand the network of volunteers to advocate and mainstream women's rights in their communities.*

*Build the capacity of volunteer groups (Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, Tulkarem, Nablus and Qalqilia) in organising community activities that contribute to the political, economic, social and legal empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for the exchange of best practices.*

WCLAC believes that working with volunteers is a cost effective way to change negative attitudes and behaviour towards women through building a network of volunteers who learn to identify and condemn negative practices in their own communities, and who magnify WCLAC's criticism of rights abuses against women through organising a large

number of well-grounded peer-to-peer learning events spreading information on women's rights.

WCLAC further believes that supporting volunteers, many of whom are women, is an effective way to empower women with professional skills helping to improve their status and self-esteem and open up to them roles in the public sphere, including paid work.

In 2016, WCLAC has formed three new volunteer groups one in each of the following governorates: Tubas, Tulkarem and Hebron. Eleven coordination visits were held with different community-based women organisations and with Palestinian universities in order to form these 3 new volunteer groups. The 3 volunteer groups consist of 75 female and male volunteers.

WCLAC held 16 legal and social awareness-raising meetings for 31 new volunteers in cooperation with the grassroots organisations and 26 follow-up meetings for new and old volunteers (total 78 hours).

The new volunteers were introduced to WCLAC and its program plan, they met with the former volunteers who shared their experience and they got training on women's issues within the Palestinian society and the reality of women in Palestine. WCLAC also held 2 training days for each of the new volunteer groups in which the history of the Palestinian women movement, its development and its current status was discussed.

### *Supervise volunteer groups in implementing youth initiatives that contribute to changing negative attitudes towards women's issues*

WCLAC provides an ongoing support to volunteer groups in implementing youth initiatives. At the end of 2015, the volunteers group in Qalqilya documented a women success story in a short movie called "Success starts with a dream". The purpose of documenting the story was to present it in different locations with different audience as to contribute to a positive perception about women's independence and work. Three workshops were held in the governorate of Qalqilya in 2016, one in the

village of Habla, another in Kufr Thulth and a third in Hajja village, with an audience of 130 people from governmental, non-governmental and civil society organisations in addition to local residents. The workshops had a very positive feedback from the audience, especially as women from the audience were very active in the discussion of the movie after its projection and they shared their own limits and challenges.

Another initiative was carried out by the volunteer group in the governorate of Qalqilya, where they went to the village of Siniryra and volunteered in cleaning the village in order to encourage the residents of the village to cooperate in keeping their village clean.

Additionally, the volunteer group in Tubas wanted to highlight the importance of youth voting in local elections, which is a right that youth often don't practice. Thus they prepared an act or a sketch with the title "youth voice" and they performed it in front of the municipality building in Tubas targeting school and university students. The sketch was very successful and more than 80 people, mostly students, gathered to watch it.

The volunteer group in Tulkarem held a series of awareness workshops that were attended by 155 youth and discussed electronic crime, blackmailing, and GBV. Similarly, the volunteer group in hebron held awareness workshops on GBV and electronic crimes that were attended by 84 housewives and students.

## *2.6. Document Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian women and develop effective tools to present them*

### *2.6.1. Highlight the gender-specific impact of human rights violations on Palestinian women*

During the year 2016, international advocacy work built on previous years'

achievements. WCLAC collected 126 testimonies from women living under occupation in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The testimonies cover a number of issues including home demolitions, denial of family rights, settler and soldier violence, arrests and night raids. WCLAC produced and posted 112 [voices](#) on WCLAC's English Language website. The Voices were based on the testimonies collected by the field workers and reflected issues that affected a relatively large number of women in diverse geographical areas. The Voices were 600-800 words long and were supported by a photograph. This advocacy tool is easily accessible, reader-friendly and highlights the human impact of human rights violations on women.

WCLAC also issued and distributed 11 monthly Bulletins electronically and on social media. The Bulletins covered a diverse number of issues and included original materials. The Bulletins also covered domestic issues that affect Palestinian women and also highlighted some of WCLAC's other unit's work and achievements. During this reporting period, WCLAC issued a total of 6 [public statements](#). The statements covered the following issues: resignation of the Special Rapporteur on oPt due to lack of access to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967; targeting of a local activist and WCLAC field worker; summary of WCLAC's evidence collected during 2015; shooting of local activist; a statement on the occasion of International Women's Day, and a statement on UN submissions on night raids.

WCLAC lodged 4 UN [submissions](#) to Special Rapporteurs, 1 submission to the CEDAW Committee's pre-sessional Working Group, conducted 7 briefings and published 2 articles. WCLAC also addressed visiting delegations and helped shape their understanding of what is really taking place on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory. Many vowed to commit time and resources to help raise awareness in their own communities.

WCLAC's English language [website](#) continued to be active and regularly updated with new and original materials. Social media provided a platform for expanding outreach and for accessing audiences which would otherwise be beyond our reach. Two articles highlighting the impact of Israel's violations on women were published on websites and blog pages of other organisations which expanded WCLAC's outreach.

### *2.6.2. Rally international support for Palestinian women among governments, parliaments and civil society*

*Networking with civil society organisations, solidarity groups, and women's organisations in a number of countries and making attempts to attract non-solidarity groups*

Ongoing effort has been put into building a vibrant network of civil society organisations around the world. As a result, during this reporting period WCLAC was approached by CIDSE, an international alliance of Catholic development agencies working together for global justice, to contribute an [article](#) to the CIDSE web log on the occasion of 49 years since Israel occupied Palestine. The article was an effective tool to highlight WCLAC's work and to shed light on the impact of 49 years of occupation on Palestinian women.

Four delegations were accompanied on field visits to friction points where they listened to women as they described the daily hardships they face as a result of Israeli's policies and practices.

WCLAC was able to address about 200 people during this reporting period. The presentations highlighted the impact of Israel's human rights violations on women and described the human cost of nearly 5 decades of military occupation affecting all aspects of Palestinian lives. WCLAC evidence shows that Palestinian women are violated from an IHL perspective by Israeli occupation practices.

## *2.7 Work towards holding Israel accountable for human rights violations*

### *2.7.1 Use UN mechanisms to hold Israel accountable to its violations to IHL*

At the beginning of this year, a representative of WCLAC gave an oral testimony in Amman / Jordan to the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the occupied Territories and highlighted the impact of Israeli human rights violations on Palestinian women living under Israel occupation. WCLAC also gave the Committee a written submission which contained a summary of human rights violations documented by WCLAC in 2015.

WCLAC also lodged a written submission with the CEDAW Committee pre-sessional Working Group prior to reporting by Israel and made some concrete suggestions to the committee to be considered as they meet to finalise the "list of issues" that the Committee will ask Israel to report on. WCLAC's submission highlighted the human rights violation that affected Palestinian women during the 18 months between (Jan 2015-Jun 2016) and was based on evidence collected by WCLAC during this period. The submission focused on the following issues: Night-raids conducted by the Israeli military on Palestinian homes; settler violence; human rights defenders; unlawful transfer of female prisoners; property destruction; and general issues affecting women in Gaza.

Four [submissions](#) were lodged with the following 5 UN Special Rapporteurs during this reporting period:

1. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders;

2. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences;
3. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Peaceful Assembly and of Association;
4. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967;
5. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

The submissions covered repeated attacks on local activist (2 submissions), a summary report on human rights violations documented by WCLAC during 2015 in addition to a follow up submission on night raids and arrests based on 50 testimonies collected by WCLAC in recent months.

#### *Attend CSW sessions with parallel events*

A delegation of 4 people represented WCLAC at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW560) which was held in New York in March of this year. The team gave presentations, attended side events, networked with women's rights organisations from around the world and used the opportunity of being in New York to meet with partners and donors.

## *2.8 Empower Palestinian women and provide them with opportunities to communicate their own messages and to express themselves to the outside world*

### *2.8.1 Enable Palestinian women in Area C and near the Wall to*

### *communicate their stories with international delegations*

#### *Train local women in area C and near the wall to present their cases to international delegations*

The field work coordinator continued to work intensively with the field workers and with the affected women whom they interview to improve their communication skills and to encourage them to tell their powerful human stories. Four delegations were accompanied on field visits to seam zones during this reporting period where they listened to women as they described the daily hardships they face as a result of Israeli's policies and practices.

### *2.8.2 Provide ongoing training for field workers and the coordinator*

Ongoing supervision and training of the small number of fieldworkers took place through on the job-training and one-to-one coaching. The fieldworkers' documentation and writing skills improved tremendously. This activity was conducted by the Unit's field work coordinator who demonstrated outstanding ability to coach the fieldworkers and to gently push them towards excellence. Additionally, WCLAC's field work coordinator was selected for intensive training to enable her to conduct advocacy activities both locally and abroad. She took part in CSW60 Pilot Training/Workshop conducted by The Centre of Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) between the 10<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> of March in New York. The main objectives of this training were: to enhance the understanding of the human rights framework and create a space for strategic advocacy in policy spaces. This will be achieved by utilizing the opportunity presented in CSW60 in addition to identifying upcoming regional and global opportunities and strategies for engagement at each level.



# Strategic goal 3: Develop institutional and human capacity in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of WCLAC

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## *3.1. Develop WCLAC policies and procedures*

### *3.1.2 Enhance WCLAC's programme and information management system*

#### *Develop WCLAC library*

During this reporting period, WCLAC has inserted 231 books on WCLAC's electronic library catalogue. Additionally, 98 new books on women's rights have been purchased; 71 of them for the Ramallah office library and 27 for WCLAC's Hebron office library.

Due to WCLAC's rich library many visitors come to read and photocopy books on women's issues. In 2016, 192 visitors (159 females and 33 males) have come to WCLAC's library

#### *Establish WCLAC book club*

At the beginning of each month WCLAC prepares a summary or an overview of two books and sends them to its internal mailing list and publishes them at Al-Quds Newspaper. This activity enables those interested in gender-related topics to know the books at WCLAC's library and use them. Over the year 2016 WCLAC has prepared 24 books summaries and have published them at Al-Quds Newspaper.

## *3.6.1 Maintain and Diversify of funding resources*

### *Maintain ongoing donor's relations*

In response to the challenges presented by the scarce funding and the austerity measures taken by WCLAC, WCLAC 's funding strategy focuses on maintaining current funding and exploring new regional and international funding in addition to new areas such as crowd-funding. During the year 2016, WCLAC funders numbered 15.

### *Provide ongoing reports and briefings*

WCLAC's external relations department keeps partners and donors informed of its work through mailing lists, bulletins, success stories and general reporting. The unit produces tailored reports on specific projects to inform the project orientated donors of the project's process and outcomes. Over the reporting period, 2 general reports and 24 special reports were prepared. Additionally, 6 success stories were prepared and included in reports. Partners and donors are also regularly accompanied on field visits to programme sites to enable them to see the work WCLAC carries out. Feedback from the donors remains very positive, and WCLAC continues to respond well to new requirements, delivering high quality reports to deadline.



للإرشاد القانوني والإجتماعي

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UN Special  
Consultative  
Status,  
ECOSOC

WCLAC enjoys special consultative status.

## *Appendices*

### *Appendix A: Awareness-raising workshops for vulnerable women*

<i>Location</i>	<i>Partner (where applicable)</i>	<i>Group and number attending</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>No. of sessions</i>	<i>No. of one-time legal consultations and referrals to WCLAC</i>
<b><i>CENTRE</i></b>					
<b><i>Al-Amari refugee camp</i></b>	Rural Women's Development Society	20 housewives	Introduction about WCLAC work and what are the services provided to support women, societal discrimination against women in general, marriage and legal and social dimensions for it, film show "Engagement Ring", socialization and its role, film show "Heek Al kanoon", divorce, violence against women and the legal and social dimension for it, evaluation	6	4
<b><i>Qalandia camp</i></b>	Majedat Alquds Society Charity	17 housewives	Introduction about WCLAC work and what are the services provided to support women, marriage and the legal and social dimensions for it, violence against women, types of violence, Personal Status issues, alimony, custody, divorce, labor law and economic rights and labor issues for women, women's right to inheritance, evaluation	6	6
<b><i>SOUTH</i></b>					
<b><i>Hatta village</i></b>	The village council of Hatta	25 housewives	Personal Status issues, alimony, custody, divorce, marriage and the effects resulting, marital rights, gender-based violence, sexual assault, evaluation	6	5
<b><i>Tafooh village</i></b>	Tafooh Charitable Association	26 housewives	Personal Status issues, alimony, custody, divorce, domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual assaults, evaluation	6	8
<b><i>Al Khader village</i></b>	Rural Women's Development Society	25 housewives	Violence against women, Personal Status law in Palestine, inheritance, domestic violence, evaluation	6	9
<b><i>Za'atara village</i></b>	Rural Women's Development Society	17 housewives	Marriage and the effects resulting, marital rights, domestic violence, divorce, custody, alimony in the Palestinian law, evaluation	6	6

**Appendix B :Workshops for students**

<b>University</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>	<b>No. of hours</b>
<b>Young Women's Christian Association</b>	Women's rights Human rights, Introduction about WCLAC work and the services provided to support women, Discrimination issues in Palestinian society and the reasons for discrimination, violence against women and its forms and effects, Penal Code, domestic violence, marriage and legal and social dimensions for it, film show "Engagement Ring", divorce and legal and social dimensions for it and its effect on women, inheritance and the legal dimensions for it	20	18
<b>Bethlehem Vocational Training Center</b>	Early marriage, alimony, divorce, The mechanics of intervention with women victims of violence, film screening "Zenzana Bela Rakam", custody, inheritance, Self-affirmation	34	18
<b>Hebron Vocational Training Center</b>	Early marriage, alimony, divorce, The mechanics of intervention with women victims of violence, film screening "Zenzana Bela Rakam", custody, inheritance, Self-affirmation	35	18
<b>Arab-American University, Jenin</b>	Women's Rights are Human Rights Course	19 (10F; 9M)	20
<b>Birzeit university</b>	Women's Rights are Human Rights Course	25 female	20
<b>Hebron university</b>	Women's Rights are Human Rights Course	25 (19f; 6M)	15

**Appendix C: Awareness-raising activities with partner groups**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Sureef/ Hebron	Action Aid	Housewives	30	Awareness session on Personal Status Law
Hebron	Women's Studies Centre	Bereaved women	6	Evaluation of bereaved women program
Hebron	Sos and Family Development Society	Housewives	14	Assessing the activities of Family Development Society
Hebron	Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development	Feminist frameworks, martyrs mothers	75	Make the idea of series reading succeed, in honor of the martyr Baha Alyan, the owner of idea of the longest mankind chain, and Feminist for reading about Jerusalem
Bethlehem	Bethlehem institutions	The Commissioners of Bethlehem institutions	120	Conference on women in areas c
Al-Quds Open University	Association Of Women Committees For Social Work	University students	120	Awareness session on The importance of empowering women economically

Al Fawwar camp	Organized by WCLAC and Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development	Women in the camp	24	Awareness session on Women and inheritance
Palestinian Charitable Family Planning and Protection Association	Palestinian Charitable Family Planning and Protection Association	Hebron institutions that target women	14	Coordination the work of institutions that target women in Hebron, especially activities related to women's rights, especially reproductive rights
WCLAC Hebron office	Hebron University, The Independent Commission for Human Rights	University students	23	Awareness session on WCLAC work and activities, and mechanisms intervene with women victims of violence, Women's rights in personal status law and CEDAW
WCLAC Hebron office	Women's Centres in Hebron	Spammers and women's centres	20	Awareness session on Women and inheritance
Old city/ Hebron	Women Work Association	Women from the old city	20	Awareness session on Economic empowerment of women
Inash Alusra Society	Organized by WCLAC, and Social and Economic Policies Monitor (Marsad)	Workers in the society	65 (56F; 9M)	Awareness session on The most prominent violations in social security law, and violations of gender
Ma'an News Agency	Organized by WCLAC	Media professionals in Ma'an News Agency	25 (19F; 6M)	Awareness session on Women in the Social Security Law
Jawwal Company	Organized by WCLAC	Workers in the company	80	Awareness session on The Social Security Law
Tel Al Rumeida/ Hebron	Organized by WCLAC	Women in Tel Al Rumeida	19	Awareness session on Women and inheritance
WCLAC Hebron office	Activists in political parties	Activists in political parties	25 female	Three awareness sessions about Palestinian women in legislation
WCLAC Hebron office	Trade unions and labor unions	Representatives from Trade unions and labor unions	19 (15F; 4M)	Three awareness sessions about Palestinian women in legislation
Hebron	Palestinian police, Hebron province	Number of organizations	80	Workshop on "electronic crimes and protection mechanisms."

**Appendix D: International Women's Day, 8 March**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
<i>Ibn Rushd Square</i>	General Union of Palestinian Women;	Participate in a pause in solidarity with the families of the martyrs	Families of the martyrs	Number of Human rights organizations and

	Human rights organizations and women's organizations			women's organizations; number of women
<i>Bethlehem Governorate</i>	The Independent Commission for Human Rights	Participate in honoring of working women in the social field	Field workers of women from the partner institutions	Number of people from the partner institutions; number of field workers of women
<i>Hebron</i>	All spammers and feminist institutions in Hebron	Feminist march	Members of women organizations, frameworks	100
<i>Hebron</i>	Spammers feminist	Workshop on "The Social Security Law"	Political forces, political parties, spammers feminist	80
<i>Tubas</i>	Tubas Charitable Society	Workshop and Exhibition for feminist products	Official institutions, civil society organizations, activists, individuals	230
<i>Tulkarem</i>	Al- Najdah	Workshop on "Women's economic empowerment through productive cooperative"	Official institutions, civil society organizations, activists, individuals	80
<i>Jericho</i>	Jericho Women Charitable Society	Workshop on "The Economic empowerment of women and their role in development"	Official institutions, civil society organizations, activists, individuals	30
<i>Ramallah</i>	Pyalara	Participate in march on the occasion 8 <sup>th</sup> of March	Organizations, individuals	Number of organizations, individuals
<i>Grand Park Hotel</i>	Organized by WCLAC, YMCA, Women's Affairs Center in Gaza, Dan Church Aid	Conference on "Women and inheritance: economic empowerment and its role in promoting women's rights"	Organizations, ministries, people, volunteers	95 participants (71F; 24M)
<i>Jericho</i>	Organized by WCLAC, Juzoor, Women's Center in Aqbat Jabir	Workshop on the "early marriage", and the most important legal and social justification for modifying the age of marriage and linked to the rights guaranteed in international charters and conventions	Women and men	100

**Appendix E: 16 days of activism combating violence against women**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
<b>Jericho</b>	Jericho Women Charitable Society	Open day and theatrical presentations on violence, and charity bazaar	Official institutions, civil Society organizations, local community, Women, Men	66 participants; 28 of them men
<b>Tulkarem</b>	Al- Najdah Society	A workshop on "Electronic crimes and their impact on women"	Official institutions, civil Society organizations, local community, Women, Men	84 participants; 20 of them men
<b>Tubas</b>	Tubas Charitable Society	Workshop on "Social networking sites and family problems"	Official institutions, civil Society organizations, local community, Women, Men	56 participants; 5 of them men
<b>Hebron</b>	Palestinian police, Hebron province Office	A workshop on "electronic crimes and protection mechanisms."	Organizations	80 participant; 12 of them men

**Appendix F : International and National landmark days**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Hebron University	Hebron University, university students, political forces	Participate in the National Reconciliation Conference	The university students	200
The street of martyrs/ Hebron	Political institutions in Hebron	Calling for the opening of martyrs street in Hebron	The occupation	150
Halhul	The General Union of Palestinian Women, Women's Studies Centre	Visit solidarity with the prisoner family Dima Wawi	Dima family	4
Office of the Governor of Hebron	Representatives of civil society organizations	Discuss the dimensions of civil peace in the province, the role of the tribes, especially in women's issues	Representatives of civil society organizations	Number of civil society organizations
Ramallah	The Ministry of Women's Affairs in partnership with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs "Asala"	Participate in the bazaar "Nawar al looz"	Organizations, women, students, children	Number of organizations, women, students, children
Ramallah Cultural Palace	Ministry of Culture	Participate in the National Culture Day	Organizations, ministries, people	Number of organizations, peoples

Al Bireh Cultural Center	Al Bireh Public Library, Dar Al Hekmah Bookshop	Participate in exhibition “The book for all”	National and international organizations, women, students, children	Number of organizations, women, students
Ramallah	Palestinian factions, The Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, Prisoners' Club	Participate in the national march “Palestinian Prisoners Day”	Palestinian factions, ministries, organizations, peoples	Number of Palestinian factions, ministries, organizations, peoples
Ramallah recreational complex	Ministry of Culture	Participate in the Tenth International Book Fair under the slogan “Palestine read”	Organizations, peoples, students	Number of peoples, organizations, students
Sareyyet Ramallah	European Union	Participate in the “Europe Day”	Organizations, peoples, students	Number of peoples, organizations, students
Red Crescent Theater in Al Bireh	Ministry of Culture	Participate in the opening of the film “Imwas in memory”	Organizations, people	Number of peoples, organizations
In front of the Cabinet/ Ramallah	Palestinian Working Woman’s Society for Development, Democracy and Workers Rights Center, Workers union in kindergarten, some of organizations	Participate in a protest to demand the application of the minimum wage	The cabinet	Number of peoples, organizations

***Appendix G : WCLAC respond to requests from media outlets for interviews on women's issues***

<b><i>The name of the media outlet</i></b>	<b><i>Topics</i></b>
Marah Radio	CV within the program Prominent Figures
Nisaa FM	The establishment of Department of Family Protection in the prosecution
Marah Radio	The importance of political participation especially for women workers
Nisaa FM	The empowerment of women in marginalized areas
Hala Radio	The killing of women
Palestine TV	The role of WCLAC in building the capacities of grassroots organizations
Ajyal Radio	Gender-based violence
Marah Radio	The killing of women
Nisaa FM	Divorce and its impact on a divorced woman
Nisaa FM	Palestinian women, peace and security



Alquds Educational TV	Economic rights
Alam Radio	The establishment of Department of Family Protection in the prosecution
Miftah organization	The challenges that women face in access to services of security, which is reflected in the difficulty of women's access to justice
Nisaa FM	The killing of women
Ma'an News Agency	Social Security Law
Palestine TV	The National Referral System
Interview with the journalist "May Odeh"	The reality of women in Sharia courts and the obstacles that prevent women access to justice
Alfalstiniah TV	The National Referral System
Radio NAS	WCLAC mission, vision, work and activities
Alhurra TV	The reality of Women and the Law
Ma'an News Agency	Special conditions in the marriage contract
Nisaa FM	Fiancée women's rights before annulment and after annulment
Nisaa FM	Custody and annexation issues
BBC Channel	With activists from Lebanon, Morocco
Nisaa FM	Women's rights after the death of husband
24 FM Radio	Rights and freedoms, especially the right of young people to peaceful protest to demand the rights enshrined in Palestinian law.
Alam Radio	Custody and the watch for kids under the shadow of the current legitimacy laws.
Nisaa FM	About the news of the opening of the counseling in Jericho
Maan Mix TV	TV episode on the occasion of Women's Day, 8 March
Tariq al Mahabe Radio	TV episode on the occasion of Women's Day, 8 March
Al Quds TV	Sexual harassment at work
Tariq al Mahabe Radio	Social Security Law
Nisaa FM	The National Referral System
Nisaa FM	Marrying young girls
Nisaa FM	The role of media in promoting women's political participation
Palestine TV	TV episode on 16 days of activism combating violence against women

**Appendix H: WCLAC in the Media 2016**

**WCLAC'S media coverage in 2016**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Topic/ Tile of the coverage</b>	<b>The link</b>
1.	Grassroots organizations	<a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/07/898908.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/07/898908.html</a> <a href="https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470">https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/10/883471.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/10/883471.html</a> <a href="http://www.alfajertv.com/news/3953623.html">http://www.alfajertv.com/news/3953623.html</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/05/25/924280.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/05/25/924280.html</a> <a href="https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=852475">https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=852475</a> <a href="https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=848678">https://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=848678</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/08/881933.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/08/881933.html</a>
2.	Feminist organizations concludes the project "the right to inheritance."	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=498">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=498</a>
3.	Women's economic rights between theory and practice	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=495">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=495</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/13/901680.html#ixzz45jpibWKM">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/13/901680.html#ixzz45jpibWKM</a>
4.	Human rights organizations demanding that the formation of the court is the culmination of restoration of constitutional life	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=493">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=493</a>
5.	WCLAC and Jericho Women Charitable Society opens program for social and legal services for women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=487">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=487</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=832563">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=832563</a> [جريدة القدس- الجمعة 2016/3/4 - صفحة 9] جريدة الأيام - الجمعة 2016/3/4 - صفحة 6
6.	Congratulation for the establishment of Department of Family Protection in the prosecution	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=486">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=486</a> <a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=473">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=473</a> <a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=390">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=390</a> <a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=379">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=379</a>
7.	WCLAC signs MOU with grassroots organizations to build their capacity to provide services for battered women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=481">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=481</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863117.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863117.html</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863095.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863095.html</a> <a href="http://zamnpres.com/news/92346">http://zamnpres.com/news/92346</a> جريدة القدس السبت الموافق 2016/2/6 الصفحة (8)

8.	WCLAC concludes the year 2015 to honor volunteers	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=478">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=478</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/01/04/844052.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/01/04/844052.html</a> <a href="http://pnn.ps/2016/01/04/">http://pnn.ps/2016/01/04/</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=819160">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=819160</a>
9.	A statement from the press conference for conclusion of the women and inheritance project "Strengthening women's access to inheritance rights."	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=844246">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=844246</a>
11.	Denounced statement the condemnation of a new murder added to the series of murders of women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=482">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=482</a>
12.	A statement from the press conference the conclusion of the project "women and inheritance" (Economic empowerment and its role in promoting social and economic rights)	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ck7M0Ajkyl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ck7M0Ajkyl</a>
13.	The General Union of Palestinian Women and WCLAC inaugurate training for women on un security council resolution 1325	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=519">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=519</a> <a href="http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=5003a6y5243814Y5003a6">http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=5003a6y5243814Y5003a6</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=871847">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=871847</a> <a href="https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980887.html">https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980887.html</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980949.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980949.html</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980933.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/10/19/980933.html</a> <a href="http://www.alquds.com/tagged/topics/%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AF%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-33-54/1-30">http://www.alquds.com/tagged/topics/%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AF%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-33-54/1-30</a>
14.	Special Rapporteur on violence against women meet women's in Hebron	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=515">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=515</a> <a href="http://pnn.ps/news/153961">http://pnn.ps/news/153961</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=867532">http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=867532</a> <a href="http://www.palsawa.com/news/2016/09/20/local/83543.html">http://www.palsawa.com/news/2016/09/20/local/83543.html</a> <a href="http://www.fatehwatan.ps/page-140284.html">http://www.fatehwatan.ps/page-140284.html</a> <a href="http://www.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=c75VSPa708934160616ac75VSP">http://www.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=c75VSPa708934160616ac75VSP</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTv/photos/a.132592190144117.25560.132091353527534/1226611197408872/?type=3">https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTv/photos/a.132592190144117.25560.132091353527534/1226611197408872/?type=3</a> <a href="https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/09/20/970914.html">https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/09/20/970914.html</a> <a href="http://www.amad.ps/ar/?Action=Details&amp;ID=138878">http://www.amad.ps/ar/?Action=Details&amp;ID=138878</a> <a href="#">جريدة القدس 2016/9/21 صفحة 17</a> <a href="#">جريدة الايام 2016/9/21 صفحة 7</a> <a href="#">جريدة الحياة الجديدة 2016/9/21 صفحة 12</a>

15.	Special Rapporteur on violence against women is touring the shelter for battered women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=514">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=514</a> <a href="http://www.asdaapress.com/?newsID=19247">http://www.asdaapress.com/?newsID=19247</a> <a href="http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=867115">http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=867115</a> <a href="https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/09/19/970425.html">https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/09/19/970425.html</a> <a href="http://pnn.ps/news/153483">http://pnn.ps/news/153483</a> <a href="http://www.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=sd70oJa708821853762asd70oJ">http://www.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=sd70oJa708821853762asd70oJ</a> <a href="http://www.naba.ps/arabic/?Action=Details&amp;ID=150614">http://www.naba.ps/arabic/?Action=Details&amp;ID=150614</a> <a href="http://www.palsawa.com/news/2016/09/19/local/83385.html">http://www.palsawa.com/news/2016/09/19/local/83385.html</a> <a href="http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=4c025ay4981338Y4c025a">http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=4c025ay4981338Y4c025a</a> <a href="http://www.hereps.com/palestine/1523/.html">http://www.hereps.com/palestine/1523/.html</a> <a href="http://www.al-ayyam.ps/ar_page.php?id=116f0958y292489560Y116f0958">http://www.al-ayyam.ps/ar_page.php?id=116f0958y292489560Y116f0958</a> <a href="#">جريدة القدس 2016/9/20 صفحة 2</a> <a href="#">جريدة الايام 2016/9/20 صفحة 9</a> <a href="#">جريدة الحياة الجديدة 2016/9/20 صفحة 6</a>
16.	Letter from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to WCLAC	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=518">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=518</a>
17.	WCLAC report to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=513">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=513</a>
18.	WCLAC concludes meetings with unions and trade unions, and activists of political parties	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=520">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=520</a> <a href="https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/11/26/993759.html">https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/11/26/993759.html</a> <a href="http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=878504">http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=878504</a>
19.	A television interview for the director of the center with a Moroccan television stations during Visited Morocco	<a href="http://www.noonpresse.com/tv/2016/02/22/">http://www.noonpresse.com/tv/2016/02/22/ /</a>
20.	WCLAC receives certificate "commitment to the principles of a code of conduct of the Palestinian civil institutions."	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=521">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=521</a> <a href="http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=879482">http://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=879482</a> <a href="https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/11/29/994799.html">https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/11/29/994799.html</a> <a href="#">جريدة القدس الأربعاء الموافق 2016/11/30-الصفحة 8</a> <a href="#">[جريدة الأيام الأربعاء الموافق 2016/11/30-الصفحة 9]</a>
21.	A news report about the detailed position paper issued by WCLAC on "Social Security Law"	<a href="http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=3824bby3679419Y3824bb">http://radionisaa.ps/ar_page.php?id=3824bby3679419Y3824bb</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-yNhug5Vzs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-yNhug5Vzs</a>
22.	Article to WCLAC under the title "the minimum wage ... The women last beneficiaries, and the first affected."	<a href="http://alhaya.ps/pdf/2016/12/5/page12.pdf">http://alhaya.ps/pdf/2016/12/5/page12.pdf</a>

**Appendix I: Articles Written by WCLAC**

	<b>The article</b>	<b>The link</b>
1.	Political volition create international peace and security	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=479">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=479</a>
2.	Women with disabilities between rights and norms	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=512">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=512</a>
3.	The report submitted to the Special Rapporteur “Ms. Dubravka Šimonoviæ” on Violence against Women during the Official visit to Palestine (19-23 September 2016)	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=513">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=513</a>

**Appendix J: Volunteer Cluster Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>No of Participants</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Qalqilya</b>					
12/4	Qalqilya municipality	Film show on the success story Ms. Fatima Jada in “Habla” village under the title "the Success begins with a dream", discuss the most important issues related to economic empowerment of women in Qalqilya	70	Mayor of Qalqilya, deputy governor, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, director of the Center of vocational training, Fatima Jada and her husband, number of heads of organizations and associations of the town, number of women	Qalqilya municipality hall
20/4	Kufr Thuluth village	Film show on the success story Ms. Fatima Jada in “Kufr Thuluth” village under the title "the Success begins with a dream" and Women discuss similar models from attending, and the opportunities of Support and assistance they receive it in this regard	30	Number of women from the town, number of members and heads of women's associations	Kufr Thuluth village
26/4	The High School in Hija village	Film show on the success story Ms. Fatima Jada in Qalqilya under the title "the Success begins with a dream", then discussion about the film and the status of women in general in the Palestinian society	30	Number of women, school students	Hija town
<b>Tubas</b>					

31/7	Tubas Charitable Society	Scotch theatrical presentation, entitled (the voice of young people), produced and directed by Tubas volunteers	80	School students	In front of the Tubas municipality building
<b>Tulkarem</b>					
31/8	Al- Najdah, Noor al Shams Women Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A workshop on “Early marriage, and divorce as a result of the high rate of divorce in Tulkarem”</li> <li>▪ Raising awareness among women and mothers of women to “The causes increased divorce rate in Tulkarem, and how to contribute to the reduction of this ratio that affect the society and the family”</li> </ul>	25	women	Noor al Shams Women Society
24/10	Noor al Shams Women Society, Policy guidance	A workshop on “Electronic crime and the dangers of the Internet”, the aim of the workshop is to educating mothers and students to use the Internet safely	45	Housewives, students	Noor al Shams Women Society
1/11	Palestinian Technical University Khadouri, Police, Policy guidance	A workshop on “Electronic crime and the dangers of the Internet” and the aim of the workshop is to educating students to use the Internet safely	30 (19F; 11M)	University students	Palestinian Technical University Khadouri
<b>Qalqilya</b>					
8/10	Qalqilya municipality, The local council of the Sanniriya village	Activity Central volunteer in the village Sanniriya maintain under the slogan “Sanniriya nicer”	30	Volunteers	Sanniriya village
<b>Hebron</b>					
26/10	Fida office in Hebron	Workshop on “Gender-based violence”, in order to raise awareness of women's on violence against women and its impact on women	18	Women activists	Fida office in Hebron
21/11	Al Sondos Kindergarten in Yatta	A workshop on “Electronic crime and the dangers of the Internet”, discuss the excessive use of smart devices by kids and diseases that can be experienced by children, the work of the recreational activity for children kindergarten	33	Housewives	Al Sondos Kindergarten in Yatta

**Appendix K: Volunteer Meetings, organized by cluster**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>No of Participants</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Hebron</b>				
1	17/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize on the Hebron volunteers group and follow-up the formation of the group</li> <li>▪ Definition the goal of volunteering and discuss the volunteers plan</li> <li>▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission, vision and work</li> <li>▪ Introduction about volunteers program</li> <li>▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community</li> <li>▪ The importance of the role of volunteers in contributing to change the stereotype about women</li> <li>▪ Discuss the mechanism to increase the number of volunteers for the group, in particular increasing the number of males in the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be implemented during this year</li> <li>▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed</li> </ul>	13 volunteers (10F; 3M)	WCLAC Hebron office
2	22/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete the formation of Hebron group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed for the group this year</li> <li>▪ Discuss the mechanism of communication between WCLAC and volunteers</li> <li>▪ Discuss the problems of women in Hebron in particular and the problems afflicting society in general, especially with the increase in cases of violence and killings of women</li> <li>▪ Discuss the importance of the effective role of volunteers in contributing to the reduction and mitigation of the effects of violence</li> <li>▪ Discuss the practical experience that will be gained through volunteering through exercises that will received through volunteering</li> </ul>	17 volunteers (15F;2M)	WCLAC Hebron office
3	15/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed by the group this year</li> <li>▪ Discuss how the group contribute in the activities that are performed by WCLAC</li> </ul>	20 volunteers (18F; 2M)	WCLAC Hebron office
4	21/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss how the implementation of the activities that proposed by the group</li> <li>▪ Introduction about the feminist movement, evolution and its stages, and the obstacles faced by</li> </ul>	19 volunteers (16F; 3M)	WCLAC Hebron office
5	19/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic follow-up of the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed by the group and set dates for implementing the activities</li> <li>▪ Debate the mechanics of integrating volunteers at WCLAC Activities</li> </ul>	16 volunteers (13F; 3M)	WCLAC Hebron office
6	22/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluation the volunteering with WCLAC during this year, the positives and negatives, and recommendations for the next year</li> <li>▪ Assessment of the role of volunteers with the center, and evaluation of activities that have been implemented by them</li> </ul>	19 volunteers (17F; 2M)	WCLAC Hebron office

<i>Tulkarem</i>				
1	30/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand over the group by the head of the capacity building unit to the program coordinator</li> <li>▪ Discuss the awareness workshops that have been implemented for the volunteers by Al Najdah Society</li> <li>▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission and vision and work</li> <li>▪ Volunteers program and the activities that will be implemented with the volunteers</li> <li>▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community</li> <li>▪ The importance of the volunteers role in contributing to change the stereotype about women</li> <li>▪ Discussion about the problems of citizens in Tulkarem especially the women</li> <li>▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it</li> </ul>	12 volunteers (11F; 1M)	Al Najdah Society
2	28/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete the formation of the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the subject of local elections and the Group's role in the elections and how the integration of women in these elections and support them to get to the decision-making center</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed by the group this year</li> </ul>	10 volunteers (7F; 3M)	Al Najdah Society
3	29/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete the formation of the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities and programs that will be performed by the group this year</li> <li>▪ Introduction about the feminist movement, evolution and its stages, and the obstacles faced by</li> </ul>	16 volunteers (12F; 4M)	Al Najdah Society
4	8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be implemented in Tulkarem by the Volunteers</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that the workshops be on raising awareness about electronic crimes, especially that this phenomena widespread in Tulkarem</li> <li>▪ Discuss the subject of women's economic empowerment and how does this contribute to the strengthening and support for women and reducing violence against women</li> </ul>	16 volunteers (14F; 2M)	Al Najdah Society
5	25/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the remaining activities until the end of the year</li> <li>▪ Discuss the central and collective and stimulus activity for volunteers in the Batir village, and how to success the activity</li> <li>▪ Discuss the implementation of the initiative that have been proposed and implemented by them, which was awareness workshops in the Noor Shams refugee camp, and the University of Khadouri and Al Quds Open University on "Electronic crimes, and increase in violence and its result on women, and increased incidence of divorce in Tulkarem as a result of this"</li> </ul>	12 volunteers (9F; 3M)	Tulkarem
6	26/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluation the volunteering with WCLAC during this year, the positives and negatives, and recommendations for the next year</li> <li>▪ Assessment of the role of volunteers with the center, and evaluation of activities that have been implemented by them</li> </ul>	17 volunteers (14F; 3M)	WCLAC Hebron office
<i>Tubas</i>				



1	31/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand over the group by the head of the unit to the coordinator of the program</li> <li>▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it</li> <li>▪ Discuss about awareness workshops that have been implemented for the volunteers by TCS</li> <li>▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission and vision and work and units</li> <li>▪ Volunteers program and the activities that will be implemented with the volunteers</li> </ul>	15 volunteers (8F; 7M)	Tubas Charitable Society
2	20/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete the formation of the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed for the group this year</li> <li>▪ Discuss the subject of local elections and the Group's role in the elections and how the integration of women in these elections and support them to get to the decision-making center</li> </ul>	10 volunteers (7F; 3M)	Tubas Charitable Society
3	28/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be performed by the group in Tubas</li> <li>▪ Discuss mechanism integrating volunteers in the activities of Tubas Association</li> <li>▪ Introduction about the feminist movement, evolution and its stages, and the obstacles faced by</li> <li>▪ Discuss the entertainment activity which will be held for volunteers</li> </ul>	9 volunteers (4F; 5M)	Tubas Charitable Society
4	24/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the central activity which will be implementing by the volunteers</li> <li>▪ Discuss the 16 days of activism combating violence against women activities and the role of volunteers in this activity</li> <li>▪ Discuss mechanism integrating volunteers in Tubas Charitable Society activities</li> </ul>	12 volunteers (7F; 5M)	Tubas Charitable Society
5	21/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluation the volunteering with WCLAC during this year, the positives and negatives, and recommendations for the next year</li> <li>▪ Assessment of the role of volunteers with the center, and evaluation of activities that have been implemented by them</li> </ul>	12 volunteers (8F; 4M)	Tubas Charitable Society
<b><i>Qalqilya</i></b>				
1	31/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introducing the new volunteers and participation the volunteers with information about WCLAC work and volunteers program</li> <li>▪ Discussion about the film "Success begins with a dream"</li> </ul>	Number of old and new volunteers	Forum of Intellectuals
2	2/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion about the problems of citizens in Tulkarem and especially the women</li> <li>▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community</li> <li>▪ The importance of volunteers role in contributing to change the stereotype about women</li> <li>▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it</li> </ul>	17 volunteers (8F; 9M)	Qalqilya
3	27/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be implemented for the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the subject of local elections and the Group's role in the elections and how the integration of women in these elections and support them to get to the decision-making center</li> </ul>	23 volunteers (10F; 13M)	Iyad Abu Ali School in Qalqilya

4	29/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discuss the activities that will be implemented by the group</li> <li>▪ Introduction about the feminist movement, evolution and its stages, and the obstacles faced by</li> <li>▪ Discuss the entertainment activity which will be held for volunteers</li> </ul>	14 volunteers (4F; 10M)	Forum of Intellectuals
5	18/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic follow-up of the group</li> <li>▪ Discuss the activity which has been implemented by the volunteers in Sanniriya village, and activities that will be implemented later by them</li> <li>▪ Discuss the collective activity which will be implemented to the volunteers groups and their role in this activity, Exercise to break the barriers between the four groups, and make a presentation on volunteer work with the center and the activities that have been implemented by them</li> </ul>	20 volunteers (6F; 14M)	Qalqilya
6	29/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluation the volunteering with WCLAC during this year, the positives and negatives, and recommendations for the next year</li> <li>▪ Assessment of the role of volunteers with the center, and evaluation of activities that have been implemented by them</li> </ul>	22 volunteers (9F; 12M)	WCLAC Hebron office