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building-coalitions
popular-education
capacity-building
media-strategy
rights-analysis
WCIAC
imagination
self-reflection
mobilization



للارشاد القانوني والاجتماعي

مركز المرأة

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

WCLAC semi-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

Semi-annual report. 2016

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Part I. Summary Report

Political brief

Overview

In the first six months of 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 2015 wave of unrest provided the Israeli military forces the motive to strengthen 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. Last 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. At the national level, the social security law 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 are to be held in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip will be an important opportunity through which women's rights could be highlighted.

Mid-term consequences of 2015 wave of unrest: extrajudicial practices of the Israeli Forces

The wave of unrest that started in October 2015 has progressively soothed in the first six months of 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 throwing a knife to a police officer at Qalandiya military checkpoint¹. One month later, a Palestinian girl was killed at Ras Biddu checkpoint by the Israeli forces after allegedly attempting to stab an Israeli border official². Almost the same configuration was repeated in June in the Tulkarem Governorate with a 25-year-old woman, mother of two children³. According to the UN, Israeli forces have since October implemented a systematic policy

¹ "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]

² "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]

³ "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]

of extrajudicial execution, shooting dead Palestinians who did not present imminent threat at the time of their death.

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. Among the examples comes the recent closure measures imposed in Hebron Governorate, including strict security measures imposed at the entrance of the city, its surrounding villages, and refugee camps⁴. In November 2015, Israeli Military Forces declared parts of the Old City "closed military zones". In early July, a pregnant woman got killed at the entrance of Ibrahimi Mosque.

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 rapporteurs⁵. 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 19 April for instance, Majida reported waking up at 3:00 a.m. when 10 Israeli soldiers entered her home. The family gathered in the living room while the elder sons were questioned. The house was also searched. The soldiers eventually detained Majida's 20-year-old son without explanation. They later discovered that their son was being held in Megiddo prison inside Israel.

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 procession⁶. 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. From January, several houses were demolished in order to build roads that would benefit Israeli settlers in the area. In mid-April, OCHA highlighted the number of house demolished in 2016 was reaching almost four times the monthly average for 2015, most of time on the ground of construction without license – while building permit being barely

⁴ "Israeli siege continues in Hebron, 6 Palestinians detained in overnight raids" [online] in *Ma'an News*, July 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=772264, July 2016]

⁵ 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, July 2016]

⁶ 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, July 2016]

granted to Palestinian citizens. According to the Settlement Monitoring Department at the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem (ARIJ), these include 72 homes and 113 non-residential structures (stores, factories and sheds) for the first six months of the year⁷. As a consequence, 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.

House demolitions or land confiscations have globally soared in the West Bank. According to OCHA, 611 structures (including East Jerusalem) have been either demolished or confiscated across the West Bank from January 2016⁸. OCHA stated that **demolitions this year are one of the most extensive demolitions campaigns in the last seven years**⁹. As a result of Israeli collective punishment unlawful practices, 1500 people have been displaced in the West Bank in the past six months. Among the most vulnerable communities, Bedouins deal with uninterrupted harassment from the Israeli military forces, mainly in the Negev and the Jordan Valley. In June during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Al-Araqib village in the Negev faced its 100th demolition in six years, leaving its inhabitant homeless once again¹⁰. 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 with 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 orders¹¹.

Another worrying recent development regarding Israeli military occupation is the recent appointment of Rabbi Eyal Qarim as chief Israeli army rabbi. Qarim has become famous for his advocacy concerning rape of a "comely woman" "in times of war". Recent analysis considers Qarim not being even an extreme ideologue inside Orthodox Judaism¹², underlining Hebrew Bible's interpretation state the

⁷ " 'Demographic war': Spike in Arab homes demolition in East Jerusalem slammed in new report" [online] in *RT news*, July 2016. [rt.com/news/351022-arab-homes-demolished-report, July 2016]

⁸ OCHA – oPT, *Humanitarian bulletin* (monthly), January – June 2016.

⁹ "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]

¹⁰ "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]

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

¹² Jonathan Ofir, Michael Leshner, "Bible justifies rape in times of war, despite rabbis' efforts to spin or hide the teaching" [online] in *Mondoweiss*, July 2016. [mondoweiss.net/2016/07/justifies-efforts-teaching, July 2016]

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.

Unprecedented attempts to silence Palestinian political claims

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 Tamimi¹³. 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.

Condemnations to social media activism have become a new manner to silence Palestinian claims. In recent 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 Israel and was released far from home at Jbara checkpoint on 19 May¹⁴. 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 forces¹⁵. 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 occupation¹⁶. It is worth mentioning that according to Israeli Military Order 101, Palestinians under military law¹⁷ 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, 7 Palestinian Council members were still detained in May 2016. On 3 June 2016, Israel eventually released Palestinian Legislative Council member Khalida Jarrar after 14 months in an Israeli prison¹⁸. 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.

¹³ 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]

¹⁴ 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]

¹⁵ "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]

¹⁶ "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]

¹⁷ 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).

¹⁸ 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]

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 communication¹⁹. 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 715 administrative detainees, 414 child prisoners among these 104 less than 16 years old, and 70 female prisoners. In a public statement published in February 2016, the human rights group 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 – 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 Zzur located north of Hebron and was convicted of acclaimed illegal possession of a knife²⁰. 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 offenses²¹.

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 June²² 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. 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

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

²⁰ 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 1016]

²¹ "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]

²² 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]

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 24th 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 culture²³. 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.

In Gaza, social crisis is on the rise due to the long-term consequences of 2014 military aggression. In January, OCHA acknowledged more than 16,000 families (approximately 90,000 individuals) remain locally displaced, due to their homes being destroyed or severely damaged²⁴. Allowed quantity of building materials entering the Gaza strip has increased in 2016 and some grants were offered to families for reconstruction or repair. Nevertheless, housing emergency is far from being solved. Gaza Housing Ministry stated that at least 250,000 housing units are urgently needed to ease the housing crisis. Internally displaced women are particularly vulnerable, with 10.2% among them now heads of household as stated by OCHA in April 2016²⁵. 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 percent²⁶.

Extreme humanitarian situation has raised health burning concerns. According to OCHA²⁷, 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

²³ "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]

²⁴ OCHA – oPT, *Humanitarian bulletin* (monthly), *ibid*.

²⁵ OCHA - oPT, *Gaza internally displaced persons* [PDF online], April 2016. [ochaopt.org/documents/idps_report_april_2016_english.pdf, August 2016]

²⁶ "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]

²⁷ *id*.

displaced²⁸. 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 abuse²⁹. 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 years³⁰. 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 – consider the shortcomings of the law as undermining the concept of social security. Among released reforms, 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 maternity³¹. Therefore, the proposed text may undermine the role of women in the Palestinian labour market or discourage them from entering into the labour market. The law is even considered to be directly discriminatory against women³², 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 does not address the issue of informal work that concern Palestinian women in the first place. Facing major opposition, the approved law has not been implemented yet and might be reviewed in the coming months.

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-

²⁸ 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]

²⁹ 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]

³⁰ "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]

³¹ 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]

³² 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]

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."³³ 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 body president 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 Salfit³⁴. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, female enrolment in higher education is nowadays higher than male enrolment³⁵. 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"³⁶. 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.

National and international political perspectives

Hopes for Hamas-Fatah reconciliation have severely dropped in the recent month, leaving another time the political horizon dramatically uncertain. On February 2016 in Doha, meetings with both parties took place to discuss the implementation of the reconciliation and to address the obstacles that have prevented its achievement in the past³⁷. Talks were held out of media coverage. On both side, long-term and difficult requirements keep obstructing the debate. On one hand, Fatah insists that Hamas should diminish its full control over the Gaza strip; on the other hand, Hamas demands Fatah to recognize the events that occurred since 2007, including the salary crisis for government employees in Gaza. With palpable tension, the outcome of Doha talks does not seem positive or reliable. On 18 June, Fatah and Hamas publicly announced the failure of the Palestinian reconciliation talks.

However, Palestinian Cabinet recently announced municipal elections will be held on 8 October. Head of Fatah media committee urged in a statement the Palestinian government to commit itself to a unified election across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, since the last local election in 2012 were held in the West Bank only³⁸. At the moment, it remains unclear whether the elections will be held on time and would include the participation of Hamas.

At the international level, Ms. Nadya Rasheed, first Counsellor of the UN Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine welcomed the ECOSOC's adoption of the updated resolution "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women". The draft resolution was discussed by the UN Commission on the

³³ 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]

³⁴ 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]

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

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

³⁷ Adnan Abu Amer, "Another Hamas-Fatah reconciliation agreement bites the dust" [online; translation Cynthia Milan] in *AlMonitor – Palestine Pulse*, March 2016. [al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/03/palestinian-reconciliation-hamas-fatah-qatar-meeting, July 2016]

³⁸ "Palestinian Authority sets municipal elections for October 8" [online] in *Ma'an News*, June 2016. [maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771958, July 2016]

Status of Women on its sixtieth session³⁹. 2016 resolution highlighted the accession of the State of Palestine to international human rights treaties, recalling 2014 ratification of CEDAW and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Special attention was given to the situation of women and girls from Gaza suffering from continuous humanitarian disaster. Last released updated resolution also includes a new matter of concern regarding "all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children" and supports accountability for such illegal actions⁴⁰. The resolution was also enriched to underline the harsh conditions faced by Palestinian women and girls under Israeli detention, including poor access to gender-specific medical care and sexual harassment. The Commission on the Status of Women eventually reaffirmed that the Israeli occupation remains "the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regards to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society"⁴¹.

Despite of positive international recommendations, Israel keeps showing blatant disregard to the work of United Nations representatives. In January, Makarim Wibisono's resignation – the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967 – came as a warning about Israel's non-cooperation. The special Rapporteur denounced the continued lack of access to the occupied territories. Wibisono stated that "unfortunately, my efforts to improve the lives of Palestinian victims of violations under the Israeli occupation have been frustrated every step of the way"⁴². A draft resolution "Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" was proposed consequently by the Human Rights Council during its 31st session (March 2016). Dialogue with outgoing Special Rapporteur⁴³ led to "deploring the non-cooperation by Israel with all Human Rights Council fact-finding missions and the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, and its refusal to grant access to and cooperate with international human rights bodies and a number of United Nations special procedures seeking to investigate alleged violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem". HRC's draft resolution also insists on the "long-standing systemic impunity for international law violations [that] has allowed for the recurrence of grave violations without consequence, [nor] accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law"⁴⁴.

Such public resolution recalls B'Tselem's statement in May⁴⁵. Israeli human rights organisation denounced the overall impunity for Israeli Occupation Forces supported by the Military Law Enforcement System. As almost no complaint in the past 25 years has actually provided access to justice for Palestinian civilians, human rights group announced it will no longer "lend legitimacy to the system". Therefore, B'Tselem will stop submitting complaints on behalf of Palestinian civilians to the military law enforcement system and will rather concentrate on national and international public exposure of Israeli violations to human rights law and humanitarian law.

³⁹ CSW, *Document E/CN.6/2016/L.3: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (draft resolution)*, March 2016. [documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/078/11/PDF/N1607811.pdf]

⁴⁰ *id.*, p.3.

⁴¹ *id.*, p.4.

⁴² WCLAC, "Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory resigns due to continued lack of access to OPT" in *WCLAC – Public statements*, January 2016. [wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1667, July 2016]

⁴³ UN OHCHR, *Report A/HRC/31/2: Report of the Human Rights Council on its 31st session (advance unedited version)*, July 2016, pp.167-172. [ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session31/Pages/31RegularSession, July 2016]

⁴⁴ Human Rights Council, *Resolution A/HRC/31/L.38: Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (draft resolution)*, March 2016. [unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/HRC_31_38.pdf, July 2016]

⁴⁵ B'Tselem, "The occupation's fig leaf: Israel's Military Law Enforcement System as a whitewash mechanism" [online] in *B'Tselem – Publications*, May 2016. [btselem.org/publications/summaries/201605_occupations_fig_leaf, July 2016]

Highlights

WCLAC signs an 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 4th 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.

Culmination of WCLAC's work results in the Palestinian Authority establishing two new protection units at the Public Prosecution Office

On 8 February 2016, 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. These developments are the culmination of several years' work by WCLAC and other civil society institutions in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority to provide added protection against violence within Palestinian society.

UN complaint submission

On the 4th of February 2016, WCLAC submitted a [complaint](#) to three UN Special Rapporteurs on behalf of a local activist and human rights defender, Mrs. Manal Tamimi. Mrs. Tamimi is also a fieldworker for WCLAC. This is the second complaint filed on behalf of Mrs. Tamimi in the past year following her unprovoked shooting during a demonstration in 2015. The most recent complaint relates to an incident that occurred on 15 January 2016 in which Israeli soldiers fired multiple tear gas canisters in and around her home without any apparent justification resulting in her hospitalisation. The evidence suggests that Mrs. Tamimi and her family are being targeted by the Israeli military due to their participation in weekly demonstrations against a nearby settlement. In support of the complaint WCLAC has submitted four testimonies and three videos of the incident. The complaint has been submitted to the UN Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights Defenders; Violence against Women; and the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and requests, *inter alia*, an independent investigation; confirmation that Palestinians in the West Bank have a fundamental right to peaceful assembly; and assurances of future protection.

WCLAC publishes a report on Social Security Act No. 6

Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office in Ramallah against the Palestinian Authority's approval of the Social Security Law No. 6 at the beginning of 2016. As of this development, WCLAC prepared and published a report in February on the Social Security Act, in which it laid out the history and context of this law, its necessity to Palestinians including the problems it solves and its weaknesses and gaps. Among the criticism is the fact that the Law was passed without consultation with civil society organisations especially women's organisations. Furthermore, the law

includes provisions which will undermine numerous rights and achievements gained by the Palestinian Labour Movement that are already enshrined in the Palestinian Labour Law.

Jerusalem Project Phase II

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, Esawwiyyeh, 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.

WCLAC continues efforts for drafting CEDAW shadow report

WCLAC has played an instrumental role in the past in disseminating knowledge about CEDAW to both the government and the civil society organisations. During the first 6 months of 2016, WCLAC has done extensive work through helping in the process of training government partners in writing the official report and the civil society organisations in writing the shadow report. Through its representation in 3 national committees for drafting the shadow report; personal status committee, peace and security committee and violence committee, WCLAC has played a leading role in the drafting and dissemination of CEDAW reports.

Challenges

Prolonged discriminatory laws

Despite the fact that the PA has acceded into international conventions one of which is CEDAW without reservations, still no legal reforms have taken place to transform Palestinian laws that remain discriminatory against women. For example, the Penal Code encompasses a lot of discriminatory laws against women like article 99, article 100, and article 101 that give lenient sentences to perpetrators in cases of femicide and leaves space for the discretion of the judge in cases of femicide under the so called "honour killing". These articles are not the only ones; article 62 of the Penal code legitimizes disciplinary actions of parents towards their children that in some cases lead to their death. This article is often used in defence of a perpetrator killing his daughter "on disciplinary basis". Such laws pose a big challenge for WCLAC's lawyers in supporting women to obtain justice as they are obliged to seek other methods of obtaining their rights through strategic impact litigation and legal precedents.

Social Security law

When the social security law was first discussed by the Palestinian Authority it was perceived as a window of opportunity for women and other workers working outside the public sector. However, the law was prepared without consultation with the civil society and it has a lot of gaps that prevent women from enjoying their rights. Among these gaps is the fact that the law does not provide workers a pension that

guarantees them a dignified life in the event of disability, aging and maternity⁴⁶. Therefore, the proposed text may undermine the role of women in the Palestinian labour market or discourage them from entering into the labour market. The law is also considered to be discriminatory against women⁴⁷, since a woman registering in the system less than six months from the expected childbirth would not get the right to maternity leave. Besides, the law does not address the issue of informal work that concern Palestinian women in the first place.

Occupation policies and political unrest

In the last quarter of the year 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, there has been an accelerating 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. This 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 a tremendous 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. WCLAC ended 2015 with the first deficit in its history, and we are currently struggling to complete the fundraising for 2016. Austerity measures should be 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 will aim 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, is currently being implemented in a participatory manner which includes heads of units and senior management. Organizational change and restructuring usually create an environment of uncertainty among the staff, thus WCLAC is taking quick steps to finalize this process and consolidate its work by the third quarter of 2016.

⁴⁶ Aziza Nofal, "Does draft Palestinian social security law really protect workers?" in AlMonitor – Palestine Pulse, January 2016. [al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/01/palestinian-social-security-law-workers, July 2016]

⁴⁷ 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]

Part II. Detailed Activity Report

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

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. In the first 6 months of 2016 WCLAC managed to provide 806 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 160 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 legal and social counselling to a total 229 women: 198 received long-term legal and social counselling, from which 3 are women with disabilities, 13 received social counselling only and 18 received legal aid only, and the majority received both legal and social services. 216 received in-courts representation, 140 had one-off legal consultations through the helpline and helpdesk. Additionally, 16 women were hosted at WCLAC's emergency shelter; and 1 woman and her family was helped through family counselling, whereas 1 woman received e-counselling.

A total of 284 women filed cases in courts over the reporting period, and the number of legal cases that WCLAC followed up on were 216. The number of court cases that WCLAC has followed up on is lower than the number of women who filed cases in court due to the fact that sometimes the case is either withdrawn or solved right when it gets to court. Additionally, there are 14 cases which have remained in the court process since 2015. 160 women were referred to WCLAC by partners, and 13 of the cases have received case conferences. So far this year WCLAC obtained 124 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, 9 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). 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 the first six months of 2016, 33 women approached WCLAC team seeking consultation after awareness-raising sessions and out of the 33 women 3 were referred to WCLAC office to get long term legal or social aid.

WCLAC provided joint one-time socio-legal aid to 205 women. Most of the consultations revolved around marital rights as well as divorce, types of alimony, custody and the rights of divorced women. WCLAC also sought to promote the e-counselling service through printing and distributing 1000 posters to different organisations and parties about the e-counselling service that WCLAC offers. During this period, WCLAC received 140 calls from women through the helpline⁴⁸ 12 of which were legal consultations and 3 women 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.

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 16 women between the ages of 18-34 at the protection shelter in Jericho. Out of the 16 women, 9 were single, 5 married and 2 divorced. The women who sought protection at WCLAC's shelter had different problems and threats; 10 of them came to the shelter due to their families' refusal of their relationships, 2 had out of wedlock relations, 3 had suffered from GBV, 1 ran away after an attempt to kill her. WCLAC managed to solve, protect and help 11 of these women to get back to their homes safely, 2 of the women were referred to other protection shelters as

⁴⁸ 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**.

they will stay longer until there is no more threat to their lives, and three women currently remain at WCLAC's shelter.

During this period 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. 9 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> | Total |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Type of service | Legal and social | 36 | 128 | 34 | 198 |
| | Legal | 9 | 7 | 2 | 18 |
| | Social | 3 | 8 | 2 | 13 |
| | Total | 48 | 143 | 38 | 229 |

Table 2. Case by Type and Place

| | | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Legal/social case | Marital obedience | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Custody and visits | 3 | 21 | 8 | 32 |
| | <i>Nafaka</i> (alimony) incl. rent | 32 | 117 | 18 | 167 |
| | <i>Mahr</i> (dowry) | 8 | 5 | 1 | 14 |
| | Divorce | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| | Family/Marital conflict | 13 | 24 | 4 | 41 |
| | Rights issues | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 3. Social Indicators of Women Clients

| | | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Level of education | Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | No formal education | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| | Elementary school | 4 | 8 | 3 | 15 |
| | Primary school | 22 | 53 | 9 | 84 |
| | Secondary school | 11 | 49 | 5 | 65 |
| | Higher education | 10 | 31 | 6 | 47 |
| | | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | Total |
| Age | 37 and over | 24 | 53 | 16 | 93 |
| | 18 - 36 | 21 | 87 | 22 | 130 |
| | 18 and under | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| | Unknown | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

| | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | <i>Total</i> | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----|
| Marital status | Abandoned | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| | Widowed | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| | Divorced | 10 | 12 | 8 | 30 |
| | Separated | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| | Married | 19 | 65 | 11 | 95 |
| | Engaged | 6 | 10 | 4 | 20 |
| | Single | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| | Sharia contract | 3 | 8 | 2 | 13 |
| | Urfi ⁴⁹ contract | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Temporarily separated | 6 | 34 | 7 | 47 |

Table 4. Type of work

| | <i>Number of Cases</i> | |
|--------------|---|-----|
| Type of work | Housewife | 128 |
| | Student | 15 |
| | Unemployed | 16 |
| | Private, government or civil society sector | 34 |
| | Informal work | 34 |
| | Unknown | 2 |
| | Total | 229 |

Table 5. Source of Referral

| | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | <i>Total</i> | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----|
| Source of referral | Courts | 10 | 63 | 10 | 83 |
| | Police | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| | District councils | 1 | 12 | 1 | 14 |
| | MoSA | 6 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| | Health sector | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| | Other institutions | 5 | 4 | 4 | 13 |
| | Individual | 20 | 46 | 8 | 74 |
| | Lawyers | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| | Centre's units | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| | Other | 2 | 11 | 9 | 22 |

⁴⁹ A *Urfi* or clandestine marriage is an informal marriage contract, not registered with the state authorities

Table 6. Perpetrator

| | | <i>Ramallah</i> | <i>South of the Pal. Territories</i> | <i>Jerusalem</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Perpetrator | Immediate Family | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Ex-husband | 8 | 25 | 9 | 42 |
| | Husband's family | 6 | 7 | 2 | 15 |
| | Husband | 19 | 90 | 12 | 121 |
| | Fiancé | 12 | 15 | 10 | 37 |
| | Other relatives | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |

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

On the 26th of April 2016, WCLAC met with the two other shelters in the Palestinian Territories and MoSA to discuss methods of finding means of protection for women victims of violence who are not part of the target group based on the Takamol 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 suffering from with psychological disorder.

Thus, there was an initiative taken by MOSA 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 the first half of 2016, the service unit staff met three times to discuss urging issues. The first meeting was held on the 23rd 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 2nd 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 19th of April in Hebron to revise the work plan and protocols.

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 annual report of 2015 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 in February.

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 a training on “risk indicators” for the shelter’s housemothers on the 13th and 14th of February in Jericho. The training

was perceived as very enriching and important by the housemothers and they asked for a series of similar trainings.

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 the first half of 2016, WCLAC organised awareness-raising activities targeting 119 women, in areas of the West Bank with difficult political, social and geographical circumstances; 2 villages in South of Hebron, Tafuah, Alam'ari refugee camp, Za'atara village, and Alkhader village in Bethlehem. The aim of these activities 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.

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

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

During the first half of 2016, WCLAC coordinated with Birzeit University and Hebron University to hold awareness-raising workshops. Students were very interested in the workshops and a high number of students registered to take part. However, the workshops were not completed as the student council elections at the universities were held at the same time in addition to the public protest on the Social Security Law and student's final exam. For these reasons the workshops implementation was postponed for the second semester.

WCLAC held 1 awareness-raising workshop 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.

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

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

This year's focus topic for the 8th 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 9th 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 draft bill introduced. 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 6th 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 introduce, 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. The Head of the National Committee eventually voiced that they had included the largest number of community representatives for the preparation of the draft.

Additionally, WCLAC participated in the preparation meeting for the women's unit within the governorate of Ramallah which focused on the rights of women with disabilities and the suggested different activities that were implemented as part of the 8th 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 in national landmark events

During the first half of 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 the first 6 months of 2016, WCLAC conducted 10 specialized supervision sessions with grassroots organisations consisting of 30 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 34 women in need. 12 women were offered socio-legal services, 2 women were offered social services only and 2 women were offered legal services only. Additionally, Al-Najdah provided 35 women with social and/or legal counselling. Through Al-Najdah 30 women cases were taken to court, 24 of which obtained verdicts in favour and 6 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 23 awareness-raising meetings targeting 350 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, protection manual, divorce, 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 84 women in need, 15 women were offered socio-legal services, another 15 women were offered social services only, and 3 were offered legal services only. Additionally, TCS provided 51 women with social and/or legal counselling, 11 cases were addressed in court out of which 6 verdicts were obtained in favour of women. 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 33 awareness-raising meetings in Tubas and neighbouring areas - Aqaba, Alfar'a, Aatof, Bardala, Aljalameh, Alzababdeh. The meetings discussed issues related to violence against women, and the role of law in protecting women. These meetings targeted 473 participants (62 males), namely university students, high school students, and housewives.

Successful models (Woman to Woman)

To encourage women demand their rights, grassroots organisation held 3 workshops that were attended by 75 women, to present success stories of women who sought help from grassroots. 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, 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 three women were asked with precise questions how they were able to overcome all the society constraints and change their lives.

Awareness Manual

WCLAC has been supervising the preparation of an awareness manual that gathers information and experiences from different social workers and lawyers. 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 awareness manual is currently being drafted. Multiple discussion meetings have taken place to agree on the chapters and sections 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 were very interested in: premarital advice and incest. WCLAC held 7 meetings with Al-Najdah and TCS to decide on the discussion points of each leaflet. Both leaflets will finally be published in the second half of the year.

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. 12 programmatic follow-up meetings have convened, 6 of which were carried out with the staff and management team of Al-Najdah, and another 6 with 7 of the TCS's team. A financial follow-up meeting was convened for TCS to review all financial procedures and provide constructive feedback. In addition to WCLAC supervising 3 awareness-raising meetings and accompanying TCS in 5 court visits.

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. TCS and Al-Najdah submitted a shared application to Almultaqa. 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 4 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 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. Two workshops were held with local key parties including the police, the local governorates, and local women organisations to introduce them to the importance of networking. Currently, the networks are almost ready to start working on referral between grassroots organisations and other organisations. Members of the networks will get training on how to best perform their responsibilities in the second half of the year.

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. In the first six months of this year WCLAC held 4 collective supervision meetings with 4 lawyers and social workers consisting of 14 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 and reporting standards. WCLAC also held 16 operational training sessions consisting of 80 training hours for JWCS 4 staff members, a 5-day workshop with 12 JWCS staff members, and 30 hours of training on patriarchal society and dealing with GBV.

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 clinics opened 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 the first half of 2016, WCLAC facilitated the development of a new computerized financial system for JWCS. JWCS saw this step as a great step for better financial documentation in their organisation.

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. In the first half of 2016, WCLAC conducted 8 follow-up meetings with 8 employees at JWCS that focused on the preparations for the JWCS opening event, the brochure, the website, the recruitment process, the 8th of March activities and other important issues.

1.3.2 Enhance the capacity of relevant sectors in protection of women and working under National Referral System (Takamol)

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

After 6 years of implementation of the National Referral System Takamol, 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 Takamol is ongoing. On the 19th of July, WCLAC together with Juzoor has planned a Takamol conference that is meant to nationally evaluate the Takamol system and to come out with recommendations and ideas of how to improve its use and distribute the work load on different organisations and governmental bodies.

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

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.

In this reporting period, 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 17th 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.

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. In the second half of 2016, WCLAC will publish a paper on strategic litigation in Palestine and the past experiences.

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 8th of March activities with the governorate of Ramallah WCLAC noticed absence of organizations of women with disabilities among the participating organizations 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.

Success story: Enhancing women's perspective to the Social Security Law

In February, WCLAC has successfully prepared and published an analysis paper (in Arabic) on the Social Security Law. The analysis underlined the background and context of this law, as well as its necessity to the Palestinians. It was also a mean to shed light on the issues such legal act would solve providing that it would acknowledge relevant criticism.

Among the criticism was the absence of consultation of civil society organisations, especially women's organisations. As a consequence, the law includes provisions which will undermine numerous rights and achievements gained by the Palestinian labour movement which had been included in the Palestinian Labour Law. In addition, the proposed law was considered to undermine women's access to the labour market. The proposed retirement pension – a monthly average not reaching half of the national minimum wage – will not fit with the cost of living and the harsh economic situation in the Palestinian Territories. The law does not either address the issue of informal work that concern Palestinian women in the first place. It even includes discriminatory provisions against female workers, such as the procedures regarding maternity leave. The paper was published in local media, WCLAC's website and Facebook and was used by different organizations.

WCLAC was requested to present the analysis paper in many workshops held by the civil society organisations. The Minister of Women's Affairs also asked WCLAC for a copy of the paper in order to discuss it within a ministry meeting. WCLAC was then able to support a gender-sensitive approach that would enrich the Social Security Law.

WCLAC also 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).

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 the first 6 months of this year there has been 15 femicide cases, 6 in Gaza and 9 in the West Bank. 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.

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 Organizations Council (PHROC). The PCHRO has drafted, signed and published 13 statements during the first six months of the 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 two meetings with the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and its subcommittees, one meeting was held on the 5th of May and it put working strategy for the committee for the next 6 months and the other was held on the 12th with MoWA and MoSA to resume work on the internal procedures of the committee. WCLAC has participated in 4 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 8th of March. An event was held on the 8th 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 28th of March till the 5th of April. WCLAC has also participated in two meetings with the Euro-Med held this year to discuss

the strategic plan for the gender group within the Euro-Med and another meeting to discuss 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.

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 second half of this year, 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 8th of March activities, and the newsletter highlight of capacity building for Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

This semester, the production of 10 reports by WCLAC was covered by 40 media outlets, in addition to 7 general statements published in 15 different media sources. Different WCLAC staff members have conducted 19 media interviews in different occasions with media outlets concerning the work WCLAC does.

Develop the Arabic and English website

WCLAC has kept its Facebook pages updated throughout this reporting period. The centre has published updates on its Facebook page and 6 videos and sound records. The updates included the Ma'an news TV episode on social security and a TV interview for WCLAC's general director in Morocco. In addition to 3 articles written by WCLAC staff and the analysis paper on the social security law.

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.

In the first half of 2016, WCLAC carried out 11 coordination visits with different community-based women organisations and with Palestinian universities and formed 3 new volunteer groups in the governorate of Tubas, Tulkarem and Hebron. The 3 volunteer groups consist of 49 female and male volunteers, and more volunteers will be selected to join the groups in the second half of the year.

WCLAC held 16 legal and social awareness-raising meetings for 31 new volunteers in cooperation with the grassroots organisations and 6 follow-up meetings for new and old volunteers (total 18 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 held a follow-up meeting with the former volunteer group to follow up on their work in their local communities in Hebron, Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Tubas governorate.

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

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, 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.

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 first six months of 2016, international advocacy work built on previous years' achievements. WCLAC collected 61 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 60 [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 6 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 5 [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; and a statement on the occasion of International Women's Day.

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-session 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 past 18 months (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.

A record number of 4 [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 60th 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 10th-23rd 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

3.1.2 Enhance WCLAC's programme and information management system

Develop WCLAC library

During this reporting period, WCLAC has inserted 304 books on WCLAC's electronic library catalogue. Additionally, 30 books have been categorized and inserted on the library catalogue and 55 new books on women's rights have been purchased; 39 of them for the Ramallah office and 16 for WCLAC's Hebron office.

Due to WCLAC's rich library many visitors come to read and photocopy books on women's issues. In the first 6 months of 2016, 96 visitors (82 females and 14 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 one book and sends it to its internal mailing list and publishes it at Al-Quds Newspaper. This activity enables those interested in gender-related topics to know the books at WCLAC's library and use them.

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 first 6 months of 2016, WCLAC funders numbered 14.

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, 1 general report and 13 special reports were prepared. Additionally, 5 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

مركز المرأة

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

External Relations Department Headquarters, Ramallah

Tel: +970-2-2956146
23 Wadi'a Shatarah St.
Batn Al-Hawa
Ramallah
P.O. Box 54262

Phone: 00970 -2-2956146/7
Phone: 00970 -2-2967915/6
Email: info@wclac.org
Website: www.wclac.org



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WCLAC enjoys special consultative status.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Awareness-raising workshops for vulnerable women

| Location | Partner (where applicable) | Group and number attending | Topics | No. of sessions | No. of one-time legal consultations and referrals to WCLAC |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Centre | | | | | |
| Za'atara | Rural Women's Development Society | 30 housewives | Women's rights Human rights, Marriage and the effects resulting from it, Marital rights, Domestic violence | 6 | 6 |
| Al-Amari refugee camp | Rural Women's Development Society | 20 housewives | Women's rights Human rights, 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 | 6 | 4 |
| South | | | | | |
| Hatta village | The village council of Hatta | 23 housewives | Women's rights Human rights, Personal Status issues, Marriage and the effects resulting from it, Marital rights | 6 | 9 |
| Tafooh village | Tafooh charitable Association | 21 housewives | Women's rights Human rights, Personal Status issues, Domestic Violence | 6 | 12 |
| Al Khader | Rural Women's Development Society | 25 housewives | Women's rights Human rights, Personal Status issues | 6 | 8 |

Appendix B: Workshops for students

| University | Topics | # of participants | No. of hours |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Young Women's Christian Association | 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 |

Appendix C: Awareness-raising activities with partner groups

| Location | Partner organisation | Target group | # of part. | Subject |
|--|--|---|-------------|--|
| 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 | Organised by WCLAC and Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development | Womens 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 | Womens from the old city | 20 | Awareness session on Economic empowerment of women |
| Inash Alusra Society | Organised 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 | Organised by WCLAC | Media professionals in Ma'an News Agency | 25 (19F;6M) | Awareness session on Women in the Social Security Law |
| Jawwal Company | Organised by WCLAC | Workers in the company | 80 | Awareness session on The Social Security Law |
| Tel Al Rumeida/ Hebron | Organised by WCLAC | Womens in the area | 19 | Awareness session on Women and inheritance |

Appendix D: International Women's Day, 8 March

| Location | Partner organisation | Type of Activity | Target group | # of Participants |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Ibn Rushd Square | General Union of Palestinian Women; Human rights organisations and women's organisations | Participate in a pause in solidarity with the families of the martyrs | Families of the martyrs | Number of Human rights organisations and women's organisations; number of women |
| Bethlehem Governorate | 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 |
| Hebron | All spammers and feminist institutions in Hebron | Feminist march | Members of women organisations, frameworks | 100 |
| Hebron | Spammers feminist | Workshop on "The Social Security Law" | Political forces, political parties, spammers feminist | 80 |
| Tubas | Tubas Charitable Society | Workshop and Exhibition for feminist products | Official institutions, civil society organisations, activists, individuals | 230 |
| Tulkarem | Al- Najdah | Workshop on Women's economic empowerment through productive cooperative | Official institutions, civil society organisations, activists, individuals | 80 |
| Jericho | Jericho Women Charitable Society | Workshop on The Economic empowerment of women and their role in development | Official institutions, civil society organisations, activists, individuals | 30 |
| Ramallah | Pyalara | Participate in march on the occasion 8 th of March | Organisations, individuals | Number of organisations, individuals |
| Grand Park Hotel | Organises 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 | Organisations, ministries, people, volunteers | 95 participants (71F;24M) |
| Jericho | Organised 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: International and national landmark days

| Location | Partner organisation | Type of Activity | Target group | # of Participants |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 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 organisations | Discuss the dimensions of civil peace in the province, the role of the tribes, especially in women's issues | Representatives of civil society organisations | Number of civil society organisations |
| Ramallah | The Ministry of Women's Affairs in partnership with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs "Asala" | Participate in the bazaar "Nawar al looz" | Organisations, women, students, children | Number of organisations, women, students, children |
| Ramallah Cultural Palace | Ministry of Culture | Participate in the National Culture Day | Organisations, ministries, people | Number of organisations, peoples |
| Al Bireh Cultural Center | Al Bireh Public Library, Dar Al Hekmah Bookshop | Participate in exhibition "The book for all" | National and international organisations, women, students, children | Number of national and international organisations, women, students, children |
| Ramallah | Palestinian factions, The Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, Prisoners' Club | Participate in the national march "Palestinian Prisoners Day" | Palestinian factions, ministries, organisations, peoples | Number of Palestinian factions, ministries, organisations, peoples |
| Ramallah recreational complex | Ministry of Culture | Participate in the Tenth International Book Fair under the slogan "Palestine read" | Organisations, peoples, students | Number of peoples, organisations, students |
| Sareyyet Ramallah | European Union | Participate in the "Europe Day" | Organisations, peoples, students | Number of peoples, organisations, students |
| Red Crescent Theater in Al Bireh | Ministry of Culture | Participate in The opening of the film "Emmaus in memory" | Organisations, people | Number of peoples, organisations |

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

| The name of the media outlet | Topics |
|------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Alquds Educational TV | The role of WCLAC in building the capacities of grassroots organisations |
| 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 organisation | 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 |

Appendix G: WCLAC in the Media 2016

| WCLAC'S media coverage in 2016 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | Topic/ Title of the coverage | Link |
| 1. | Grassroots organisations | http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/07/898908.html https://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/10/883471.html http://www.alfajertv.com/news/3953623.html http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/05/25/924280.html https://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=852475 https://www.maannnews.net/Content.aspx?id=848678 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/08/881933.html |
| 2. | Feminist organisations concludes the project "the right to inheritance." | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=498 |
| 3. | Women's economic rights between theory and practice | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=495 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/04/13/901680.html#ixzz45jpibWKM |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 4. | Human rights organisations demanding that the formation of the court is the culmination of restoration of constitutional life | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=493 |
| 5. | WCLAC and Jericho Women Charitable Society opens program for social and legal services for women | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=487 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/03/03/879503.html http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=832563 (جريدة القدس - الجمعة 2016/3/4 - صفحة 9) (جريدة الايام - الجمعة 2016/3/4 - صفحة 6) |
| 6. | Congratulation for the establishment of Department of Family Protection in the prosecution | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=486 http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=473 http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=390 http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=379 |
| 7. | WCLAC signs memorandums of understanding with grassroots organisations to build their capacity to provide services for battered women | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=481 http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=826470 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863117.html http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/02/04/863095.html http://zamnpress.com/news/92346 (جريدة القدس السبت الموافق 2016/2/6 الصفحة 8) |
| 8. | WCLAC concludes the year 2015 to honor volunteers | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=478 http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2016/01/04/844052.html http://pnn.ps/2016/01/04/ / http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=819160 |
| 9. | A statement from the press conference for conclusion of the women and inheritance project "Strengthening women's access to inheritance rights." | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497 http://www.maannews.net/Content.aspx?id=844246 |
| 10. | the Palestinian Council of Human Rights Organisations and the Independent Commission for Human Rights meet Dr. Rami Hamdallah, Chairman of Council of Ministers | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=494 |
| 11. | Denounced statement the condemnation of a new murder added to the series of murders of women | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=482 |
| 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) | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=497 |

Appendix H: Articles Written by WCLAC

| | The article | Link |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Political volition create international peace and security | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=479 |
| 2. | Analysis paper on the Law n°6 for the year 2016 on Social Security | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=496 |
| 3. | WCLAC's Annual Newsletter 2015 | http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=503 |

Appendix I: Volunteer Cluster Activities

| Date | Partner | Topic | # of particip. | Target group | Location |
|-----------------|--|---|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Qalqilya | | | | | |
| 12/4 | Qalqilya municipality | Film show on the success story “Fatima Jada” in “Habla” village under the title "Success begins with a dream" and 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 organisations and associations of the town, number of women | Qalqilya municipality hall |
| 20/4 | Kufr Thuluth village | Film show on the success story of Fatima Jada in “Kufr Thuluth” village under the title "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 of Fatima Jada in Qalqilya under the title "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 |

Appendix J: Volunteer Meetings, organised by cluster

| Date | Topics | # of part. | Location |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hebron | | | |
| 17/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognize on the Hebron volunteers group and follow-up the formation of the group ▪ Definition the goal of volunteering, and discuss the volunteers plan ▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission and vision and work ▪ Introduction on volunteers program ▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community ▪ The importance of the role of volunteers in contributing to change the stereotype about women ▪ Discuss the mechanism to increase the number of volunteers for the group, in particular the number of males in the group ▪ Discuss the activities that will be implemented during this year ▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed | 13 volunteers (10F;3M) | WCLAC/ Hebron office |
| Tulkarem | | | |
| 30/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hand over the group by the head of the unit to the coordinator of the program ▪ Discuss about awareness workshops that have been implemented for the volunteers by Al Najdah ▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission and vision and work and units ▪ Volunteers program and the activities that will be implemented with the volunteers ▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community ▪ The importance of the role of volunteers in contributing to change the stereotype about women ▪ Discuss about the problems of citizens in Tulkarem and especially the women ▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it | 12 volunteers (11F; 1M) | Al Najdah Society |
| Tubas | | | |
| 31/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hand over the group by the head of the unit to the coordinator of the program ▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it ▪ Discuss about awareness workshops that have been implemented for the volunteers by TCS ▪ Introduction about WCLAC mission and vision and work and units ▪ Volunteers program and the activities that will be implemented with the volunteers | 15 volunteers (8F; 7M) | Tubas Charitable Society |
| Qalqilya | | | |
| 31/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introducing the new volunteers with information about WCLAC work and volunteers program ▪ Discussion about the film "Success begins with a dream" | Number of old and new volunteers | Forum of Intellectuals |
| 2/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss about the problems of citizens in Tulkarem and especially the women ▪ The importance of volunteer work for volunteers and for the community ▪ The importance of the role of volunteers in contributing to change the stereotype about women ▪ Discuss the Training which will be performed and who will participate in it | 17 volunteers (8F; 9M) | Qalqilya |