

Joint Statement & Recommendations of the conference convened at Santa Maria Hotel in Bethlehem (March 31 st-April 1st, 2021) :

Every year, a large percentage of women experience the effects of Gender inequality and the prevalence of gender-based violence. Psychological violence is the highest since 55% of women said they had been exposed to it, followed by economic violence at 54, followed by social violence at 27%, 24% of women were subjected to verbal violence and 15% of women suffered significantly from physical violence. Although physical violence is the lowest percentage, it remains the most serious due to the fact that violent men took advantage of the closing of courts, movement restrictions, and difficulty of accessing reporting centers. In the period of the pandemic and because of the home quarantine, the rate of cyber violence may be higher because girls use social media to spend time. A Vibrant and dynamic Implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNR1325 can help the government better address both gender representation and violence against women and girls.

As participants in the conference, we call for the increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making; integrating gender in the government emergency/humanitarian plans during Covid-19; improving the local authorities intervention strategies in the prevention of violence against women, including strengthening women's rights under law; supporting women's integration in peace initiatives and conflict prevention processes; protection of women and girls from Gender-based violence; amending discriminatory laws and legislation that discriminate against women/girls, and, calling the UN and international bodies to put a strategy to protect and support women and Palestinian girls women with protection against the violations of occupation.

All the participants in the conference reached a consensus that civic society organizations and human rights advocates should do more efforts and advocacy campaign so that their voice and the voice of women should reach decision-makers

who can work to implement UNR1325 efficiently. By supporting the full implementation of UN1325, the government and its relevant ministries are not only helping to improve the lives of women and girls, but also, taking action to protect them from gender inequalities and integrate them fully in public and political life.

Recommendations:

- Calling upon the government to strengthen GBV prevention and protection by working together by reaching vulnerable areas and increasing relevant services provided
- Calling upon relevant bodies to improve availability of compassionate and confidential health and psychosocial services to GBV survivors through establishing health guidelines and protocols for the treatment of GBV survivors, train health providers to detect and treat GBV cases based on established standards;
- Calling upon the Palestinian Authority (PA) to make fundamental changes in the laws that protect women rights and equality stipulated in the Basic law
- Calling upon the PA to work harder to implement the National Action Plan (NAP) side by side with the local and international civic society organizations and Women groups taking into consideration the needs of women in refugee camps and in Israeli prisons, and deal with the repercussions of lack of access to resources, education, health services and restriction on movements, and deal with the impact of the Wall on the psychology and physical health of women/girls.
- Calling upon the Ministry of Education to modify the syllabus taking into account gender sensitives and discourses to remedy the stereotypical images of Women, and highlighting women's equal rights.
- Calling upon the government to ratify the "Family Protection Bill" by providing women with legal and safety net mediation teams

- Creating an **accountability** mechanism through which we can question decision-makers
- Calling upon for the integration of women in decision-making processes through reaffirming the presence of women in all decisions related to public policies.
- Calling upon the PA and relevant human rights organizations to do specialized studies (i.e., Shadow report) to be submitted to the International Court of Justice, UN bodies and Human rights Agencies on the psychological, economic, social and physical repercussions of the occupation on the Palestinian women.
- Calling upon relevant organizations and the PA to create a vibrant alliance with men to enhance the implementation of UNR1325, deal with issues of Patriarchal practices, and traditional women positions to reach a common ground
- Calling upon the government to take the necessary policies and measures to criminalize violence against women and any member of the family by considering it a public affair and not a private matter.