



This project is supported by EU

Conference:

“Toward Building a Referral System for Women Victims of Violence”

Amman, Jordan

29-30 March 2010

Conceptual Framework

➤ Takamol project: overview

In spite of the lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence of violence against women (VAW) in Palestine, and in the absence of a structured and reliable referral system, there are indications that VAW cases are increasing. Several factors are adversely affecting Palestinian women and their strife towards gender equity, including the Israeli occupation, the deteriorated security and economic conditions, community norms, traditions and culture dealing with women as of an inferior status than that of men, as well as the legal situation that hinders efforts to improve the situation of women in the absence of laws that protect women from gender-based violence, the lack of adequate legal protection for women's rights in the applicable laws, the absence of a formal system to refer victims of VAW to legal, health and social services, inadequate number of institutions and scarcity of services offered to women. In addition, there is a need to develop the capacity of health, social and legal service providers to ensure that women victims of violence receive the appropriate assistance, and a need to focus on VAW issues in the educational curricula of medical, midwifery and nursing schools, as well as in official law enforcement institutions.

With the beginning of 2009, Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) and Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development launched a 3-year project for “Building a Sustainable Referral System to Legal, Health and Social Services in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” with funding from the European Commission (EU).

The project aims at improving women's access to health, legal and social services by creating a system with clear and specific procedures and regulations to help service providers in providing support and assistance to women victims of violence and by working with health and law schools and the police academy to develop training curricula emphasizing VAW issues.

One of the key activities of the project is to hold a regional conference with the goal of networking and exchange of experiences in regard to the referral system for women victims of violence to services.

➤ **Conference goal**

The goal of the conference is to make use of regional and international experiences in regard to the VAW-related referral system, as well as to present the findings of surveys conducted in order to develop recommendations and suggestions for setting out the foundations and elements of the Palestinian referral system.

➤ **Conference participants**

- Relevant ministries: Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- Civil society organizations, human rights, women's, legal and developmental institutions.
- The police.
- Media professionals.
- International organizations.

➤ **Conference themes**

- Presentation of findings from surveys of academic institutions and services in Palestine.
- Presentation of regional and international experiences.
- Development of a document on principles and mechanisms for the management of VAW cases, which will incorporate the elements of the referral system.

➤ **Conference date**

The conference will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 29-30 March 2010.

➤ Conference venue

Amman, Jordan. Landmark Hotel, Al-Hussein Ibn Ali Street.

The diversity of local and regional experiences in the conference will have a significant implication contributing to the building of a system of referral to services for women victims of violence in Palestine, which will be a major achievement both at the national and Arab World levels, will help improve the situation of women victims, and will serve as a model for the creation of such referral systems elsewhere in the Arab World.