



للارشاد القانوني والاجتماعي

مركز المرأة

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

Consolidating the past – shaping the future

A strategy for 2010-2012

Annual Report 2011

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Part I – Narrative Report

General Information:

Name of NGO: Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

Reporting period: 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011

Date of last report: 12 September 2011

Date of this report: 31 March 2012

Short Political Brief

This year has witnessed a number of significant political events affecting Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The 'Arab Spring' brought much unexpected change to a number of countries within the Middle-East and North Africa region. One cannot deny the impact this has had on many residents in the region, and its knock on effects have not escaped Palestine. One positive change during the reporting period was, for example, the signed reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah, in which the two sides pledged to form a joint interim government before national presidential and parliamentary elections next year.¹ The Nakba Day (15 May) and Naksa Day (5 June) marches, not least those on the Syrian and Lebanese borders and in the West Bank and Gaza, brought mass mobilisation of people seeking change and affirming refugees’ right to return; the events also came with tragic loss of life at the hands of Israeli armed forces.² In September, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) submitted a request to the United Nations (UN) for full recognition of a Palestinian state and admission to UN membership, but was unable to get enough support to press the issue forward.³ Meanwhile, daily news and WCLAC’s own documentation work show Israeli policies intended to achieve the Judaization of the West Bank and Gaza following a harmful trend: incidents of demolitions, evictions, settlement expansion and settler attacks have risen significantly in 2011. Through this unstable period, WCLAC understands the need for flexibility in planning, as well as maintaining the importance of ensuring that women’s rights and empowerment issues remain on the political and social agenda.

The Arab Spring

The Arab uprising, which began in early 2011, brought about unexpected democratic change in several countries across the Middle East and North Africa. Palestine experienced similar uprisings in earlier decades, in the form of the first and second Intifadas; the brutal crushing of which, through Israel’s use of military tactics against civilians, has been well-documented. More recently, the Israeli military has succeeded in isolating Palestinian communities and the continued civil resistance against the Wall and illegal settlements has become localised. Nevertheless, the Arab Spring motivated local youth to mobilise and channel their newfound energy into pressuring Palestinian leaders for political and legislative reform. The Arab Spring has given Palestinians hope that a potential increase in accountability of future Arab governments, combined with

¹ “Palestinian rivals Hamas and Fatah sign reconciliation deal”, The Guardian, 4 May 2011
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/04/palestinian-rivals-hamas-fatah-deal> (accessed 31 January 2012)

² “Palestinians killed in ‘Nakba’ clashes”, Al Jazeera News, 15 May 2011
<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2011/05/2011515649440342.html> (accessed 31 January 2012)

³ “UN vote on Palestinian state put off amid lack of support”, The Guardian, 11 November 2011
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/11/united-nations-delays-palestinian-statehood-vote> (accessed 3 February 2011)

their sympathy towards the plight of Palestinians living under occupation, may result in more assertive policies regarding Israel.⁴

In 2011, women were at the forefront of democracy movements across the Arab world, setting a standard for women's activism and acting as visible examples of the power of women's influence in shaping mass movements. The role women will play in shaping new states and how they will fare under these new governments remains to be seen, however. There is already evidence that women's rights are being bargained away on the grounds that they too controversial, too divisive and culturally and religiously inappropriate. WCLAC aims to continue to reinforce its cooperation with other bodies supporting women's rights in order to maintain, and build upon, the achievements of the feminist movement and increase the rate of progress on a broad range of issues relating to equality, social justice and the strengthening of women's role in society.

The unity deal and reconciliation

On 15 March, popular demonstrations for unity took place in the West Bank and Gaza; Hamas cracked down on the pro-unity protestors in Gaza, while several thousand demonstrators rallied in the West Bank.⁵ On 27 April, in a deal mediated by Egypt, Fatah and Hamas signed a reconciliation agreement and pledged to form a unified caretaker government ahead of national elections in 2012.⁶ The conflict between Fatah and Hamas has detrimental repercussions on Palestinian life – including an impact on the lives of Palestinian women; WCLAC believes that reconciliation may present opportunities for a democratic legislature to be restored, through which laws can be passed that improve the legislative protection of women's rights. However, the as yet unfulfilled hope of national elections and the recommencement of the Palestinian Legislative Council has also given a justification for delays to the most urgent legal reforms for which WCLAC is advocating. Notwithstanding the token change to Criminal Law discussed below, President Abbas is demurring from using decrees to effect essential legal changes which will rightly condemn the murder of women. WCLAC is closely monitoring the processes of reconciliation and continuing to ensure women's issues are addressed, through whichever means best serve to promote women's rights in line with WCLAC's mission and vision.

Palestinian statehood

In September, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) submitted a request to the United Nations General Assembly for full recognition of a Palestinian state and admission to UN membership. On 25 September, PNA President Mahmoud Abbas gave a speech before the UN General Assembly where he was greeted with resounding applause and a large show of support for Palestine's effort to escape the injustices of the occupation.⁷ Amongst some Palestinians, however, there were fears that the establishment of a Palestinian state would involve tacit acceptance of Israeli "facts on the ground", such as the settlements; furthermore,

⁴ "Palestinian Activism energised by Arab Spring", Al Jazeera News, 6 June 2011
<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/06/201168131013184315.html> (accessed 31 January 2012);

"Palestinians killed in 'Nakba' clashes", Al Jazeera News, 15 May 2011
<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2011/05/2011515649440342.html> (accessed 31 January 2012)

⁵ "Small unity protest in Gaza attacked", Maan News, 16 March 2011
<http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=369289> (accessed 9 August 2011); and "Calls to continue protests" Maan News, 16 March 2011 <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=369127> (accessed 9 August 2011)

⁶ "Palestinian Rivals Hamas and Fatah sign reconciliation deal", The Guardian, 4 May 2011
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/04/palestinian-rivals-hamas-fatah-deal> (accessed 29 January 2012)

⁷ "The best and the worst of 2011", Al Jazeera News, 6 January 2012
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/20121512945889838.html> (accessed 6 February 2012)

international recognition of the PNA, in place of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, was seen by some as a threat to the legitimate rights of Palestinians refugees and exiles.⁸

In October, Palestine was accepted with overwhelming support (of 173 countries voting, 107 in favour, 14 opposed, and 52 abstained) as a member of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). However, following this achievement, a vote for full UN membership was delayed while the PNA decided whether to press for a vote in the Security Council (where it lacks sufficient support) or take the matter to the General Assembly, where it is expected to win the lesser position of enhanced observer status.⁹ WCLAC continues to closely monitor both statehood and reconciliation developments to ensure that women are on the agenda.

President Abbas' amendment by presidential decree of Criminal Law

In mid-May, President Abbas signed a presidential decree deleting Article 340 from the Jordanian Criminal Law applicable in the West Bank and Article 18 of the British Mandate Criminal Law, ostensibly thereby ending the practice of giving lenient, even meaningless sentences to femicides. However, WCLAC notes that many lenient sentences are given not using these articles, which relate specifically to crimes of passion, but rather, they use articles which give significant discretion to judges to reduce sentences as they wish (e.g. Articles 98, 99, 100 of Jordanian Criminal Law). Accordingly, while WCLAC praises the public condemnation of femicide, we call for further, essential, and meaningful changes to be made to denounce wholly and permanently the practice of femicide. To that end, WCLAC will work to maintain pressure on the president, and to maintain the momentum which enabled the passage of one presidential decree, to ensure that the act of fully condemning practices which harm women is completed.

Shari'a court procedures to better ensure women's access to justice

WCLAC praises three administrative orders which have been passed by the Judge of Judges (Chief Justice of the Shari'a Court). While these do not overturn gender inequality within Shari'a, they do reduce the vulnerability of women. The orders state, firstly, that in inheritance cases, women should be informed of the value of their inheritance directly by a court official (ensuring that accurate information is given); secondly, in cases of polygamy, it is a legal requirement that current wives are informed of any further marriage, it cannot be kept secret; thirdly, a wife must be informed if she is being divorced at the moment that she is being divorced. That the Shari'a courts are working, step by step, to reduce the vulnerability of women is a success for civil society, whose work on issues of personal status and family law WCLAC continues to support.

Israeli occupation practices worsening

The beginning of 2011 has not been marked by any positive steps taken by Israel in relieving the occupation. Instead, WCLAC notes a worsening trend of occupation policies and the specific negative impact this has had upon women.

- *Israel – New laws:*

The recently passed Anti-Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Law and the Nakba Law show a worrying increase in restrictions on freedom of speech and Palestinian identity.¹⁰ Further legislative threats to Palestinians include the passing of a first draft law that will require that Palestinians whose homes are destroyed by Israeli

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ "UN vote on Palestinian state put off amid lack of support", The Guardian, 11 November 2011
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-15518173> (accessed 1 February 2012)

¹⁰ "Israel anti-boycott law an attack on freedom of expression", Amnesty International, 12 July 2011
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/israel-anti-boycott-law-attack-freedom-expression-2011-07-12>

forces pay the Israeli government for the demolition costs.¹¹ WCLAC expresses great concern at a legal regime which increasingly punishes Palestinians and those who recognise Palestinians' human rights.

- *Israel – Heightened threat to communities by the wall and Jordan valley areas*

WCLAC draws attention to the particularly precarious and vulnerable position in which Israel's occupation practices put Palestinian communities in the 'seam zone' and Jordan valley. In 2011 alone, more than double the number of demolitions occurred: 622 structures were demolished by Israeli authorities, rendering homeless 1,094 Palestinians.¹² WCLAC is particularly concerned about psychological and economic impact this has upon women and their families. The effects of such policies on family life leaves a distinct impact upon the lives of women, who suffer the double bind of Israeli actions, dramatically changing their family circumstances, while at the same time social conservatism demands they maintain cultural norms of a particular femininity, domesticity and containment within the private sphere.

- *Israel – Increasing pressure on East Jerusalem*

There has been no easing in pressure on Palestinian Jerusalemites, or on rights of freedom of movement of Palestinians accessing the capital, Jerusalem. WCLAC notes the lack of positive change in alleviating the situation of East Jerusalem residents under occupation. The family reunification ban was extended on 26 July 2011 for another year.¹³ WCLAC would also like to draw special attention to the link between occupation practices and vulnerability within the private sphere, as well as to other of the less 'visual' tragedies of Israel's occupation such as silent deportations, the break-up of families and refusals or threats to Palestinian residency rights. Policies such as the ban on family reunification and other practices including house demolitions and forced displacement have an overwhelming impact on the physical and economic security, as well as the psychosocial well-being, of Palestinian families.¹⁴ In a conservative patriarchal society, women's traditional role within the family means that they are particularly vulnerable to these types of occupation practices.

- *Israel – Violence towards Palestinian villages*

Israel's facilitation of the settlement of its citizens inside the occupied Palestinian territory has resulted in the annexation of Palestinian land and water resources and is the root cause settler violence.¹⁵ The Israeli authority's repeated failure to enforce the rule of law in response to settler violence is in violation of its obligation under international law to prevent attacks on civilians and creates a culture of impunity that contributes to continued violence.¹⁶

The murder of the illegal settlers in the Itamar settlement was followed by the collective punishment of the Palestinian village of Awarta, on whose land the illegal settlement is built. The settlement's land-grab was

¹¹ <http://www.wclac.org/ihl/etemplate.php?id=55>

¹² "The Judaization of Palestine", Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions (ICAHD), 25 January 2012 <http://icahdusa.org/2012/01/icahd-research-shows-2011-record-year-for-palestinian-displacement/> (accessed 6 February 2012)

¹³ "Israel extends family unification ban for a year" IMEMC, 26 July 2011 <http://www.imemc.org/article/61742>

¹⁴ "Demolitions and Forced displacement in the Occupied West Bank", UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 26 January 2012 http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_demolitions_factSheet_january_2012_english.pdf (accessed 01 April 2012)

¹⁵ "The Judaization of Palestine", ICAHD

¹⁶ "Israeli Settler Violence in the West Bank", UN OCHA, January 2012 http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_settler_violence_FactSheet_October_2011_english.pdf (accessed 02 April 2012)

consolidated with the decision to build many more illegal homes in the area; meanwhile Palestinian rights of freedom of movement were denied, homes were raided and a huge number were arrested, including 200 women.¹⁷

The inflamed incident of Awarta was accompanied by on-going routine violence perpetrated by settlers and Israeli armed forces. The West Bank village of Al Nabi-Saleh, for example, which has weekly demonstrations against the illegal encroachment of a nearby settlement, and denial of access to a water source, has suffered disproportionate, violent force used against the demonstration, with arrests of men, women and children, along with use of chemical weapons, as houses are doused in 'skunk' water, and the village is engulfed with tear gas. Other on-going Israeli occupation tactics include a number of grievous or fatal shootings, and night-raids targeting youths, for example in Al Nabi-Saleh and in the Bustan neighbourhood of Jerusalem.¹⁸ WCLAC notes the diverse Israeli methods used to intimidate Palestinian women, including targeting their children, and WCLAC has found that many such women are reluctant to issue complaints. WCLAC calls for attention to be given to the unnecessary stress this places upon the lives of Palestinian women and to the need for their protection in an environment in which they are reluctant to report threats, dangers or assaults.

Progress towards strategic goals

The reporting period comprises months 13-24 of WCLAC's three year strategy "Consolidating the past; shaping the future." The five main goals of this programme are as follows:

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

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

Highlights of the year, by strategic goal

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

¹⁷ http://www.alhaq.org/pdfs/Collective+Punishment+in+Awarta_22_April.pdf

¹⁸ 'Silwan youth martyred: dead in hospital from gunshot wound' Silwan Information Centre, 14 May 2011, <http://silwanic.net/?p=16157> (accessed 9 August 2011); 'Dark days for Silwan youth' Silwan Information Centre, 7 June 2011 <http://silwanic.net/?p=17999> (accessed 9 August 2011)

Criminal Law and femicide high on the public agenda

WCLAC's work under this goal has most notably seen results in the form of the presidential decree inspired by the murder of Aya Baradaiya by a close relative, which led to public outcry earlier this year. Following Ms. Baradaiya's murder in May, President Abbas signed a decree ostensibly ending the practice of giving lenient sentences in cases of femicide. At the same time, WCLAC published its own legal analysis, based on cases that we have documented and case outcomes we have analysed. WCLAC's work and our appraisal of this issue can be read in greater detail in section 1.1.1. of the detailed activity report below. In summary, WCLAC sees the public outcry and sympathy for Aya Baradaiya as an essential result of WCLAC's past 20 years of work promoting women's rights; while noting the shortcomings of the presidential decree, WCLAC also sees the President's willingness to use his power in this case as a very positive indicator that WCLAC can expect further change to help protect women, whether by decree or by the democratic passage of new legislation.

New areas of discrimination being identified setting a basis for new campaigns with achievable targets

Despite the positive indications of the presidential decree WCLAC still believes there is added value – particularly as the legislative council remains suspended – in addressing policy issues which require changes to protocols, regulations and practices, rather than just targeting major policy change through new legislation. Two areas identified by WCLAC for preliminary investigation are laws and regulations relating to women's finance and banking and regulations and procedures to guarantee women's access to inheritance. The first findings show not only that gender discrimination is commonplace in these areas, but also that key stakeholders such as businesses, ministries and the Shari'a courts support WCLAC's intervention in this area and feel that regulatory development and reform is very much needed in these sectors.

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

Recruitment of new volunteer cluster – and consolidation of veteran volunteers' work

WCLAC chose 27 new volunteers to form a new team focussed on the area south of Hebron – identified by WCLAC as a particularly vulnerable area in which isolation and development have been especially compounded by Israeli colonisation. WCLAC will enable the new volunteers to train with and learn from the experiences of long-standing volunteers such as those in and around Hebron city itself. These, and other veteran volunteers, continue to promote WCLAC's services and vision in their communities, having delivered workshops to over 500 beneficiaries in partnership with numerous local partners. WCLAC is particularly keen for these partnerships to grow, with a view to the volunteer clusters being able to obtain in-kind contributions to their work – food, drinks, workshop locations, etc. – not only to ensure stakeholder support for the volunteers work, but also to promote the reduction of project costs and the increase in their sustainability.

Raising awareness and promoting the rights of women on International Women's Day and during the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women

As ever, WCLAC's awareness-raising activities have reached hundreds of people (men and women) through a variety of partners including schools, universities, NGOs and grassroots groups. In addition to these, were hundreds more involved in workshops and other events marking International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Action. With a particular focus on the challenges faced by women with disabilities, one of the numerous successful activities for International Women's Day was a special television show talking this issue, which has since been rebroadcast 5 times on Palestinian television. To mark the 16 Days of Action, WCLAC chose to focus its activities around the theme of violence against women, specifically highlighting our work on the draft Law

on Family Protection from Violence and the development of a referral system for women victims of violence (Takamol Project).

Inclusion of men – a cross-cutting indicator

WCLAC notes the need to include men in discussions of gender and women's rights, to ensure that they are actively supportive of women's rights and recognise their role as duty bearers. While certain areas of WCLAC's work remain targeted entirely towards women (e.g. emergency protection, legal aid and counselling and particular courses raising women's rights awareness), others reach out to men whose supportive voices add great weight to WCLAC's campaigns, and whose practices as husbands, as fathers and as Palestinians will help shape the rights environment, for better or worse, for Palestinian women in this generation and the next.

The 5 men among the 27 new volunteers (in the area south of Hebron) join the 12 veteran male volunteers in other clusters (meaning 18 of 60 volunteers are male). WCLAC's 20-hour course "Women's Rights are Human Rights" is proving to attract male participants. Although outnumbered by women, a handful participated in mixed gender courses in Hebron University and Al Quds – not only learning with others, but also affecting the dynamics of the groups, potentially being able to express personal opinions on the experience of men in Palestinian gender roles. In Hebron, this year was the first in which as many as 5 male students have enrolled on the course and it is to their credit, and to WCLAC's, that the students participated fully to the end of the course. Meanwhile, at Birzeit and the Palestinian Academy for Security Science, the men of the course were not so outnumbered, with 8 of 26 participants at Birzeit being male, and 10 out of 21 at PASS.

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

Positive indicators of women getting what they want with WCLAC's service provision

411 new clients registered for legal aid and/or counselling from WCLAC lawyers and social workers, working in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem. Data on the sources of referrals is encouraging, with 58 being referred by a previous client, or being a previous client themselves, suggesting that former clients have found our services professional and worthwhile. With a significant number (106) coming from courts and some from government bodies (4) and NGOs (50), there is an indication that WCLAC's services are commended by these key partners.

WCLAC delivering training with partners – reaching beneficiaries and diversifying sources of income

WCLAC's capacity-building team and other members of staff using training skills and professional experience, have delivered various courses in association with partners such as UNWRA and Palestinian Women's Research and Development Centre. As well as spreading WCLAC's vision and expertise with key target audiences, such projects in which WCLAC undertakes consultancies create revenue which helps contribute to WCLAC's core funds, and to subsidise unmissable opportunities which lack consultancy budgets, such as delivering to practitioner-to-practitioner training, upon the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), for the staff of the new women's shelter in Nablus.

Development of an integrated legal, health and social service referral system for women victims of violence

Working in partnership, the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development and WCLAC jointly implemented a project to develop a sustainable legal-health-social service referral system for women victims of violence in Palestine. The 3-year project, which came to a close at the end of 2011, sought to address the issue of violence against women through the creation of a model referral system and operational protocols, as well as through awareness-raising activities and training workshops for service providers. In 2011, the referral

system was piloted in two governorates and a final draft for the system was submitted to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA).

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

Bringing international attention to the impact of Israeli occupation on the women of Nabi Saleh

WCLAC's International Humanitarian Law (IHL project) has worked closely with women from Nabi Saleh village this year. WCLAC used its growing international advocacy status to support Nabi Saleh's struggle to live in dignity and with rights, despite the aggressive and illegal encroachment of Israelis in the settlement Halamish. WCLAC is a well-known presence in the village and works closely with the Nabi Saleh organising committee, giving them – particularly their women leaders – access to international advocacy targets.

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

Development of new website

WCLAC's reformatting of the website – both the Arabic and English parts of it, and the special section for international advocacy – has given new colour and clarity to the website. The change has saved money and time, as WCLAC can now manage the web-content directly, rather than retaining a consultant web-manager.

Some challenges and lessons learnt

For the most part, progress has been in line with expectations throughout the year. The Service Unit have seen marginally more clients than forecast; WCLAC considers this to be a positive outcome. The most notable difficulty, further details of which are given below in section 3.1.2. relate to the extended hiatus of WCLAC's emergency protection facility. Prior to this, the shelter was running as planned helping 8 women to escape violence in the first 2 months of the year; however, protracted talks with local police and local authorities to negotiate the reopening of the shelter were still on-going by the end of the year, despite support for the shelters work from MOSA's central office, and from numerous other service providers and decision makers. In the meantime, WCLAC has been opportunistic in using this time for the shelter coordinator to deliver training in which she can share her experience of running the shelter, as well as participating in an international training workshop on shelters, and, of course, continuing to push for the shelter to be reopened.

Another component of WCLAC's programme which has been unable to progress this year is advocacy for the draft Personal Status Law. While on the one hand, this has been a secondary priority with topical interventions focussing on criminal law relating to femicide, on the other, WCLAC cannot currently actively lobby the PA to discuss and approve the draft Personal Status Law. During the coming year WCLAC will continue to advocate for women's rights under the Personal Status Law.

In facing some of the challenges listed above, WCLAC has seen the advantages and difficulties of working with partners. A disadvantage of working with partners can be the surrender of some control over the project and over how deadlines are met and priorities and workplans are juggled. However, WCLAC feels that, given the socially challenging nature of WCLAC's agenda, it is essential to continue to act with strong support from key ministries within the PA, with civil society support – strengthened through coalitions and partnerships – and with popular support strengthened through outreach and awareness-raising.

One area in which WCLAC, this year, is implementing lessons learnt last year is in improved flexibility and sequencing of certain projects, particularly planning awareness-raising courses to meet the needs of target communities. For example, this year greater attention has been paid to holding public outreach events at times which do not clash with harvest season, or which fit well around school term times, for example.

Part II – Detailed Activity Report

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

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

1.1.1. Build and maintain pressure for approval of a Criminal Law which defends women's rights.

WCLAC has long been pressing for revisions to be made to the Criminal Law and, accordingly, is a founding member of the Criminal Law Coalition. The coalition brings together civil society organisations to seek to unify and reinforce civil society demands for change in the Criminal Law. The coalition met in January to review the draft law which WCLAC contributed to developing as a member of the Ministry of Justice's drafting committee. In March, WCLAC participated in a two-day conference, led by the national drafting team, to review the draft and resolve language issues through editing.

In early April, President Abbas met with the national drafting committee, together with additional civil society representatives, for a briefing on the draft law and on the merits of passing this law by presidential decree. The President had reservations on two issues for which WCLAC has long been pushing hard: the abolition of capital punishment and that of mitigating circumstances for crimes linked to honour, perpetrated against women. For these issues, the President said that he would want the law to be approved by Al Azhar Islamic University in Cairo, to ensure the new law was in keeping with Muslim law.

In May, following progress made in the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas, the drafting team and the coalition met to assess the possible repercussions for the draft law. Five meetings that were planned to take place with Ministers were postponed in order to wait and lobby for the draft with the new ministers of a unity government. However, this government has not yet been formed. Political will for passing the law by presidential decree also suffered a blow, despite the prospect of a more democratic and inclusive process. This setback is challenging to analyse. WCLAC supports a return to stronger democratic institutions but also feels that, while women continue to die or risk dying each day due to violation of their rights, we cannot wait for a prolonged reconciliation process before femicides (murders of women, link to so-called honour) are correctly denounced as the heinous crime that they are.

A further challenging factor in the dynamic of the draft is the difficulty of maintaining its priority on the political agenda. For example, if the PLC were to be reconvened, criminal law issues would likely come below issues such as economy on the political agenda and, even if the draft is discussed, it might be opposed by Hamas, not simply for ideological reasons but also on account of Hamas having played little part in the drafting process and, moreover, having developed a draft of its own in Gaza.

A tragic boost, in terms of pressing for change by keeping this issue atop the political agenda, came in May this year with the femicide of the university student, Aya Baradaiya, which inspired public condemnation and swayed public opinion in favour of implementing immediate change to improve the protection of women. With femicide becoming an issue discussed nationally, a number of meetings were held between WCLAC, the Coalition and other human rights and women's organisations.

In mid-May, President Abbas signed a presidential decree deleting Article 340 from the Jordanian Criminal Law applicable in the West Bank and Article 18 of the British Mandate Criminal Law, ostensibly ending the practice of giving lenient, even meaningless sentences for femicides. However, WCLAC has published its own legal analysis, based on cases that we have documented and case outcomes that we have analysed.¹⁹ WCLAC notes that many lenient sentences are given, not using these articles which relate specifically to crimes of passion, but using articles which give significant discretion to judges to reduce sentences as they wish (e.g. Articles 98, 99, 100 of Jordanian Criminal Law). Accordingly, whilst WCLAC praises the public condemnation of femicide, we call for further essential and meaningful changes to be made to denounce wholly and permanently the practice of femicide. To that end, WCLAC will work to keep pressure on the President and to maintain the momentum which enabled the passage of one presidential decree, to ensure that the act of fully condemning practices which harm women is completed.

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

WCLAC works within a coalition of civil society organisations to promote a unified and gender-equitable Personal Status Law for Palestine, lobbying with a two pronged approach, preferably for an entire new law but otherwise seeking, at least, to address six key issues which render women most vulnerable within the existing legal frameworks. These are: marriage age, common wealth, polygamy, divorce, custody and equal legal status (for example as witnesses in marital disputes).

Because of the sensitive nature of the issues addressed by the Personal Status Law, key civil society representatives felt that changes were best pursued in a coalition led by the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW).²⁰ An ongoing challenge, at present, is of delegating workload within the coalition to ensure joint ownership of the work and shared leadership among key civil society stakeholders. WCLAC is waiting for the GUPW to convene the National Committee to meet to discuss the current draft law. Many times, WCLAC has urged them to take this step; however, each time we contact the organisation, we are essentially requested not to take action ourselves and we receive positive responses assuring us that the task is being, or will be imminently, done. While it has not yet happened, WCLAC is reluctant to intervene and arrange the meeting itself, fearing this may trigger conflict and a sense that WCLAC is interfering and acting beyond its mandate. As such, WCLAC's efforts under this activity – the only sub-activities of which (for 2011) are to support the National Committee meetings, after a very active 2010 – have not been able to advance in line with expectations.

To make work on this law more inclusive, WCLAC plans to form a national drafting team that will comprise key partners in government, civil society, and Shari'a courts. This builds on our very positive experience last year with drafting the Criminal Law and on our past work with the coalition of civil society partners committed to addressing gender issues in the Personal Status Law.

¹⁹ This document is currently only available in Arabic. It can be found at <http://www.wclac.org/userfiles/Legal-perspective-on-the-presidential-decree-criminal-law.pdf>.

²⁰ The GUPW was established in 1965 as a body within the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and is considered to be the official representative body for Palestinian women, both in the Palestinian territories and around the world. The main objectives of the GUPW are to: mobilise women in the struggle for liberation; raise women's political awareness and participation in the political process; integrate women into the workforce and economy; and raise the cultural and health standards of Palestinian women (<http://gupw.net/ar/>; <http://blog.world-citizenship.org/wp-archive/1531>).

1.1.3. Form and train regional consultation committees in Palestinian Governorates to discuss and support Personal Status Law (PSL) reforms.

WCLAC and coalition partners have organised five discussion forums, held in central locations (Gaza, Jericho and Ramallah), in order to include 102 participants (92 women and 19 men) across the Gaza Strip and West Bank (apart from East Jerusalem). At these fora, the participants were empowered with a great deal of information on the critical issues of PSL reform, including learning to cope with local opposition to such reform. As a result of these events, WCLAC notes that committee members are more confident in holding public discussions and conducting advocacy on issues related to the PSL. Further investment in regional committee members, especially through advanced training in advocacy skills, will enable members to be more effective supporters of women's rights through their work on the PSL issue. This was a big step forward towards holding 15 workshops around the OPT which were supported by WCLAC but led by the members of WCLAC's PSL reform groups.²¹

Media competition

In order to promote public understanding of issues of Personal Status Law reform, and to promote young journalist's engagement with the issue, WCLAC planned to hold a media competition, targeting young media professionals and students of media at colleges and inviting them to submit articles addressing issues of PSL reform. WCLAC announced the competition in May in newspapers, and also publicised it using the internet, and through bulletin boards, for example in universities with media departments. WCLAC has selected a jury to judge the competition, comprising three WCLAC staff and four external media professionals (two men and two women). The competition was scheduled to close in September, and the results announced as part of WCLAC's marking of the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women in November and December. However, by the 16 Days of Action, we did not feel enough entries had been submitted to make the competition worthwhile, without trying to obtain more. Accordingly, we postponed the judgment to tie it in with International Women's Day (8 March), and in the meantime are taking extra measures to reach out to potential competitors.

According to our original plans, we announced the competition in Al Quds and Al-Ayyam newspapers. Seeking more publicity, the extra measures we took included promoting the competition through: using WCLAC's volunteer groups and our Personal Status Law regional supporter groups (at the governorate level); using Facebook; reaching out to media and other students, including meeting with deans of faculties; and the Maan News Network.

In order to receive more entries we have extended the deadline and removed the original age restriction (now making it open to people older than 30, not just to youths). Through meeting with the universities, we promoted long-running partnership, putting this competition in the context of our work. We also invited the deans to come to the award ceremony. Universities included: Birzeit, Al Quds, Modern Society College, Hebron University, Hebron Polytechnic, Al Najjah, the Islamic University (through our coordinator in Gaza) and Al Azhar University. At Al Najjah, the dean was so supportive of our work that WCLAC was invited to speak directly to the students about the legal reform work and the competition.

²¹ These workshops are described in detail under sub-activity 1.2.1

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

WCLAC has worked with civil society organisations to develop a final, presentable draft Law on Family Protection from Violence since 2004 – a set of legal provisions which, up to now, have not been set down in Palestinian legislation. WCLAC has ensured that comments from its staff and external consultants have been reconciled with the current draft. WCLAC has also drafted a legal commentary to accompany the text, giving background and the rationale for certain provisions. With these documents, WCLAC met with the Minister of Social Affairs, who agreed to support the draft law, and plans to meet with the Minister of Women’s Affairs in 2012. Based on previous discussions with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, WCLAC is confident that the minister will support the draft law. The draft law, with the support of these two key ministries, is expected to be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers in 2012.

To gain grassroots support, WCLAC presented the draft law to women’s organisations and local communities in four workshops held in the following locations: Jerusalem (13 female participants), Hebron (18 female participants), Qalqilia (28 female participants), and Ramallah (13 female and four male participants). Participants noted that the workshops should be expanded in order that more communities are made aware of violence against women in general, and this draft law specifically. Other recommendations included engaging the media to raise awareness of violence against women across a broad spectrum of Palestinian society.

1.1.5. Review and change the laws and regulations relating to women's finance and banking.

WCLAC commenced dedicated enquiry into this issue this year, believing it is important to target achievable change at regulatory level in order to affirm gender equity, as well as to target more dramatic legislative change. This is particularly true with the on-going suspension of Palestine’s democratic legislature.

WCLAC began work in this area by trying to map the breadth of discrimination against women in financial matters and looking both at regulations and day-to-day practices. WCLAC also reviewed laws concerning banking and financial procedures for women, including the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) Law, the Commercial Law, Orphans Fund Law. WCLAC has met with Arab Bank, Cairo-Amman Bank, Bank of Palestine and with the PMA, to discuss regulatory differences between males and females relating to:

- opening accounts (current, savings, commercial)
- managing or accessing the accounts of minors
- witnessing financial actions/transactions
- arranging loans
- transferring/accessing the delayed dowry to a widow before settling other debts or paying inheritance to sons etc.
- how banks deal with veiled women (and identification of them).

At the level of the most basic issue – of setting up a personal account – the authorised regulations from the PMA do not discriminate between men and women; however, for other issues referred to above there is discrimination, reducing women’s empowerment, their status in the family and their self-determination, and potentially increasing their vulnerability at times of crisis.

WCLAC held three workshops with women's organisations (specifically targeting working women most likely to have bank accounts) to explain their rights regarding banking procedures and to document any violations of these rights. Workshops were held in the following locations: Nablus (45 female participants from different governorates in the north including Salfeet, Qalqilia, Nablus and Jenin), Ramallah (eight female and three male participants) and Hebron (14 female and two male participants). During the course of the workshops, WCLAC was able to document two cases where women's banking rights were violated. WCLAC's preliminary findings indicate that this is a subject worthy of further research and documentation of cases in which women have experienced gender-based discrimination as a result of financial regulations should be continued.

1.1.6. Draft and develop new regulations and procedures to guarantee women's access to inheritance.

As with targeting change in financial legislation, WCLAC is turning its attention to inheritance procedures, believing that this is a significant area of discrimination against women, but also an area in which WCLAC could achieve tangible results with long-term positive impacts. The goal for WCLAC in this sector is to see a special state-sanctioned department developed, secular in character, which has a mandate to officiate inheritance proceedings. This department should work to ensure that women know the amount of inheritance available to them and the rights they have to claim them, and should have powers to enforce court orders on behalf of women in claiming inheritance payments.

WCLAC has completed a review of literature relating to existing regulations and procedures on how women access their rights to inheritance. Fact-finding meetings have been held with the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development, Arab Bank, the legal department of the Land Registry and the Ministry of National Economy. Further meetings are required, for example with the Ministries of Finance and the Interior, and with the Ministry of Civil Affairs – whose responsibility it is to issue birth and death certificates.

WCLAC has also held meetings with key stakeholders including, for example, the Judge of Judges (Chief Justice of the Shari'a Courts), who expressed strong support for our work on this issue. He too has noted the need for stronger enforcement of court orders and has spoken of establishing an enforcement department to ensure that Shari'a court decisions are upheld on diverse issues such as custody of children, alimony and inheritance. The Ministry of Justice has also expressed support for WCLAC's work on this topic and has expressed a desire to form a partnership moving forwards, with the Ministry doing what it can to facilitate the work. This is a very positive indicator, as WCLAC feels the Ministry of Justice would be well placed to take responsibility for the enforcement of court decisions.

WCLAC conducted three workshops on inheritance procedures targeting working women, representatives from NGOs and civil society, Shari'a court judges, banking professionals and government representatives. Workshops were held in Nablus (33 female and six male participants), Ramallah (nine female and five male participants), Hebron (27 female and four male participants).

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

1.2.1. Mobilise support for adopting proposed reforms.

In the second semester of 2010, WCLAC formed 13 regional consultation committees spread across OPT, generally centred in each governorate. One further committee, based in Gaza, brings together representatives of women's organisations across the Gaza Strip. The purpose of the groups is to mobilise support for the draft of the Personal Status Law within their communities and to build grassroots understanding of issues

concerning legal reform and gender sensitivity. The committee members include academics, decision-makers, students and members of civil society organisations.

With the support of WCLAC, and building upon training conducted in 2010, the regional committees led 15 workshops on the legal justification for the proposed changes of the personal status law in the following cities: Jenin, Hebron, Tulkarem, Qalqilia, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, Nablus, Salfeet, Gaza North Area, Gaza Middle Area, Khan Younis City, Rafah, Gaza East Area, and Gaza West Area. The 617 participants (570 female and 47 male) included members of the local communities.

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

Through a shift in focus in WCLAC's strategic plan for 2010-2012, WCLAC is seeking to concentrate to a greater extent on producing publications based on WCLAC's documentation (see Goal 4) addressing femicide and also linking women's testimonies to Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. However, WCLAC maintains a portfolio of legal and social issues it is seeking to publish, based on past research and events which have helped shape WCLAC's feminist vision, or on on-going special projects. On-going publication projects are as follows:

- Study on the Personal Status Law
- Gender analysis of the Third Draft Constitution of Palestine
- Study of women's needs in Palestine
- Reflections on the experience of the Model Parliament

The studies on the Constitution and the Personal Status Law have been published. Since WCLAC does not have in-house design capacity, design and printing was a time-consuming process. Prior to publication, copies of the constitution study were distributed across informal women's rights networks to partners in Egypt who are promoting dialogue in favour of a new Egyptian constitution which is gender aware and protective of the rights of, and equitable opportunities for, women.

The study of women's needs – which draws on social research undertaken by WCLAC questioning how Palestinian women view their priorities and needs within the restrictions and dangers of occupation and a patriarchal society – has, after some delay, been redrafted to ensure its findings relate to the current conditions in a relevant manner. Meanwhile, the publication of the reflections of the experience of the Model Parliament continues to be under review as a matter of interest but, as it requires significant time commitment from women who are now NGO directors, it is not regarded as the highest priority.

Falling through the Cracks: How the Israeli Occupation Breaks Palestinian Families

This year WCLAC began work on an ambitious multi-donor, multi-partner project to provide legal aid and counselling to women whose right to family life is undermined or denied by Israeli occupation practices, and to advocate for their rights. The project, funded by UNDP and Foundation Open Society Institute, sees three Palestinian women's organisations working together with different capacities, in different contexts, and despite the arbitrary obstacles imposed on them by Israel. The project is being implemented by WCLAC, the Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) and the Centre for Women's Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC) in Gaza, with considerable programme support from UNDP.

WCLAC is providing legal and social counselling across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and is also leading the documentation methodology, literature review and analysis of documentation. The project aims

to develop a structured analysis, using case studies and women's own words to describe the Israeli rights abuses they struggle against. It includes a media and advocacy campaign to draw attention to the issue, particularly among international audiences engaging in Middle Eastern politics.

While WCLAC initially encountered difficulties in recruitment, a full complement of project staff—including a research consultant, lawyers and social workers—has now been recruited. Over the course of the project, the research team will have documented 90 sample cases: 30 from the Jerusalem municipality, 30 from the West Bank and 30 from Gaza. During the interview and documentation process, WCLAC's staff provide legal advice and counselling based on each family's particular legal situation, regardless of whether or not the case is selected to be included in the study.

WCLAC has begun the process of formalising awareness of the project through the use of a publicity flyer, which has been developed and is ready for distribution. This tool will be used to inform our partners about the project and encourage them to refer appropriate clients to WCLAC.

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

WCLAC sees this as a challenging new activity which would strengthen the basis for its analysis of current legal practices which discriminate against women (whether as victim, defendant or claimant), thereby strengthening the evidence base for WCLAC's advocacy positions in calling for legal reform. Work under this activity includes internal discussions with WCLAC on methodology and the creation of a literature review. In the second semester, WCLAC met with the Judge of Judges (Chief Justice of the Shari'a Courts) and presented the aim of the study, which is to improve gender sensitivity within the judicial system so that women have access to their rights. He promised to facilitate our work through making employees available for interviews and allowing WCLAC access to court records. In the coming year, WCLAC will hire a legal consultant to help facilitate monitoring of court procedures.

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

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

WCLAC has been working with MOSA on drafting comprehensive national regulations and bylaws for shelters and safe homes. A complete draft was completed late in 2010. Early in 2011, WCLAC was asked by MOSA to submit further comments on the draft, which were submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's office distributed the drafts to a number of stakeholders including WCLAC, seeking feedback, which WCLAC duly submitted. The Prime Minister subsequently approved the draft, thereby making the regulations national policy. WCLAC is pleased with this positive step toward ensuring the protection of women and girls at risk of violence.

Also under this activity, WCLAC held 17 meetings (in Ramallah and in the Governorate of the WCLAC Shelter) to discuss the draft bylaws and ensure stakeholder support. WCLAC has also presented the drafts to an advisory committee on shelters and safe-houses, which includes members from WCLAC's and other state-sanctioned shelters, as well as other key governmental and non-governmental representatives.

Special project – “Helping the PLC and PNA in enacting new legislation which enhances the security of Palestinian women and girls.”

WCLAC has begun a one year special project in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) under the title: “Helping the PLC and PNA in enacting new legislation which enhances the security of Palestinian women and girls.” DCAF, WCLAC and representatives from civil society and government held an initial meeting to establish a working group of experts in security legislation (with representation from many key stakeholders) which will produce publications condensing key findings from a series of seven workshops, two briefing sessions and a conference (scheduled for 2012). The total number of participants in the workshops and briefing sessions was 178, of which 75 were males and 103 were females.

Topics agreed upon for discussion include:

- Experience of women who break the law, or who are at conflict with the law
- Law on Family Protection from Violence
- Criminal Law
- Women and the draft constitution of Palestine
- Personal Status Law
- Political participation of women and the elections law
- Economic security of women

One briefing session with decision makers drawn from a broad range of parties and sectors has been held, in which the key points of the workshop discussions were presented and the diverse participants were invited to give feedback. Numerous key stakeholders praised the initiative and provided constructive input.

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

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

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

2.1.2 Form 1 new volunteer cluster.

WCLAC understands the importance of including young people as volunteers and advocates for women’s rights. WCLAC believes that working with volunteers is a cost effective way to change negative attitudes and behaviour towards women through building a network of volunteers who learn to identify and condemn negative practices in their own communities. Volunteers are selected from remote areas and, through the training and support they receive from WCLAC, are able to have a significant impact in communities that WCLAC might not otherwise reach.

For this reason, WCLAC continued to support the activities of 5 volunteer clusters in the remote communities throughout the West Bank. Volunteers implemented many activities during the year, some of these were to highlight landmark days such as International Women’s Day (8 March), International Labour Day (1 May) and the 16 Days of Action to Combat Violence Against Women (December). Other activities included the following:

- 1) Volunteers held awareness-raising sessions to introduce WCLAC's legal and social counselling services to women in remote and marginalised areas.
- 2) Volunteers conducted workshops to introduce existing Palestinian laws and their impact on women's rights. Workshops were designed to create open discussion in communities about the importance of gender-sensitive legislation that protects women's rights and will lead to equality between men and women.
- 3) Through awareness-raising activities, volunteers focused attention on gender-based violence that can result from unjust traditional practices in conservative communities. They also used these opportunities to lobby local decision makers with regard to laws that protect women's rights and sought to recruit women's rights advocates from within their communities. Because a significant number of volunteers are media professionals, volunteer groups chose to focus on improving the use of the local audio and visual media to advocate for women's rights.
- 4) Volunteers participated in creating a safe educational environment for children and adolescents through providing awareness-raising workshops and counselling in local schools.
- 5) In order to create sustainability for the volunteer program, volunteer groups created partnerships with local 'like-minded' organizations. Volunteers used partnerships with these organisations to reach communities that they identified as being particularly vulnerable and whom they would not be otherwise able to reach.

A new volunteer cluster in Hebron created

WCLAC has initiated a new group of volunteers in the remote areas south of Hebron. This area was chosen in response to a perceived particular need there due to the isolation of some communities, and the pressures placed upon them by occupation.

The new group comprises 27 handpicked graduates of humanities, law and media subjects who were chosen – following consultation with local civil society leaders – for their leadership potential, their current roles in society (some are already working in influential positions, for example in the media) and their existing capacities, including some proven interest in or knowledge of women's rights. Each of the volunteers has signed a charter with WCLAC to signal their interest and commitment. WCLAC's volunteer coordinator has held a number of meetings with the volunteers, giving information about WCLAC, about the volunteers project discussion WCLAC's and the volunteers' expectations. At the end of the first semester, WCLAC was preparing a training on women's rights and human rights. WCLAC recognised that standard training modules used with previous volunteers would need to be revised in order to engage and challenge these selected volunteers since they already have a foundational level of knowledge of, for example, women's rights, gender and gender-based violence.

In the second semester, WCLAC's volunteer coordinator organised a 3-day, 20-hour training workshop for the 25 new volunteers (20 female and 5 male) in the Hebron governorate. The training was prepared and delivered by a team comprising WCLAC's volunteer coordinator, a WCLAC social worker and WCLAC's legal advisor who manages WCLAC's legal reform advocacy. The training included topics such as: building campaign strategies, developing advocacy tools and learning how to situate gender issues within existing debates. Additional training was given on issues related to Palestinian laws, particularly highlighting gaps within the laws that effect women's rights.

Hebron volunteers take on a local advocacy project

Following the training, and in order to get the volunteers involved with WCLAC's mission, vision and goals, the cluster was encouraged to develop an idea for a project. Because a large number of the volunteers are media students, the group decided to choose a project in which they could use their media skills to advocate for

women's rights. They became aware of the struggle to access education facing teenage girls in the remote village of Mnazil (Hebron governorate). The village's 500 residents do not have access to basic services such as running water, health care and basic infrastructure, including paved roads and public transportation. As in much of Area C, building renovation and new building in the village has come to a halt. The Palestinian National Authority's Ministry of Education (MOE) recently closed grades 11 and 12 in the village's only school, claiming an insufficient number of students attend the classes when compared with the expense of transporting teachers to the remote village. The combination of the potential for settler violence and the difficulty accessing public transportation (the nearest bus is 6 km away), means parents do not allow the village girls to walk to school in a neighbouring village, as their male counterparts are able to do. The inability to access public transportation also keeps Mnazil's young women from attending university. Of the girls who have managed to graduate from high school, only one young woman from the village attends university. Each day, she is accompanied to her classes at Al Quds Univeristy in Yatta by her mother and faces constant ridicule from other students.

Using their media expertise and the advocacy training they have received from WCLAC, the volunteers have documented the girls' stories and helped the village residents advocate for the reopening of 11th and 12th grade classes at the village school. Volunteers met with teachers, parents, and students in order to document their stories on film. They helped village residents write an official letter the Ministry of Education encouraging them to reopen the classes. They also formed a delegation of men and women from the village and accompanied them to a meeting with MOE officials.

Partnerships with local organisations developed

WCLAC has held many meetings with the volunteers and has worked this year in particular to encourage the volunteer clusters to initiate and/or consolidate partnerships with local community based groups, NGOs and various authorities. The aim of these meetings has been to try to enable the volunteers to reduce costs of their activities by finding local support and community contributions, for example, such as meeting rooms and equipment or catering.

The list of active partnerships initiated or strengthened through meetings or activities this year comprises:

Volunteer Cluster	Partner	# of Partners
Bethlehem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Councils of two remote villages: Um Salmoneh and Marah Ma'la • Beit Fajjar Women's Centre • Creativity Centre Dheisheh • Tent Centre • Hussan Club • Beit Jala Municipality • Tawasol 	8
Hebron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope Club • Thahirieh Women's Association • Thahirieh Women's Club • Al Quds Association for Development • UNRWA - Mental Health Program 	5
South Hebron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union of Agricultural Work Committees (South Hebron) • Bint Areef Association 	2
Jericho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ein Al-Sultan Women's Centre • Aqabeit Jaber Women's Centre • Al Qamar Benevolent Society • Al Quds Open University 	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Jericho Chamber of Commerce • Jericho Municipality 	
Tulkarem & Salfet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YMCA Tulkarem (two of our volunteers are participating in their “Psychological Support Network” project) • WATC Tulkarem • An-Najdeh-Tulkarem • PWWSD – Tulkarem • UNWRA Mental Health Programme Tulkarem • Women’s Centre Tulkarem Refugee Camp • Shweikeh Society • Community Rehabilitation Centre—Ministry of Social Affairs • Qufeen Women’s Centre • Kufr Abush Women’s Centre 	10
	Total number of partners introduced to the volunteer programme by volunteers:	31

2.1.3. Support volunteer clusters in working together on central activities, highlighting landmark events and women's rights issues.

2.1.4. Support volunteers in organising activities (25 per year) promoting women's empowerment, women's rights and gender awareness.

The volunteer network has an amazing role to play in organising and – now that the volunteers have been trained by WCLAC over several years – leading awareness-raising workshops. In 2011, volunteer groups have organised 44 workshops with 2013 different participants, and in partnership with around 25 different local partner organisations.

Several of the events were marking International Women’s Day (8 March) and the 16 Days of Action Combating Violence Against Women, while other workshops were information sessions taking on a particular topic including: femicide, safe adolescence, gender-based discrimination, early marriage, gender-based violence, women in the workplace, and women’s rights under Palestinian law. At the workshops, participants are given information which it is hoped can help them better understand what protections they have, understand what legal changes might come in the near future, and understand how their own actions – such as favouring boys over girls, or arranging early marriages – may perpetuate patriarchy and women’s insecurity in their children’s lives.

The information given in the workshop draws on WCLAC’s experience, expertise and training materials including popular modules such as “Women’s Rights are Human Rights” and a WCLAC handbook specially developed for the volunteers.²²

2.1.5. Document and evaluate volunteers activities.

In the second semester, WCLAC held an internal meeting to establish an appropriate methodology for an evaluation of volunteer’s activities. In order to get as honest an evaluation as possible without incurring the expense of an external consultant, it was decided that a qualified member of WCLAC’s staff (who was also

²² A table of volunteer workshops held with local partner organisations across the occupied Palestinian Territory can be found in Appendix 2.

external to the volunteer program) would be appointed to perform the evaluation. Broad-based feedback was also an important component of the methodology. To this end, the evaluation team met with the partner organizations as well as with most of the volunteers over the course of 8 meetings in Tulkarem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho (4 of the meetings were held with partner organisations and 4 meetings were held with volunteers).

The results of the evaluation demonstrated the high commitment of the volunteers to the vision and mission of WCLAC, as well as the cause of women's rights in general. Volunteers were able to accurately analyze the situation in their local communities and respond appropriately to these needs by planning for and implementing activities that achieve a high level of community participation. Evaluators noted the creative and non-traditional nature of many activities as a strength. Examples included art exhibitions and hospital visits, in addition to more traditional workshops. Volunteer groups also had the capacity to build successful and effective partnerships with local community-based organisations (CBOs) and other community groups, especially in remote and marginalised areas of the West Bank. Finally, the evaluators found that effective and continuous follow-up from the coordinator contributed significantly to the success of the volunteer program.

The evaluation highlighted two areas of improvement for WCLAC to address moving forward. First, volunteers noted the need for continuous training on women's rights and violence against women, specifically on topics related to women's rights and the Palestinian law, as well as violence against women. Volunteers bring with them a range of skills, but the evaluation highlighted a need to fill in knowledge gaps and build the capacity of volunteers who lack certain skills. In past years, WCLAC held one yearly training course; volunteers reported that one course was insufficient to meet their needs. Second, volunteers felt neglected by WCLAC's senior management, reporting that adequate attention is not paid to their work, especially in work done in remote areas of the West Bank. A specific example cited by volunteers was in regard to their work to bring individual femicide cases into the public sphere, which they felt were not sufficiently supported by WCLAC staff.

The evaluation team recommended that WCLAC management take concrete steps to demonstrate their support for the volunteer groups by accompanying them to remote communities, in order to understand the nature of the work in these areas. To address gaps in knowledge, it was recommended that WCLAC provide advanced and continuous training on topics identified by both the volunteer coordinator and the volunteers themselves. The evaluation team also recommended that WCLAC involve volunteers in developing the Centre's yearly activities. Because of their extensive work in local communities and strong partnerships with grassroots organisations, volunteers may be in a position to make recommendations to WCLAC with regard to developing partnerships with local organisations. The evaluators recommended that WCLAC support the volunteers in planning at least two days of recreation and team-building activities that bring together volunteers from all four regions of the West Bank. Finally, financial incentives for the volunteers should be increased from \$200 in order to help cover expenses related to their work. While this increase was not included in WCLAC's 2012 budget, it should be considered in the future.

Volunteers receive training in "Most Significant Change"

Transferring skills gained through a partnership project with Oxfam Novib and their other Palestinian partners, the WCLAC Volunteers Coordinator has this year been training volunteers on recently learnt techniques for monitoring and evaluation based on "most significant change". Two groups of volunteers, each from different clusters in the North and South, benefited from 2 days of training on this evaluation methodology. The methodology endeavours to recognise positive change in the work or experience of project implementers and beneficiaries through gathering narratives of successful change, rather than abstract quantitative

measurements. The training events comprised a total of 34 people, of which 20 were volunteers, 3 were WCLAC staff and 11 were from WCLAC's grassroots service provision partners.

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

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

The Media Forum was established by WCLAC in 2005 and works to increase journalists' awareness of violence against women and to promote media coverage of women's issues and women's perspectives. Under its strategic plan for 2010-2012, WCLAC planned a limited engagement with the Media Forum during 2010, with a view to approaching donors to find specific funding for an expanded Media Forum project. WCLAC's commitment to changing social attitudes by promoting better understanding of gender and women's rights among media professionals is now being channelled through activities such as the "Women's Rights are Human Rights" modules with reach out to media students, as well as workshops on specific legal reform issues which WCLAC has held with various members of the Media Forum. However, in the period during which the Media Forum has not had budget for regular activities, other organisations with a media-focused mandate have been increasing their work on gender issues; accordingly, during the coming year WCLAC will be assessing whether the same need for the Media Forum exists, or if WCLAC's energies can better be directed in other directions, or in partnership with media organisations which are engaging with gender issues.

2.2.2. Actively participate in NGO Forum on Violence Against Women.

In February, the Forum held a press conference to denounce sexual assaults on children. This followed high profile news stories concerning two separate incidents of young girls being raped then murdered. The Minister of Women's Affairs joined the panel in which the representative of Al-Muntada (the Forum) gave details of the scale of the phenomenon of sexual assaults on children in Palestinian society. Forum members also held 11 regular meetings during the reporting period, with discussions including a review and revision of the Forum's bylaws, and planning and preparation for events of the 8 March, International Women's Day. The event was a well-attended women-led march towards Qalandia to protest at the closure of the city of Jerusalem and the particular impact of closures on women.

In August, Al-Muntada met with the Judge of Judges (Chief Justice of the Shari'a Court) to thank him for passing three administrative orders that reduce the vulnerability of women by ensuring access to accurate information in cases of inheritance, polygamy and divorce.²³ While these orders do not overturn gender equality within Shari'a, WCLAC sees the court's step toward reducing women's vulnerability as a success.

As part of the 16 Days of Action to Combat Violence Against Women, WCLAC, in cooperation with Al-Muntada, implemented a moot court on the subject of honour killing at the security academy in Jericho. WCLAC also participated in a press conference organised by Al-Muntada to mark the 16 Days of Action entitled "No to Killing, Yes to Life: Together to Have a Palestinian Criminal Law". Representatives from Al-Muntada, the police and the Central Bureau of Statistics spoke on the subject of violence against women and femicide.

²³ For a description of the administrative orders, see page 4 of this report.

Other awareness raising activities carried out by Al-Muntada in 2011 included: distribution of a factsheet about cases of violence against women in the West Bank (including the type of violence and number of instances); production of audio spots to raise awareness about violence against women, which aired on local radio; and the creation of a new website (under construction).²⁴

In terms of working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Forum, a new, independent coordinator was recruited to lead the work of the Forum. In the past, the coordinator was provided by the Forum's host organization (elected by the Forum's members every two years). Now, with the leadership of a dedicated coordinator, WCLAC looks forward to seeing the work of Al-Muntada move forward with increased success.

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

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

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

For the Committee on the Family Protection from Violence Law, see report of activity 1.1.4.

Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations

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

A two-day workshop was held in Bethlehem in January to build on the previous year's discussions of conditionality and donor influence of policies. Topical and administrative issues were also discussed. The former included the Goldstone Report, political detention and the use of civil and military courts. The latter included discussing membership of the council and the housing of the secretariat. The secretariat is housed by organisations in Gaza (Al Mezan), East Jerusalem (JLAC) and Ramallah (Al Haq).

The Council published position papers on the three topical issues mentioned above. In addition to publishing statements on the well-known website 'ReliefWeb', the council also managed to have one statement published online in the British paper the Guardian – this was a response to the widely publicised comments made by Richard Goldstone, apparently regretting his association with the report.²⁵

Part of the aim of the Council is to magnify the voice of Palestinian civil society by uniting and unifying positions on key issues. One common position reached is that civilians should not be tried by military courts.

In December, WCLAC, along with other members of the Council, participated in a conference in Cairo on the topic of human rights in the Arab Spring. WCLAC's general director presented a paper about violence against women during the Arab Spring at the conference.

Other National Coalitions

WCLAC remains a member of a number of Palestinian civil society coalitions, including:

²⁴ To obtain a copy of the factsheet, please contact Al Muntada directly

²⁵ See for example: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/apr/07/richard-goldstone-report-gaza>

- *Palestinian Forum for Safe Abortion*: WCLAC attended 4 meetings with this forum in 2011 and participated in the development of a strategic plan. The forum is also working to develop an informational brochure on safe abortion.
- *Coalition Against Capital Punishment*: Inactive this year, partly because the current draft of the Criminal Law would successfully abolish capital punishment.
- *The Rights of the Child Forum*: Inactive this year
- *Jerusalem Coalition*: WCLAC attended 20 meetings this year with this useful forum for joint advocacy work, project planning and information sharing.
- *National Committee to Support Women in the Workforce*: Newly formed in 2011 to work on improving policies that control the entry of women into the workforce, providing women with equal employment opportunities and combating discrimination against women in the workforce. Members include the Ministry of Labour, International Labour Organisation and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

International Coalitions

WCLAC is a member of several international groupings whose value is in solidarity, sharing information, training opportunities, sharing best practices and spreading advocacy messages.

- *SALMA Network*

WCLAC participated in the network's Annual Meeting at which the role of women in the Arab Spring and the protection women during the transition to democracy was discussed. Participants also discussed the role of youth in the Arab Spring and ways in which youth can be engaged in the future work of SALMA. International mechanisms including international humanitarian law and CEDAW were considered as part of a strategy to protect women. In a side meeting, members of SALMA and AISHA met to discuss possible future collaboration between the two networks. Nine organisations from the following countries participated in the Annual Meeting: Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine (West Bank, Gaza and Palestinian organizations inside Israel).

In addition to the Annual Meeting, SALMA Network held a 3-day conference on women and democratic transformations. The conference included live testimonies from women about their experiences during the Arab Spring in Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Libya. The conference also included discussion on ways in which women can participate in the transitional period and influence constitutional changes while still having their rights protected.

- *AISHA Network*

After several dormant years, and following a successful network meeting in late 2010, AISHA network met in 2011 to discuss how it can be more effective during the changes resulting from the Arab Spring. Representatives from 6 countries (Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon) developed an action plan for 2012 and issued the following recommendations: Arab countries should condemn violence against women and emphasize the principle of equality when drafting new constitutions. AISHA networked also called for the Arab League to withdraw their reservations on CEDAW.

- *Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network*

WCLAC participated in the Gender Working Group (comprised of civil society representatives from countries within the Network and university professors) meeting in Spain and delivered a brief paper on the situation of Palestinian women. WCLAC also participated in the National Conference of Jordan organized by Amman Centre for Human Rights and sponsored by the Gender Working Group. WCLAC

presented a paper on political developments in Arab countries during the Arab Spring. Palestine will have its National Conference in early 2012.

- *Jusour*

This newly formed network is led by the Teacher's Creativity Centre and focuses on the political participation of women. WCLAC participated in the first meeting and looks forward to activities planned for 2012, including finalizing the strategic plan.

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

WCLAC has participated in 11 regular meetings with the board of directors of the Alimony Fund, with discussions including sources of income for the fund. Striving to secure sufficient funding remains an issue. In a positive step towards ensuring independence, the Fund now has a new office, meaning it is no longer within the offices of the Shari'a Courts. The board discussed ways to increase accessibility to the Alimony Fund's services for women in remote areas; one step might be to open an office in the North of the West Bank, for example in Nablus. A 3-day strategic planning session was held early in the second semester of 2011. In addition to finalising its 3 year strategic plan, the Fund developed clear bylaws and regulations. By the end of 2011, it had completed a financial audit of the past four years. Because it faces a funding shortfall in the coming year, the Fund has asked for the Palestinian National Authority's financial support.

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

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

Awareness-raising with partner groups

WCLAC has a variety of training tools and approaches for working on different topics and with different target groups. As well as the workshop series for vulnerable women (primarily housewives) reported in 2.3.2., WCLAC responds to opportunities and requests for information sessions throughout the year from institutions, NGOs, CBOs and groups of individuals perhaps in the first stages of self-organising.²⁶

WCLAC's awareness-raising events of 8 March (International Women's Day)

WCLAC issued a postcard, designed by one of WCLAC's volunteers, which featured a painting of four women with different disabilities. We distributed the postcards to partners and to women with whom WCLAC works, particularly reaching out to show solidarity with women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities.

- *March to Qalandia*

WCLAC also participated in the march towards Qalandia checkpoint, organised by the General Union of Palestinian Women. The theme of the March was showing solidarity between women in East Jerusalem and women in the rest of the West Bank in reaction to the ongoing restrictions on residency rights and freedom of movement.

- *TV show and workshops on disability rights and women's particular needs*

²⁶ A table of awareness-raising workshops held with partner organisations across the occupied Palestinian Territory can be found in Appendix 3.

WCLAC made arrangements with the Palestinian national television service to run a special show addressing challenges faced by women with disabilities, paying particular attention to rights, violence and social stigma. The show also featured interviews with high-ranking PA officials including the Minister of Social Affairs, as well as key people from civil society such as the Director of Stars of Hope – a Palestinian feminist organisation focusing on the rights of women with disabilities. The show publicised the steps that WCLAC has taken to increase accessibility for disabled staff and for disabled women to access WCLAC facilities. Feedback from the show was positive, with many requests for the show to be rebroadcast. So far, the show has been rebroadcast 5 times on Palestinian television.

Also for International Women’s Day, WCLAC held full day workshop in Hebron and Jericho, under the title “The many challenges faced by women with disabilities, and how we can respond to them.” In Jericho, the Governor was able to open the event, while at both venues, a good number of local community members and leaders, disabled women among them, participated. For part of the workshops, WCLAC showed a film produced by Stars of Hope, called “Forgotten Women”, which highlights issues faced by women with disabilities in Palestine. WCLAC lawyers presented a paper, drafted by the head of WCLAC’s Service Unit, detailing the often unimplemented obligations of Palestinians under the Palestinian Law on the Rights of Disabled People (1999).

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with YMCA Vocational Training Centre, Jericho*

WCLAC showed a video of a play titled “Enough”, which was followed by a discussion of domestic violence and about the meaning of the International Women’s Day. The event was attended by 74 of the students at the vocational training centre – a mix of young men and women.

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with the Psychological Development Society, Jalazoon Camp*

WCLAC showed a video of a play titled “Enough”, which was followed by a discussion of domestic violence and about the meaning of the International Women’s Day. The event was attended by 92 female students from Jalazoon High School. The Director of the school was impressed by the discussion and expressed interest in holding another event to address issues of sexual violence.

- *Co-operation with UNWRA in Shu’afat, Qalandia and Aqabeit Jaber*

Three workshops showing the film “Enough” and addressing issues of domestic violence. The number of participants was 24, 20 and 50 housewives, respectively (total: 94).

- *Raising awareness of incest for UNWRA School Counsellors*

Using the film “Minna wa Fina”, WCLAC raised and discussed issues of incest within Palestinian society with 18 School Counsellors working in UNWRA schools.

- *Activities of WCLAC’s Jerusalem staff*

WCLAC took part in events in partnership with four Jerusalem-based community based organisations. With the Women’s Forum of Sheikh Jarrah, 33 women participated in a celebration of the 8 March and shared experiences which linked Palestinian womanhood to life under occupation. With the Centre for Community Work in the Old City, WCLAC joined over 200 people for a celebration of International Women’s Day which honoured WCLAC and other organisations as service providers targeting women. In partnership with the Arab Association for the Physically Disabled and Stars of Hope, WCLAC co-organised an event honouring Jerusalemite women with disabilities.

- *Activities in partnership with Hebron-based organisations*

WCLAC's Head of Services met with two groups, the first being a group of trade unions, the second a group of Governmental and NGO staff, and presented a paper detailing the often unimplemented obligations of Palestinians under the Palestinian Law on the Rights of Disabled People (1999). In total the events were attended by well over 50 people.

WCLAC's awareness-raising events marking 16 Days of Action to Combat Violence Against Women

To mark the 16 Days of Action, WCLAC chose to focus its awareness-raising activities around the theme of protection from violence, specifically highlighting our work on the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence and the development of a referral system for women victims of violence (Takamol Project).

- *Activities of WCLAC's Jerusalem staff*

To prepare for the 16 Days of Action, WCLAC's Jerusalem staff met with 18 Jerusalem-based organisations to coordinate activities. In cooperation with Tantura Theatre, 120 people (12 men) attended a play about women's right to inheritance held at Hind Hussein College in Jerusalem. Following the play, WCLAC presented a paper on the topic, facilitated a discussion and answered questions from the audience. WCLAC also gave one-time counselling to individual women after the show. Hind Hussein College, with the participation of WCLAC and many Jerusalem-based organisations, also hosted a study day about human rights for 120 participants (4 men). WCLAC presented a paper about women's rights and violence against women. In partnership with 18 Jerusalem-based organisations, WCLAC participated in sit-in to raise awareness about violence against women. WCLAC worked together with Abbad Al Shams to show a film called "Figs and Olives" (produced by Shashaat), which tells the story of an old woman who refuses to move from her home in the Old City of Jerusalem. Following the film, WCLAC facilitated a discussion with the attendees (18 housewives and working women) about issues raised in the film, including the struggles of women in Jerusalem.

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with the Women's Centre and the Rehabilitation Centre of Deir Ammar Refugee Camp, Ramallah*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system and the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence. The session was attended by 15 staff and board members from the two centres.

- *Awareness raising on domestic violence with the Women's Centre and the Rehabilitation Centre of Al Amari Refugee Camp, Ramallah*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system and the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence. The session was attended by 18 housewives from the camp.

- *Awareness raising on domestic violence with the Women's Centre of Aqabeit Jaber Refugee Camp, Jericho*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system and the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence. The session was opened by the governor of Jericho and attended by 16 women from the camp.

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with staff from safe homes at Mehwar, Bethlehem*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system and the draft Law on Family Protection from

Violence. The session was attended by 30 participants, all staff of governmental and non-governmental safe homes throughout the West Bank.

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with health, education and social services UNRWA staff, Bethlehem*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system, the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence, the Personal Status Law and featuring a keynote speech from WCLAC's General Director on the Criminal Law applied in Palestine, including problems and achievements. The session was attended by 13 members of UNRWA staff (5 females and 8 males).

- *Awareness-raising on with Community Development Center in Al Jalazon Refugee Camp, Ramallah*

Awareness-raising session addressing the issue of domestic violence and protection mechanisms available to Palestinian women, including the Takamol referral system and the draft Law on Family Protection from Violence. The session was attended by six women from the camp.

- *Awareness-raising on domestic violence with the Secondary Girls' School in Al Jalazon Refugee Camp, Ramallah*

Awareness-raising session on the topic of sexual harassment and violence against women. Attended by 35th grade female students.

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

Service Unit awareness-raising workshop series for vulnerable women

These activities consist of running a series of around 6-10 workshops with a medium-sized group of housewives or other women drawn from a particular sector of society or united by a common experience. The reason for targeting relatively homogenous groups of women as beneficiaries is that by giving a series of talks to a particular group, the direct beneficiaries can then disseminate the information informally to their families, colleagues and/or communities knowing that other people in their community have similar information and that they are not speaking as a lone voice. With a series of typically between 6 and 10 workshops (and at least 20 hours), participants can build a sense of camaraderie and WCLAC can try to respond to key questions, concerns or mis-understandings that arise throughout the course or that especially relate to that particular group.²⁷

Participants reported that they enjoyed the awareness-raising sessions, but in the future would like to include their male relatives so that there is not a gap between their knowledge and that of their families. Women appreciated the opportunity to share their own stories in a supportive environment and have pledged to pass what they have learned to their sisters, friends and in-laws. WCLAC's counsellors and lawyers provided one-time consultations after the awareness sessions as requested.

Awareness raising through media

²⁷ A table of workshops held by WCLAC Service Unit in 2011 can be found in Appendix 4.

WCLAC attracts significant Arabic language local media coverage and its representatives make frequent appearances on radio and television channels reaching audiences across the Arab region. In 2011, WCLAC continued to be a primary address for media professionals seeking information on topics including: women's rights, violence against women, sexual violence, the Criminal Law, femicide, equality between men and women, women's inheritance rights and the rights of divorced women and widows.

During the reporting period, WCLAC staff participated in 45 media interviews, including, notably, the live TV broadcast during which it was announced that the President would use his presidential powers to amend the Criminal Law by presidential decree. WCLAC's advocacy work on this issue was also referenced in foreign media such as the Haaretz news website. Other media outlets in which WCLAC staff have participated in interviews include, Radio Alam (Hebron University Radio), Ma'an News Network, Birzeit Radio (Birzeit University Radio), Al Hayat Al Jadidah Newspaper, Radio Palestine, Palestine Sattelite Channel, Radio Ajiyal, Al Quds Newspaper, Al Hureiya Radio, Nawras Radio, Al Khalil Radio and Raba' Radio.

Other awareness-raising and networking activities

In addition to media professionals, WCLAC was (and continues to be) a place where university students, researchers and other NGOs came to find information and training on topics including: domestic violence, women's rights, feminism, court procedures, the situation of Palestinian women under occupation, femicide, women's empowerment, the Palestinian women's movement and the status of women under Palestinian law. WCLAC's experience administering a shelter for women victims of violence means it is also a place where NGOs and others sought training and awareness materials concerning shelters, safe homes and other mechanisms for protection from violence. During the reporting period, over 100 people came to WCLAC seeking information, including:

- A post-doctoral student from Sorbonne University preparing research on feminism and civil society in Palestine.
- Masters degree students from Ireland doing research on the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis and the role of women in peace-building.
- A Spanish volunteer at WTAC doing research about the Palestinian women's movement, with a particular focus on the relationship between the women's movement and the national movement in Palestine.
- A number of students seeking information about WCLAC's work.
- 74 students who were doing research on women's rights and violence against women in Hebron.
- 9 students conducting research with the help of WCLAC's Jerusalem office.

2.3.3. Hold workshops to promote gender-sensitive professional practice among law and social work university students and Shari'a court counsellors.

2.3.4. Hold workshops on women's rights with youths and university students of any discipline.

Workshops for service providers

WCLAC held a 3-day training course entitled "Concepts and Mechanisms of the Counselling Service in Shari'a Courts" for a cohort of 25 Shari'a Court counsellors and judges (11 women and 14 men) representing all of the governorates. The course covered topics including: counselling skills for dealing with women exposed to violence, the Personal Status Law (session presented by the Chief Justice of the Shari'a Court), the Criminal Law, communication skills and the Takamol referral system (developed by WCLAC and Juzoor). Participants expressed a desire for more extensive training from WCLAC on these and other issues related to women.

Workshops for students

Working with university students WCLAC works with our own, adaptable module called Women's Rights are Human Rights. The core course requires 20 hours, which can be done in 4 days, or spread through a greater number of shorter sessions. The curriculum begins with an introduction to understanding gender and its roots in culture, as well as linking these to violence, before considering both global rights and laws in Palestine, for example, examining the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and discussing the key Palestinian legal areas on which WCLAC works: the Criminal Law, the Personal Status Law and Law on Family Protection from Violence. A new element to the curriculum—the referral system for women victim of violence as developed by WCLAC and Juzoor in the Takamol Project—was introduced into the curriculum in the second semester.

In each course, methods, case studies and areas of particular interest are tailored to the needs and expectations of the group.

In 2011, WCLAC led eight “Women's Rights are Human Rights” courses:

- Hebron University: 9 sessions with 24 social work and media students (19 female; 5 male); based on interest, WCLAC gave an addition session, introducing the integrated referral system for women victims of violence (as developed by WCLAC and Juzoor through the Takamol Project)
- Al Quds University: 5 sessions with 25 law and social work students (22 female; 3 male).
- Tireh College: 4, day-long sessions with 21 social work students and trainee primary school teachers (all female).
- Birzeit University: 4, day-long sessions with 26 students of diverse disciplines (18 female; 8 male).
- Palestinian Academy for Security Science, Jericho: 4, day-long sessions with 21 students (11 female; 10 male).
- Al Ahlayeh University of Bethlehem: 5, day-long sessions with 27 social work and law students (16 male; 11 female)
- Arab-American University of Jenin: 4, day-long sessions with 25 students of diverse disciplines (15 female; 11 male)
- Modern Community College: 4, day-long sessions with 38 law and nursing students (20 male; 17 female)

WCLAC considers the inclusion of men in discussions of gender and women's rights to be an important way to ensure that they actively support women's rights and understand their role as duty bearers (as fathers, husbands and brothers) who help shape the rights environment for Palestinian women. With this in mind, WCLAC conducted a 3-day summer camp for young men from Al Jalazon Refugee Camp and Dheisheh Refugee Camp on subjects including: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, gender, the Personal Status Law and the Criminal Law. This summer camp was WCLAC's first activity designed specifically for young men, rather than women, children, or mixed-gender groups. The camp was held in Beit Jala for 40 participants, mostly university students.

A notable success has been the increased interest and commitment to these courses by male students. For example, while the course has been run in Hebron before, this year was the first in which so many male students have enrolled on the course and participated fully through to the end.

An anecdotal indicator is that a lot of the students participating in the course, end up doing more to continue their relationship with WCLAC – as volunteers, supporters, or seeking interviews with WCLAC staff to contribute to articles or research papers, through which the students are challenging the status quo and advocating for positive change to improve the protection of women's rights. A prime example of this is six of

the social work students from Hebron University choosing to do their 150 hour internships with WCLAC, both gaining experience in a feminist organisation and contributing to supporting WCLAC’s work.

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

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

3.1.1. Provide legal services (in Shari’a and Civil courts) and social services to women.

As the backbone its work, WCLAC continues to provide legal and social services to women through a team of lawyers and social workers based in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and the south of the West Bank (one team of staff working in WCLAC’s Hebron office and in the Bethlehem area). These services include taking cases to court, giving legal advice in one-off advice sessions, mediating discussions between family members or finding financial social support for women in need.

In the reporting period, WCLAC provided legal and social counselling to a total of 456 women. Of those, 411 case files were opened in the reporting period, while 45 were files that were continued from the previous reporting period.

There were also a further 382 one-off consultations for clients (Jerusalem: 131; Ramallah: 108; south of the West Bank: 143).

Total client numbers (by location)				
Location	No. of clients carried forward from 2010	No. of new clients during reporting period 2011	Total no. of clients seen during the reporting period 2011	No. of cases closed during reporting period 2011
East Jerusalem	11	92	103	68
Ramallah	20	143	163	97
South WB	14	176	190	149
Total:	45	411	456	314

The following tables show the details for the whole of WCLAC’s service unit. Note that one client can have more than one case, and that several cases could involve just one antagonist, so totals do not necessarily equal the total number of clients. Details by location are also kept on record. A brief analysis follows.

Type of service provided	Social	Legal	Social and Legal	Emergency	Total
Number:	88	131	186	6	411

Type of legal representation	Support for self-representation	Court representation	No court proceedings	Total
Number:	219	165	94	478

Type of legal case	Alimony/Maintenance	Divorce	Custody	Dowry	Other	Total
Number:	201	95	33	39	45	413

Type of social case	Denied Economic, Social or human rights	Psychological violence	Domestic violence	Family problems (e.g. with in-laws)	Sexual violence (domestic or other)	Physical violence	Runaway from home	Total
Number:	135	158	20	21	15	173	4	526

Source of referral	Individuals	Government bodies	Courts	Referred by previous client	Awareness-raising session	NGO	Police	Total
Total	167	4	106	58	22	50	4	411

Age of Client	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Total	28	161	153	54	15	411

Kinship relation of "antagonist"	Husband	Blood-relative	In-laws	Non-relative	Ex-husband	Total
Total	295	25	38	28	34	420

Years of Education	0 yrs (no schooling)	1-9 yrs (basic school)	10-12 yrs (high school)	13-14 yrs (college)	15-16 yrs (university)	Total
Total	1	117	147	94	52	411

Work by sector	Does not work	Private sector	Governmental sector	Total
Total	297	59	55	411

Marital Status	Single	Engaged	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Total
Total	10	10	64	249	66	12	411

Geographical distribution, by place of living	Refugee camp	Village	City	Total
Total	46	146	219	411

Analysis

The total number of clients, at 411, is higher than expected, showing the continued demand for our services. This is a good indicator of trust from clients, many of whom say that they prefer our services because they know that all our lawyers and social workers are women, and that they do not need to spend money – thereby risking repercussions from the leaders of their family – to pay for the services.

The source of referrals shows a good balance of former clients who were happy with our service, of individuals who know how to access our services, and of institutions – for example Shari’a Courts – who trust WCLAC well enough to refer clients to us regularly.

Most clients were young adults; put together with Palestine’s high marriage rate and traditions of marriage at a relatively young age, this suggests that many women are experiencing difficulties either in entering marriage or in the first few years of married life. However, the high number of middle-aged clients (between 30 and 39 years of age) indicates that difficulties can also emerge well into married life. These difficulties often relate to the social and economic stresses inherent to living within an economy strangled by occupation, and are exacerbated as children in the family mature and family expenses are increased by the growing cost of food, education, clothing and more besides.

The high number of alimony and maintenance cases suggests that WCLAC is a primary service-provider for women divorcing or separating from their husbands. This is further confirmed by the high proportion of

women who classify themselves as separated from their husbands upon arrival at WCLAC seeking legal services. We see that these women want to live with dignity and self-determination, without having to sacrifice their human rights simply in order to survive within a patriarchal society in which the law typically favours men, and in which only 14 percent of women are in the workforce (giving them the possibility of direct access to income).

The nature of suffering that WCLAC's clients report is shocking, with over 40% reporting experiencing denial of rights, and/or physical or psychological violence. Equally tragic is the fact that 20 of the 226 clients received this year (9 percent) report attempting to take their own life. All 20 of these women were aged between 20-30 years old.

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

WCLAC's work providing essential emergency overnight shelter and round-the-clock support to women escaping high risk of, or on-going, domestic and gender-based violence continued in the first few months of the year to build on progress made in 2010. In a step to ensure the cleanliness of the shelter and to improve the level of comfort and facilities, WCLAC – in consultation with the Ministry of Social Affairs – closed the shelter for renovations in early March, with plans to close for just one month.

However, whilst consulting with, and maintaining strong support from, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) at a national level, WCLAC's work has been impeded by the actions of local police and the local office of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This has consisted of their advising WCLAC to build a razor-wire-topped wall around the compound (which is currently fenced), and to install security cameras. WCLAC resists these demands on account of the importance of the facility being perceived as a space providing comfort and shelter, rather than being prison-like. Moreover, there is no budget for the proposed changes and infrastructural changes need to be accepted not just by WCLAC but also by the charitable association from which the site is leased.

WCLAC has continued its dialogue with the local Governor, the local Police Department, and the MOSA at local, governorate and national office levels. At the end of the reporting period, the shelter was still being prevented from providing emergency protection from gender-based violence to women in dire need. WCLAC has been supported by MOSA's central office in negotiating with the local police and the local MOSA office to respond to their demands whilst maintaining what it – as a feminist organisation with a vision for women's freedom from the risk of violence – believes is both achievable in the current circumstances and best for the women who turn to WCLAC for support.

WCLAC is frustrated at intransigence demonstrated on the part of the local police and the local MOSA office but has a constructive agenda for resolving this critical standstill in essential service provision. Actions currently being taken include maintaining the strong and supportive relationship with MOSA's central office and pushing for the matter to be resolved by the Minister of the Interior. We believe that at a higher political level, WCLAC will meet with more pragmatism which will override the objections of local functionaries in favour of enabling WCLAC to continue its positive contribution to Palestinian society. Other frontline service providers are also calling for the re-opening of WCLAC's shelter, with the directors of the MOSA-run shelters in Bethlehem and Nablus expressing this need and noting the negative impact on women's security while WCLAC's emergency shelter is not able to function.

Before the work of the shelter was embargoed by certain local authorities, the shelter was functioning well, with 8 young women (aged between 21-32 years old) being admitted. Referrals came from governorates

across the West Bank, from different agencies including key state actors for protection: the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Police and the Offices of Governors from various governorates. The destinations of women clients leaving the shelter include several being able to return to living with family members, following mediation or a joint intervention by WCLAC and state-partners. As a positive step forward this year in service provision for women victims of violence, WCLAC shelter clients have now been referred to the recently opened women's shelter in Nablus, run under the auspices of MOSA, as well as to the long-standing Mehwar shelter in Bethlehem Governorate.

Since the closing of the shelter in March, WCLAC has used to the time to improve and develop internal procedures. WCLAC has also continued to participate in meetings with the protection committee, organised by MOSA and including representatives from the WCLAC, Nablus and Bethlehem shelters. At these meetings, shelter representatives exchanged best practices and laid out plans for continued cooperation.

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

WCLAC values support for our lawyers and social workers as an integral part of our work, and of the methodology we share with partners seeking to implement service provision for women. WCLAC continues to use an external lawyer to provide legal supervision to WCLAC's lawyers, particularly lending expert advice on civil cases (complementing WCLAC's leading expertise in Shari'a cases). He worked for 16 hours with WCLAC's lawyers, focusing on legal provisions around sexual violence and rape of women. He also provided training to WCLAC lawyers on the process of gathering and examining evidence and the work of medical examiners.

To support the social workers, WCLAC restarted a formal partnership with the Palestinian Counselling Centre (PCC); they provided three types of support:

- 12 hours of supervision discussing areas of concern with the whole WCLAC social work team together;
- Eight hours of one-to-one supervision for the new social workers recently having started with WCLAC;
- 12 hours of one-to-one supervision for WCLAC senior social workers who are supervising other staff themselves.

Siwar—a Palestinian, Haifa-based organisation—conducted a two-day training course for the shelter staff and shelter volunteers on working with victims of sexual violence.

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

Despite the temporary impasse with certain local authorities regarding the security provisions for the shelter, WCLAC has maintained close and mutually supportive relations with the Ministry of Social Affairs, particularly at national level, as well as with other key stakeholders.

Eight meetings with senior individuals from key stakeholder institutions were particularly notable; for example, meetings with:

- Minister of Social Affairs
- Judge of Judges (Chief Justice of the Shari'a Courts)
- Head of the Police Family Protection Units

These were in addition to meetings with several health organisations.

WCLAC also held a one-day workshop with all the key partners who engage directly with WCLAC's emergency protection shelter. The meeting informed partners of the current status of the shelter – being closed by local authorities demanding infrastructural changes to the shelter compound – and sought support from partners with any leverage to facilitate a swift and favourable resolution to the crisis.

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

3.2.1. Identify a new grassroots partner organisation.

WCLAC initially sought a partner in Jenin, the largest town in the very north of the West Bank. This would geographically complement WCLAC's existing partners in Tulkarem (just north and west of Nablus) and in Salfet (just south and west of Nablus). WCLAC made a case for Jenin as a suitable location, it being a central town and transport hub for the many villages in the surrounding area of the Jenin Governorate. However, even using WCLAC's mapping of social service providers in the governorate and advertising in local papers, it was not possible to find a suitable organisation meeting the criteria WCLAC has set for a project partner. Accordingly, maintaining the same strategic interest in the far north of the West Bank, WCLAC cast a wider net in search of a suitable partner, and looked particularly at Tubas – as the principal town of the Tubas Governorate neighbouring Jenin, and central to a number of remote villages and other isolated communities.

Through a number of meetings, WCLAC initiated a new partnership with the Tubas Charitable Society (TCS).²⁸ TCS was founded in 1966 to serve families in Tubas town and the surrounding villages of the governorate. Tubas Governorate comprises 21 population centres and has a population of 56,000 people.

The Society has 17 permanent staff (a mixture of full-time and part-time) and two staff on temporary project-based contracts. Recently, WCLAC and TCS recruited two lawyers, two social workers, an administrative assistant and a public relations officer. The lawyers and social workers have completed their practical training with WCLAC's service unit, and the administrative assistant began training with WCLAC's team in financial procedures. WCLAC also invited TCS's new service team to participate in a training session that WCLAC conducted for UNRWA staff working in the same field. Finally, WCLAC conducted a one-day workshop with all three grassroots partners, including TCS, in order to facilitate coordination, referral of cases and the exchange of best practice.

In order to help TCS to plan for their work in the field of social and legal service provision, WCLAC contracted a researcher to conduct a study on the services available to women in the Tubas governorate. The researcher has begun the data collection and research process; the results will be available in early 2012.

The society has its own fixed assets, including its office building and the land surrounding it, donated by the municipality, with funds for the office construction being donated. Funds are currently being sought to finance the construction of a vocational training centre, also on Society-owned land, as the current vocational training facility is rented. The Society is well rooted within the local community, being widely supported in

²⁸ Since WCLAC's communications with the Tubas Charitable Society are in Arabic, it was not until part way into the partnership that WCLAC learnt the organisation has a particular English translation of its name. At first, WCLAC translated the organisation's name as the Tubas Benevolent Society (TBS). WCLAC has now begun to use the same name used by the partner, *viz.* Tubas Charitable Society (TCS). Emails annexed to this report, written during the reporting period, still carry the earlier rendering of the organisation's name.

general, and having support from the municipality, the governorate and local grassroots organisations. The Society is a member of the Family and Child Protection Network, and has a strong relationship with DCI-Pal (Defence for Children International – Palestine Section).

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

Throughout 2011, WCLAC worked with TCS on the following: building the capacity of its board and administration teams; developing organisational bylaws and written administrative and financial procedures; developing strategic relations with potential donors; developing strategic programmes and actions plans; and overseeing the procurement of new equipment (details described below: 3.2.3. through 3.2.6.)

WCLAC has also continued its partnerships with Women for Life and Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem in 2011, although the intensity of support is being gradually phased out in these more mature partnerships. WCLAC held meetings with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem reviewing the annual action plan, supporting the induction of new staff (particularly addressing administrative issues), and addressing issues such as training, publicising Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem and discussing strategy for the future of WCLAC's relationship with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem.

With Women for Life, WCLAC held meetings to review management and planning matters, as well as meetings with staff, the board and stakeholders within local leadership to help maintain a strong mandate for Women for Life locally. In addition, WCLAC helped review their plan for awareness-raising activities on inheritance issues as part of Women for Life's partnership with the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development.

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

WCLAC met with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem five times and – as close support is being phased out – held just two meetings with Women for Life to address purely administrative development issues. The additional meetings with Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem proved useful for giving hands-on training for the new accountant, while with both groups, attention was paid to building financial report writing capacity and ending the financial year.

Towards the end of the year, WCLAC conducted a training course with TCS to develop organisational structure, job descriptions, by-laws and procedures for human resources and finance. The eight-session course for the staff and board began in December and will continue into 2012. By the completion of the course, TCS will have developed clear job descriptions as well as practical administrative and financial procedures.

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

WCLAC supports the partners to raise the profile of their organisation with activities to mark landmark events such as International Women's Day (8 March) and the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Violence. Women for Life held an "open house" on 8 March, with local authorities and community leaders visiting. They took a particular theme of highlighting the difficulties faced by women with disabilities. Women for Life then organised an open discussion on women's right to inheritance on the occasion of the 16 Days of Action. WCLAC participated in this activity by presenting a legal paper on inheritance rights.

Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem held a fun day and a reception to mark International Women's Day on 8 March. The reception attended by 112 people was hosted at the Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem office, with a view to strengthening local relationships. They also organised a special fun day for women and children at the Tulkarem amusement park. In November, Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem organised a workshop on the role of youth in combating violence against women to mark the 16 Days of Action, in which 120 people participated. WCLAC submitted a paper on the rule of law and violence against women, as well as the role of youth in creating a legal movement and conducting advocacy on the subject of combating violence against women. The workshop was implemented in conjunction with Al Quds Open University in Tulkarem.

With regards to strategic fundraising, WCLAC is concerned by the difficulties Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem has faced in trying to raise funds independently and has met with the partner to discuss the issue. One likely obstacle is that Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem is a branch of a larger organisation, and therefore does not have its own legal identity. Meanwhile, Women for Life show aptitude in raising funds and developing new partnerships and projects; WCLAC is working with Women for Life to try to ensure that capacity for growth remains in balance with their, and our, shared strategic vision.

Towards the end of the year, WCLAC held two meetings with all three grassroots organisations in order to build a joint project proposal on counselling and mediation that can be submitted to donors. To overcome the difficulties facing Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem in fundraising, WCLAC has encouraged them to submit joint proposals with Women for Life or TCS as a sub-contractor.

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

Both Women for Life and Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem seem competent at implementing legal and social support work and awareness-raising activities. So far this year, WCLAC undertook one field trip accompanying Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem on an awareness-raising workshop. The lawyer leading the workshop was adept at covering the topic and meeting the needs of the participants. WCLAC also accompanied Women for Life on a training session that they provided for local police.

WCLAC met with both Women for Life (11 meetings), Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem (six meetings) and Tubas Charitable Society (seven meetings) to review their action plans and to help partners in linking new project design to their existing strategy, both by balancing staff commitments and by trying to build synergies between projects. An evaluation of WCLAC's support, as well as the partners' activities within the local communities, has been designed and will be conducted at the beginning of 2012. Evaluation meetings with partners will also be held at this time.

Supervision and training

Working to maintain high standards of service provision, WCLAC gave 11 supervision sessions (39 hours) to the lawyers and social workers of Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem, addressing issues including: professionalism; linking legal support to social support and vice versa; referring emergency cases; managing stress; and discussing actual case studies. One challenge in this activity arose due to the different levels of experience between the social workers and the lawyers. The staff of Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem also participated in training WCLAC conducted for the Nablus shelter staff.

WCLAC gave advocacy training sessions with members of the staff, board and general assembly of Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem, with 15-20 participants attending each of four sessions. The topics addressed were: gender, criminal law, personal status law and family protection law.

In October and November, WCLAC provided seven training sessions for Tubas on strategic planning. At the end of the training, Tubas staff and board members were able to complete a vision, mission and a one-year strategic plan for the organisation. Because they have never had a plan of this type before, WCLAC felt that the first plan should cover one year only.

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

WCLAC undertook an inventory of the Tubas Charitable Society's needs in terms office equipment ranging from desks to computers. In the second half of the year, we supported TCS in the procurement of the required equipment and furniture.

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

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

The workshops addressing this activity are planned for 2012. It is intended as a strategic follow-up activity, maintaining WCLAC's engagement with the health, social and security sectors subsequent to WCLAC's leadership of the Takamol project which is due to be completed at the end of 2011. However, as in 2010, WCLAC has responded to immediate requests for training from the Ministry of Social Affairs to share best practices in meeting the needs of women victims of violence.

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

WCLAC provided eight days of training for staff of the women's shelter in Nablus, at the request of MOSA and the Nablus shelter itself. Each day was presented by a different member of WCLAC staff, presenting different parts of a unified approach to meeting the needs of women escaping violence. Particular topics included:

- Gender-based violence;
- Discrimination against women within Palestinian laws;
- Ethics of service provision;
- First contact with clients, planning an intervention and following up with clients;
- Professional responsibilities – staff relations and staff-client relations;
- Legal procedures;
- Awareness of psychological needs and support;
- Case studies from WCLAC's experience.

Feminist debates – a course for students on international feminism

In November 2010, WCLAC began a project comprising a 12-lecture series in Nablus on debates in international feminism. WCLAC completed this in the first semester of 2011. The course was part of a project being led by the Palestinian Women's Research and Development Centre (PWRDC), under the title "Feminist Debates". WCLAC's lectures were open to students of any discipline attending Al-Najjah University and Al-

Quds Open University, and covered themes such as: feminist theory, history of the international women's movement and linking international feminism to Palestine. Of the 30 students on the course, one third were men – a positive indicator for WCLAC's belief that a strong core of Palestinian men are committed to building a better society, in which human rights and self-determination are enjoyed by all Palestinians.

The course was a significant success, with the partner PWRDC and the participants happy with the project. Several participants have expressed an interest in volunteering with WCLAC, in supporting the volunteers' work, or in participating in future events. PWRDC have expressed an interest in repeating the project with WCLAC in different university towns in Palestine.

Providing technical support to UNWRA by training Community-Based Organisations and UNWRA frontline staff on Gender-based Violence.

WCLAC has implemented a series of five training sessions in the northern, central, and southern regions of the West Bank. Each course was five days long, with different days being led by different member of WCLAC staff. Three of the trainings were for the staff of CBOs working with UNWRA in the refugee camps (77 participants) and the remaining two targeted UNRWA frontline staff (42 participants). The trainees come from 15 different refugee camps: Qalandia, Shu'afat, Amari, Jalazoon, Deir Amar, Dheisheh, Arub, Fawwar, Balata, Alfara, Askar, Nour Shams, Jenin, Tulkaram and Aqabeit Jaber. The topics covered included: an introduction to understanding gender; gender-based violence; professional ethics and values; receiving clients and understanding their problems; professional interventions with clients in need; providing protection; and introducing the referral system for women victims of violence and understanding its protocols.

Training manual

WCLAC completed and published a training manual that focuses on gender-based violence and women's rights. WCLAC has printed 200 copies of the manual which are being shared with 70 selected partners, with plans to distribute more.

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

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

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

Gender audits of PARC and PMRS were completed in 2010. This year, gender audits of CDWR and ECRC were also completed. The draft reports were completed and submitted to the organizations for review and feedback. WCLAC took the feedback and incorporated it into a final report, which was re-submitted to the two organizations; executive summaries were submitted to Oxfam Novib.

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

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

During the reporting period, the Takamol project team held 31 meetings with diverse stakeholders including:

- Palestinian Authority Ministries such as the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH); as well as meeting with particular units working on gender issues or specifically with women and children.
- Governorates of Ramallah and Jericho – these are the governorates in which it is planned that the integrated referral system will be piloted.
- The Chief Justice (Shari'a) – consolidating a positive relationship between WCLAC and the Shari'a courts, a relationship which also includes training Shari'a court counsellors on gender issues.
- The Police
- UNWRA
- Palestinian Red Crescent Society
- Key players in the legal sector, such as the Head of Public Prosecutions in the Ramallah Governorate
- Steering committee
- Management committee

Many of these meetings introduced and advocated for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the adoption of the referral system. Of particular importance to the pilot has been the support from the pilot governorates of Ramallah and Jericho, while MOSA and MOWA have also showed support; the signing of MOUs gained significant media coverage. The Police and the Red Crescent Society have been cooperative, and the Chief Justice (Shari'a) has pledged the cooperation of the Shari'a courts. UNRWA has said that they will build on Takamol's protocols as they build a referral system within the camps. Relations with the Ministry of Health have been more difficult and the Takamol project team has had to struggle for ways to ensure an appreciation of the importance of this referral system in increasing protection for women. The Minister of Health has stated that the referral system is not a priority for the Ministry. Steps towards overcoming this obstacle include ensuring the support of other Ministers as well as finding allies within the key directorates of the Health Ministry.

WCLAC has also worked with regional stakeholders, as a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights network and the SALMA coalition among other regional groupings. The SALMA coalition provides a useful forum through which to present lessons learnt in the Palestinian context and to benefit from feedback and the cross-fertilisation of ideas with input from what is taking place in other countries. WCLAC has been asked to make a presentation on the Takamol project at the next regional SALMA meeting, based on the experience of developing a regarding referral services for women victims of violence in OPT. The forum should assist in finding potential technical experts for this work.

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

The needs assessment was completed by the end of 2009, and it was presented to the local stakeholder through a national workshop. The tool has proved useful to WCLAC in recruiting a new partner organisation (Tubas Charitable Society) in the north of the West Bank.

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

Using the results and recommendations from the mapping exercise of service providers, WCLAC and Juzoor developed the structure and tools for a referral system, ready for piloting in the Ramallah and Jericho governorates.

By early 2011, substantial progress had been made towards a pilotable draft system. However, it was felt that the draft protocols should be reviewed another time by the stakeholders, getting feedback from the diverse sectors with a stake in the project, and seeking to reinforce their support for the pilot and the finished product.

Workshops were held with the following groups:

- Family Protection Units (of the Police force)
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Inter-sectoral (Police, Social affairs, Health etc...)

The workshops provided valuable feedback. An issue of note arising in one of the workshops was of the need for a particular shelter for sex-workers needing protection as they often require a different sort of care to those seeking refuge from domestic violence. Another was the call to ensure adequate services are available to people with disabilities.

A positive indicator among health workers was their strong representation at the inter-sectoral workshop, with participants coming from different areas of the West Bank – an encouraging sign as forging links and securing support for the project within the health sector has been a challenge for the project. Another positive was the presence not just of female professionals but also of males (around one third of the participants were men) – an encouraging sign that improving protection and service delivery for women is not just seen as a niche side-interest for women, but as duty to which all Palestinians are beholden.

Workshop participants recommended establishing a database of cases of violence against women, and developing and advancing a national plan for combating violence against women and seeing media professionals take a strong role in combating the cultural practice of violence against women. They also noted the importance of security checking women in certain circumstances for their safety and that of other clients.

Ultimately, the workshops helped reinforced the national and multi-sectoral nature of the referral system and led to the output of a well supported and finalised set of protocols for use in piloting the referral system. The workshops received media coverage which helped to promote the project. Ma'an and Wafa news agencies covered the project, and stories were published in Al-Quds, Al Ayam, Al Hayyat and in Women's Voices newspapers.

3.4.4 Pilot the new referral system in one geographic area of the West Bank and evaluating it in a joint process with stakeholders.

The governorate of Ramallah was chosen for the pilot, with a view to ensuring support from national government and central ministries. However, in order to have a larger sample, more feedback and better results, it was agreed that the Jericho Governorate also be included in the pilot. Before the pilot began, a training session was held for 42 participants drawn from Ramallah's and Jericho's service providers to ensure that they were familiarised with the referral system as well as with gender-based violence and the project's Code of Ethics. An additional 16 meetings were held with partner organisations to further prepare for the piloting phase.

Challenges to the project include the poor participation of the Ministry of Health at the workshop, on account of the Health Minister not considering this project to be a priority. Health sector professionals were concerned about a lack of legal framework for reporting cases of violence to the Police, which will inhibit the development of a comprehensive referral system.

However, the training, along with more general consultation with stakeholders, proved fruitful: a number of organisations agreed to use the referral system, either signing MOUs or giving other positive feedback. Those agreeing to use or support the referral system include Birzeit University, Medical Relief, UNWRA, the Alimony Fund, the Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD), the Shari'a Courts Family Reconciliation Departments, SAWA, Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, the Health Works Committees, Family Protection Units in the Palestinian Police, the Office of the Governor of both Ramallah and Jericho Governorates, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

Several of these groups appointed – or have committed to appointing – focal points for introducing and monitoring the use of the referral system. These include SAWA, whose helpline receives calls from many women experiencing domestic violence, but whom they may not be able to refer on account of sort of help the women were seeking. The Red Crescent society noted the need for diverse staff, such as obstetricians, gynaecologists, emergency staff, administrative staff and nurses to be made familiar with the referral system. A workshop with some staff of the Alimony Fund established a link and a strong interest in the project, its protocols and its code of ethics.

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

Following the completion of the piloting phase, a meeting was held in which relevant stakeholders discussed obstacles faced while implementing the pilot. 25 participants from WCLAC, Juzoor, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Medical Relief, SAWA, the Shari'a Courts Family Reconciliation Departments, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Jericho branch), the Police, and local consultants from UN Women (supporting departments within MoSA). Obstacles that were discussed include difficulty with filling out the forms; lack of clarity related to procedures, roles and responsibilities among partners; and an insufficient piloting period. The group's recommendations moving forward are to develop a compulsory referral system, modify the forms to make them more brief, and provide training in the branch offices of the larger organisations.

At the end of the meeting, the participants were divided into four technical committees tasked with amending the referral system based on the experience and input of the organisations that participated in the pilot. The four committees were: Social Technical Committee, Health Technical Committee, Police Technical Committee and Code of Ethics Technical Committee. Each committee met numerous times to revise the referral system's protocols. In December, a national workshop was held in which each technical committee presented its proposed amendments to the larger group. Following this national meeting, copies of the updated referral system was distributed to stakeholders for review and comment.

From the beginning, there has been recognition of the importance of support from the National Committee for Combating Violence Against Women—comprised of representatives from relevant governmental ministries and civil society organisations—if the referral system is to be successfully implemented on a national scale. In late December, the referral system was presented to the National Committee, who were

asked to provide feedback. The referral system was subsequently accepted by the National Committee and will be presented to the full cabinet of ministers in 2012.

3.4.6 Update curriculum modules for medical, midwifery and nursing schools.

A major focus of the curriculum will be to engrain in health providers a sense of professional and ethical responsibility to provide high quality and appropriate services for victims and women at risk. The project team have identified the need to include the decision-makers of academic institutions in the curriculum development process. The team has held meetings with, for example, Ibin Sina College, Bethlehem University and Al Quds University all responded very positively to the curriculum, although Ibin Sina and Al Quds suggested dividing and integrating the curriculum into other modules such as Nursing ethics. Birzeit University did not show the same level of interest in the curriculum, saying that their module structure could not take an extra load. Meanwhile, Community Colleges reported that they could not use the English version of the curriculum; accordingly it is being translated into Arabic.

Training has been given on the curriculum to faculty professors as a training of trainers, so they can teach the curriculum accurately. Participants gave positive feedback stating that their expectations were met, and that they hope for more follow-up. Some participants requested more information addressing violence against women, as analysis of the issue was new to them. They felt there were diverse areas which need further exploration such as clinical training on this issue and a deeper and broader understanding of the laws and legislation on this issue in OPT.

In late December, a 3-day follow-up workshop was held with faculty professors from the previous training session in order to introduce additional material that had been added to the curriculum and provide training in the updated referral protocols. WCLAC notes a change in participants views toward addressing violence against women as many deans and colleges are introducing the curriculum into their teaching plans.

3.4.7 Update the curriculum of the police academy

The curriculum development consultant has suggested that the major thrust of the curriculum for the police should be on changing attitudes and opinions within the police with regards to VAW. Respect must underpin the skills needed to deal professionally with victims and cases of violence against women. To this end, 15 meetings were held in which the consultant met with Takamol staff, the technical committee (responsible for supervising curriculum content) and the trainers. In order to incorporate police input, a draft of the curriculum was sent to the police academy and feedback was incorporated into the final version.

It is an encouraging sign that the police faculty has agreed to develop a special course on VAW. The training department of the police has decided to focus this training on particular staff, notably those working in family protection units and investigation units, as well as the police responsible for dealing with juveniles and those working in the rehabilitation centres. Two five-day training sessions were held to reach 40 representatives (17 of which were female) of the police department as well as police academy staff. Participants received training on selected topics from the curriculum, including violence against women, forensics, criminal law, and the referral system, particularly as it relates to the family protection units within the police. Participants gave positive feedback and asked for more training in order to reach a broader proportion of the police in Palestine. They also recommended that more case studies be included in the curriculum, as well as a chapter about the psychology of women who are subjected to violence.

EUPOL-COPPS invited Takamol project staff to develop curriculum related to women's rights and violence against women to fit within their broader curriculum on human rights. Takamol project staff held 8 meetings with EUPOL-COPPS and representatives of the police to design the curriculum. EUPOL-COPPS then held a 5-day training course for Palestinian police in which Takamol project staff conducted the women's rights and violence against women training module (1 day of the training).

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

The project team met with a number of different journalists to gain ideas for the media campaign. One journalist was contacted to write an article about the importance of the referral system in Palestine to be published in local newspapers and online. Meetings were also held with the WATAN Centre in order to explore the possibility of hosting a media campaign by them.

A 1-day workshop was conducted with 16 media professionals, representing governmental and non-governmental media outlets, in which the Takamol project team presented a draft campaign strategy. Participants stressed the importance of encouraging youth participation in the campaign. In the second semester, a number of meetings were held with journalists, representatives from government ministries, and various news outlets to encourage the publication of stories about the referral system. In October, two articles describing the new referral system were published in Al-Quds and Al-Ayam newspapers.

Using the Training of Trainers approach, 5 training sessions were conducted for service providers throughout the West Bank, with a particular focus on governorates where the referral protocols were not piloted. In addition to the training on the protocols, an additional added value reported by participants was the networking and coordination that occurred amongst regional and national-level service providers.

3.4.9 Mid-term and final project evaluation

Early in 2011, Takamol contracted an external evaluator to conduct the mid-term evaluation. It was conducted, and after meeting with stakeholders, the report was submitted. There was also a monitoring mission from the EU. The evaluator met with the management committee (made up of senior management and staff from WCLAC and Juzoor), and she also conducted many meetings with stakeholders including the police, service providers, UNRWA, MOSA, and other partners. The recommendations from her report were incorporated into the project's action plan.

Takamol has contracted an external evaluation consultancy company to conduct the final evaluation. The evaluation will be conducted and the final report will be completed in February 2012.

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

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

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

WCLAC has documented the gender-based murder of Palestinian women since 2004, using the term femicide rather than the term “honour killing” which might infer some justification of what is, to WCLAC, the violent and needless death of a woman, often by a family member or intimate partner, and is in no way honourable. The documentation is used to give background to the statistics and to build a base of qualitative knowledge on an issue in which WCLAC and others believe the numbers significantly understate the scale of the problem.

In 2011, WCLAC documented two cases of femicide. One was a high profile case of Aya Baradaiya who was killed by her uncle and only found a year later – this case caused public outcry and provided the momentum for the presidential decree mentioned above in section 1.1.1. The second case was from a village in the Ramallah governorate.

WCLAC published a report providing aggregated details of around 30 cases documented by WCLAC in recent years. WCLAC received hard copies of the publication from the printers, and continues to distribute soft copies to partners, researchers and other interested parties.

Analysis of court decisions in dealing with femicide cases

The analysis document was finalised and the study published in 2011. Following the Presidential decree removing articles of crimes of passion from the Criminal Law (see discussion of this activity under 1.1.1.), WCLAC decided to publish the study, which clearly shows which articles are actually being used by judges— noteworthy since these are not the articles addressed by the presidential decree. WCLAC shared a draft of the document with the High Judicial Council asking for comments, which were incorporated into the study before publication. The study can be accessed on the website (www.wclac.org), along with other studies published by WCLAC.

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

During 2011, WCLAC documented 188 cases of violations against women (19 Jerusalem, 135 in the rest of the West Bank and 34 in the Gaza Strip). A strong focus for this year has been highlighting the particular ethnically-motivated discrimination against Palestinians living in or trying to access East Jerusalem. Also, working with women in Nabi Saleh, WCLAC is paying attention to Israeli violence towards the women of Nabi Saleh who are trying to resist the encroachment of the illegal Halamish settlement further onto their land and water resources.

WCLAC also printed the annual report (available in English and Arabic) covering cases documented during 2010, a special focus publication on forced eviction (available in English and in Arabic) and a publication focusing on the lives of women in the seam zone (available in English and Arabic).

WCLAC has also been producing “women’s stories” – short documents (around 2 pages of A4) which are prepared for use for quick impact in face-to-face advocacy, and for powerful advocacy on the website giving personal stories, not just statistics and legal analysis. Five such testimonies have been prepared so far and posted on the website.

WCLAC prepared a joint report with Defence for Children International (DCI) that focused on the impact of the occupation on women and children in East Jerusalem, which includes many first-hand accounts. The report is called “Voices from East Jerusalem: The Situation Facing Palestinian Children” and is available in print (coming soon to the website). WCLAC also began the research for a report entitled “Bedouins in the Occupied Palestinian Territories—The Silent Struggle”, which investigates the violations towards Bedouin women at the hand of the occupation (nearly complete, expected publication in 2012).

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

As decided last year, WCLAC is focusing significant advocacy resources on targeted advocacy to small groups – individuals or delegations – of influential people with mandated power such as elected foreign politicians, or with the power to influence communities, such as media professionals, religious leaders and other community leaders.

WCLAC met with 54 delegations (usually of 1-5 people). As well as sharing examples and stories with delegations, both verbally and using WCLAC’s published documentation, WCLAC takes delegates to affected areas—for example, Silwan, Nabi Saleh, Old City of Hebron, Beit Omar, Jordan Vally, etc.—to meet with women whose stories have been documented by WCLAC, and with whom WCLAC is working to empower so that they become advocates for their own cause. Delegations included Parliamentarians, foreign politicians, diplomats, media professionals, human rights advocates, donors, representatives of international human rights organizations, international university students, and members of churches.

In a joint activity with Project Engage (a US-based advocacy project), WCLAC carried the voices of the Palestinian women, whose cases we have documented, to a number of audiences in the USA. In addition to presenting to diverse civil society groups, a highlight of the wide-ranging speaking tour was accessing decision-makers with presentations at the White House, State Department, Congress, and to members of the National Security Council.

WCLAC’s international advocacy website

Great progress has been made in refining and regularizing the updates of the international advocacy website which has an archive of WCLAC’s publications and alternative reports which use International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The website can be found from WCLAC’s homepage, or by going directly to www.wclac.org/ihl. The website already carries some testimonies from Palestinian women who tell their own story of how Israeli occupation affects their lives. WCLAC also collates articles and publishes links to stories of particular interest by other organisations, authors and journalists addressing issues of Israeli violations of Palestinian’s rights, and its particular impact on women.

WCLAC also publishes legal commentary on developments that specifically impact women by reacting to current events and providing a timely legal analysis. The website is also used to encourage participation in activities that raise awareness of women’s rights, for example with international human rights days. WCLAC has also expanded its photo gallery, adding pictures that relate to relevant current events such as settler violence and the recent prisoner swap.

Also in 2011, WCLAC set up mapping tool using the Ushahidi platform that documents the impact of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian women. WCLAC is able to upload videos, photos, news articles, testimonies, and links to reports (both internal and external) directly onto the map, thereby creating a visual archive the

occupation's impact on women. WCLAC began using social media, such as Facebook, and a newsletter as a way to advertise our work, encourage new followers, and to inform people of new developments related to WCLAC's work.

Presenting alternative report to CEDAW

In January, three WCLAC staff presented the CEDAW report at the United Nations office in Geneva, to the CEDAW Committee, reviewing Israel's adherence to its commitments under the Convention. WCLAC made a verbal presentation to the Committee members during their meeting with civil society. Staff also attended side meetings with assistants to the Special Rapporteurs on Violence Against Women and on the Right to Housing. One of the women whose stories WCLAC has documented, went with WCLAC staff to Geneva and was able to present her own story of the denial of rights in trying to live with her family in Jerusalem.

Working with Special Rapporteurs

Based on encounters with the special rapporteur frameworks, WCLAC's staff recommend increased attention be paid to them by Palestinian civil society, including campaigning for the special rapporteurs themselves – even in a personal capacity – to come to see Palestine with their own eyes, and to witness even for one day, what many Palestinian people experience every day: settler violence, isolation, harassment, and myriad other problems relating to the occupation.

WCLAC has been appointed focal point for the Middle East and North Africa region for a project instigated by the special rapporteur for housing rights. During the reporting period, WCLAC conducted many interviews concerning housing rights in Palestine and participated in the electronic forum designed for the project. The first draft of the final report on housing problems in the MENA region, including Palestine, has been completed.

WCLAC, in cooperation with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) and the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC), invited the special rapporteur on violence against women to visit the West Bank in her personal capacity (rather than on an official visit). Whilst here, she visited the villages of Nabi Saleh, Bil'in, Nil'in, Asera Kablieh (near Nablus), Jalazon Refugee Camp (near Ramallah), the old city of Jerusalem, the old city of Hebron and the unrecognized villages in the Nakab. In each village, the special rapporteur met with local women, with a particular interest in those affected by the Wall, settlements and checkpoints. She also met with female ex-political prisoners, female women's rights activists and representatives from civil society including human rights organizations and women's organizations (including the staff and board of WCLAC). WCLAC also arranged for her to meet with representatives from the government, including the police and the Central Bureau of Statistics. Through these interactions, the special rapporteur was able to learn about domestic and Israeli violations of women's rights firsthand.

Presentation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

In March, three WCLAC staff participated in the events surrounding the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. During a parallel session for NGO's, WCLAC was able to make a presentation on the situation of Palestinian women, looking specifically at occupation related issues, but also addressing the issue of femicide. The event was valuable as a networking opportunity, and WCLAC made useful links with Equality Now, Human Rights Watch and the International Centre for Transitional Justice.

Presented testimony to the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

In July, WCLAC staff presented oral and written testimony which focused on Israeli practices that obstruct freedom of movement in the West Bank and Gaza, taking Al Nabi Saleh as a model during a meeting in Amman.

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

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

WCLAC gives on-going coaching and accompaniment to a team of field workers finding and documenting particular cases of Israeli rights violations against Palestinian women. WCLAC conducted 10 individual training sessions with the field workers in the West Bank to give them feedback about their work and improve the quality of documentation. WCLAC notes that, as a result of this coaching methodology, there is a marked improvement in the quality of documentation submitted by our fieldworkers. On account of Israeli restrictions to freedom of movement, WCLAC works closely by phone with the Gaza field worker, while with other field workers, accompaniment of field visits is also part of the coaching methodology.

One of WCLAC's advocacy team participated in a training course titled "From International to Local", which addressed specifically how to write alternative reports to the CEDAW committee, and how to use advocacy techniques to increase the impact of a report.

WCLAC held two workshops with Palestinian civil society organisations (including some of those who help contribute to the report) in order to give feedback on and share lessons learnt in the preparation of the report, and in presenting it. The workshops were held in Hebron and Nablus, with 60 people participating in total.

WCLAC also held two, two-day workshops in Hebron and Nablus with media professionals, to introduce them to the CEDAW processes and to WCLAC's alternative report, as well as to discuss the applicability of CEDAW and other laws to the Palestinian context. In total 34 people participated (Female: 18; Male: 16).

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

5.1. Develop the capacity of WCLAC staff

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

In line with its ongoing policy to develop staff capacity, WCLAC held a two day all-staff retreat with training on feminist analysis. The comprehensive staff needs assessment conducted in 2010 showed a need for increased English language training. To meet this need, classes were held in the Ramallah and Hebron offices for WCLAC staff. Certain staff were also able to attend external training events such as:

- Three staff members attended a three-day training on the "Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Authority," led by Al-Haq. The same 3 staff members took another three-day training for activists in NGOs on "The Application of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law".
- One staff member participated in training on issues related to gender-based violence.

- Two WCLAC social workers took training in Denmark on helping clients at the WCLAC's emergency protection shelter with issues of: family intervention, dealing with children of victims of violence, and intervening with abusive males.
- One administrative staff member took training in human resources which was carried out in Jordan and Tunisia.
- Three staff members participated in a regional training workshop in transitional justice.
- One staff member participated in a conference organized by NGO Development Center on "Reflections on the Situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", where she presented a paper analysing the situation of Palestinian women under international humanitarian law.
- One staff member participated in a conference that was organized by Al Quds University entitled "Innovative Youth Initiatives" where she presented a paper on reviving the spirit of volunteerism and grassroots initiatives among youth in Palestine, particularly highlighting WCLAC's volunteer program.
- One staff member participated in a 3-day training relating to an evaluation tool called the "Most Significant Change" organized by Oxfam Novib and held in Ethiopia. In turn, the staff member trained WCLAC staff, volunteers, and grassroots partners in the use of the tool, which is now being incorporated into the evaluation processes of WCLAC and its partners.
- 2 staff members participated in training on transitional justice in Jordan.
- 5 staff members participated in a basic training on visual media, next year more staff members will be trained.

Internally, WCLAC held monthly staff meetings in which the mission, vision and code of ethics were discussed with staff in order to get their input. The management team also developed the proposed incentive procedures, which have been submitted to the board for approval. The development of a staff performance tool is in process and will be completed in 2012.

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

5.2.1. Develop an electronic catalogue for the WCLAC library

During the reporting period, 211 people used WCLAC's Ramallah library and 68 the Hebron library, to access their range of English- and Arabic-language publications, which include reports by NGOs, as well as published books on gender issues in Palestine, and on feminism, gender and violence more generally.

WCLAC's library facilities are being improved, with media reports about VAW by Israelis as well as from within the Palestinian community, being systematically archived, and with the libsys library cataloguing system now installed, with two staff members having been trained on how to enter data and use the system. So far 200 books were catalogued and 100 were labelled and bar coded.

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

At the end of the first semester WCLAC was still awaiting a finalized draft of the external evaluation of the implementation of WCLAC's 5 year strategy for the period 2005-2009. However, internal monitoring

mechanisms are continually being strengthened, with the Director of Programmes reviewing and evaluating monthly updates and quarterly reports from programme staff.

A governmental audit by the Administrative Bureau of the Palestinian Authority assessed WCLAC's work and administration as being "good", saying they could not mark it as "very good" because WCLAC lacks systematic evaluation of staff, and that even though systems of checks and balances are in place, WCLAC's administration does not have an internal auditor accountable to Board. The board has made recommendations to remedy these issues.

5.2.3. Evaluate and update WCLAC protocols, policies and procedures

WCLAC's Financial Rules and Procedures protocols were completed during the reporting period and are awaiting approval of the Board. The needs assessment of staff capacity building was also completed and has been used already to help develop capacity building components in WCLAC's project proposals. With the support of the Welfare Association, a consultant has been seconded to WCLAC and is working with Administrative and Finance Director on developing an integrated system of staff rules and procedures, evaluations, job descriptions and protocols for an equitable incentive system. The final draft of bylaws and financial procedures has been completed and submitted to the board for approval. A system to submit payment request forms has been developed and implemented with success.

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

WCLAC held a general meeting for donors to share programme and financial updates in June. WCLAC has also completed the narrative, financial and audit reports for the year 2010, which have been shared with donors. In July, a financial review was conducted and subsequently approved by the General Director and the Board before being sent to donors.

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

WCLAC's board met 7 times during 2011, during which meetings the 2010 financial and narrative reports, as well as the 2010 audit report were approved. The Board conducted a budget review and received quarterly reports from the programme director and the finance and administration director. The Board reviewed job descriptions and the lines of responsibility of senior management, and also addressed issues including staff requests for salary adjustments. The General Assembly met once in which they approved the recommendations of the board of directors.

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

Applying the MIS system on all programmes remains a challenge, both because of staff capacity in data entry and due to difficulties with the software itself. Finding technical support for software issues has become particularly difficult since the company that developed the software has gone bankrupt. However, WCLAC has been able to find a consultant familiar with the package who is able to provide some support. The Service

Unit enters data into MIS with a view to maintaining files in a structured and easily analysed way. So far this year, data from 43 of the Service Unit's cases has been entered into MIS, while other from information is stored on excel. WCLAC anticipates that MIS will be fully integrated by June 2012.

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

Welfare Association evaluated and audited the Jerusalem-focused project which they financed. It has been noted that WCLAC accomplished all the planned activities, but the evaluation report has not yet been completed.

A evaluation of WCLAC's strategic plan from 2005-2009 was conducted during 2010. It has been noted that WCLAC accomplished all the planned activities covered during the years of the previous strategic plan. The final report was issued to WCLAC in 2011, and it has now been distributed to donors.

5.3. Improve WCLAC's financial sustainability

5.3.1. Maintain ongoing donor relations

WCLAC has maintained close relations with the following financial supporters and international project partners – some of which have involved on-going funding partnerships, others smaller joint project work or simply discussions of prospective partnerships:

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

This list does not include all the potential donors and project partners with which WCLAC maintains periodic contact with a view to information sharing or possible future partnerships.

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

WCLAC's resource centre Dar Makhoulf, in Beit Jala (near Bethlehem), has now received its first overnight visitors and continues to host events both led by WCLAC or by other groups sharing WCLAC's vision and needing a large and characterful meeting space. Groups and individuals using the centre are asked to make a financial contribution to WCLAC which adds essential diversity to WCLAC's sources of revenue.

WCLAC's meeting rooms in Ramallah have frequently been used by WCLAC to host coalition meetings or large meetings with working groups (as in the case of the project being implemented with DCAF) or by student groups learning about women's rights. The rooms have also been used frequently by other NGO's, making a significant contribution (including a valuable diversity) to WCLAC's funding streams.

WCLAC has entered into an agreements with UNRWA whereby WCLAC staff perform training for UNRWA on subjects related to women's rights, providing a further stream of revenue for the Centre.

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

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

WCLAC has taken major steps forward this year in developing its online presence, with the development of a new website. The website – at the same address as before, and with sections in Arabic and English – uses a system which allows selected and trained WCLAC staff to upload information without an intermediary, something which was not previously possible. This has allowed WCLAC to increase the amount of information on the site, increase control of the site and increase the speed with which news stories or new materials can be uploaded.

During 2011, there were 100,000 visitors to the WCLAC website. The WCLAC media team has worked hard to make sure that all WCLAC publications, reports, brochures and activities are updated regularly and continue to work together as a team to maintain the website. There have been 500 names added to the WCLAC mailing list, and these people receive regular communications related to WCLAC publications, reports, and other activities. Also in 2011, WCLAC obtained a Library of Congress code.

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

WCLAC has decided to mark its 20th Anniversary in a limited way, with a Code of Ethics which captures the spirit with which the organisation was founded and commits it to maintaining core values and ethical standards now and in the future. The Code of Ethics in the process of being drafted and will be included with the staff bylaws.

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

As stated above, the major change of the semester has been the creation of the new WCLAC website. Materials have been produced that increase the visibility of WCLAC and the “sticking power” of the organisation and its contact details (i.e. for how long the organisation is remembered and contact details can be found) such as: folders with WCLAC’s vision, mission, strategic goals and contact details, and notepaper with WCLAC’s logo and contact details. These can be used at WCLAC workshops or meetings and can ensure that WCLAC’s contact details are accessible to potential clients in more and more Palestinian homes (as well as being on hand for potential partner organisations). WCLAC has designed and printed an Arabic language brochure, which has also been translated into English. An annual newsletter, highlighting WCLAC’s activities, has been created and distributed.

Appendix 1:

Summary of Progress Indicators

- Presidential decree, ostensibly in order to end lenient sentences for femicides, and inspired by public outcry at the death of Aya Baradaiya at the hands of a relative.
- Participation in meetings and workshops, and meeting with the President, to discuss the new draft Criminal Law.
- 5 discussion forums held bringing together, educate and train 102 of WCLAC's Personal Status Law reform support-group members.
- Media competition launched for articles promoting and giving information on Personal Status Law reform.
- Preliminary research undertaken on topics of "laws and regulations relating to women's finance and banking" and of "regulations and procedures to guarantee women's access to inheritance".
- New project initiated with 3 Palestinian implementing partners: WCLAC, together with the Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) and the Centre for Women's Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC), with support from UNDP and OSI. The project aims to document cases and lobby for the rights of women whose right to family life is denied or undermined by Israeli occupation policies and actions.
- 17 meetings with stakeholders to explain and ensure support for draft bylaws governing shelters.
- New project with Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed forces (DCAF), hosting high level policy discussions with a view to helping the PLC and PNA in enacting new legislation which enhances the security of Palestinian women and girls.
- 1 new volunteer cluster (27 carefully selected members) formed in the area south of Hebron.
- Continued work with 4 existing groups: Bethlehem, Jericho, Hebron and Salfeet and Tulkarem (Salfeet and Tulkarem now merged to form one cluster).
- 44 volunteer-organised awareness-raising workshops reaching 2013 participants promoting women's rights and marking events such as Labour Day and 8 March.
- 20 volunteers trained in "most significant change" techniques for monitoring and evaluation.
- Continued participation in numerous national and regional coalitions and advocacy platforms.
- Participation in 11 meetings of the Board of Directors of the Alimony Fund.
- 20 workshops reaching 467 beneficiaries with 13 partner organisations addressing issues requested by partners.
- Participation in more than 10 different events marking 8 March as International Women's Day.
- 58 workshops with 9 groups of women (171 women in total) to raise awareness of women's rights and how to claim them.
- 8 "Women's Rights are Human Rights" courses run for students.
- 411 new clients registering and receiving legal and/or social support during the reporting period.
- 382 one-off consultations for people with queries which do not necessitate registration and further discussion.
- 165 cases taken to court, with the client represented by WCLAC's lawyers.
- 8 women using the emergency shelter before service was obstructed.
- In 219 of the total 478 legal cases, women were empowered and supported in acting on their own behalf. (for example, in alimony cases).

- 58 clients were referred by previous WCLAC clients, while 7 returned for more services – suggesting client satisfaction.
- New partnership agreement for WCLAC’s grassroots service provision capacity-building project. The new partner is the Tubas Charitable Society.
- On-going support to 2 long-standing grassroots service provision partners Women for Life and Al-Najdeh-Tulkarem continued, but is being strategically phased out.
- Partners’ holding local partnership events, e.g. An-Najdeh-Tulkarem’s “fun day”, with over 100 participants.
- 8 days’ practitioner-to-practitioner training by WCLAC shelter staff for other Palestinian women’s shelter workers.
- Completion of a 12 lecture series on international feminism for 30 university students.
- Publication of a training manual on women’s rights.
- New CBO training course project started with UNWRA.
- 4 gender audits complete.
- Basic draft for the pilotable referral system completed and reviewed by stakeholders.
- Training for 42 participants from Ramallah-based service providers on the pilot referral system.
- Curricula for medical schools and police academy developed.
- Documentation of 2 cases of femicide and 188 IHL case studies
- Publication of testimonies and analysis from 2010 produced, with particular focus on settler violence.
- Website for WCLAC’s international advocacy developed and maintained.
- Presentations were made to CEDAW committee and the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Advocacy meetings/tours with 54 targeted delegations.
- Two workshops for 60 Palestinian human rights workers and activists, and two workshops for 34 media professionals, all addressing WCLAC’s CEDAW alternative report.
- WCLAC staff participated in training on writing Alternative Reports.
- Library catalogue system purchased; 2 staff trained and data entry begun.
- WCLAC’s new website formats (Arabic language and English language) launched, enabling certain staff WCLAC to update pages directly.

Appendix 2:

Table of volunteer workshops held with local partner organisations across the occupied Palestinian Territory²⁹

Volunteer group	Partner	# of Participants	Target group	Topic
Hebron				
Hebron - Thahirieh	Nadi il-Amal (the club of hope)	55	Club members and invited university students	Discussion on femicide (killing of women linked to so-called honour)
Hebron - Thahirieh	Thahirieh Society	25	Working women	Women's rights (on 8 march)
Hebron – Yatta	Al Quds Association for Development	120	Housewives, university students and Association staff	Workshop on safe adolescence
Hebron – Yatta	Al Quds Association for Development	14	Housewives and university students	Workshop on early marriage
Hebron – Yatta	Al Quds Association for Development	39	Housewives	Workshop on gender-based violence
Hebron – Yatta	Al Quds Association for Development	70	Housewives and university students	Workshop gender-based discrimination
Hebron – Dura	UNRWA - Mental Health Program; UNRWA Girls' School in Dura	97	Preparatory school-aged girls	Moot court on femicide
Hebron – Ramadeen	Bint Areef Association	17	Housewives and university students	Workshop on gender-based violence
Hebron – Ramadeen	Bint Areef Association	17	Housewives and university students	Workshop on gender-based discrimination
Bethlehem				
Bethlehem - Hussan	Hussan Women's Centre	22	Members of the women's group including working women	Raising children and educating them without gender-based discrimination
Bethlehem - Hussan	Hussan Club; Creativity Centre Dheisheh; Beit Fajjar Women's Centre;	60	Members of women's groups and working women	Workshop and film on women in the workforce
Bethlehem - Beit Fajjar	Creativity Centre Beit Fajjar	50	Housewives; CBO members and Students	Workshop on women's rights
Bethlehem – Beit Jala (at Dar Makhloof)	Numerous	22	22 stakeholders from local NGOs and women's groups, plus the 8 volunteers	Stakeholder strategic planning for Bethlehem volunteers
Bethlehem – Beit Jala (at Dar Makhloof)	Women's cooperatives	100	Mayor of Beit Jala, representatives from government and NGOs, and neighbours.	International Labour Day: Art Exhibition and women's crafts market

²⁹ A number of the workshops included multi-day sessions (up to five sessions per workshop)

Bethlehe m – Dheisheh Refugee Camp	Hussan Club; Creativity Centre Dheisheh; Beit Fajjar Women’s Centre; Tent Centre	81	Women’s groups and university students	Oral testimony of Palestinian women who lived through Nakba and the IHL connection with their experiences. Included a discussion of the political participation of women and women in conflict.
Bethlehe m – Dheisheh Refugee Camp	Creativity Centre Dheisheh; Tawasol	60	Children at the boys’ and girls’ schools in the refugee camps	2 separate workshops (3 hours each) for boys and girls on domestic violence
Bethlehe m – Dheisheh Refugee Camp	UNRWA Schools	60	30 male students and 30 females students	2 separate workshops on safe adolescence
Tulkarem and Salfeet				
Tulkarem City	Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (Tulkarem Branch)	21	Young women, housewives, university students, women prevented from continuing their education	Mural painting – on realities of women’s lives in Tulkarem.
Tulkarem City	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”	20	Male students between the age of 12 and 16 who have poor attendance records	4 sessions to encourage the boys to attend school
Tulkarem City	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”	12	Mothers of school-aged students	Workshop on gender-based violence
Tulkarem City	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Community Rehabilitation Centre – Ministry of Social Affairs	17	Teenagers	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem City	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Community Rehabilitation Centre – Ministry of Social Affairs	17	Teenager (male and female between the age of 13 and 16)	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem Refugee Camp	Tulkarem R.C. Women’s Centre	25	Members of the women’s centre, housewives, university graduates	Workshop on Human Rights
Tulkarem R.C.	Tulkarem R.C. UNWRA school	32	Female 8 th Grade Students	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem R.C.	Tulkarem R.C. UNWRA school	34	Female 9 th Grade Students	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem R.C.	Tulkarem R.C. UNWRA school	32	Female 8 th Grade Students	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem R.C.	Tulkarem R.C. UNWRA school	34	Female 9 th Grade Students	Workshop on safe adolescence
Tulkarem	YMCA Tulkarem -	90	Female and male students	5 debriefing sessions

R.C.	“Psychological Support Network”		between the age of 6 and 10	
Tulkarem R.C.	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”	45	Female and male students between the age of 6 and 10	3 debriefing sessions with 15 students each
Tulkarem – Qufeen	Qufeen Women’s Centre	15	Housewives	Women’s rights
Tulkarem – Qufeen	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Qufeen Elementary School	115	Female and male students between age of 7 and 12	Crisis intervention
Tulkarem – Qufeen	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Qufeen Elementary School Administration	1	Family of children who were lost in a tragic house fire.	Crisis intervention
Tulkarem – Qufeen	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Qufeen Elementary School Administration	16	Parents of children at Qufeen Elementary School	Crisis intervention closing session
Tulkarem – Qufeen	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Qufeen Women’s Centre	16	Housewives	Women’s rights and the Palestinian law
Tulkarem – Nour Shams Refugee Camp	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Nour Shams Elementary School	90	Female students	Debriefing activities
Tulkarem – Nour Shams Refugee Camp	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Nour Shams Elementary School	30	Male students	2 debriefing sessions with 15 boys each
Tulkarem – Kufr Abush	YMCA Tulkarem - “Psychological Support Network”; Kufr Abush Women’s Centre	100	Male and female students	2 closing sessions with 50 students each
Jericho				
Jericho	Al Quds Open University (Jericho); Jericho Chamber of Commerce	80	Governmental and NGO representatives.	A Labour Day Celebration of women who work in underappreciated service roles
Jericho	Al Quds Open University	22	Students (mixed male and female)	Preparatory Workshop to establish a student support group
Jericho	Al Quds Open University	20	Female and male university students	Workshop on gender-based violence
Jericho	Al Quds Open University; Jericho Municipality	70	Elderly men and women	Visit and debriefing activity for the elder’s home in Jericho
Jericho	Al Quds Open University; Al Qamar Benevolent Society	50	Female and male patients	Visit to the Red Crescent hospital where volunteers

				presented gifts to the patients
Jericho	WCLAC	100	WCLAC volunteers and representatives from partner organizations	Closing meeting and recreational activity
	Total number of participants:	2013		

Appendix 3:

Table of awareness-raising workshops held with partner organisations across the occupied Palestinian Territory

Location	Partner organisation	Target group	# of Participants	Subject
Jerusalem, Old City	Spafford Children's Centre	Housewives and young women	21	Early Marriage and withdrawal from schools
Jerusalem, Old City	Burj al-laqlaq (welfare)	Women	25	Alimony and child custody
<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	Intra-familial sexual violence
Jerusalem, Silwan	Nidal Centre, Al Quds Open University (welfare)	University students (mixed gender)	26	Civil and Political Rights,
<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	Social and Economic Rights
Jerusalem, Abu Dis	Al Quds University	University students (mixed gender: 21F, 7M)	28	CEDAW
Jerusalem,	YWCA	Students from the Secretarial Course	57	Minna wa Fina (a film followed by discussion of incest)
<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>	Follow-up counselling (in two groups)
Jerusalem	Early Childhood Programmes	Housewives	27	Sexual assaults and how to support women victims of sexual assault
Jerusalem	Early Childhood Programmes	Housewives	14	Sexual assaults and how to support women victims of sexual assault
Ramallah	Birzeit University	Undergraduate and graduate students	20	Violence against women and presentation and discussion of film Minna wa Fina (on incest)
Ramallah	Birzeit University	Undergraduate and graduate students	20	Violence against women and presentation and discussion of film Minna wa Fina (on incest)
Ramallah	Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD)	University students in training programme with (PWWSD)	25	Violence against women and presentation and discussion of film Minna wa Fina (on incest)
Jerusalem	Early Childhood Programmes	Housewives	20	Children's rights and duties of the family
Sureef, Hebron	YMCA psychological support team schools programme	9 th Grade female students	44	Addressing local issues related to a high profile femicide.
Hebron	Hebron University	University students	15	The referral system for women victims of violence
Sureef	UNWRA School	School girls (8 th and 9 th Grade)	25	Addressing local issues related to a high profile femicide.
Sureef	UNWRA School	School girls mothers	15	Addressing local issues related to a high profile femicide.
Hebron city	Women's Affairs Technical Committee	Members of public (mixed	65	Inheritance

		genders)		
Bethlehem	Women's Affairs Technical Committee	Female WATC volunteers	20	Personal Status Law
Jerusalem	Early Childhood Programmes	Housewives	20	Violence against women
Beit Zahour	Women's Sports Club	Women, mixed ages	50	Women's rights
Bethlehem	Women's Union and WTAC	Women, mixed ages	25	Judicial system and protecting women's rights
Jerusalem	Sabaya Center	Staff of Sabaya Centre and housewives	17	Criminal Law
Rahat Beir Al Saba'	Amira Al Sahara	Women, mixed ages	100	Violence against women and Minna wa Fina (a film followed by discussion of incest)
Jerusalem	The Society of St. Yves	Men and women, mixed ages	100	Services of WCLAC and introduction to violence against women
Number of Partners:	18	# of participants:	779	

Appendix 4:

Table of workshops held by WCLAC Service Unit in 2011

Location	Partner (where applicable)	Region	Group and number attending ¹	Topics	No. of sessions
Attarah Village, Ramallah Govrt.	Attarah Women's Centre	Middle	22 Housewives	Personal Status Law; Marriage contracts and special conditions; Alimony and maintenance and custody of children; Divorce; Types and impacts of violence; Addressing family problems; Gender-based discrimination.	6
Silwan, Jerusalem	Al-Thoury, Silwan	Middle	20 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Self-determination; Decision-making within the family; Adolescence; Childhood behavioural problems; Violence against women, causes and types; Domestic violence; Sexual violence, and protecting children from it; Incest; Dealing with victims of sexual violence; Conclusion.	11
Jerusalem	Arab Society for Physically Disabled	Middle	11 women with disabilities	Introduction; Self-determination; Empowerment of women, especially those with disabilities; Applicable laws affecting women with disabilities in East Jerusalem; Types and impacts of violence; Sexual violence and interventions; Conclusion.	9
Kharabathah Al-Musbah, Ramallah Govrt.	Kharabathah Al-Musbah Village Council	Middle	19 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Gender-based discrimination; Personal Status Law and marriage contracts; Violence against women, causes and types; Sexual violence and harassment; Divorce; Women's right to inheritance.	8
Tarqoomia, Hebron Govrt.	Tarqoomia Women's Club	South	28 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Personal Status Law; Gender-based violence; Cycles of violence; Sexual violence and harassment; Culture and violence; Early marriage and its problems; Conclusion	9
Beit Jala, Bethlehem govrt.	International Relief	South	15 Housewives and working women	Introduction and needs assessment; Culture and gender-based discrimination; Gender-based violence; Sexual violence and silence surrounding it; family problems; Christian Personal Status Law; Women's empowerment; Violence against women; Criminal Law.	9
Old City, Hebron	Family Development Society	South	25 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; gender and violence against women; femicide/honour killing; cycles of violence; Sexual violence and silence surrounding it; Personal Status Law; Criminal Law; Conclusion.	9
City of Hebron	Adwar for	South	25 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment;	10

	Community Change			Violence against women; Personal Status Law; Types and impacts of violence; Sexual violence and silence surrounding it; Criminal Law; Introduction to gender and gender-based violence; Conclusion.	
Za'tara, Bethlehem Govrt.	Za'tara Women's Club	South	22 Housewives	Introduction; Culture and discrimination; Personal Status Law; Femicide/honour killing; Sexual violence; Criminal Law; Early marriage; Communication among family members.	8
Huwarrah, Nablus Govrt.	Huwarrah Women's Committee	North	13 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Gender-based violence; Domestic violence; Criminal Law; Marriage contracts and special conditions; Divorce; Women's right to inheritance.	7
Showfa, Tulkarem Govrt.	Al Najdeh	North	15 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Self-empowerment; Custody of children; Violence against women and children; Safe adolescence; Alimony and divorce; Conclusion.	8
Karawah Bani Zaid, Ramallah Govrt.	Women's Centre Karawah Bani Zaid	Middle	23 Housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; Personal Status Law; Marriage contracts and special conditions; Domestic violence; Incest; Gender-based violence; Alimony and maintenance and custody of children; Women's right to inheritance.	7
Total			238		101

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